



Library Closure

NEWS

Sonoma County Library

Sonoma County Library and Online Services to Close December 24*—January 4

**except Forestville and Occidental, which will close December 23*

No materials will be due and no fines will accrue during the closure

All regional libraries and rural stations of the Sonoma County Library, as well as the Library's website and all online services, will close Thursday, December 24 at 2:00 PM and will reopen Monday, January 4. The closure is due to a budget shortage.

"We wish we didn't have to close our doors for 10 days, especially over the holidays," said Library director Sandy Cooper. "We are a free public library. We serve everybody. But we are experiencing a budget gap that we must close. This means tough choices that affect our patrons as well as our employees. We regret any hardship our closing may cause our patrons."

The big picture

The Library gets most of its operating budget (about 90%) from property taxes in Sonoma County. Unfortunately, property tax revenues this year are about 6% lower than last year. So the Library had to find \$1.7 million in savings.

The Library took a careful look at costs. By reducing

FREE TO USE . . . BUT NOT FREE TO OPERATE: TOUGH TIMES DEMAND TOUGH CHOICES

To help close our budget gap, Sonoma County's public libraries and all services will shut down at 2:00 PM Christmas Eve and reopen on January 4.

For more details, visit our website at sonomalibrary.org or ask your local librarians. We apologize for the inconvenience.

fixed costs and books and materials, the Library saved over \$500,000. The rest of the savings came from the staff, including a rollback of a cost-of-living adjustment, additional retirement contributions, the savings from this closure, and a retirement incentive. Staff have given up 4.75% of their pay to help close the budget gap. Even with all these cuts, the Library is still projecting a \$500,000 deficit.

The Library's goal is to maintain its services for its patrons as close to the current level as possible until the economic situation improves.

Why not have rolling closures?

The Library looked carefully at several types of closures; a block closure was the best option for several reasons, including staffing issues and

the desire to avoid causing patrons confusion and frustration. When the Library reopens on January 4, it will resume its full operation and services. The Library regrets the inconvenience to its patrons.

You can help!

- Donate to the Sonoma County Public Library Foundation by visiting their website (www.scplf.com) or picking up a donation envelope in your local library. If you wish your donation to be used for a specific purpose, just let us know.
- Join your local Friends group. Ask the Library staff for more information, or visit www.sonomalibrary.org/friends.
- Drop off any loose change in collection boxes located in each library.

No Library services available during 10-day closure

No Library services will be available during the 10-day closure. The following services will be affected:

- **No materials will be due and no fines will accrue.** No holds (requested books and materials) will expire during the 10 closed days; the hold period will be extended to cover the closure days.
- **No book drops will be open. Do not leave books and materials outside Library locations during the closure.** You will be responsible for theft, loss, or damage to materials left outside Library buildings. There is no need to return materials during the closure because no materials will be due and no fines will accrue.
- **No access to the online catalog.** You will not be able to search the catalog,

place holds on materials, or check your Library account. No staff members will be working to maintain the systems or to process the thousands of books and materials that customers would be putting on hold.

- **No access to the website (www.sonomalibrary.org).** None of the Library's other online information resources will be available, such as databases and other research tools, downloadable audio books, and links to other sites. No staff members will be working to maintain and troubleshoot problems on the site or to respond to e-mails or other communication.
- **No wireless Internet access will be available outside the library buildings.**
- **No telephone service.**

- **No programs or events** in library meeting rooms.
- **No outgoing Telecirc or e-mail messages regarding overdue items or holds** will go out. You will be able to call Telecirc (the Library's automated notification system) to check on the status of your account.
- **No interlibrary loan or SuperSearch services will be available.**
- **No mail** will be received during the closure. The U.S. Post Office will hold all mail until the Library reopens.
- **No book donations.** We appreciate everyone's support for our Friends of the Library book sales and bookstores, but no volunteers will collect donations left for local Friends groups during the closure. Please drop off donations on or after January 4.

Schedule for all Library facilities

Library	Closes	Re-opens
Central Library	Thursday, December 24, 2:00 PM	Monday, January 4, Noon
Local History & Genealogy Library	Thursday, December 24, 2:00 PM	Wednesday, January 6, 10:00 AM
Cloverdale Regional	Thursday, December 24, 2:00 PM	Monday, January 4, Noon
Forestville	Wednesday, December 23, 6:30 PM	Monday, January 4, 3:00 PM
Guerneville Regional	Thursday, December 24, 2:00 PM	Monday, January 4, 10:00 AM
Healdsburg Regional	Thursday, December 24, 2:00 PM	Monday, January 4, 10:00 AM
Occidental	Wednesday, December 23, 5:00 PM	Tuesday, January 5, Noon
Petaluma Regional	Thursday, December 24, 2:00 PM	Monday, January 4, 10:00 AM
Rohnert Park-Cotati	Thursday, December 24, 2:00 PM	Monday, January 4, 10:00 AM
Northwest Regional	Thursday, December 24, 2:00 PM	Monday, January 4, 10:00 AM
Rincon Valley Regional	Thursday, December 24, 2:00 PM	Monday, January 4, 10:00 AM
Sebastopol Regional	Thursday, December 24, 2:00 PM	Monday, January 4, 10:00 AM
Sonoma Valley Regional	Thursday, December 24, 2:00 PM	Monday, January 4, 10:00 AM
Windsor Regional	Thursday, December 24, 2:00 PM	Monday, January 4, 10:00 AM

The Sonoma County Library serves residents countywide through a Central Library in Santa Rosa, 10 regional libraries, two rural stations, bookmobile service, and online library services available 24/7 at www.sonomalibrary.org. Last year some 2.6 million people visited their local libraries and checked out more than 3 million books, DVDs, audiobooks, and other items.