



NEWS RELEASE
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Contact:
Sandy Cooper, Library
Director
707.545.0831 – ext. 537
scooper@sonoma.lib.ca.us

The Sonoma County Library Plans Holiday Closure

All 13 libraries in the Sonoma County Library system will be closed beginning 2:00 p.m. on Friday, December 23 and re-opening on Tuesday, January 3, to help make up for a budget shortfall. The Library's website and all online services also will be shut down during this time period. Book drops will be locked; no items will be due, and no fines will accrue. Details of the closure and instructions for cardholders about returning and renewing library materials will be available online and at the libraries in the next few days.

The Library, which gets 90 percent of its income from property taxes, has cut its operating budget again this fiscal year to make up for a shortfall in tax revenues. The Library Commission voted to close the libraries for 10 days in an effort to avoid layoffs.

“We appreciate that Sonoma County Library patrons are so passionate about their Library and that closing the libraries over the holidays will be a hardship,” said Library Director Sandy Cooper. “That is even more true this



year because we have reduced the number of hours we are open each week.

The Library Commission continues to try to balance the continuing reduction in revenue and its impact on staff, services, and the Library's collections.”

The Sonoma County Library serves residents countywide through a Central Library in Santa Rosa, ten regional libraries, two rural stations, and online library services available 24/7 at www.sonomalibrary.org. Last year some 2.8 million people visited their local libraries and checked out more than 3.5 million books, DVDs, audiobooks, and other items.

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