



City of Sebastopol
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City of Sebastopol Community Newsletter

CityofSebastopol.gov

The City of Sebastopol community newsletter is one way to stay in touch with what's going on in Sebastopol. Our web site, CityofSebastopol.gov is another. It's chock-full of information on City services, public meetings, and community resources.

May - June 2026



Late Breaking News: Mary Gourley Named City Manager



At its May 5 meeting, the Sebastopol City Council unanimously approved the appointment of Mary Gourley as City Manager. Ms. Gourley has been concurrently serving as both Assistant City Manager and City Clerk during her tenure as Interim City Manager. She formally took on the

role of City Manager May 6, and her agreement with the City establishes a three-year term ending June 30, 2029. Ms. Gourley brings more than three decades of dedicated public service to the role, all within Sebastopol city government. Read the full press release: <https://www.cityofsebastopol.gov/wp-content/uploads/2026/05/Mary-Gourley-City-Manager-050626.pdf>.

Sebastopol Commons Update



“Building the Commons” is a 30-year planning framework for Sebastopol’s civic future. The Commons is envisioned as a centralized hub that blends civic, economic, cultural and social resources to foster engagement and economic vitality. The community development

project would be located within Sebastopol city limits and inclusive of Sonoma’s West County residents.

Committees made up of Sebastopol and West County community members have been exploring a range of options for new development or revitalization of existing structures and has gathered input from the region to inform planning and goal development.

While the Committee for Building the Commons was originally set to terminate on June 30, the committee received an extension from the City Council until the end of September to allow additional time to explore a feasibility study.

More information about the project: <https://www.cityofsebastopol.gov/boards-commissions-committees/sebastopol-commons/>

Committee findings presented at an April 14th meeting may be found here: <https://bit.ly/4twm7zz>

See this Sebastopol Times article for a comprehensive overview: <https://www.sebastopoltimes.com/p/plans-move-forward-for-the-community>.

Sebastopol Walks Program Returns



Sebastopol Walks is a free community program exploring the hidden stories of our town. Led by knowledgeable guides, each walk brings our history, architecture, nature, and quirks to life. No experience necessary — just comfortable shoes and curiosity!

Walks happen the fourth Saturday of each month through November. Each walk begins at the Sebastopol Plaza at 9am and lasts about 3 hours.

Register on Eventbrite here or just show up at the Plaza by 9am. <https://www.eventbrite.com/cc/sebastopol-walks-4815759>

Email info@sebastopolwalks.com for more information.

2026 Calendar

- May 23 - Brent Reed (The Laguna Foundation) - Laguna Walk
- June 27 - Geoffrey Skinner & Joan Schwan - Garden Walk
- July 25 - Peter Schurch - Civil Engineering Walk
- August 22 - Donna Pittman - History Walk: Queen Anne Homes of NW Sebastopol
- September 26 - Richard Nichols - Alleys and Hidden Paths Walk
- October 24 - Neysa Hinton - Sebastopol Food Walk
- November 28 - Stephen Zollman - Nonprofit Walk

Get Your Garden Growing: Free Compost Giveaway May 16



The City of Sebastopol has procured certified organic compost for Sebastopol residents. The compost is available to residents for FREE at 425 Morris St. (behind the Community Center Youth Annex) up to ½ cubic yard of organic compost per household.

WHEN: May 16, 2026

TIME: From 9am to 12pm or until the pile is gone. **(NO EARLY BIRDS PLEASE!)**

ADDRESS: 425 Morris Street, Sebastopol, CA 95472

BRING: shovels, buckets or bags, tarps, gloves, pick-up truck, good spirits

If you'd like to assist others shovel their compost to keep the line moving, your help would be greatly appreciated!

Compost available while supplies last.

Please be prepared to wait your turn in line, with your car turned off to minimize hydrocarbon emissions. Vehicles will be directed to the pile as places open up.

This event is coordinated by volunteers from the Sebastopol Climate Action Committee.

Final 2026-2027 Budget Presentation Coming in June



The final budget for fiscal year 2026-2027 is expected to be presented at a June City Council Meeting (either June 2 or June 16). Agendas are posted to the Meetings page of the City website the Thursday before the meeting.

May is Bike to Wherever Month!



Ride your bike in May and all year long! Celebrate bicycling as a sustainable, practical and fun way to get around Sonoma County.

Join the Sonoma County Bicycle Coalition (SCBC) and participate in a host of cycling activities, events and challenges throughout the month of May, including **Bike to Work Day, Thursday, May 14**. Get outside, save money, have fun, and maybe even win some prizes!

For a complete list of events, visit the SCBC event calendar.

<https://www.bikesonoma.org/our-work/btwd-3/>

A Successful Apple Blossom Festival!

Councilmember Hinton, Mayor McLewis, Vice Mayor Maurer and Councilmembers Carter and Zollman prepare to march in the 80th annual Apple Blossom Parade on April 25.



Peacetown Summer Concert Series is Back and Better Than Ever



Wednesdays | June 3rd - Sept 9th | 5pm - 8:30pm at Ives Park

- Weekly Art Displays
- Beer/Wine/ Refreshments
- Food Trucks

Kiwanis 3rd of July Fireworks & Music Extravaganza

For the second year, this beloved annual event will take place at the Sebastopol Community Cultural Center.

Discounted tickets on sale until June 30.

<https://www.sebastopolkiwanisclub.org/>

