



City of Sebastopol Community Newsletter

www.CityofSebastopol.org

July 28 - August 3 Edition of
Sebastopol Community Newsletter

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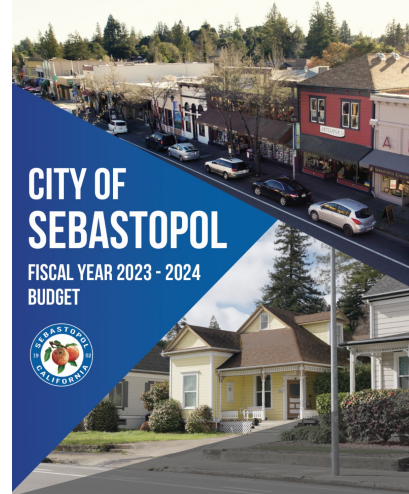
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CITY OF SEBASTOPOL 2023-2024 ADOPTED BUDGET

The City of Sebastopol's Fiscal Year
2023-2024 Adopted Budget is now
available on the City's website.

Click [HERE](#).



THE GRAVENSTEIN APPLE FAIR IS ALMOST HERE!



Join in the fun at the Gravenstein Apple Fair's 50th Anniversary coming up on **August 12th & 13th** at Ragle Ranch Regional Park in Sebastopol. Enjoy live music, all things Gravenstein, local food, art & crafts, activities for kids, farm demonstrations, craft cider, craft beer, wine, and lots more.

This event will likely draw big crowds, impacting traffic and parking in the area. Free satellite parking and shuttle buses are available. Satellite parking lots are at Holy Ghost Hall (7960 Mill Station Road, Sebastopol) and O'Reilly Media (1005 Gravenstein Hwy N, Sebastopol). Two free shuttle buses run all day during fair hours.

Advanced tickets and information: [GravensteinAppleFair.com](https://www.gravensteinapplefair.com).

SCHOOL IS BACK IN SESSION SOON - CHECK OUT THESE SAFETY TIPS



As summer draws to a close and children start heading back to school, family life can get pretty hectic. It's important to remember – and share with your children – some key tips from the [National Safety Council](#) that will help keep them safe and healthy throughout the school year.

Transportation Safety

Whether children walk, ride their bicycle or take the bus to school, it is extremely important that they take proper safety precautions. Here are some tips to make sure your child safely travels to school:

Walking to school

Review your family's walking safety rules and practice walking to school with your child.

- Walk on the sidewalk, if one is available; when on a street with no sidewalk, walk facing the traffic.
- Before you cross the street, stop and look left, right and left again to see if cars are coming.
- Make eye contact with drivers before crossing and always cross streets at crosswalks or intersections.
- Stay alert and avoid distracted walking.

Riding a bicycle to school

Teach your child the rules of the road and practice riding the bike route to school with your child.

- Ride on the right side of the road, with traffic, and in single file.
- Come to a complete stop before crossing the street; walk bikes across the street.
- Stay alert and avoid distracted riding.
- Make sure your child always wears a properly fitted helmet and bright clothing.

Riding the bus to school

Teach your children school bus safety rules and practice with them.

- Go to the bus stop with your child to teach them the proper way to get on and off the bus.
- Teach your children to stand six feet (or 3 giant steps) away from the curb.
- If your child must cross the street in front of the bus, teach him or her to walk

on the side of the road until they are 10 feet ahead of the bus; your child and the bus driver should always be able to see each other.

Driving your child to school

Stay alert and avoid distracted driving.

- Obey school zone speed limits and follow your school's drop-off procedure.
- Make eye contact with children who are crossing the street.

School Safety

Many school-related injuries are completely preventable. Follow these steps to ensure your child's safety at school:

Preventing backpack-related injuries

Choose a backpack for your child carefully; it should have ergonomically designed features to enhance safety and comfort.

- Ask your child to use both straps when wearing their backpack to evenly distribute the weight on their shoulders.
- Don't overstuff a backpack; it should weigh no more than 5 to 10 percent of your child's body weight.
- Rolling backpacks should be used cautiously since they can create a trip hazard in crowded school hallways.

Preventing playground-related injuries

To reduce strangulation hazards on playgrounds, have your child leave necklaces and jackets with drawstrings at home.

THE LIBRARY IS YOUR BACK-TO-SCHOOL RESOURCE

The library is your back-to-school resource

La biblioteca es su recurso de regreso a la escuela

sonomalibrary.org/school

It's back to school time and the Sonoma County Library has great eResources for learners of all ages in English and Spanish!

A Sonoma County Library card is the key to accessing the library's free digital resources. Get a library card at any library, or try a temporary eCard to borrow electronic resources for up to 120 days.

You can access free digital resources [HERE](https://sonomalibrary.org/school).

