



City of Sebastopol
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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.

March - April 2026



Caltrans Sustainable Transportation Grant Study Status: A Vision for Downtown

Return to two-way streets among options under consideration

Funded by a Caltrans grant received in August of 2023, the City of Sebastopol has been working with the community to reimagine downtown as a safe, vibrant, and engaging place.

The study included a thorough assessment of existing conditions, multiple community workshops, and detailed analysis of four alternatives. These can be found on the "Reimagining the Core" project website [HERE](#).

At its February 10, 2026 meeting, the Sebastopol Planning Commission recommended a plan to widen sidewalks on Main Street for a more walkable core, create protected two-way bike lanes on Petaluma Avenue, and make both streets two-way, taking pedestrian and bicycle improvements from Alternative 3 "Walkable One Way" and the two-way auto circulation from Alternative 4 "Totally Two Way."

At its March 3, 2026 meeting, the City Council reviewed all of the proposed alternatives and identified the Planning Commission Recommendation as the preferred option. The Council directed the consultant team to conduct additional analysis and develop a conceptual design for this alternative, as well as explore potential options for alternative bikeway alignments through the downtown core.

At press time, Sebastopol's City Council was scheduled to consider implementation of an approved plan at one of its April meetings. The public is invited to attend virtually or in person to weigh in. To sign up to receive upcoming City Council Meeting Agendas, or other topics of interest, visit the City of Sebastopol website (<https://www.cityofsebastopol.gov/>) and click on the blue "Subscribe" link in the right corner (from desktop devices) or top left corner (mobile devices) of the page.

Learn more about the project and background here: <https://bit.ly/40HY8Sw>.

Visit the official project website (Reimagining the Core) here: <https://bit.ly/4etlr4w>.

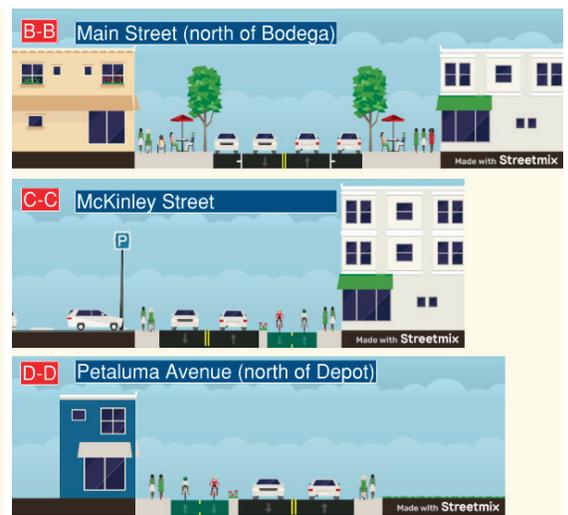
Sign up to receive project updates here: <https://bit.ly/4tWH4V8>.

Email questions to planning@cityofsebastopol.gov.

PLANNING COMMISSION RECOMMENDATION

- Key**
- Parking
 - New Pedestrian Spaces
 - Separated Bike Lanes
 - Stop Sign
 - Signal
 - Bus Stop
 - Bike Station
 - Rectangular Rapid-Flashing Beacon (RRFB)
 - Pedestrian Hybrid Beacon (PHB)
 - Pedestrian-Activated Flashing Beacon
 - (proposed)

Not to scale and for illustrative purposes only. Additional engineering analysis and coordination will be required to determine final design.



Oriana Hart Joins the City of Sebastopol as Director of Public Works

The City of Sebastopol welcomes Oriana Hart as its new Director of Public Works. She brings more than 20 years of experience in public works and environmental engineering, most recently serving as Water Resources and Conservation Manager for the City of Petaluma, where she led sustainable water management initiatives.



Oriana previously worked for the City of Sonoma as a Public Works Project Manager and Administrator and spent six years with the County of Sonoma, including as Storm Water Coordinator. She also has more than a decade of private-sector experience in construction and storm water management and managed the EPA-funded Clean Streams of Southern Sonoma County grant.

She holds a bachelor's degree in Earth Science/Geophysics from UC Santa Cruz and a master's degree in Environmental Engineering Technology from Cal State Fullerton. Oriana brings strong technical expertise and a commitment to public service as she steps into this leadership role.

Take the Community Goals Survey!

With input from the community, the Sebastopol City Council has established six broad goals for our city. The goals, which are not ranked in order of importance, are:

Community Vitality: *Enhancing Sebastopol as a great place to live while preserving its unique character*

Public Safety: *Strengthening public safety and supporting first responders*

Infrastructure: *Maintaining high-quality infrastructure, facilities, and services*

High Performance Organization: *Improving organizational effectiveness and public trust*

Long-Term Financial Sustainability: *Achieve greater fiscal resilience*

Economic Development: *Supporting local business growth*

We're asking to hear from you again on which specific issues matter most. An online survey will run on the City website through March 26 here: <https://bit.ly/CCGoalsSurvey>. A Goals meeting is scheduled for the evening of April 14 and your feedback will help Council decide where to focus City time and resources. More details on the meeting will be available as the meeting approaches.



Hometown Heroes Recognized



Left to Right: Councilmembers Carter and Hinton, Mayor McLewis, Police Chief McDonagh, Officer Wotila, Gold Ridge Fire Chiefs Bray and DeCarli, Councilmember Zollman, Vice Mayor Maurer

At its February 17 meeting, the Sebastopol City Council awarded Certificates of Appreciation to the Sebastopol Police Department's Chief Sean McDonagh, Officers Josiah Wotila and Jaime Baldovinos and Dispatcher Chris Mooney along with the Gold Ridge Fire Department for heroic efforts during the response to a house fire on the night of February 4th. Their quick response and action resulted in the rescue of the home's resident and swift containment of the fire. Read about the dramatic rescue in the Press Democrat here: <https://www.pressdemocrat.com/2026/02/04/sebastopol-police-chief-and-officer-rescue-elderly-woman-from-burning-home/>

Climate Action News

FREE
ORGANIC
COMPOST

Provided by *Sebastopol Climate Action Committee*, City of Sebastopol, Zero Waste Sonoma, and WM Redwood of Novato

When: Saturday April 4 & Saturday May 16, 2026
9 am - 12 pm
(or until the pile is gone!)

Where: 425 Morris St.
(Behind Community Center Youth Annex)

Bring: Shovels, Buckets or Bags, Tarps, Gloves (we will have some donated bags for use)
Volunteers on hand to assist those who need help

Up to 1/2 cubic yard per household

Sebastopol Climate Action Committee is a group of dedicated citizens working to address the global climate emergency through local action.

Contact: ClimateActionCommittee@cityofsebastopol.org



