



City of Sebastopol
7120 Bodega Avenue,
Sebastopol, CA 95472
707-823-1153

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.

July - August 2026



Library Closure

The Sebastopol Regional Library remains closed while the extent of moisture and mold issues inside the building are being investigated and remediated.



BACKGROUND

The library was closed to the public on Thursday, June 4, after staff noticed peeling wallpaper and signs of moisture in the Staff Work Room and Teen Reading Area. When sections of the walls were opened in those areas, mold was found inside the wall cavities.

The City brought in environmental specialists to test for mold and indoor air quality. Testing found no airborne mold in the public areas of the library. Airborne mold was detected only in the Staff Work Room and Teen Reading Area after the walls had been opened.

Additional moisture testing has found elevated moisture levels in walls throughout the building, which means mold may also be present in other concealed wall areas.

FINANCIAL DETAILS

On Tuesday, July 7, 2026, the Sebastopol City Council authorized up to \$175,000 for continued mold remediation and investigative demolition at the library. Here's a link to a recording of the meeting: <https://vimeo.com/showcase/11524281?video=1124038229>. The item starts at about the 3:13 mark.

- The City previously spent \$47,687.55 on the initial emergency response. The Sonoma County Library reimbursed half of this amount.
- The new \$175,000 authorization is in addition to the prior expenditure.

The City's total share for these combined efforts is estimated at approximately \$198,000 (accounting for the library's contribution to the initial emergency costs and potential shared responsibilities on the new allocation). We are working closely with the Sonoma County Library on cost-sharing details to ensure responsible use of public funds.

This investment is critical to addressing the mold issues, ensuring the long-term safety and usability of this important community resource. We remain committed to transparency throughout the remediation process and will provide further updates as the work progresses.

Library Closure cont.

REMEDIATION PROCESS

Remediation is tentatively scheduled to begin the week of July 20. Library materials are being protected through containment, air filtration, and cleaning protocols. Physical barriers and negative air pressure systems have isolated the affected areas from the rest of the facility. The July 7 Public Works presentation to the City Council outlining the remediation process is available here: https://www.cityofsebastopol.gov/wp-content/uploads/2026/07/Library-Remediation-Work_eo.pdf.

The City understands how important the library is to the community and is working closely with the Sonoma County Library to find temporary locations for holds/drop offs and is exploring spaces for programs/classes etc.

Additional details and FAQs are available in the Library Closure section of the City website: <https://www.cityofsebastopol.gov/hottopics/library-closure/>

Information about library services are on the Sonoma County Library website: <https://sonomalibrary.org/visit/locations/sebastopol>

CURRENT RESOURCES FOR LIBRARY USERS

While the City and Library are working to find additional solutions, the Sonoma County Library BiblioBus will visit the Sebastopol Community Cultural Center (390 Morris St.) parking lot for two hours twice per week: Mondays, from 10:00-12:00 and Wednesdays from 2:00-4:00. The BiblioBus will offer a collection of library books, DVDs, and audiobooks for children, teens, and adults in English and Spanish for library patrons to check out. BiblioBus staff can make library cards, and offer free wifi, as well as black and white printing.

New • Nuevo
BiblioBus Service
Servicio de BiblioBus



Sebastopol Community Cultural Center
390 Morris Street
Sebastopol, CA 95472

Monday • Lunes 10am - 12pm
Wednesdays • Miércoles 2-4 pm



sonomalibrary.org/bibliobus

Sebastopol City Council Filing Period Opens July 13

Three at-large seats on the Sebastopol City Council will be on the November 3, 2026 ballot, each for a four-year term. The seats currently held by Sandra Maurer, Jill McLewis and Stephen Zollman are up for election.



The nomination filing period opened Monday, July 13, 2026, at 8:00 a.m. and will close Friday, August 7, 2026, at 5:00 p.m. If an incumbent does not file by the deadline, the filing period will be extended to August 12 for non-incumbent candidates only.

Candidates must meet eligibility requirements, including being at least 18 years old and a registered voter in the City of Sebastopol when nomination papers are issued.