AD HOC FIRE SERVICES COMMITTEE TOWN HALL MEETING - AUGUST 24TH



AD HOC FIRE SERVICES COMMITTEE TOWN HALL MEETING

Thursday, August 24, 2023
6:00pm - 8:00pm

Community Church of Sebastopol
1000 Gravenstein Hwy N
Sebastopol, CA 95472

INTERESTED IN JOINING THE MEET YOUR NEIGHBORS (MYN) PROGRAM?

Our Sebastopol area experience has shown there are not enough first responders in SoCo to take care of everyone in a disaster. The priority of initially focusing on the most severely impacted locations of any disaster means many areas will not see first responder help right away. Our neighbors

who have collaboratively prepared through implementing the [Meet Your Neighbors \(MYN\)](#) program represents our strongest opportunity to minimize and overcome those impacts while others in greater danger are being helped.



Sebastopol area residents and neighborhoods have been adopting and implementing MYN for several years now.



The idea of filling in a map of your neighborhood with location of gas and water shut-off and electrical panel breakers is a core element of the MYN program. Another key element of MYN are the Steps outlined to help ground us during the first few minutes or hours of chaos in an emergency.

Although these and the other details of MYN are very important when considering preparedness and response, we have come to understand what really matters to us is connecting with our neighbors about these details. All aspects of what the MYN details can provide during an emergency can be more easily recalled and more adequately implemented with those connections in place. Neighbors helping neighbors can protect and save lives.

Contact SebastopolReady [HERE](#) to learn how to get started.

UPCOMING MEET YOUR NEIGHBORS (MYN) CLASSES

MYN Classes

Being prepared together

Classes are on the 3rd Wednesday of the month at 6:30pm.

Upcoming Classes

- August 16, 2023
- September 20, 2023

Sign up for an upcoming MYN class [HERE](#).

See the [SebastopolReady Calendar](#) for a complete list of classes. Learn more about the MYN program and classes [HERE](#).

WATER BILL LATE?



Don't worry if your water bill is late. Administrative Services staff is working on the billing transition with the newly installed meters. Water customers may receive their bills 2-3 weeks later than normal for the next 2 to 3 billing cycles. Contact Administrative Services if you have any questions at **(707) 823-7863**.

ADVANCED METERING INFRASTRUCTURE (AMI) OPT-OUT PROGRAM INFORMATION

At the City of Sebastopol, we support offering our customers a choice in metering infrastructure. The AMI Opt-Out Program is for residential customers who prefer not to have the data collector/transmitter installed with their water meter. The program allows customers to have their meter read manually at the end of every month at no additional cost to the customer.



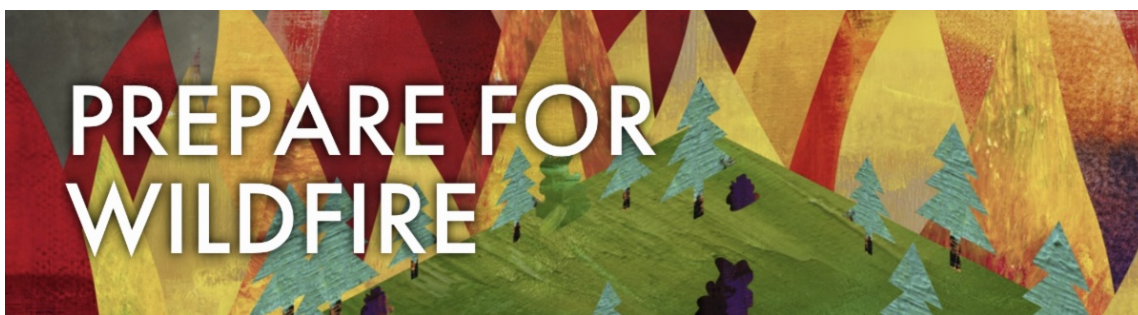
Most customers look forward to having an automated meter installed at their home and taking advantage of the many benefits that this technology offers, such as fewer visits from field service representatives and immediate access to consumption information. However, if you are a City of Sebastopol residential customer and would prefer not to have an automated meter read at your home, Please call us at: **707-823-5331** or Email: citypw@cityofsebastopol.org.

Let one of our customer service representatives know that you would like to opt out of our automated meter program. The Opt-Out program allows customers who prefer not to have the data collector / transmitter with their water meter read manually at the end of every month at no additional cost to the customer.

[AMI Opt-out Application](#)

[AMI Opt-out FAQ](#)

EMERGENCY SAFETY & PREPAREDNESS



DO YOU HAVE A FAMILY COMMUNICATION PLAN?

A Family Communication Plan should designate one out-of-area friend or relative as a point of contact to act as the single source of communication among family members in case of separation. It's easier to call or message one person and let them contact others than to try and call

everyone when phone, cell, and internet systems can be overloaded or limited during a disaster. Learn more ways you can be Evacuation Ready at readyforwildfire.org.



