



## City of Sebastopol Community Newsletter

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### January 19 Edition of Sebastopol Community Newsletter

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### **SIGNIFICANT WET WEATHER ON THE WAY**

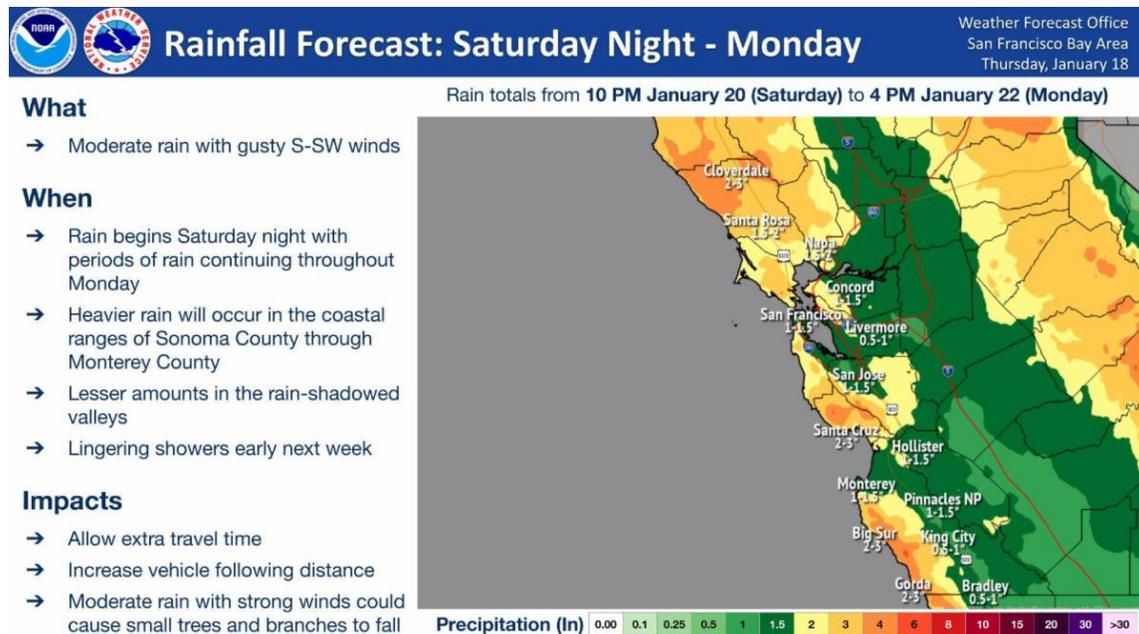
The National Weather Service predicts up to 6" of rain over the next five days. As new storms bring more RAIN, be prepared for flooding, winds and possible power

outages. Localized flooding is possible. Additional preparation and safety tips include:

- Clean out rain gutters and nearby storm drains.
- As rain accumulates, remember to slow down and prepare for longer commute times.
- Never drive through flooded roadways — TURN AROUND, DON'T DROWN!
- Ensure your headlights are turned on for visibility.
- Stay informed about the latest weather forecasts.



Learn more at <https://socoemergency.org>



Weekend storm fronts coming in. Rain will increase in intensity and coverage Saturday night and persist throughout Monday. See [National Weather Service](#) or follow them on [Facebook](#) for the most up to date information.

## NEED SANDBAGS?

With significant rain in the forecast and the possibility of flooding, the City of Sebastopol Public Works Department offers free sand and sandbags to Sebastopol residents. Individuals may pick up sand and sandbags sunrise to sunset in the city parking area to the rear of the Sebastopol Youth Annex at 425 Morris Street (see map below).

Please note that residents must fill the sandbags themselves. Shovels will be available onsite. The maximum number of bags per resident is 25.



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## TODD DERUM SERVING AS SEBASTOPOL'S NEW INTERIM FIRE CHIEF



New Interim Fire Chief Todd Derum has over 35 years of experience in firefighting. His last permanent position was Division Chief for CAL FIRE operations for Sonoma County. Read more about Interim Fire Chief Derum's background in a recent Sebastopol Times article [here](#).

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## CITY EXPLORES CREATING ENTERPRISE INFRASTRUCTURE FINANCING DISTRICT (EIFD)

The City Council approved pursuing funding infrastructure needs (roads, water and sewer systems, buildings, etc.) without increasing taxes. We will explore creating what's called an

Enterprise Infrastructure Financing District (EIFD). This process commits a portion of future property taxes to these needs. We are doing this in partnership with the County, which would contribute a portion of their property taxes toward Sebastopol's betterment as we are the commercial hub and host of many public services used by County residents. There is no cost to the City to pursue this opportunity; the County is providing the initial funding. We have not identified particular projects, and would do so only after public input. We are starting the process to decide whether it makes financial sense to proceed.



