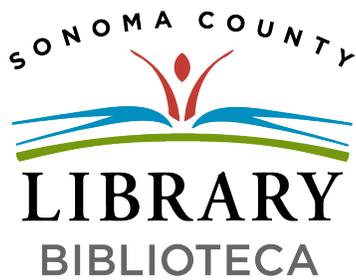


Library News August 2023



Libraries were full of ideas – perhaps the most dangerous and powerful of all weapons

—Sarah J. Maas

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

FROM THE DIRECTOR

Do you know that in addition to checking out books and DVDs at your local library, Sonoma County Library also provides materials to help you enjoy the great outdoors?



Sonoma County Library Director Erika Thibault

The library is proud to participate in two initiatives that provide greater access to both regional and state parks, via our California State Parks Pass program and our Regional Parks Discovery Backpacks.

State Park passes provide free entry for up to four individuals to any participating state park and ensure that even those facing financial constraints can revel in the state's unparalleled natural splendor.

State Park passes are available for checkout at all our branches and have

a 21-day loan period, allowing entry to multiple parks during the three-week checkout period. Our Parks Pass program is extremely popular—Sonoma County Library ranks fifth in total circulation for parks passes, and fifth in holds compared to all other public libraries in California. These incredible statistics demonstrate how much Sonoma County residents love our parks and cherish our abundant natural beauty. Sonoma County Library currently has 393 State Park passes available with no waiting list, so get your parks pass today!

In addition to our State Parks Pass program, Sonoma County Library also offers entry to regional parks with our Regional Parks Discovery Backpacks.

Developed in partnership with Sonoma County Regional Parks, the backpacks include a parking pass good at all 56 regional parks, a parks map, trail itineraries, hiking tips, wildlife guides, and other information to enjoy self-guided adventures in the parks. Each pack is available for check out for 21 days and includes materials in English and Spanish.

You can learn more about these programs by visiting your local branch or sonomalibrary.org

LIBRARY INTERNSHIPS FOR TEENS



Teen interns at the Sebastopol Regional Library pose with masks they made as a craft activity with local youth.

This summer, the Sonoma County Library offered an eight-week paid internship for teenagers interested in exploring library careers and developing work skills. The internship began with training, where teens learned goal setting and leadership styles, while earning a California ServSafe food handler certificate.

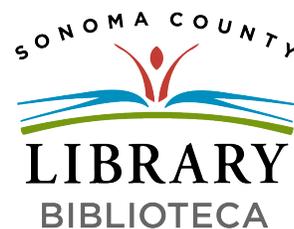
Intern Everest Zahner summarized their training by saying, “All I can say is my mom is very grateful for the new cleaning habits.”

The interns ran the Lunch at the Library program at the Cloverdale, Healdsburg, Northwest Santa Rosa, Petaluma, Rohnert Park-Cotati, Sebastopol, and Sonoma Valley branches, where they ordered, set up, and distributed meals, played games with children and created arts and crafts projects.

“The lunch at the library setting provided challenges that required quick thinking and effective solutions,” said teen intern Laurel

See TEENS, next page

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NOTABLE IN AUGUST

In August, the library winds up our successful summer reading program, and launches into supporting students, families, and educators who are preparing for the start of the school year. **Back to school resources** are rich and varied at the library, online and in our branches.

TEENS, continued

Hager. She added, "It was very nice to be able to hear people say that they love the library, and that they can't wait to come back."

Teens reported that the internship taught them responsibility, communication, relationship building, social confidence and customer service.

"I found myself looking forward to the workplace, the friendly staff, and the peace the building holds. Before this summer, I hadn't considered working in a library and now I'm considering it," said intern Janelle Chavez Espinoza.

For most of the interns, the most gratifying part of the internship was the opportunity to be creative when they planned crafts and games.

"I have come to love helping my community—it was great seeing a kid get hyped up over a wooden dinosaur," said teen intern Luno Portillo.

FROM THE COMMISSION CHAIR



Library Commission Chair Deborah Doyle

Sonoma County Library is bustling this month with programs, outreach, and summer reading for all. While the full commission does not meet in August, you will see us at community gatherings, farmers' markets, and Friends' book sales.

You may also meet your elected officials during their legislative break; please thank them for their support of libraries. We are fortunate in

California to have a governor and legislature that defends libraries and intellectual freedom. In Washington, our representatives are also fighting for library funding and your freedom to read.

Free people read freely!

OUR PATRONS SAY ...

From our Net Promoter Score, a patron satisfaction survey:

"What a treasure our libraries are. And now, with digital access to books and movies, I am even more thrilled" —Sonoma Valley patron

"We've loved every experience at the library! The staff is so helpful & friendly." —Rohnert Park-Cotati patron

"The staff are very friendly and welcoming, the library is bright and clean and very comfortable." —Northwest Santa Rosa patron

"Sonoma County Library is full of pleasant surprises, it is so much more than books and I have had nothing but great experiences with the library. I have recommended it to so many people. My favorite things are the seed library at Sebastopol and Discover&Go, and of course all of the books!" —Sebastopol patron



The Sonoma County Library Commission

Deborah Doyle, Town of Windsor, Commission Chair
Thomas Haeuser, City of Sonoma, Commission Vice-Chair
David Cahill, City of Santa Rosa
Andy Elkind, City of Healdsburg
Fred Engbarth, City of Sebastopol
Eve Goldberg, County of Sonoma
Brooke Greene, City of Cloverdale
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