



# City of Sebastopol Community Newsletter

CityofSebastopol.org

May-June, 2018

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](http://CityofSebastopol.org), is another. It is chock-full of information on City services, public meetings, and community resources. Or, stop by City offices any time we are open!



**SEBASTOPOL  
SHOP LOCAL  
SATURDAYS**

**One day a week**

## SHOP SEBASTOPOL!

Shopping locally has multiple benefits. When you shop at Sebastopol businesses you also support the local community and City services. Aim at shopping locally at least one day a week, if not more!

The following list is adapted from Massachusetts' Pioneer Valley Local First website, [civiceconomics.com](http://civiceconomics.com) and [AMBA.net](http://AMBA.net).

1. Significantly more money recirculates in local communities. When you shop at local businesses, more money is kept in the community because local businesses often purchase from other local businesses, service providers and farms. Buying at Sebastopol establishments helps grow other businesses as well as our region's tax base.

2. Nonprofits receive greater support. Nonprofits often receive greater support from local business owners.

3. Unique businesses are an integral part of our distinctive character. The unique character of our community is what brought us here and will keep us here. Our local businesses contribute to the unique character of Sebastopol.

4. Environmental impact is reduced. Pollution and resource use is reduced if you do not travel longer distances for goods and services. And local businesses make more local purchases requiring less transportation. This generally means contributing less to sprawl, congestion, habitat loss, resource depletion and pollution.

5. Most new jobs are provided by local businesses. Small local businesses are the largest employers nationally.

6. Customer service is often better. Local businesses often hire people with more specific product expertise and they invest in their employees for better customer service.

7. Local business owners invest in our community. Local businesses are owned by people who live in the community, are less likely to leave, and are invested in the community's future.

8. Put taxes to good use. Businesses in the City require comparatively little new infrastructure investments, add more to our tax base and make more efficient use of public services.

## LOCALS WHO MAKE A DIFFERENCE

In April, the Sebastopol City Council approved a new program to acknowledge members of the Sebastopol community for their contributions in helping to make Sebastopol a better place. Honorees will be recognized with banners lining Main Street and the

Downtown Plaza, a proclamation by the City Council, and on the City website. There will be three honorees each year, with each honoree being featured for approximately four months.

Anyone may submit a nomination application. Nominees must be living and must reside in Sebastopol or identify Sebastopol as their home community. The accomplishment or contribution to the Sebastopol community for which the nominee is being recognized must not be their primary source of income. Applications will be reviewed by the program subcommittee and approved by the City Council.

Applications are available at Sebastopol City Hall (7120 Bodega Ave.), Public Works (714 Johnson St.), and on the City's website at [cityofsebastopol.org](http://cityofsebastopol.org). The program is sponsored by the City of Sebastopol. Sonoma West Times & News has donated promotional space.

The nomination application deadline for the first honoree is May 1st. The first honoree will be announced at the May 15 City Council meeting. Applications for nominees not chosen for the first round will be retained for future consideration. For more information, visit <http://www.ci.sebastopol.ca.us/locals>

## Zoning Ordinance and Zoning Map Updates



Following adoption of a new General Plan in 2016, the Planning Commission has been working on updating the Zoning Ordinance and Zoning Map to achieve consistency with the new General Plan, which is required by State law.

A number of changes are intended to promote needed housing, including changes to minimum lot sizes, densities, and setbacks. In addition to policy changes, the Zoning Ordinance will be reorganized and clarified, and many Zoning Districts will be renamed, and some consolidated to simplify regulations. On April 10, 2018 the Planning Commission completed its comprehensive update recommendations, which will next be reviewed by the City Council.

You can review the draft Ordinance and Map changes on the Zoning Ordinance page of the City web site, at: <http://www.ci.sebastopol.ca.us/City-Government/Departments-Services/Planning/Zoning-Ordinance>

## Cut Down on Your Paperwork

You can now pay your water and sewer bill online! Sebastopol offers online bill payment for water and sewer services. The system uses a secure, cloud-based, off-site portal where you can log in, check your bills, make a payment or sign up for Auto Pay with your Credit or Debit card. See more information at: <http://ci.sebastopol.ca.us/Billpay.aspx>

## CITY OF SEBASTOPOL TOXICS POLICY

Sebastopol has been a pioneer in minimizing the use of toxic chemicals in its maintenance operations.

In 2000 the City Council adopted a resolution that resulted in the Public Works Department changing its maintenance practices, minimizing the use of toxic herbicides and pesticides. The Department now utilizes clove oil and vinegar-based products to assist in landscape maintenance. You may see Public Works staff in protective clothing in the limited situations where these products are being utilized.

And, did you know that the STEP (Sebastopol Toxics Education Program) newsletter distributed in the City water bills is also available on-line? Check it out at: <http://www.healthyworld.org/STEP.html>

The next STEP newsletter wants your input! This "handy guide to less-toxic living" is a City-community collaboration and has been enclosed in each water bill since 2001. Its mission is to help City residents reduce their toxic use and exposure, thus nurturing their own health and our shared environmental. Now we want to know the best way to get the newsletter to you! You can help the project by answering a quick survey here: [www.healthyworld.org/ES.html](http://www.healthyworld.org/ES.html) - Thank you!