



# City of Sebastopol Community Newsletter

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September 1 - September 7 Edition of  
Sebastopol Community Newsletter

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## **SEBASTOPOL AWARDED CALTRANS SUSTAINABLE TRANSPORTATION PLANNING GRANT**

The City of Sebastopol has been awarded the  
Caltrans Sustainable Transportation Planning



Grant award by the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans), Division of Transportation Planning for the Sebastopol Main Street State Highways Subregional Planning and Core Redesign project.

**Project Description:** A preferred plan for the downtown segments of State Route (SR) 116 and SR 12 will address multimodal transportation, safety, sustainability, accessibility, and economic development, while supporting the City's land use and housing goals. Sebastopol is one of the few incorporated cities in California where two State Highways intersect and serve as the downtown's two primary routes of travel. The high volume of regional traffic has negatively impacted the vitality of local businesses and the safety of pedestrians and bicyclists traversing the downtown area. The plan will engage disadvantaged residents to effectively address community-identified needs and inequities to develop a regional strategy for State, County and other local roadways to address capacity and freight movement to support the downtown corridor plan.

### [Award Letter](#)

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## CITY PROJECTS THAT MAY AFFECT TRAFFIC

### **Bodega Avenue Bike Lanes and Pavement Rehabilitation Phase 1.**

Construction of concrete pedestrian ramps continued during the month and, but for 2 remaining ramps locations, all others have been completed and are in use by the public. Pavement overlay on Bodega Ave from High St to Nelson Way is scheduled tentatively for mid-October. This will be a 2-day operation and traffic control will be in effect however, delays are expected to occur. Currently the project is on track for completion within the 90-working days contract end date of 11/21/23. This work is partially funded with local sales tax Measure M Transportation funds.



**SR 116 Curb Ramps and Crossing Enhancements at Bodega/Florence and Bodega/Robinson.** All but 1 of the concrete pedestrian ramps have been completed and in public use. The remaining ramp location at Wallace St and N Main St is on hold until PG&E relocates an existing electrical facility in conflict with the new sidewalk grade. This work is partially funded with local sales tax Measure M Transportation funds.

**Ives Park Pathway Replacement Segment 1.** Construction has been on hold from its previous planned August start up due to the final special events scheduled at the park. The work is planned to begin Monday, September 11 after special events for the summer have concluded. Duration of work is estimated to be 30 days from start, pending unforeseen conditions or inclement weather. As a reminder the extent of work is to replace existing asphalt path with new ADA-compliant path from the picnic table area to the public restrooms near the central play area.

**Parquet Street Water/Sewer/Slurry Seal Improvements.** Utility construction is ongoing with the new waterline installed and pressure testing and disinfection to follow starting the first week of September. Installation of new water service and fire hydrant connections are continuing during the same week as well. Other work

planned to start later in the new month include new sewer main and manhole construction and installation of the new sewer laterals.

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## FREE ORGANIC COMPOST GIVEAWAY - SEPT 9TH



**Applying Compost is one of many things you can do for the climate, it helps build soil health while retaining water!**

**Date:** Saturday, September 9, 2023

**Time:** 9am-12pm (or until the pile is gone)

**Location:** 425 Morris St. (behind the Community Center Youth Annex)

**Bring:** Shovels, Buckets or Bags, Tarps, Gloves, Pick-up Truck

1/2 cubic yard per household (more available for school gardens or multifamily gardens)

The free compost events are provided by the Sebastopol Climate Action Committee, The City of Sebastopol, Zero Waste Sonoma, and Napa Recycling & Waste Services.

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

**Contact:** [ClimateActionCommittee@cityofsebastopol.org](mailto:ClimateActionCommittee@cityofsebastopol.org) or [Sebastopolsinkscarbon@gmail.com](mailto:Sebastopolsinkscarbon@gmail.com)

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## WHAT'S IN YOUR GO BAG? - SEBASTOPOL LIBRARY PRESENTATION - SEPT 10TH

The Sebastopol Library is, once again, working with SoCo Dept of Emergency Management (DEM) to help us become more informed about and prepared for the small and large emergencies that are in our future. Go Bags are rather universal as to needing to have one (or two) for when we need to boogie out. And there are certainly some items that are also rather universal to include. It's good to know these universal items and to plan for what you specifically need to include to complete your Go Bag.



### What's in your Go Bag?

**Date:** Sunday, September 10, 2023

**Time:** 2pm to 3pm

**Location:** Sebastopol Regional Library, 7140 Bodega Ave., Sebastopol

**Free**

Let's look at choices for things like food and water, and take a deep dive into what's in your Go Bag? What's an MRE? Do rations taste good, how long will my water

## SEPTEMBER IS NATIONAL PREPAREDNESS MONTH



National Preparedness Month (NPM) is an observance each September to raise awareness about the importance of preparing for disasters and emergencies that could happen at any time. The 2023 theme is, **“Take Control in 1, 2, 3”. “Preparing for Older Adults. We know older adults can face greater risks when it comes to the multitude of extreme weather events and emergencies we now face, especially if they are living alone, are low-income, have a disability, or live in rural areas.”**

NPM is a project of FEMA (the Federal Emergency Management Agency) and ready.gov (a Department of Homeland Security national public service campaign designed to educate and empower the American people to prepare for, respond to and mitigate emergencies, including natural and man-made disasters.) Make your emergency plans today! Visit the following sites to learn more.