Appointments are required to receive and file nomination papers. Complete candidate eligibility, filing requirements and appointment information are available on the Elections and Voting page of the City's website: <https://www.cityofsebastopol.gov/elections-and-voting/>

"Building the Commons" Oversight Committee Meeting August 11

"Building the Commons" is a community development project to be located within Sebastopol city limits and inclusive of Sonoma's West County residents. The Commons will be a centralized hub that blends civic, economic, cultural and social resources to foster engagement and economic vitality.



The next meeting of the project Oversight Committee will be held at City Hall (7120 Bodega Ave.) at 1pm on August 11. Meeting Agenda will be posted by August 6: <https://www.cityofsebastopol.gov/events/building-the-commons-oversight-committee-meeting-of-tuesday-august-11-2026/>

Find out more about the project here: <https://www.cityofsebastopol.gov/boards-commissions-committees/sebastopol-commons/>

Watch the City website and social media for announcements about an upcoming Open House coming soon!

Pride March and Flag Raising

On June 2, Councilmembers led a short Pride March and raised the Pride Flag at City Hall. Dozens of community members joined in the celebration.



Laguna Seasonal Bridge is Open

All summer long, the seasonal bridge behind the Little League Field at the Sebastopol Community Cultural Center provides a fun way to access the Laguna. Public Works crews set up and take down the floating bridge each year.



Prevent Tick Bites



Ticks are present in Sonoma County year-round, and with school out and warm weather bringing more people outdoors, it's a good time to review how to prevent tick bites.

The California Department of Public Health has a helpful website with information on avoiding tick bites and what to do if a tick attaches to your skin: <https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/Pages/TickBorneDiseasePrevention.aspx>

A quick reminder: folk remedies such as burning a tick with a match, covering it with nail polish, or using other household products should not be used and may be dangerous. The safest method is to use fine-tipped tweezers. Grasp the tick as close to the skin as possible and pull straight upward with slow, steady pressure. Do not twist.

Sebastopol Walks



This once-monthly free program exploring Sebastopol continues through November. Schedule and signup information: https://www.cityofsebastopol.gov/special_project/sebastopol-walks/

Upcoming Walks

July 25 - Engineering Wonders of Sebastopol, led by Peter Schurch

August 22 - Queen Anne Homes of Northwest Sebastopol led by West County Museum Director Donna Pittman

Be Prepared for Wildfire

Now is the time to prepare yourself, family, property and pets to be ready in the event of wildfire. Cal Fire has developed a comprehensive webpage for what to do before, during, and after a wildfire. Visit them at <https://socoemergency.org/get-ready/local-hazards/wildfire/> to learn more.



BUSINESS CORNER

City Launches New Business Milestone Recognition Program



Does your business have an upcoming milestone or significant anniversary (5, 10, 15, 20, 25 years or more)? The Sebastopol City Council would like to acknowledge the contributions that long-standing local businesses make to our community. Let us know of your milestone and your business will be considered for presentation of a proclamation or commemorative certificate by the mayor at an upcoming City Council meeting. Business must have an active Sebastopol business license to be eligible. Please submit your request at least 30 days in advance of the anniversary online to businesslicense@cityofsebastopol.gov with the subject "business anniversary."

CONGRATULATIONS TO MILK & HONEY

The first business to be recognized in the new program is Milk & Honey which is celebrating its 30th year in Downtown Sebastopol. Mayor McLewis visited the shop and proclaimed July 17, 2026 as "Milk & Honey Day" in Sebastopol. Owner Phoenix is pictured above with the proclamation. Read the Milk & Honey story here: <https://www.milk-and-honey.com/our-story.html>

COMMUNITY EVENTS

Peacetown Summer Music Series in Ives Park

Peacetown's free Summer Concert Series brings live music, community spirit, food, drink and good vibes to Ives Park every Wednesday evening from 5pm to 8:30pm through September 9. Bring a blanket or low chair, a friend, and enjoy a summer of local and regional talent in the heart of Sebastopol. See the lineup at <https://www.peacetown.org/summer-series-2026>



Gravenstein Apple Fair

The Gravenstein Apple Fair returns to Ragle Ranch Regional Park in Sebastopol on August 8–9, 2026, celebrating Sonoma County's beloved heritage apple with live music, local food and drink, family-friendly activities, artisans, farmers, and plenty of apple-inspired fun. The fair runs 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. both days.

<https://gravensteinapplefair.com/>

