



September - October, 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.org 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!

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 – Emergency and disaster preparedness information from the Department of Homeland Security

socoemergency.org – Sonoma County emergency and preparedness information

caloes.ca.gov – California Governor's Office of Emergency Services website

readyforwildfire.org – CAL FIRE's wildfire preparedness website

firesafecouncil.org – California's Fire Safe Council Website

Pge.com/wildfiresafety – PG&E's website on what to do before, during, and after a wildfire

Prepareforpowerdown.com - California Energy Service Provider's website on how to prepare for Planned Public Safety Power Shutoff (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

Meet Your Neighbors 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 program (<https://sebastopolready.org/about-myn>) represent our strongest opportunity to minimize and overcome those impacts while others in greater danger are being helped.



MYN

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** at <https://sebastopolready.org/map-your-neighborhood> to learn how to get started.

Upcoming Meet Your Neighbor (MYN) Classes

Classes are on the 3rd Wednesday of the month at 6:30pm.

Upcoming Classes

- September 20, 2023
- October 18, 2023

Sign up for an upcoming MYN class here:

<https://sebastopolready.org/myn-class-sign-up-form>

Visit <https://sebastopolready.org/calendar> for a complete list of classes.

Check Out These Features on the City's New Website

Our refreshed website (www.cityofsebastopol.org) has several new features making it easier to accomplish various tasks with the city and stay up to date on current city happenings. Many permit applications may now be submitted online via our new e-permitting Public Portal. Want to apply for or renew a business license? Both can be done right on the website. Need to quickly find a contact phone number or email for a city service? The City Directory page is your go-to resource. At press time we're in the process of rolling out an E-Alerts feature (accessed via the "Subscribe" button on the top of each page) to receive information by text and/or email on a number of topics that may interest you as soon as information on those topics is updated on the website. Have feedback or an idea for another feature you'd like to see? Let us know by clicking the "Feedback" button on the bottom right of each page.

Check out the E-Permitting Public Portal HERE:
www.cityofsebastopol.org/permits

Apply for a Business License or Renew your Business License HERE: www.cityofsebastopol.org/BizLic

2024 Water Rate Study



In May 2023, the City hired a consultant to prepare a detailed 2024 Water Rate Study to assess the need for rate adjustments to continue providing reliable water services. It is anticipated that the Sebastopol City Council will receive a presentation about the Water Rate Study at a regular meeting in October 2023. (Regular City Council meetings are held the first and third Tuesday of each month). Notices concerning proposed water rate increases will be mailed to City water and sewer customers and property owners in November. A public hearing will be held in late December 2023 to consider the proposed increases in the City's rates and charges for water and sewer services. The new rates will be effective in February 2024.

Sebastopol Fire Department Blood Drive



When: Tuesday, October 17, 2023, 1:00pm - 5:00pm

Where: Truck Bay
7425 Bodega Hwy,
Sebastopol



To make an appointment visit donors.vitalant.org. or scan QR code here.

Free Compost

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

Date: Saturday, October 14, 2023
Time: 9am-12pm (or until the pile is gone)



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

1/2 cubic yard per household (more available for school gardens or multi-family 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.

See the City's website for more information: www.cityofsebastopol.org/compostgiveaways

COMMUNITY EVENTS

Got Apples? Reserve the Slow Food Russian River Community Apple Press



It's apple season in Sonoma County, and the Slow Food Sebastopol Community Apple Press is open to the public at the Luther Burbank Experiment Farm in Sebastopol and will run on weekends until October

21st. People are welcome to bring their own apples and a group of volunteers will assist them in making fresh pressed apple juice.

For more information, make a reservation, or volunteer, visit the Slow Food Russian River website at slowfoodrr.org.

Aged to Perfection: Senior Prom

The Sebastopol Area Senior Center's annual fundraiser supporting critical senior services and programs is coming up on September 23rd. If you have fond memories of your senior prom or if you did not go to one, but are game now, get your dancing shoes out! It will be a spectacularly wonderful evening to be dolled up in your finest Senior Prom look – from any decade you wish!

Date: Saturday, September 23, 2023

Time: 7pm to 10pm

Location: Community Church of Sebastopol

Get more information and buy your tickets here: <https://bit.ly/43JlqFu>

