

Dear Council Members,

The attached Letter to the Editor from 3/15/24 shows that the Senior Center acts as a focal point for West County, far beyond the 2 square limits of Sebastopol. The writer even lives in Bloomfield!

Given this fact, the County should be contributing to the Senior Center. The same is true for all the organizations within Sebastopol that serve the greater West County area.

Only 30% of Sebastopol's population is senior. That means 70% of the City's population are not seniors, which means the majority of population are not seniors.

Sebastopol's entire population needs Police, Fire, Roads, Parks, Water and Sewer. Basic City Services serve the entire age range.

Please approach the County for funding for the Senior Center and other resources located in Sebastopol which serve the greater West County area.

Best,
Kate Haug

Preserve senior center

EDITOR: The city of Sebastopol faces a huge budget shortage, and painful cuts must be made. The Sebastopol Senior Center is thus on the chopping block, and proposals are being made to slash its support to zero.

Really? It's not like there are many (or even any) similar programs, especially those serving west county. In fact, the senior center's traffic (some 21,000 visits in the last year alone) indicates that it provides a wide-reaching, invaluable series of services.

Sebastopol's population includes over 30% over the age of 60. This statistic doesn't begin to address Sonoma County's aging population. The center deserves ongoing support. Were it to struggle or close, Sebastopol's senior community would be heavily impacted. Why not cut support for children's meals or school transport? Oh, that's politically incorrect? Well, so is cutting services to an equally needy population at the other end of the age scale.

Cutting support to the senior center would be a huge blow to elders. Let's consider cuts that do not pinpoint vulnerable community members who already have few resources to call upon. Slashing support to children and elders is not just bad fiscal management. It's morally and ethically reprehensible.

DIANE DONOVAN

Bloomfield