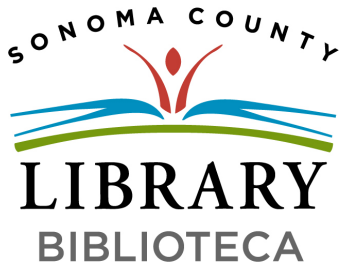


# Library News June 2024



"Libraries always remind me that there are good things in this world."

— Lauren Ward

**MEDIA ALERTS PAGE 3**

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

## FROM THE DIRECTOR



**Sonoma County  
Library Director  
Erika Thibault**

## State Budget Impacts Felt Locally

**Spring is budget season for public agencies, and this spring the State of California is facing a budget deficit that will negatively impact Sonoma County Library.**

We rely upon funds received through the California State Library to provide an array of services to our patrons that we might otherwise be unable to offer.

This year, several important State Library projects are on the chopping block in Governor Newsom's most recent version of the budget, and these cuts will affect the services we provide to our residents. These include:

- The California Library Services Act. The Governor's May Revised Budget includes a 50% reduction of \$1.8 million for both FY 2024-25 and 2025-26. CLSA funding offsets some of our delivery costs, including our deliveries between Sonoma County, Lake County, and Mendocino County libraries. Providing funding to support the sharing of physical and electronic materials ensures that people with and without access to the internet can remain engaged and informed.
- Lunch at the Library. The Governor's May

Revision proposed the elimination of the entire \$5.5 million for this program—a reduction which would have led to public libraries throughout the state dropping their participation in the critically important food and enrichment program. Lunch at the Library serves youth who are in need of a nutritious meal during the summer months. At Sonoma County Library, we provide this service at seven of our branches during the summer, from Monday to Friday. For some children who attend our programs, the summer meal may be the only meal that particular child receives all day. Partial funding has been restored, but the amount to be cut is still \$2.5 million, which will impact libraries throughout the state.

While we understand that the state is facing a very challenging budget deficit in 2024-25, balancing the budget on the backs of children in need of a nutritional meal or delivery services to our small and rural libraries is unacceptable.

We urge you to contact your state legislators and let them know that we want funding for these crucial programs restored. The library has examples of letters that you can send to your legislators to let them know how important these initiatives are to our residents. Please contact [libraryinfo@sonomalibrary.org](mailto:libraryinfo@sonomalibrary.org) for more information.

## NOTABLE IN JUNE

In June, the library recognizes Pride Month, Juneteenth, and an annual celebration of literacy, our Summer Reading Challenge.

## Connect With Us on Social Media

We invite you to connect with us on social media by following [@sonomalibrary](https://www.instagram.com/sonomalibrary). Learn more about our collections, events, and resources. You also can connect with fellow book, film, and music lovers and share inspiration for great reads, hear about the latest movies, or get information about library programs and services.

# Library News June 2024

## FROM THE COMMISSION CHAIR



**Library Commission  
Chair Deborah Doyle**

Summer truly arrives in June. We hope you will take advantage of the library's programs, meeting spaces, and our BiblioBus.

You'll find our robust collections on library shelves, on computers and your phones. Use them at the coast, the river, the mountains or the woods.

Don't forget our WiFi hotspots as you go off the beaten track. We also hope readers of all ages will take part in our Summer Reading Challenge, June 1 through August 10. All events are free and you don't even need a library card to take part and win prizes.

Amazing summer adventures begin right here at the Sonoma County Library.

***Free people read freely!***

## Learn More About Your Library

Library staff and volunteers are on the road this year, sharing the message about the extraordinary value of free public libraries. If you would like someone from the library to speak to your group, club, or organization, contact us at [libraryinfo@sonomalibrary.org](mailto:libraryinfo@sonomalibrary.org). We love to talk about the library!

## Teen Film Festival Submissions Open

Now through July 31, Sonoma County teenagers can submit an original film to the Sonoma County Library's fourth annual Teen Film Festival. Films can be up to six minutes long, and must follow festival guidelines.

Filmmakers will be grouped into three age categories: 12 to 13-year-olds; 14 to 16-year-olds; and 17 to 19-year-olds. The top film in each age category will receive a \$100 gift card to a Sonoma County movie theater of the winner's choice.

Our teen services librarians will serve as judges. The public can view the winning films at the Teen Film Festival Premiere, which will take place August 28 at 6:30 pm at the Rohnert Park-Cotati Regional Library. For more details, visit [sonomalibrary.org](http://sonomalibrary.org) or any library.

## OUR PATRONS SAY ...

### From library patrons:

"Sonoma County libraries are a welcoming and relaxing place to research and explore books on all topics. Librarians are so helpful."

"I can order books online and receive an email when I can go pick them up. I can also renew online. It seems that I can get almost everything I want somewhere in the county system. I love you!"

"Your staff is wonderful. So helpful. Facilities are clean. The convenience of ordering in advance ... our Sonoma County libraries are true community centers!"



## 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

**MEDIA ALERTS:** Press inquiries [communications@sonomalibrary.org](mailto:communications@sonomalibrary.org)

## Celebrate Diversity With Your Library

We love our diverse community, and we celebrate you all year

### Annual Lectura Fest Celebration Set for June 8



On Saturday, June 8, the Sonoma County Library will host its second annual Lectura Fest, a bilingual celebration of reading, music and culture. More than 400 people are expected to attend the event, which runs from 10:30 am to 3:00 pm at the Central Santa Rosa Library.

Jessica Hoover, Central Santa Rosa Library's branch manager, said the biliteracy Spanish and English celebration creates a wonderful gathering place for families to spend time together reading, listening to music and watching performances.

"Lectura Fest is about shared stories," Hoover said. "It's a day for celebrating the joy of telling, hearing and creating stories through songs, videos, photography and of course books at the library. When kids see adults telling and reading stories, the whole family grows in appreciating the adventure of reading!"

The free event will include snacks, a bilingual magic show and performers including Chiquy Boom, René y Familia and Los Aventureros. The Children's Museum

of Sonoma County also will have an interactive play space available for kids.

### Sonoma County Library to Celebrate Pride Month 2024

Queer book lists, LGBTQIA+-related events at various branches and parade participation are just a few of the ways the Sonoma County Library will celebrate Pride Month this June.

Pride Month both recognizes the queer community's past struggles and celebrates its growing inclusion and equality in Sonoma County and beyond. The Sonoma County Library strongly supports the LGBTQIA+ community through its collections and by creating a safe and inclusive space at all branches.

Sonoma County Librarian and Queer Advocacy Team Chair Javier Morales said the library's motto of Free People Read Freely particularly applies to the queer community. "Sonoma County Library branches are spaces where the queer community will always be welcomed and celebrated—not just during Pride Month, but every day," Morales said.

Join the Sonoma County Library in celebrating Pride Month this June and affirm the equality and visibility of our local LGBTQIA+ community. Visit [sonomalibrary.org](http://sonomalibrary.org) or any library for more information on how you can celebrate Pride.



Celebrate  
**PRIDE**  
with the Library

Celebra  
**EL ORGULLO**  
**LGBTQIA+**  
con la biblioteca

