



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

# City of Sebastopol Community Newsletter

[CityofSebastopol.gov](http://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](http://CityofSebastopol.gov) is another. It's chock-full of information on City services, public meetings, and community resources.

January - February 2026



## 2025 Year in Review

As we embark on this new year, let's take a moment to look back at some of our city's accomplishments in 2025.

- Adopted a balanced budget for 2025-26.
- Completed Gold Ridge Fire Department Consolidation.
- Undertook Downtown clean up and new holiday decorations.
- Contracted new Trash and Recycling provider: Sonoma County Resource Recovery.
- Hired new Police Chief Sean McDonagh. Look for an update on the SPD from Chief McDonagh in the next newsletter issue.
- Worked with County Department of Health Services for a pilot program in which the County will assign one personnel from the Homeless Encampment Assistance and Resource Team (HEART) to work within the city to connect unhoused individuals to supportive services.
- Adopted Sebastopol Active Transportation Plan.
- Completed AmeriCorps Trail (see article below for more details).
- Established several new committees including:
  - Enterprise Fund Oversight Committee to provide ongoing, structured oversight and to offer recommendations to the City Council regarding the financial health and long-term planning of the City's Enterprise Funds
  - Building the Commons Committee (standing)—a multi-use civic space envisioned as a dynamic hub for education, arts, health, senior services, and community engagement
  - 125th anniversary celebration of the incorporation of the City of Sebastopol Committee (ad hoc)
- Held "Economic Gardening" Business Listening Session on September 30 inviting business leaders to connect with decision-makers, network with fellow entrepreneurs, and shape future City programs.
- Funded by a grant from Caltrans, held a series of "Reimagining the Core" Workshops, culminating in the development of four alternative plans to update the downtown core. See the article on the next page for more details.

### 2025 cont.

- Approved Barlow Hotel application at 6782 Sebastopol Avenue.
- Adopted Just Cause Eviction Ordinance (Chapter 9.36 of Municipal Code).
- Restored Labyrinth Teen Memorial (next to Sebastopol Community Cultural Center).
- Added Land Acknowledgement Statement to City agendas and website.
- Approved Resolution of Intention for EIFD (Enhanced Infrastructure Financing District) to fund projects such as roads, water and sewer systems, and public buildings without raising taxes. The process commits a portion of future property taxes to these needs. The City will continue to partner with the County on next steps.

## Sebastopol City Council Names New Mayor and Vice Mayor

At the opening of its December 2nd meeting, the Sebastopol City Council named Vice Mayor Jill McLewis as mayor and Councilmember Sandra Maurer as vice mayor for the next year. Outgoing Mayor Stephen Zollman, who will continue to serve as a councilmember, offered brief remarks reflecting on the accomplishments and challenges of the past year.



The City of Sebastopol thanks Stephen Zollman for his leadership and service as mayor over the past year and welcomes former Vice Mayor McLewis and Councilmember Maurer to their new roles.

## AmeriCorps Trail Extension Completed



The AmeriCorps trail extension project, located in the Laguna Wetlands Preserve from the Sebastopol Lift Station to Sebastopol Avenue, is now complete. The project consisted of constructing a trail extension, a pedestrian bridge at Zimpher Creek, improvements to the current trail segments, addition of trail signs, and a trail entry south of the Community Center parking lot. The trail system to the north of this extension leads to a seasonal bridge that provides access to Laguna de Santa Rosa Regional Park.

The project closes a "critical" missing link in the Laguna Preserve trails system. This project implements several components of the Laguna Preserve Management Plan. The project was funded with Measure M Parks, Park in-lieu fees, and a grant from the Sonoma County Ag and Open Space District.

## 2026 Plans

### Major Safety, Mobility, and Infrastructure Projects Advancing in 2026

The City of Sebastopol is moving forward with several significant capital projects over the next year aimed at improving roadway safety, expanding active transportation options, enhancing public amenities, and modernizing critical infrastructure.

