



November - December, 2023

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](https://www.cityofsebastopol.gov) is another. It's chock-full of information on City services, public meetings, and community resources. Or, stop by City offices any time we are open!

2023 Year in Review

As 2023 comes to a close, it's a great time to look back at some of our city's accomplishments over the past twelve months.



- Welcomed and familiarized three new City Council Members with city protocols and procedures: Joining Mayor Neysa Hinton and Vice Mayor Diana Rich, our citizens elected three new City Council Members, all of whom are serving for the first time: Sandra Maurer, Jill McLewis, and Stephen Zollman.
- Secured \$5 million in federal funding to address infrastructure repairs.
- Earned CalTrans Sustainable Transportation Planning Grant for the Sebastopol Main Street State Highways Subregional Planning and Core Redesign.
- Completed new city website and rolled out e-alerts feature.
- Made several new hires including Police Chief (Ron Nelson), Police Captain, (James Hickey), and Fire Engineer (Eric Smith).
- Repaved parts of Bodega Avenue.
- Replaced Parquet Street water and sewer mains.
- Passed a mobile home rent stabilization ordinance amendment.
- Gave away a total of 320 cu yards of free compost to Sebastopol residents over 4 events (April 2, May 6, September 9 & October 14). That's between 160 and 256 tons!

For a more complete list of recent accomplishments, visit the city website: <https://www.cityofsebastopol.gov/recent-accomplishments/>

City of Sebastopol Website News

Change to .gov Complete

The City of Sebastopol website URL and city email address changed on Wednesday, October 25, 2023. The website address is now <https://cityofsebastopol.gov>. City email addresses for all employees, including the police department, changed to <username>@cityofsebastopol.gov. Please update your contact information to reflect these changes. Moving to a .gov domain name provides our website with additional security measures and helps to maintain a high level of trust in the information being communicated.

City Directory

Need to quickly find a contact phone number or email for a city service? The City Directory (<https://www.cityofsebastopol.gov/city-directory/>) page is your go-to resource.

New E-Alerts System

The City of Sebastopol has upgraded and expanded its subscription-based communications.

You are now able to receive real-time information via email and/or text on a number of topics whenever updates on them are added to the City of Sebastopol website. These include:

- Budgets
- City Council Meeting Agendas
- Climate Action, Sustainability, and Zero Waste (formerly called Climate Issues)
- Emergency & Disaster Preparedness (formerly called Emergency Preparedness)
- Employment Opportunities with the City of Sebastopol
- Fire Services Delivery Study
- Housing & Homelessness
- Planning/Design Review Meeting Agendas & Info
- Public Art

Click HERE <https://bit.ly/SebEAlerts> for more info.

Celebrate the Holidays in Sebastopol!

Chamber of Commerce Annual Tree Lighting Event at the Town Plaza



Photo by Laura Hagar

Date:

Thursday, December 7, 2023

Time:

5pm to 8pm

This year's event includes music, ballet, candle lighting, Santa, Christmas film clips by Stellar XP, tree lighting, and hot chocolate and refreshments. Family fun for everyone!

Keep it Small and Local... Especially During the Holiday Season

The holiday season is always a critical time for shops and restaurants.

Between the long-established local businesses that you love and notable newcomers, there's no need to venture far afield to enjoy holiday outings or discover the perfect gifts for holiday giving. According to the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, spending close to home benefits more than just local businesses and helps our community to thrive on several fronts.



- Funding essential services: A whopping 53% of our city's budget comes from sales and other (non-property) taxes. Sales tax revenue is a guaranteed funding source for essential city services, including public safety, code enforcement, parks and landscaping, streets pavement and other essential services.
- Reducing the carbon footprint: Beyond the obvious reduction in fuel use for the consumer, a local small business itself tends to make more local purchases, which requires less transportation. Additionally, local stores help to sustain vibrant, compact, walkable town centers – important factors in reducing sprawl, automobile use, habitat loss, and air and water pollution.
- Creating more jobs: According to the US Small Business Administration, small local businesses employ 47.3 percent of the private workforce. Accommodation/food services and retail account for two of the top three industries for U.S. small business employment.
- Giving back to the community: Locally owned businesses recycle a much larger share of their revenue back into the local economy, including contributions to local causes.

Are You Earthquake Prepared?



**EARTHQUAKE
WARNING
CALIFORNIA**

It's always a good time to prepare for an earthquake. We know that there are many things to

be worried about, but when it comes to earthquakes, it is not a matter of if but when one will occur. Earthquakes can cause severe damage to infrastructure and can result in injuries and fatalities. There is no earthquake season — they can strike any time of year.

Cal OES is encouraging Californians to take the time to update their emergency plan, share any emergency preparedness lists with friends and family, and download the MyShake App (<https://myshake.berkeley.edu>). So many things in life may catch us off guard, but now, earthquakes don't have to!

Earthquake Warnings are a Game Changer: Cal OES encourages residents to have a plan for how to protect themselves in the event of an earthquake. If you receive a warning or feel shaking, there are moments to act. People can get a jump start before shaking can be felt. Make sure to take protective actions such as DROP, COVER, and HOLD ON (or LOCK, COVER, and HOLD ON if using a wheelchair).

Please visit earthquake.ca.gov to learn more about the latest tools and resources and how to use them.

Throughout the year the Sebastopol Senior Center has hosted "Lunch with a Councilmember." The last lunch of the year is coming up in December with Councilmember Stephen Zollman.

Lunch with a Councilmember at Sebastopol Area Senior Center

Dec 13:

Councilmember Stephen Zollman

The Sebastopol Area Senior Center welcomes Councilmember Stephen Zollman to the Harvest Cafe on December 13th. We hope you will sit at his table or stop by the table to say hello or ask a question.



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

Visit <https://www.sebastopolseniorcenter.org/lunch-at-harvest-cafe> for more info about the Harvest Cafe.

