

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Media Release

Turning the Page on 50 Years: Petaluma Regional Library Celebrates a Legacy of Learning and Community

Join Sonoma County Library on July 11 as the Petaluma Regional Library commemorates five decades of service, learning, and community impact.

PETALUMA, CA - Sonoma County Library invites the community to celebrate a major milestone as Petaluma Regional Library marks its **50th Anniversary** with a day of celebration honoring five decades of service, connection, and community impact.

The public is invited to join the celebration on:

Saturday, July 11, 2026

11:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Official Commemorative Program: 1:00 p.m.

Donors' Tree Unveiling: 1:30 p.m.

Petaluma Regional Library

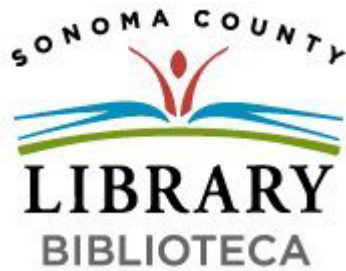
100 Fairgrounds Drive

Petaluma, CA 94952

For 50 years, the Petaluma Regional Library has served as a cornerstone of the community - a place where stories are discovered, ideas are shared, and generations of residents have gathered to learn, explore, and grow.

Petaluma's library history stretches back even further, beginning in **1858 with the establishment of Petaluma's Odd Fellows Library**, one of the earliest library collections in the community. In **1906, the city's Carnegie Library opened on Fourth and B Streets**, serving residents for seven decades before the current regional library opened.

In **1976, the Petaluma Regional Library officially opened at its current location on Fairgrounds Drive**, ushering in a new era of library service with a collection of 60,000 books and space for continued growth. Today, the library remains one of the largest



and busiest branches in the Sonoma County Library system, serving thousands of patrons annually as a vibrant hub for learning, discovery, and connection.

The anniversary celebration will feature special activities, community partners, entertainment, family-friendly experiences, and historical displays highlighting the library's rich history and lasting impact on the Petaluma community.

As part of the official commemorative program, attendees will also take part in the unveiling of new additions to the library's Donors' Tree recognizing the lasting contributions of the late Commissioner **Paul Heavenridge** and Friends of the Library and Library Advisory Board stalwart **Gerry Groves**, whose dedication helped strengthen and support the library for generations to come.

"Libraries are more than buildings filled with books, they are places of connection, discovery, and belonging," said Erika Thibault, Library Director for Sonoma County Library. "As we celebrate 50 years of the Petaluma Regional Library, we honor the generations of community members, staff, volunteers, and supporters who have made this library such a vital part of Petaluma. We are proud of its legacy and excited for its future."

Whether you have been visiting the library for decades or are discovering it for the first time, this celebration offers an opportunity to reflect on the library's enduring legacy and look ahead to the next chapter.

The event is free and open to the public.

We look forward to celebrating with the community as we honor 50 years of serving Petaluma and continue our mission of inspiring discovery, advancing learning, and building community.

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