### Preparedness Resources

- [ready.gov](https://ready.gov) – Emergency and disaster preparedness information from the Department of Homeland Security
- [socoemergency.org](https://socoemergency.org) – Sonoma County emergency and preparedness information
- [caloes.ca.gov](https://caloes.ca.gov) – California Governor’s Office of Emergency Services website
- [readyforwildfire.org](https://readyforwildfire.org) – CAL FIRE’s wildfire preparedness website
- [firesafecouncil.org](https://firesafecouncil.org) – California’s Fire Safe Council Website
- [Pge.com/wildfiresafety](https://Pge.com/wildfiresafety) – PG&E’s website on what to do before, during, and after a wildfire
- [Prepareforpowerdown.com](https://Prepareforpowerdown.com) - PG&E’s website on how to prepare for Planned Public Safety Power Shutdown (PSPS) events

### Sign up for Emergency Alerts

**Nixle:** Text your zip code to **888777** or sign up online at

<https://local.nixle.com/register/>

**SocoAlert:** Visit [socoalert.com](https://socoalert.com)

# SEPTEMBER 12 MEETING ON ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION PLAN UPDATE



The City of Sebastopol is undertaking an update to its 2011 Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan, now branded as the Active Transportation Plan, as part of a countywide planning process led by the Sonoma County Transportation Authority (SCTA). Fehr & Peers, consultant for SCTA, will be presenting the first milestone

update to the [Sebastopol Planning Commission on September 12](#). This presentation will include an overview of the project scope, schedule, and role/input desired from the Planning Commission, as well as preliminary findings on existing conditions, an overview of approach to the technical analysis, and draft vision, goals, and objectives.

## Planning Commission Meeting

**Date:** Tuesday, September 12, 2023

**Time:** 6pm

Click [HERE](#) for additional meeting information.

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## 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.



MYN

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.

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## 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

- 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](#).

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## SONOMA CLEAN POWER VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY



**Sonoma  
Clean  
Power**

Sonoma Clean Power is recruiting volunteers for seven (7) openings on its Community Advisory Committee. This is a meaningful opportunity to provide input toward Sonoma Clean Power's innovative customer benefits, renewable energy projects, and assist with shaping clean energy goals for our community.

The Community Advisory Committee comprises volunteers who typically meet once per month to make recommendations and provide input to our Board of Directors on topics such as: customer benefits; the review of budgets & rates; and the general operations of the agency. Members serve four-year terms following appointment by our Board of Directors.

We are seeking engaged, committed, and awesome individuals who want to help our equally awesome staff and Board combat the climate crisis. This is a unique opportunity for committed individuals to directly support the Agency's work. We welcome all applicants, and would especially encourage individuals that represent impacted, historically under-resourced communities to apply. We strongly encourage people of color, women and those who identify as LGBTQI+ to apply.

Click [HERE](#) for more information and to download an application.

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## 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](mailto: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](#)

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## EMERGENCY SAFETY & PREPAREDNESS

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CHECK OUT [SEBASTOPOLREADY.ORG](http://SEBASTOPOLREADY.ORG)



[SebastopolReady.org](http://SebastopolReady.org) is an emergency and disaster preparedness and readiness resource with information on how neighbors can prepare to provide care, safety and comfort simply by working together.

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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.org](mailto: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](mailto:mgourley@cityofsebastopol.org)

**Next Meeting:** [City Council Meeting of September 19, 2023 @ 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.org](mailto:kvanstrom@cityofsebastopol.org)
- **Next Meeting:** [Planning Commission Meeting of September 12, 2023 @ 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.org](mailto:jjay@cityofsebastopol.org)
- **Next Meeting:** [Design Review Board Meeting of September 26, 2023 @ 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.org](mailto:kvanstrom@cityofsebastopol.org)
- **Next Meeting:** [Public Arts Committee Meeting of September 12, 2023 @ 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.org](mailto:jjay@cityofsebastopol.org)
- **Next Meeting:** [Climate Action Committee Meeting of September 12, 2023 @ 3:00 PM](#)



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## COMMUNITY NEWS

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**LUNCH WITH A CITY COUNCILMEMBER - SEPT 15TH**



The Sebastopol Area Senior Center welcomes Councilmember Jill McLewis to the Harvest Cafe on September 15th. 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.

Contact Us



7120 Bodega Avenue, Sebastopol, CA 95472

707-823-1153

[www.CityofSebastopol.org](http://www.CityofSebastopol.org)

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