

Library News

March 2026



FROM THE DIRECTOR

I'm writing to you this month from our nation's capital, where I am attending ALA's National Library Legislative Day. Alongside my colleagues from across California, I'm meeting with the offices of Senator Adam Schiff, Senator Alex Padilla, Representative Mike Thompson, Congressman Jared Huffman, and other members of our congressional delegation.



While we are walking the halls of Congress, our focus remains firmly on you—our neighbors in Sonoma County. We are advocating for vital federal programs that underpin the services you use every day.

Why Federal Support Matters Locally

Federal funding isn't just a line item; it stretches our local dollars further and sustains programs that change lives right here at home:

Early Literacy: With only 41% of our local third graders reading at grade level, we are advocating for full funding of the *Innovative Approaches to Literacy Act* to strengthen Sonoma County Library's partnerships with our local schools.

Closing the Digital Divide: Through the *E-Rate program*, we secure the discounts necessary to provide high-speed Wi-Fi in every branch—a lifeline for our rural, coastal, and fire-impacted communities.

Workforce & Rural Support: Funding from the *Library Services and Technology Act* (LSTA) supports our job development efforts and provides specialized services for older adults and rural residents.

Justice & Reentry: The *Prison Libraries Act* would provide \$10 million annually to modernize facilities and expand digital literacy. Locally, we already partner with the County to provide services at the Juvenile Justice Center and adult detention facilities. Federal funding would bolster these efforts, helping us expand educational access and reentry programs that reduce recidivism and create a safer, more cost-effective community for everyone.

How You Can Help

Our mission is to ensure that every Sonoma County resident, regardless of age, income, or location, has access to the tools of opportunity.

If you believe in the power of libraries to transform lives, please contact your federal representatives. Ask them to fully fund these essential literacy and technology acts. Investing in our libraries is a direct investment in the future of Sonoma County.



Erika Thibault
Library Director
Sonoma County Library
www.sonomalibrary.org

REMINDER: RINCON VALLEY REGIONAL LIBRARY TEMPORARY CLOSURE FOR MODERNIZATION

Rincon Valley Regional Library is getting a top-to-bottom remodel to better serve the community. Beginning March 23, the BiblioBus will be available in the library parking lot so you can return materials and pick up holds.

BiblioBus Schedule
March 2026 - Reopening

Mondays: 10 am-1 pm
Wednesdays: 1-4 pm
Sundays: 1-4 pm

PAID TEEN INTERNSHIP FOR SUMMER 2026 LUNCH AT THE LIBRARY: NOW ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS

Lunch at the Library returns to Sonoma County Library this summer, running June 8-August 7, 2026. This program bridges the summer nutrition gap for local youth by providing free meals and engaging library activities.



To support this mission, each participating branch is hiring two paid Teen Interns. These roles are designed to provide local students with meaningful work experience, combining daily lunch service with professional development and mentorship. Applications will be open now through March 16, 2026.

We invite you to share this opportunity with your community networks and any local families who may benefit from this paid professional experience. Details and applications are available on our [Careers page](#).

FROM THE COMMISSIONER CHAIR

March is Women's History Month, and it always gives me a moment to pause and reflect on the women who shaped my own path. As a working mom and community member, I am deeply aware that my opportunities were built on the courage, advocacy, and persistence of women who pushed doors open before me. From teachers (like my mom!) and librarians to elected officials and entrepreneurs, their leadership continues to ripple through our communities.

This month is also an opportunity to intentionally uplift women whose voices have not always been centered: women of color, immigrant women, LGBTQ+ women, women with disabilities, and women of diverse cultural and economic backgrounds. Their stories deepen our understanding of history and strengthen our collective future.

Sonoma County Library is a wonderful place to explore those voices. I encourage you to pick up a biography of a trailblazer, discover a novel by a contemporary female author, or attend a program that highlights women's contributions across generations and communities. When we broaden the stories we read, we broaden the possibilities we imagine for ourselves and for the next generation.



Sarah Laggos
Library Commissioner
Sonoma County Library
www.sonomalibrary.org

LIBRARY CLOSURE
CIERRE DE LA BIBLIOTECA

2026

César Chávez Day
TUESDAY, MARCH 31
All Libraries CLOSED

El Día de César Chávez
MARTES 31 DE MARZO
Todas las Bibliotecas CERRADAS