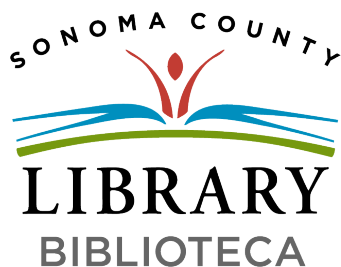


Library News January 2024



“I ransack public libraries, and find them full of sunk treasure.”

— Virginia Woolf

Our mission is to bring information, ideas, and people together to build a stronger community

READY TO READ?

Sonoma County Library has **so many** book clubs this year! Build community and explore new perspectives at one—or more—of our book clubs. From memoir to mystery, the library has it all, with book clubs at every Sonoma County Library branch and virtual clubs offered as well.

Join a Book Club!

¡Únase a un club de lectura!

The banner features a grid of 20 book covers from various authors including Tom Standage, Nita Prose, Audre Lorde, and others. The Sonoma County Library Biblioteca logo is in the bottom left corner.

FROM THE DIRECTOR



Sonoma County Library Director Erika Thibault

Happy New Year! Sonoma County Library had a record breaking year in 2023. Here are just a few of our accomplishments:

With 4.2 million checkouts last year, we had our highest circulation in seven years—since before the passage of Measure Y. We increased our physical circulation by 24 percent from 2022.

By opening on Sundays, library branches were open the most

hours in the history of the library, with 56 hours per week per branch, totaling more than 33,000 hours a year for all regional libraries.

We held Summer Lunch at the Library at seven libraries to help families struggling with food insecurity, and we hired 14 teen interns to help. We also expanded our outreach efforts at 32 external lunch sites.

We expanded our BiblioBus service by adding regular community stops in underserved areas of the county, including Monte Rio, Cazadero, Bodega Bay, Geyserville, and Boyes Hot Springs.

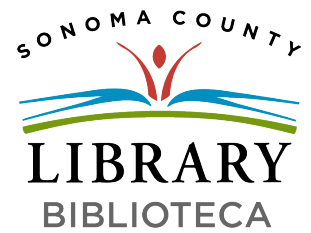
As we move into the new year, we will continue to improve programs and services at our branches, including adding BiblioBoxes—smart lockers that allow you to pick up your holds 24/7—to Rohnert Park, Windsor, Northwest, and Cloverdale.

We are also moving toward a more flexible technology model for the public computers at our branches. Instead of using a stationary desktop PC, you will be able to borrow a laptop in the library and sit anywhere you want. We have laptop kiosks at Central Santa Rosa, Healdsburg, Petaluma, Sebastopol, Northwest, Rohnert Park, and Sonoma Valley, and will be adding them to Windsor and Northwest Library within the next few months.

Lastly, we will renovate the Petaluma Regional Library and the Healdsburg Regional Library—updating them with new furniture, carpeting, and modernizing the facilities.

Thank you for making 2023 such a great year. We know that 2024 will be even better!

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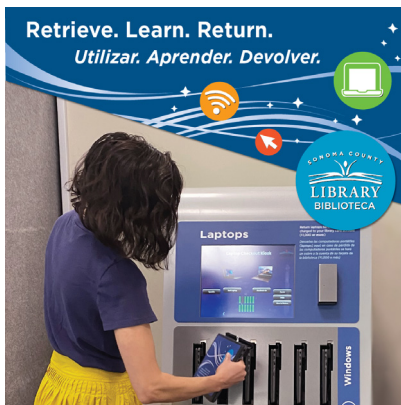


NOTABLE IN JANUARY

In January, the library celebrates the new year, and all the promise it brings. Our Winter Reading Challenge and Mock Caldecott programs continue, we close on January 15 in honor of the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., and our staff is busy planning spring and summer activities.

INNOVATION?

Why, yes! The Sonoma County Library innovates every day, from backpacks, to toolkits, from graphic novels to streaming music, we are committed to anticipating what you need next. A recent innovation illustrates our goal to make each library branch as convenient and accessible as possible. Look for laptop kiosks in seven branches (more coming soon). Grab a laptop, sit anywhere you like, and cruise the information superhighway. No cords, no hassle!



FROM THE COMMISSION CHAIR



Library Commission Chair Deborah Doyle

Happy New Year to all! If you need help with your resolutions for this year, Sonoma County Library's resources and programming can assist with setting and achieving your health and fitness goals, managing your finances, planning a special trip, and more. You might consider using a State Parks Pass that is available at the library. 2024 is also an important election year. Our up-to-date collections can provide the information you'll need and the library will provide voter registration materials again. We look forward to making 2024 a very busy and productive year. Let us know how we can help you.

Free people read freely!

OUR PATRONS SAY ...

From our Net Promoter Score, a patron satisfaction survey:

"Books I want can be ordered and placed on hold for pickup. LINK+ is available for books not owned by the county. eBooks can be borrowed and new collections are offered (e.g. Palace Project). Self checkout machines are excellent. Free community newspapers, tax forms, bus schedules, DMV material, other pamphlets are available. Librarians helped me with the copy machine and there was no charge. Circulation desk people are helpful. Displays of books on special topics are a help for browsing, including staff favorites. The bookstore is marvelous. Bathrooms are clean. No charge for overdue books. Great email messaging for when special events happen."

— Rohnert Park-Cotati patron



The Sonoma County Library Commission

Deborah Doyle, Town of Windsor, Commission Chair
Brooke Greene, City of Cloverdale, Commission Vice-Chair
David Cahill, City of Santa Rosa
Andy Elkind, City of Healdsburg
Fred Engbarth, City of Sebastopol
Eve Goldberg, County of Sonoma
Thomas Haeuser, City of Sonoma
Paul Heavenridge, City of Petaluma
Sarah Laggos, City of Santa Rosa / County of Sonoma
Barbara Mackenzie, City of Rohnert Park
Cyan McMillan, City of Cotati
Erika Thibault, Library Director