CITY NEWS

CITY MEETINGS

All meetings will be held both in-person and virtually and are open to the public to attend.

Meetings will be held at the Sebastopol Youth Annex, 425 Morris Street, Sebastopol, CA 95472, and are open for in-person attendance.

Agendas for upcoming meetings can be found on the City website by clicking the “[Meetings](#)” link on the home page. Agendas will contain information about participating both in-person and virtually in real time when this feature is available.

City Council Meetings:

- **Meeting Days:** First and Third Tuesday of each month
- **Meeting Time:** 6pm
- **Meeting Location:** Sebastopol Youth Annex, 425 Morris St., Sebastopol, CA
- **Livestream Link:** <http://bit.ly/sebcctv>
- To submit comments before the meeting:
 - **For Items Not on the Agenda:** Members of the public may submit written emails/comments for items not on the agenda either by email as a public record or by public comment during the public comment period of the virtual City Council meeting. All written emails/comments will be provided to the entire City Council as a public record but will not be read into the minutes at the City Council meeting. Written emails/comments should be received by 5:00 pm of the Council Meeting Date for submission to the entire City Council prior to the meeting and will be included as a part of the record of the meeting. Please submit your comments via email for this meeting to mgourley@cityofsebastopol.org
 - **For Items Listed on the Agenda:** Members of the public may submit written emails/comments for items listed on the agenda either by email as a public record or by public comment during the public comment period of the agenda item during the virtual City Council meeting. **Email comments must identify the Agenda Item Number in the subject line of the email.** All written emails/comments will be provided to the entire City Council as a public record but will not be read into the minutes at the City Council meeting. Written emails/comments should be received by 5:00 pm of the Council Meeting Date for submission to the entire City Council prior to the meeting and will be included as a part of the record of the meeting. Please submit your comments via email for this meeting to mgourley@cityofsebastopol.org

- **Next Meeting:** City Council Meeting of August 15, 2023 @ 6:00 PM has been

CANCELED.

Planning Commission Meetings:

- **Meeting Days:** Second and Fourth Tuesday of each month
- **Meeting Time:** 6pm
- **Meeting Location:** Sebastopol Youth Annex, 425 Morris St., Sebastopol, CA
- **Livestream Link:** <http://bit.ly/sebcctv>
- To submit comments before meeting, send an email to ksvanstrom@cityofsebastopol.org
- **Next Meeting:** Planning Commission Meeting of August 8, 2023 @ 6:00 PM has been CANCELED.

Design Review Board Meetings:

- **Meeting Days:** Fourth Tuesday of each month
- **Meeting Time:** 3:30pm
- **Meeting Location:** Sebastopol Youth Annex, 425 Morris St., Sebastopol, CA
- **Livestream Link:** <http://bit.ly/sebcctv>
- To submit comments before meeting, send an email to jjay@cityofsebastopol.org
- **Next Meeting:** Design Review Board Meeting of August 22, 2023 @ 3:30 PM

Public Arts Committee Meetings:

- **Meeting Days:** First Wednesday of each month
- **Meeting Time:** 1:30pm
- **Meeting Location:** Sebastopol Youth Annex, 425 Morris St., Sebastopol, CA
- **Livestream Link:** <http://bit.ly/sebcctv>
- To submit comments before meeting, send an email to ksvanstrom@cityofsebastopol.org
- **Next Meeting:** Public Arts Committee Meeting of September 5, 2023 @ 10:30 AM

Climate Action Committee Meetings:

- **Meeting Days:** Second Tuesday of each month
- **Meeting Time:** 3pm
- **Meeting Location:** Sebastopol Youth Annex, 425 Morris St., Sebastopol, CA
- **Livestream Link:** <http://bit.ly/sebcctv>
- To submit comments before meeting, send an email to jjay@cityofsebastopol.org
- **Next Meeting:** Climate Action Committee Meeting of August 8, 2023 @ 3:00 PM



COMMUNITY NEWS

LUNCH WITH A CITY COUNCILMEMBER - AUGUST 9TH



The Sebastopol Area Senior Center welcomes Vice Mayor Diana Gardner Rich to the Harvest Cafe on August 9th. We hope you will sit at her table or stop by the table to say hello or ask a question.

Lunch is \$10 for members and \$12 for non-members.

Click [HERE](#) for more info about the Harvest Cafe.

PEACETOWN SUMMER CONCERT SERIES



Head to the Barlow to take in the sweet sounds of summer at the Peacetown Summer Concert series every Wednesday, through August 16th, the Barlow will be filled with music and dancing alongside a variety of local wines and food to enjoy from 5pm-8:30pm.

To view this summer's music lineup, visit www.peacetown.org/summer-2023.

Contact Us



7120 Bodega Avenue, Sebastopol, CA 95472

707-823-1153

www.CityofSebastopol.org

City of Sebastopol | 7120 Bodega Avenue, Sebastopol, CA 95472

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