

Library News

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April 2026



FROM THE DIRECTOR

Dear Sonoma County Community,

Across the country, and around the world, libraries are being reimagined in real time. They are no longer just places to check out books. They are hubs for connection, access, learning, and opportunity. They are where a job seeker finds their next step, where a student discovers a new passion, where a family gathers, and where community truly comes to life.

Right here in Sonoma County, we are proud to be part of that global movement.

A National Moment, A Local Commitment

This April, we celebrate **National Library Week (April 19–25)** with this year's theme: *Find Your Joy*. It's a simple phrase, but a powerful one.

Joy looks different for everyone, and that's exactly the point.

For some, it's finding the perfect book.

For others, it's learning English, accessing technology, attending a program, or simply having a safe, welcoming place to be.

→ [Explore what brings you joy at your library this month. Browse programs, events, and resources at *sonomalibrary.org*.](#)

We also take time to recognize **National Library Workers Day (April 21)**, honoring the dedicated staff who make these moments possible every day. Their work often happens quietly, but its impact is profound. They are guides, connectors, problem-solvers, and community builders, and Sonoma County is stronger because of them.

→ [Take a moment this week to thank a library worker or share your appreciation on social media.](#)

Honoring Community, Centering People

This year, you may notice a shift in how we recognize March 31.

While the State of California has formally designated the day as Farmworkers Day, our approach is grounded in something deeper than a name, it is rooted in people.

We recognize the enduring contributions of farmworkers in Sonoma County and across the nation, their labor, sacrifice, and impact on our communities. At the same time, we acknowledge that history is often complex. Many figures we have long honored carry legacies that include both meaningful contributions and difficult truths.

At Sonoma County Library, we believe in holding space for that complexity. Our role is not to tell a single story, but to create room for learning, reflection, and conversation. By centering Farmworkers Day, we are expanding the lens, ensuring that the individuals and communities whose work has shaped our region are seen, valued, and recognized.

→ [We invite you to explore materials, programs, and conversations in our libraries that reflect the full history and ongoing contributions of farmworkers in our community.](#)

SCL Conversations: A New Podcast Series

Sonoma County Library launched *SCL Conversations*, a new podcast exploring the issues shaping our communities today.

This series lives at the intersection of ideas, people, and purpose—connecting you to conversations that are relevant, current, and thought-provoking.

Libraries have always been more than places for books - they are spaces for learning, reflection, and connection. This conversation continues that tradition, creating room for honest dialogue rooted in history, emotional awareness, and real-world tools.

This isn't about deciding who was right or wrong.

It's about how we navigate complexity, how we hold space for both impact and imperfection, and how we move forward with care, truth, and intention. Because the library isn't just where you find answers - it's where you learn how to sit with the hard questions.

→ [Watch our very first episode, "Holding Two Truths: Legacy, Leadership, and Ourselves," now streaming on YouTube.](#)

Building for Today and Tomorrow

As libraries evolve, so must the spaces that serve our communities.

We are excited to share that modernization is underway at the Rincon Valley Library, and planning for the Roseland Regional Library project continues to move forward, with the design now 100% complete. These projects are more than construction; they are investments in people.

They mean:

- Expanded access to technology and digital resources
- Flexible spaces for learning, collaboration, and community dialogue
- Welcoming environments that reflect the needs of today's families, students, and workforce

→ [Follow our progress and stay informed about improvements happening in your community.](#)

Modern libraries are designed with intention. They recognize that access to information, to opportunity, to each other is essential to a thriving community.

Why Advocacy Matters

Libraries do not exist by accident. They exist because communities choose to invest in them.

Every program offered, every space improved, every service expanded is the result of advocacy—of people who believe that access to knowledge, connection, and opportunity should be available to all.

Your voice matters in that equation.

→ [Stay informed, participate in library conversations, and support the services that matter most to you and your family.](#)

TELL CONGRESS: PROTECT LIBRARY FUNDING

Send a Message to Your U.S. Senators!
Urge Senators Schiff & Padilla to sign the two "Dear Appropriator" letters by **April 17**.

show up FOR OUR LIBRARIES
ala.org/showup

SONOMA COUNTY LIBRARY BIBLIOTECA

When you show up, participate, share your stories, and support your library, you help ensure that these spaces continue to grow and serve future generations.

A Place to Call Home

At the heart of it all, our goal is simple: We want Sonoma County Library to be a place where everyone feels they belong.

Not just a place you visit - but a place you return to. A place that reflects you. A place that supports you. A place that grows with you.

This April, I invite you to explore, engage, and experience all that your library has to offer.

→ [Visit your nearest branch, attend a program, or sign up for a library card if you haven't already.](#)

Whether you are a lifelong patron or stepping through our doors for the first time, there is something here for you.

Because when libraries thrive, communities thrive.

And this is your library.

With appreciation,

Erika



Erika Thibault
Library Director
Sonoma County Library

REMINDER: RINCON VALLEY REGIONAL LIBRARY TEMPORARY CLOSURE FOR MODERNIZATION

Rincon Valley Regional Library will be closed through Summer 2026 for a top-to-bottom remodel. The BiblioBus will be available in the library parking lot for patrons to browse our collection, return materials, and pick up holds.

BiblioBus Schedule
March 23, 2026 - Reopening

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

WELCOME! ROBIN RILEY JOINS THE LIBRARY COMMISSION



Please join us in welcoming our newest Commission member, Robin Riley.

A Sonoma County native and community organizer, Robin has spent over 20 years leading initiatives in community technology and public service. Her extensive volunteer history in Petaluma and her professional background in the nonprofit sector make her a fantastic addition to our leadership. Robin describes the library as a "lifeline" for information and connection, and we are excited to have her advocacy on the Commission.

CITY CENTER SOLAR PROJECT & LIBRARY ACCESS UPDATE

The City of Rohnert Park has begun construction on the Solar Canopy Project at City Center Plaza, scheduled from **March 23 to August 1, 2026**. While this project will temporarily close the parking lot at the Rohnert Park-Cotati Regional Library, we will remain open and fully operational. The City has designated alternative parking in the lot north of City Center Drive, as well as street parking along City Center Drive and Santa Alicia Drive. We are working closely with Public Works to ensure a smooth experience for library visitors during this transition.

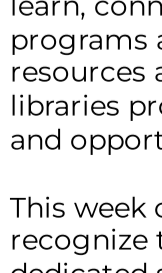
FROM THE COMMISSION CHAIR

National Library Week (April 19-25, 2026) is a time to celebrate the essential role libraries play in strengthening our communities.

Across Sonoma County, our libraries are welcoming spaces where residents of all ages can learn, connect, and grow. From early literacy programs and student support to workforce resources and lifelong learning opportunities, libraries provide equitable access to information and opportunity.

This week offers a meaningful opportunity to recognize the impact of our libraries and the dedicated staff who make this work possible every day. Community members are encouraged to visit their local branch, explore available resources, and experience firsthand how libraries continue to evolve to meet changing needs.

Libraries belong to all of us—and together, we ensure they remain vibrant, inclusive, and accessible for generations to come.



Sarah Laggos
Library Commissioner
Sonoma County Library



LIBRARY NEWS ARCHIVE

Stay informed on the library's long-term progress and past initiatives. Our digital archive maintains a complete history of all previous *Library News* editions, providing a transparent record of ongoing initiatives and showing the historical context of our current service offerings. [Access the full archive>>](#)