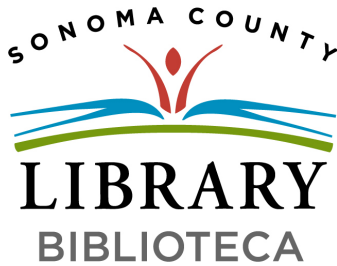


Library News August 2025



"When you are growing up, there are two institutional places that affect you most powerfully—the church, which belongs to God, and the public library, which belongs to you. The public library is a great equalizer."

— Keith Richards

Sonoma County Library creates community through discovery, culture and connection

FROM THE DIRECTOR

Petaluma Regional Library reopens August 25



Sonoma County Library Director Erika Thibault

Exciting news! The Petaluma Regional Library reopens August 25, after a year-long, top-to-bottom building project.

The doors of the library will

open at 10 am on Monday, August 25, following an extensive modernization that blends fresh, functional upgrades with the building's classic charm.

The temporary Mini Library has closed, and books are being placed on shelves this week. During the brief closure, library staff will organize the library and familiarize themselves with its improvements.

Modified service will be available throughout August. The BiblioBus mobile library will be at the library from 10 am to 1 pm on August 12, 14, 15, 18, 20, and 22. The 24/7 BiblioBox smart locker will open in mid-August as well.

Petaluma's modernization efforts include: an open and welcoming entry; a reimagined children's area; a teen area; private study pods; updated restrooms; carpet, furniture, lighting, shelving and paint; efficient and reorganized staff areas, a move for the Petaluma History Room to the ground floor; plus HVAC, electrical, and fire suppression system upgrades.

Petaluma Branch Manager Diana Spaulding said: "People will be amazed how the changes enhance functionality and elegance while retaining the late 20th Century beauty of the interior. The library staff eagerly anticipates welcoming the local community of readers (and pre-readers!) into the library to enjoy the expansive library collections, four small group and individual study rooms, and many tables powered for personal laptop use, among other improvements."

We look forward to welcoming the Petaluma community back to their reinvented library. This transformation is the result of thoughtful collaboration between the Sonoma County Library, the City of Petaluma, a State of

California grant, and generous supporters, including the Friends of the Petaluma Library.

Every detail of the modernization is designed to support learning, connection and community pride. We can't wait to see you inside!

Join us at 100 Fairgrounds Drive in Petaluma for a reopening celebration on August 25 at 9:30 am. We'll hear from a few key library and community leaders, cut the ribbon on the new library, and have cake!

Wait, There's More!

Also, on August 25, the City of Petaluma will host a ribbon-cutting for the new mural at the Kenilworth Teen Center, next door to the library.

Scent Me Back, a vibrant new mural by Rough Edge Collective artists MJ Lindo Lawyer and Joshua Lawyer, captures loving characters, local flora and fauna, compassion, and the spirit of Petaluma through a colorful, storytelling experience.

The mural celebration begins at 10:30 am; you can meet the artists and celebrate public art in Petaluma.

LIBRARIES ARE FOR EVERYONE

Library News August 2025

OUR PATRONS SAY ...

From library patrons:

"Love love love our library. So many wonderfully helpful staff. I love ordering books and coming to collect them. Happy, happy memories of selecting books every week with small children. Appreciate the teen room. Comfortable chairs."

"Good resources, courteous, knowledgeable librarians, Good catalogs in the library and online."

"People that work in the library are professional, courteous, and extremely helpful at all times. We are fortunate to have such a great staff to help us."

"Great selection. Range of activities. Services such as Libby."

"The Sonoma County Library has the nicest, most helpful staff of any library I've ever been to. Thank you all!"

"I encourage my book group to use the library as much as possible."

FROM THE COMMISSION CHAIR



Library Commission Chair Sarah Laggos

I am excited to serve as the new Chair of the Sonoma County Library Commission for 2025-2026.

As someone who has long valued the role libraries play in building strong, connected communities, this opportunity is deeply meaningful to me. Our library system is thriving

as we expand literacy initiatives, celebrate the upcoming reopening of the renovated Petaluma Regional Library, and create programs that welcome and uplift everyone.

I look forward to working alongside Director Erika Thibault, my fellow commissioners, and our incredible staff and volunteers to ensure our libraries continue to be places of learning, inspiration, and belonging for all who walk through their doors.

Sarah Laggos

Chair, Sonoma County Library Commission

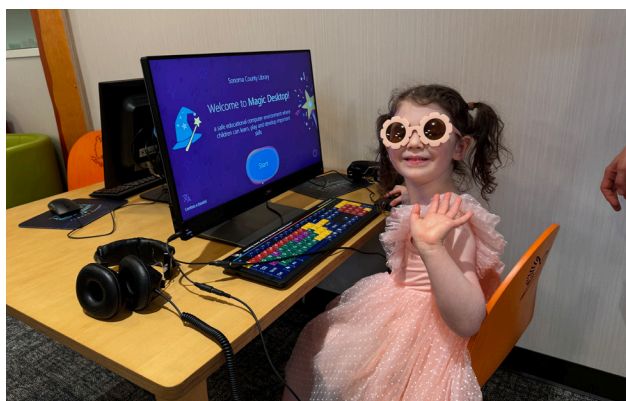


The Library is Your Back-to-School Resource Partner

What's free and available year-round? Your library's back-to-school resources!

From homework help to our Adult Literacy Program, Sonoma County Library has you covered.

Stop by your local library for help and check out educational resources for all ages.



The Sonoma County Library Commission

Sarah Laggos, Commission Chair,
City of Santa Rosa / County of Sonoma,
Brooke Greene, Commission Vice-Chair, City of Cloverdale
Deborah Doyle, Town of Windsor
David Cahill, City of Santa Rosa
Andy Elkind, City of Healdsburg
Fred Engbarth, City of Sebastopol
Eve Goldberg, County of Sonoma
Paul Heavenridge, City of Petaluma
Barbara Mackenzie, City of Rohnert Park
Tina Poles, City of Cotati
Kimberly Taylor, City of Sonoma
Erika Thibault, Library Director