



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 is chock-full of information on City services, public meetings, and community resources. Or, stop by City offices any time we are open!

Can the Fire and Police Departments Identify Your Address?

It's 2 a.m. and Sebastopol Fire Department fire fighters are called out for an emergency at your Sebastopol residence. The dispatcher gives the responding firefighters the address, followed by the cross streets. The firefighters arrive at the assigned area, looking for your residence number.

Where is the residence or business number? Is it on the door to your apartment, condo, house, or business? On the garage door or door frame? On the mail box, (if there is one)? On the curb? On a post at the entrance to your driveway? These are all typical places that we look for residential or business numbers. But, some address numbers, due to construction issues or location, have unique placement of their address numbers. These are the most difficult to locate unless they are very visible.

Usually it is relatively easy to locate an address during daylight hours. Nighttime searches may not be as easy, often requiring use of vehicle search lights. With some diligence and experience, ultimately the number can be found. But, occasionally, there are no visible numbers designating an address. So, the search continues at the expense of time, which is crucial when one has a serious emergency, such as a medical issue or structure fire.

Here is a suggestion: Go out to the curb of your residence or business during daylight and nighttime. Can you easily see your address under both conditions? Approach your address from both directions in a vehicle. Is the address easily detected? If visibility is limited or obscured, then most likely emergency responders will have trouble locating your address. Placing improved address numbers (reflective numbers are best) will help ensure timely emergency response for you and your loved ones! Take action now.



Housing Subcommittee Completes Series of Community Meetings, Developing Recommendations

The City Council Housing Subcommittee conducted a series of community meetings to generate ideas about addressing housing availability and affordability issues. The Subcommittee will be crafting its recommendations for consideration by the full City Council later this summer.

Major Bicycle Improvements Nearing Completion

Following years of planning, the City is nearing construction of two major bicycle improvement projects: Bike lanes on the length of Highway 116 in the City limits; and development of bike routes on local City streets. The City's Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan identified these two projects as feasible, and the City has devoted years of effort to accomplishing them.

The City is implementing its Highway 116 bike lanes plan as the result of an inspiring partnership with Caltrans. The City and Caltrans worked out a collaborative set of projects that will include new paving, curb ramps for accessibility, and striping, including bike lanes. Phased implementation will begin in 2017 with curb ramp work by the City, and bike lanes should be in place by the end of 2018.

A second major bike project is development of bike lanes, sharrows, and bike routes on local Sebastopol streets. Again, the City has been fortunate to develop a partnership with other agencies, in this case the Sonoma County Transportation Authority. SCTA found funding to assist the City with major paving work on Bodega Avenue, a critical element of ensuring bike lanes are suitable for that street. Remaining funding will be from the City's Traffic Impact Fee Fund, paid by development projects. Construction of most of the local streets bike improvements is planned for this year; Bodega Avenue, which will need more work and funding, is expected to be completed by 2022.

Together, these two projects will contribute significantly to local bike infrastructure.



The Bodega Avenue HAWK is Coming!



Major pedestrian crossing improvements are in the works for the crossing at Bodega Avenue and Nelson Way. The City Council directed a detailed evaluation of this area by a professional traffic engineer. A major crosswalk improvement was identified for this location: a High Intensity Pedestrian-Activated Crosswalk (HAWK) beacon. The HAWK is activated as needed by pedestrians, and typically flashes motorists a yellow warning light, then a solid yellow light, and then a steady red light, which requires that traffic stop. Safety is generally enhanced at HAWK intersections, because the red lights require a compulsory stop by vehicles. On other crosswalk types, that use just yellow lights, stopping is not compulsory.

Installation of the HAWK is expected to be completed by the end of this year.

Cut Down on Your Paperwork You can now pay your water and sewer bill online!

Sebastopol offers online bill payment for water and sewer services. The system uses a secure, cloud-based, off-site portal where you can log in, check your bills, make a payment or sign up for Auto Pay with your Credit or Debit card. See more information at: <http://ci.sebastopol.ca.us/Billpay.aspx>