For further information, click [here](#).

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## NEW AMBULANCE PROVIDER IN SEBASTOPOL



On Tuesday, January 16th, Sonoma County Fire District began providing ambulance services in our city and throughout most of Sonoma County. The current Posts (predetermined standby locations) that will generally service our city are: Graton Fire, Gold Ridge Fire, and Hwy 12 & Llano Road. Residents may see vehicles around town with "Sonoma County Fire" on them and these are the ambulances servicing our city and county. There is no cost to our city for this level of

service.

See the press release from the County of Sonoma [here](#) and an article in the Press Democrat [here](#).

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## RECYCLE YOUR OLD HOUSEHOLD BATTERIES IN BIN OUTSIDE CITY HALL

Household batteries including alkaline and rechargeable batteries cannot be landfilled in California because they contain acids and toxic metals such as mercury, lead, cadmium, and nickel. Batteries can also be a fire risk so it's important to recycle them properly.

Deposit old batteries in the battery disposal bin at the Sebastopol Regional Library at 7140 Bodega Avenue.



**NOTE:** Drop-off all kinds of household batteries. Tape battery terminals.

Sebastopol residents only. Drop box is outside library on path between city hall.

Visit <https://zerowastesonoma.gov/materials/batteries-household> for more information and to find other battery drop off locations.

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## "COFFEE WITH A COUNCILMEMBER" WITH MAYOR DIANA RICH



Join Mayor Diana Rich for the first in this year's "Coffee with a Council Member" series to be held at various spots around town. Come buy a cup of coffee and join the conversation. Ask questions and share your thoughts and ideas. Mayor Rich hopes to see you there!

Coffee with Mayor Diana Rich

Wednesday, January 31, 10am to 11:30am

[Retrograde Coffee Roasters](#) (130 South Main Street)

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## WATER BILL ASSISTANCE AVAILABLE

Funding is now available for water bill assistance in Sebastopol through North Coast Energy Services. This local service provider offers residential water and sewer bill assistance to low-income households in Sebastopol through the Low Income Household Water Assistance Program (LIHWAP).



Click [HERE](#) to apply for a one-time water/sewer financial assistance.

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## CALL FOR ARTISTS: SOUTH ENTRY SCULPTURE



The City of Sebastopol and its Public Arts Committee (PAC) is seeking proposals from professional artists & artist teams living in the State of California for the design, fabrication, and installation of a permanent, original public art suitable for placement at the trailhead of the Joe Rodota Trail on Petaluma Avenue, which also marks the entry to Sebastopol's downtown. The commissioned art will have a budget of \$25,000 from the City's Art in-lieu fund.

**Submission Deadline:** January 29, 2024

Click [HERE](#) for more information.

This project is funded by Sebastopol's 'percent for art' fee, where major projects either provide on-site public art or pay an in-lieu fee which the city uses for public art projects in the community. These monies cannot be used for other purposes. Read more [here](#).

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## CITY NEWS

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### 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.gov](mailto:mgourley@cityofsebastopol.gov)
  - **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.gov](mailto:mgourley@cityofsebastopol.gov)

**Next Regular City Council Meeting:** [City Council Meeting of February 6, 2024 @ 6:00 PM](#)

### 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 [kvanstrom@cityofsebastopol.gov](mailto:kvanstrom@cityofsebastopol.gov)

**Next Meeting:** [Planning Commission Meeting of January 23, 2024 @ 6:00 PM](#)

### 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.gov](mailto:jjay@cityofsebastopol.gov)
- Next Meeting: [Design Review Board Meeting of January 23, 2024 @ 3:30 PM](#)

### Public Arts Committee Meetings:

- **Meeting Days:** Second Tuesday of each month
- **Meeting Time:** 1pm
- **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 [kvanstrom@cityofsebastopol.gov](mailto:kvanstrom@cityofsebastopol.gov)
- Next Meeting: [Public Arts Committee Meeting of February 13, 2024 @ 1:00 PM](#)

### 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.gov](mailto:jjay@cityofsebastopol.gov)
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- **Next Meeting:** [Climate Action Committee Meeting of February 13, 2024 @ 3:00 PM](#)



Contact Us



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707-823-1153

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