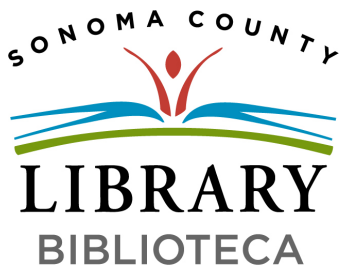


# Library News September 2025



"My childhood library was small enough not to be intimidating. And yet, I felt the whole world was contained in those two rooms. I could walk any aisle and smell wisdom."

— Rita Dove

Sonoma County Library creates community through discovery, culture and connection

FROM THE DIRECTOR

## Finding inspiration in writers and writing



**Sonoma County  
Library Director  
Erika Thibault**

**When I was a young librarian, one of my favorite responsibilities was selecting books for the library collection.**

I combed through Kirkus Reviews, Publisher's Weekly, Horn Book, and bestseller lists, always eager to learn about the latest releases.

This process not only shaped the library's offerings but also deeply influenced my own reading habits, introducing

me to new authors and genres I might not have explored otherwise.

These days, I no longer select books professionally, so I turn to a different source for inspiration: social media. Platforms like Instagram,

TikTok (#BookTok), and YouTube (#BookTube) have become vibrant communities where readers share reviews, recommendations, and reading challenges.

Whether it's a viral thriller or a beautifully photographed indie release, there's always something new to discover.

In fact, several of my favorite influencers have landed book deals because of their online following. One of them—Jefferson Fisher, a former trial attorney known for his wise, practical advice on communication—will be joining us for a virtual author event on September 10, where he will discuss his book, *The Next Conversation: Argue Less, Talk More*.

I'm thrilled to welcome him, and I hope you'll join us! Can't make it live? All our virtual author talks are recorded, so you can watch later at your convenience.

## 'Check Out Your Library' in September

### September is Library Card Sign-Up Month

September is Library Card Sign-Up Month, an invitation to sign up for a library card and explore everything Sonoma County Library has to offer. From career resources to tech help, story times to crafting workshops, best sellers to free online newspapers, the possibilities are endless.

Sign up for a library card in September and you could win an Oliver's Market gift card or a Sonoma County Regional Parks pass.

Already have a card? Check out your library! Borrow camera equipment or a WiFi hotspot, explore 3D printing, attend events, join a book club and even use a recording studio, all for free.



# Library News September 2025

## OUR PATRONS SAY ...

### From library patrons:

Every time I walk into the library, I feel like home. The atmosphere is warm and friendly, the lighting is nice and bright, and the best part...the librarians are knowledgeable, friendly, and ever so helpful."

"I love how easy it is to use the website, like your special events and staff always helpful. Don't change a thing!"

"Our library service is the best service."

"Great system. Through the hold program we have access to so many titles. Love the online access too: great app, Libby and Hoopla. Also love all the community events and access that happens at the library."

"Love this library and the wonderful people who work there."

"As a lifelong user of libraries, I have used community resources for a variety of purposes, such as homework and research (especially before the age of computers), and presently, recreational check-outs, a place to come and relax, and even a resource for making document copies. The Sonoma County Library system is a wonderful place for all ages and so many reasons such as free classes, seminars, etc. for children, teens/adults and seniors."

"Excellent selection of books."

## FROM THE COMMISSION CHAIR



**Library Commission Chair Sarah Laggos**

August was back-to-school month, and as a mom of a fifth grader, I can honestly say we couldn't get through school without our Sonoma County Library!

40 Book Challenge from the teacher? No problem - we went straight to the library and picked a few great options. Need a quiet space to meet with our tutor? No problem - we reserved a study pod. Forgot a book at school? No problem - Libby to the rescue!

Libraries are so much more than books. For elementary students, they're safe spaces to explore, learn, and grow, building literacy and curiosity while giving access to tools that support academic success. And it's not just for kids. Libraries serve people of all ages with free technology, educational programs, homework help, and lifelong learning opportunities.

Thank goodness for our free, high-quality public libraries. They're true community lifelines, helping parents, students, and everyone who wants to learn, grow, and connect. Remember to add a library visit to your back-to-school list!

Sarah Laggos

Chair, Sonoma County Library Commission

# LIBRARIES ARE FOR EVERYONE



## 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