



City of Sebastopol Community Newsletter

CityofSebastopol.org

January-February 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 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 HAS A NEW MAYOR!



Mayor Patrick Slayter and Vice Mayor Neysa Hinton

At the December 5, 2017 meeting of the Sebastopol City Council, the Mayoral gavel was passed. Outgoing Mayor Una Glass gave a heartfelt speech outlining the many accomplishments, meetings, and events that have affected the City over the last year.

Incoming Mayor Patrick Slayter put forth his goals and expectations for the coming year. The Council also selected member Neysa Hinton to serve as Vice Mayor. The Mayor and Vice Mayor work closely with City staff to structure City Council agendas and plan major City initiatives, and also represent the City at a number of meetings and events.

CITY COUNCIL DIRECTS SPECIAL UPDATE OF CANNABIS REGULATIONS

The City Council has responded to a recommendation from the Planning Commission that the City adopt an urgency ordinance to ensure that regulations are in place when 'adult use' cannabis businesses become legal on January 1, 2018.

Meanwhile, the Commission is working on permanent regulations, which the Council will review in 2018.

Questions or comments on this issue? Please contact the Planning Department.



(Photo by Bogdan/Wikimedia)

**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 COUNCIL TAKES ACTION IN RESPONSE TO FIRE DISASTER



While no wildfires hit Sebastopol, Sonoma County was devastated. Thousands of homes were lost, and thousands of people were displaced or evacuated.

The Sebastopol community responded generously with help for our neighbors, including donations of money, food, and supplies, with opening of official shelters, with fundraising events, and with Sebastopol's Volunteer Firefighters battling on the front lines of the fires. We so appreciate everyone who contributed!

The City Council has taken a number of actions to support recovery. The Council has approved an urgency ordinance to allow temporary placement of RVs and mobile homes on private property for fire victims. Check with the Planning Department for information. The Council also allocated funding to a home sharing program that will focus on Sebastopol, to help not only persons displaced by the fires, but also to assist with general housing placement.

The Council also formed two special subcommittees, one to review funding needs of our public safety departments, and another to examine the City's emergency preparedness.

The Council is also expected to implement modification of the City's 'impact fees' to reduce the burden on small dwelling units, and to help with the recovery from the fire disaster, to create a temporary reduction in impact fees for new housing units.

PREPARE!

How you and your family cope with a disaster may depend on how well you prepare before a disaster strikes.

Fire disaster has recently struck Southern California, refreshing memories from our own Sonoma County fire emergency. Our hearts go out to the victims of the latest major disaster.

Each of us should have food, water, and other supplies for at least three days, and preferably longer, as well as a 'go bag' with essential supplies in the event you have

to relocate. And, a battery-powered radio can provide critical information when cell service, cable, and telephones are down. Networking with your neighbors is another way to pool resources and help your community. And, sign up for SoCo Alert!

For more detailed information, see recommendations from FEMA:

<https://www.ready.gov/>

and the State Office of Emergency Services:

<http://www.caloes.ca.gov/for-individuals-families>

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