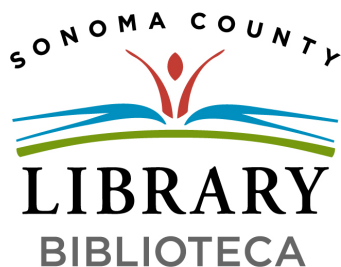


Library News October 2025



"We'd go to a movie on a Saturday night, and then on Wednesday night my parents would walk us over to the library. It was such a big deal, to go in and get my own book."

— Robert Redford

Sonoma County Library creates community through discovery, culture and connection

FROM THE DIRECTOR

Planning for the future of the Library



Sonoma County Library Director Erika Thibault

Sonoma County Library is embarking on a new strategic plan!

Strategic plans are essential tools that help public institutions like libraries remain focused, responsive, and future-ready. They provide a clear framework for aligning services, resources, and priorities with the evolving needs of the communities we serve. A strong strategic plan sets measurable goals, tracks progress over time, and

ensures transparency and accountability—while remaining adaptable to change.

Sonoma County Library's Reimagining Plan launched in 2019 after extensive community input. The COVID-19 pandemic delayed implementation, but since resuming in 2021, staff have made strong progress—expanding access, advancing equity, improving infrastructure, and engaging the community.

Yet, much has changed since then. New technologies, shifting demographics, growing literacy needs, and persistent social and economic

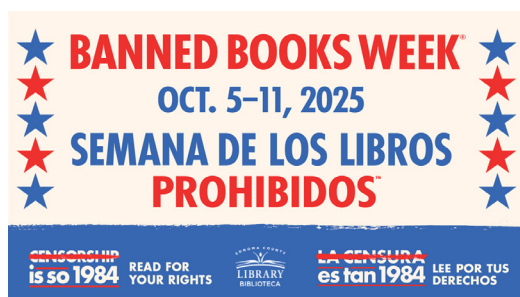
challenges call for a renewed vision and strategy. A new strategic plan will allow the Library to build on past successes while clearly defining our path forward.

The new strategic plan will establish bold yet achievable goals and clear timelines, grounded in meaningful community input and robust staff collaboration. Over the next nine months, Sonoma County Library will partner with its strategic planning consultant, The Ivy Group, to lead an inclusive and transparent planning process.

As part of this effort, stakeholder listening sessions with staff, Library Advisory Boards, and Friends of the Library groups will be held during the week of October 13–18. A full schedule and additional details will be shared soon.

This is just the beginning—there will be multiple opportunities for broader community engagement, including a public survey and community-wide listening sessions planned for early January. Your voice will help shape the future of the Library.

By investing in strategic planning, Sonoma County Library reaffirms its commitment to be a dynamic, equitable, and forward-looking institution—for today, and for generations to come.



October 5-11, 2025 is Banned Books Week

Sonoma County Library will join libraries, schools and bookstores across the country to observe Banned Books Week from October 5–11, with library displays, book lists, classroom presentations and more. Sonoma County Library supports a broad, inclusive collection that reflects diverse viewpoints and experiences. The library supports every individual's right to choose what they and their families read.

Library News October 2025

OUR PATRONS SAY ...

From library patrons:

"I wouldn't live in a town without a library."

"Friendly librarians, free printing, good newspapers, convenient hours, computer usage."

"Great options and service, activities, selection ..."

"I love the library and all it offers!"

"What a wonderful resource for our community."

"The library is awesome!!"

"Everyone is always so very helpful! And nice! I love the library!"

"Great librarians! So kind and smart"

"Every single library that I have been with my little boy, they have been extremely helpful and I get to use other services for myself. In addition, I enjoy the events every month. We enjoy the summer reading challenge. Thank you!"

"Lovely community library."

"Great customer service, efficient systems."

"The library is a wonderful place, offering books of all sorts and subjects, CDs of music or movies, advice, guidance, live music programs, children's programs, park passes, and almost anything else you might need. It is a haven and a resource! I love it."

"Almost a lifetime of experiences with helpful staff. And I'm pretty darn old."

"Always am able to request and receive books in a timely manner. Love the Hoopla app."

"Just a superb resource, from printing files to streaming films."

FROM THE COMMISSION CHAIR



Library Commission Chair Sarah Laggos

Each October, libraries across the country celebrate National Friends of the Library Week, and here in Sonoma County we have much to be grateful for. Our 10 Friends groups represent the very best of community spirit.

The Friends give generously of their time and talents to raise funds, advocate for strong libraries, and champion programs that bring people together. Their efforts ensure that our libraries remain vibrant community hubs, full of opportunities for discovery, culture, and lifelong learning.

When my daughter was younger, she loved to stop at the Friends' cart outside of the Northwest Library branch and say 'Mom! These are books we can KEEP!' because sometimes returning our book friends to the library to let others enjoy them could be very hard. We enjoyed browsing the Friends' book sales, where we discovered many treasures that now live on our own bookshelves.

On behalf of the Library Commission, I want to express deep appreciation for the Friends' commitment to supporting our libraries. Their work is a reminder of what's possible when neighbors come together in support of something that enriches all of our lives. Please join me in celebrating and thanking our Friends of the Library this month!

Sarah Laggos
Chair, Sonoma County Library Commission



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