



March - April, 2021

The City of Sebastopol community newsletter is one way to stay in touch with what's going on in Sebastopol. Our web site, CityofSebastopol.org is another. It's chock-full of information on City services, public meetings, and community resources. Or, stop by City offices any time we are open!

There's a New Chief in Town



Meet Sebastopol's new Police Chief Kevin Kilgore who was sworn in on March 1. An Ohio native, Chief Kilgore has twenty-four years' experience in municipal, county, and university law enforcement, most recently serving as a lieutenant with the UCLA Police Department. His impressive resume includes developing and teaching a course on procedural justice and implicit bias,

developing programs including the UCLA Alcohol Diversion program and UCLA Police Department Liaison Programs for several UCLA organizations including the LGBTQ Campus Resource Center. One of Kilgore's career highlights was receiving a Valor Award from then-California State Attorney General Kamala Harris for saving the life of a person drowning off the coast in 2013. Chief Kilgore believes that "the success of the department and city is built on positive relationships." Be sure and say hello and welcome Chief Kilgore to our community. Learn more about Chief Kilgore on the City website. <https://bit.ly/37kzBGS>

The City of Sebastopol would also like to thank outgoing Interim Police Chief Don Mort for ably helming the Sebastopol Police Department as the city undertook its year-long search for a permanent chief. City Manager Larry McLaughlin praised Interim Chief Mort for his leadership, integrating seamlessly into the SPD and City Staff teams and for handling all issues that came his way with professionalism and good humor.

Ask Slow Cat!



Have a question about the town we all know and love? Want to know more about the history of Sebastopol? Slow Cat wants to find the answer for you. Submit a question via email to outreach@cityofsebastopol.org. We'll post answers in our weekly newsletter and on our Facebook page.

Pedestrian & Bicycle Safety Tips from the Sebastopol Police Department



Walking and biking are healthy and enjoyable activities. However, these activities are also becoming increasingly dangerous. We believe life gets

better and safer when we are all connected to the world around us. So the next time you make the choice to go out on foot or on your bike, look up. Enjoy the view and make a little eye contact with the world around you. Here's what else you can do to stay safe out there:

PEDESTRIAN

- Wear brightly colored clothes and carry a flashlight at night.
- Stay off your phone and look left-right-left before crossing a street.
- Cross streets at marked crosswalks/intersections, preferably with a stop sign or signal.

BICYCLISTS

- Go with the flow of the traffic.
- Always wear a helmet.
- Use hand signals when turning or stopping.



DRIVERS

- Don't speed and never use your phone while driving.
- Look out for and yield to pedestrians. They have the right of way at any crosswalk or intersection.
- Be cautious when backing up.

COVID-19 Updates and Vaccine Information

Please visit SoCoEmergency.org for the most current updates. Information on vaccines and the availability of vaccination appointments in our county may be found at SoCoEmergency.org/vaccine.



Sonoma-Marín Saving Water Partnership



Although we encourage all water customers to implement everyday water saving practices both inside and outside your home or business as a way of life, we are asking customers to do more to reduce water use due to the low amount of rainfall received this

year. For more information on how to save water, please visit <http://www.savingwaterpartnership.org>. Here's a handy printable tip sheet on saving water indoors and out: <https://bit.ly/3bky58N>

City of Sebastopol Adopts BayREN Water Upgrades \$ave Program

The City of Sebastopol is adopting the new BayREN Water Upgrades \$ave program after a vote by the Sebastopol City Council at their January 19 meeting. Sebastopol is the first Bay Area city to enroll in the program.



Through this program, Sebastopol municipal water customers can install indoor and outdoor water efficiency upgrades, such as showerheads, aerators, and high-efficiency toilets. Participants have upgrades installed through vetted contractors with no up-front costs. Upgrade costs will be part of a monthly on-bill charge that is significantly lower than the estimated savings, so water customers will start saving money right away. The program is slated to roll out to customers in April 2021.

Learn more about the program: <https://bit.ly/3jkCNqp>

Want more (or less) of the latest City of Sebastopol news delivered directly to your inbox?

You can now sign up to receive information via email from several city departments in addition to our weekly and bi-monthly newsletters. See the list and sign up here: <https://bit.ly/SebNews>.

We're also looking for Community Partners who are willing to print up the information you receive and share it with your network who may not be online. Please email outreach@cityofsebastopol.org for more information.

Upcoming Intro to Community Preparedness

Provided through the **Map Your Neighborhood (MYN)** Program as part of the Sebastopol Fire Department's support of community preparedness. Open to all Sebastopol area residents.



Introduction to MYN - 60-minute Zoom class. Learn the 9 steps of the MYN program to help neighborhoods prepare for emergencies and disasters. Three dates to choose from in March and April:

- March 3 from 6:30-7:30 pm
- March 24 from 6:30-7:30 pm
- April 21 from 6:30-7:30 pm

To sign up or learn more about this and other preparedness programs, contact Skip Jirrels, Sebastopol Fire department Public Safety Outreach Coordinator at sjirrels@cityofsebastopol.org or **707-799-2204**.

Your City Needs You!



Attend one City Council Meeting per month. Public participation is the cornerstone of our community. One impact of pandemic restrictions on public gatherings is that it's easier than ever to attend City Council meetings virtually and make your voice heard. These meetings typically take place the first and third Tuesday of each month and begin at 6:00 PM. Find information on how to participate here: <https://bit.ly/3tVZF4K>

Upcoming Budget Committee Meeting

Several important budget meetings are coming up over the next few months. Agendas will be posted on the Meetings page the Thursday before each session. Have a say in how your tax dollars are spent!

Public Meeting	March 30, 2021 Tuesday 8:30 - 11:30	Budget Subcommittee reviews Community Service Agency requests and provides recommendation to City Council for approval. City Department requests are reviewed by the Budget Subcommittee.
	May 5, 2020	Preliminary draft budgets are distributed to City Council.
Public Meeting	June 1, 2021 Tuesday After 6pm	City Council Budget and Street Lighting Assessment District Hearings.
Public Meeting	June 15, 2021 Tuesday After 6 pm	City Council Adoption of Final Budget and the Street Lighting Assessment District.