Use of **\$500,00 from Measure U funds** to repair large potholes. Report large potholes to: [citypw@cityofsebastopol.gov](mailto:citypw@cityofsebastopol.gov)

On **Bodega Avenue at the city limits**, the City will replace approximately 325 feet of existing bridge guardrail to address a documented history of lane-departure collisions caused by narrow shoulders and limited recovery space near the creek bed. The project, which also includes new signage and safety appurtenances, is primarily funded through a State Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP) grant and is expected to begin in March 2026.

The City will also advance **Phase 2 of the Bodega Avenue Bike Lanes and Pavement Rehabilitation Project**, extending bike lanes and repaving from Nelson Way to Pleasant Hill Road and from Valley View Drive to the Atascadero Creek city limit. Funded largely by a \$2.24 million Go Sonoma grant, construction is scheduled to start in **January 2026**, weather permitting, and conclude by **June 2026**.

At the **Luther Burbank Experimental Farm**, a new ADA-compliant public restroom and accessible path from the parking lot will improve access for all visitors. The federally funded project is slated to begin in **December 2025** and be completed by **April 2026**.

In addition, the City is undertaking a long-overdue **Water System Master Plan Update**, its first since 2005. The effort will assess aging water infrastructure, evaluate fire flow capacity, and establish a 5- to 10-year Capital Improvement Program. The project is already underway, with a draft master plan anticipated in **February 2026**.

Other upcoming projects:

- ADA Pathway at Ives Park
- Fencing at Ives Park by the creek
- Zoning Code and Housing Element implementation program and policy updates

Together, these projects reflect Sebastopol's continued investment in public safety, sustainability, accessibility, and long-term infrastructure planning.

### City Council Goals

With input from the community, the City Council developed the following areas of focus for their goals for 2026 and beyond. See the recap and the vote of priority projects here: <https://bit.ly/44RS7nr>

- Community Vitality
- Public Safety
- Infrastructure
- High Performance Organization
- Long Term Financial Stability
- Economic Developments

In 2026, three city council seats will be up for election or re-election, presenting an opportunity for civic-minded citizens to get involved in City government in a big way.

## Re-Imagining the Core: Help Shape the Future of Downtown Sebastopol!

The City of Sebastopol is continuing the Reimagining the Core downtown mobility study to make our downtown safer, more accessible, and more vibrant for everyone. Community input has helped refine four corridor alternatives, and we now need your feedback to help identify a preferred direction.



Here's how to get involved:

Online Survey (through Feb 8) – Explore the refined alternatives and vote for your preferred option: [fp.mysocialpinpoint.com/sebastopol-reimagining-the-core](https://fp.mysocialpinpoint.com/sebastopol-reimagining-the-core)

Planning Commission Meeting – Tuesday, February 10, 2026, at 6:00 PM

Sebastopol Youth Annex, 425 Morris Street

Learn more and sign up for updates at the project website: [fp.mysocialpinpoint.com/sebastopol-reimagining-the-core](https://fp.mysocialpinpoint.com/sebastopol-reimagining-the-core).

## COMMUNITY UPDATE

### Sebastopol Library to close for upgrade

*3-week closure in January; alternative services available*

The Sebastopol Regional Library will close from January 5 to January 26 to upgrade technology and renovate the staff area.

Library staff will be available during regular business hours for telephone questions, and the library will offer service options during the brief closure:



The 24/7 BiblioBox smart locker will allow holds pickup any time of the day or night.

The BiblioBus mobile library will be at Sebastopol four times a week, from 1-5 pm on Mondays (except the MLK holiday), Wednesdays, Fridays and Saturdays on January 5, 7, 9, 10, 12, 14, 16, 17, 21, 23 and 24. The BiblioBus offers a browsing collection, free printing, free WiFi, library card signups and library staff who can answer questions.

A generous donation from the Friends of the Sebastopol Library allows the library to offer programming at the Sebastopol Center for the Arts during the closure. Visit [sonomalibrary.org/events](https://sonomalibrary.org/events) to see the library program schedules.

Other nearby libraries (Guerneville, Occidental, Forestville) will be open regular hours.

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