

Sebastopol

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VISION

AUGUST
2016



General Plan

Through an extensive process, a draft General Plan for the City has been created, and an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) prepared to analyze its effects.

This has been a major undertaking for the City, and has included extensive outreach and public process. In particular, the Council, Commission, and General Plan Advisory Committee have provided leadership and dedication to the public process.

The proposed General Plan is intended to reflect community values, and carry the City forward into the future.

California Government Code Section 65300 et seq. requires all counties and cities in the State to prepare and maintain a general plan for the long-term growth, development, and management of the land within the jurisdiction's planning boundaries. The general plan acts as a "constitution" for development, and is the City's lead legal document in relation

to growth, development, and resource management issues.

The process to update the Sebastopol General Plan began in March 2014, and is scheduled to be completed with the adoption of the General Plan by the City Council in late 2016.

The 2016 Sebastopol General Plan was developed with extensive community input. The Public Draft General Plan represents the culmination of all of the project efforts completed thus far, particularly the successful and collaborative work of the 16-member General Plan Advisory Committee, or GPAC.

The Public Draft General Plan was released for a 45-day public review and comment period that commenced on May 23, 2016 and ended on July 8, 2016. Prior to release of the Public Draft General Plan, the Planning Commission and City Council were asked to review a Preliminary Draft General Plan in detail over the course of three workshops in early 2016, in order to make edits and revisions, and prepare the

document for the public review and comment period.

The Public Draft General Plan included all input received from the Planning Commission and City Council during the three joint workshops in early 2016.

On August 9, the Planning Commission began its review of the General Plan. The City Council is expected to begin its public hearing process in September. The goal is to see the new Plan adopted by the end of this year.

Following General Plan adoption, the next major undertaking will be a comprehensive update of the City's Zoning Ordinance and Zoning Map, which is expected to take about a year to complete. The Zoning Ordinance will make the General Plan's policies more specific, and will include revisions to density standards, use allowances, parking requirements, and other provisions. The Zoning Map will also be revised to be consistent with the new General Plan.



Fourth Annual Sebastopol Police Citizens Academy Seeks Participants

The fourth annual Sebastopol Police Department Citizens' Police Academy will be held on Thursday evenings in September and October.

The sessions will begin at 6:30 p.m. and conclude about 9 p.m. each night. Prior registration is required.

The Citizens' Police Academy is an opportunity to interact with Sebastopol Police employees in an informal setting and to learn more about the justice system in Sonoma County.

Attendees will meet the Sonoma County Sheriff, the District Attorney, the Chief Probation Officer, the CHP area commander, a Superior Court Judge and many other justice system partners.

This is a rare opportunity to learn more about the justice system.

Additionally, participants will tour the Family Justice Center, the Sheriff's Office and the County Jail, and the Santa Rosa Junior College's Public Safety Training Center.

To learn more, please call dispatcher Zina Keeran at (707) 829-4400 or email her at zkeeran@sebpd.com

Fire Season

Parts of the west including nearby areas of Lake County have been subject to raging wildfires, burning areas for the first time in decades and causing devastating losses. In addition to rural areas, there have been destructive fires crossing over into urban neighborhoods.

In light of drought conditions, high temperatures, and low humidity, the City of Sebastopol Fire Department is asking residents to prepare by creating defensible space.

Particularly if your home is in a semi-rural part of Sebastopol, here is what you should do to protect your family, home and community: Maintain 100 feet of defensible space around all structures. Clear all needles and leaves from roofs, eaves and rain gutters.

Trim branches at least six feet from the ground. Landscape with fire resistant/drought tolerant plants that require little water. Remove branches away from roofs and 10 feet from the chimney. Use trimming, mowing and powered landscape equipment before 10 a.m., and not on hot, windy days. Fires have been started by blades sparking flames, particularly in dry, grassy areas. Keep woodpiles and other flammables at least 30 feet from the home.

For more information on preparing for wildfires and creating a defensible space, visit www.FireSafeSonoma.org or CAL Fire's www.ReadyForWildFire.org If you have further questions, please call the Sebastopol Fire Department at (707) 823-8061.

DON'T WAIT.

COMMUNICATE.

MAKE YOUR EMERGENCY PLAN TODAY.



AMERICA'S **PrepareAthon!**



NATIONAL PREPAREDNESS MONTH 2016

New City Budget Adopted

On June 21, the City Council adopted the new Fiscal Year Budget. Highlights include:

Maintenance of core services programs/operations, while continuing to operate within our means; Funding of additional departmental needs to maintain and improve core services; Meeting and exceeding General Fund reserves objectives; Continuing to address long-term unfunded obligations such as pension liabilities and deferred vehicle replacement costs; Funding of Capital Improvement Projects including major arsenic treatment projects, ADA upgrades and road improvements. The City is on a solid financial track.

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

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