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**FW: Grocery Outlet**

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**From** Mary Gourley <mgourley@cityofsebastopol.gov>

**Date** Mon 5/11/2026 3:46 PM

**To** Victoria Henkel <vhenkel@cityofsebastopol.gov>

Please forward and post

Mary C. Gourley  
City Manager  
City of Sebastopol

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**From:** Pam Gentry [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, May 11, 2026 3:45 PM  
**To:** Mary Gourley <mgourley@cityofsebastopol.gov>  
**Subject:** Grocery Outlet

Dear Mary,

I hope it isn't too late for comments about approving Grocery Outlet in Sebastopol. If not, can you please forward the following comments to City Councilmembers (as well as the Planning Commission or any other entity that may still be providing input on this issue)?

I am a senior citizen living in affordable housing at Burbank Heights and Orchards and I am strongly in favor of approving Grocery Outlet moving in to the vacant Rite Aid location. With the ever-rising costs of food and steep increases in the price of gas, middle and lower income West County residents are finding it more and more difficult to make ends meet. Having the option of lower-cost groceries available locally can help ameliorate this financial burden. Although I haven't shopped there myself, my understanding is that Grocery Outlet can often offer produce (even organic) and other groceries at significantly reduced prices because of their very different business model. I heard that the store owner is from this area and that, although he has to follow company policies in general, he is much more his own boss than in grocery corporations like Safeway and Lucky's.

I understand there has been significant push back from other local grocers. Have you checked out the produce prices at the Community Market lately? I think competition is healthy and whatever negative financial effects might accrue to the bottom line of other local grocers, will be spread among them. Shoppers dedicated to their particular favorite grocery store, will probably continue to shop there. Having a lower cost grocery option in Sebastopol will be a gift to those of us struggling to make ends meet.

I hope you will take these comments into consideration when making a decision on this very important issue.

Sincerely,  
Pam Gentry