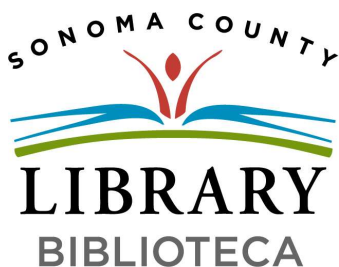


Library News September 2024



"Having fun isn't hard, when you have a library card."

— Mychal Threets

MEDIA ALERTS PAGE 3

Our mission is to bring information, ideas, and people together to build a stronger community

FROM THE DIRECTOR



**Sonoma County
Library Director
Erika Thibault**

Lending eBooks for maximum access

Lending electronic books is a growing trend at libraries.

In August, Sonoma County Library reached 1 million checkouts in our Libby app, which is our most popular eBook platform. We have reached this milestone for three years in a row, and each year it happens earlier.

Our eBook and eAudiobook collections have increased

344 percent since the passage of the Measure Y sales tax in 2016, and digital content comprises 61 percent of our materials budget, with increasing costs every year.

These costs impact our budget and the accessibility of digital resources. Unlike physical books, which libraries typically purchase outright, eBooks are often subject to pricing models and licensing agreements that create significant financial and logistical challenges for libraries.

One major issue is the cost of acquiring eBooks. Publishers often price eBooks higher for libraries than for individual consumers. For example, a Stephen King eBook might cost you \$14.99 on

Amazon or Audible, but Sonoma County Library pays \$119 for the same title, due to licensing structures.

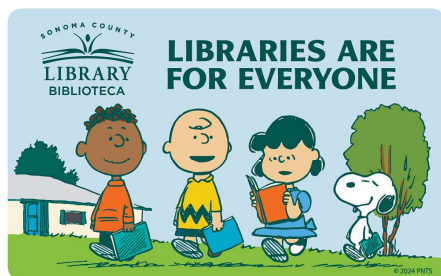
Libraries may pay significantly more for a single eBook license than you would for a personal copy. Additionally, eBook licenses for libraries are usually time-limited or come with restrictions on the number of simultaneous users, making them less flexible than physical copies.

For example, limits and restrictions on how eBooks are used might prevent libraries from lending eBooks to multiple patrons simultaneously or transferring them between devices. These limitations work against the free and equitable access to information that we strive to provide.

Lawmakers in some states are creating legislation to combat this. California is not one of them. When Governor Newsom signed the FY 24-25 budget, he cut funding to the California Library Services Act (CLSA) by 50 percent. Many libraries in California use CSLA funding to pay for eBooks.

Perhaps it's time for us to tell our legislators how these rising costs are impacting us. You can read more about this issue at: <http://tiny.cc/sk3kzz>

New library cards available now: see page 3 for more details



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NOTABLE IN SEPTEMBER

In September, the library celebrates Latin American Roots and commemorates Labor Day, Library Card Signup Month, Banned Books Week, and Back to School.



FROM THE COMMISSION CHAIR



Library Commission Chair Deborah Doyle

September includes Labor Day, plus independence celebrations for multiple Latin American countries, while school and harvest seasons have already begun. Our library programming complements and supplements the seasons with workshops, crafts, speakers, book clubs and more.

This is also a good time to check your voter registration status. 2024 is a critical election year; in addition to important national, state and local issues, Sonoma County voters will see Measure W on the ballot, which would renew library funding.

We have two vacancies on the Library Commission: Cotati and Sonoma Valley. If interested, please contact us.

Free people read freely!

OUR PATRONS SAY ...

From library patrons:

"My kids and I love the library! It's a very warm and welcoming place along with having so many book options. I love Libby and hoopla and the access to eBooks and audiobooks."

"Great staff who are helpful. Pleasant building, well lit, clean and welcoming."

"The people are knowledgeable and most helpful. The selections I want are easy to find, if not at a Sonoma County library then through LINK+."

"So many resources available at no cost. Librarians are helpful and nonjudgmental."

"I love all the free services offered by the Sonoma County Library. I love that it is available to everyone in the community!"

"Wonderful access to DVDs. Great help by staff with any problem finding DVDs or books. And the tech service to patrons with computer/cell phone issues is so appreciated. I love going to the library. I always feel welcome."



The Sonoma County Library Commission

Deborah Doyle, Town of Windsor, Commission Chair
Brooke Greene, City of Cloverdale, Commission Vice-Chair
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
Sarah Laggos, City of Santa Rosa / County of Sonoma
Barbara Mackenzie, City of Rohnert Park
City of Cotati; vacant
City of Sonoma; vacant
Erika Thibault, Library Director

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MEDIA ALERT: Press inquiries communications@sonomalibrary.org

Celebrate Library Card Sign-Up Month with *Peanuts*

Sonoma County Library has released new library cards in celebration of Library Card Sign-Up Month, an annual invitation to get a free library card and explore all the library has to offer.

The first library card, created by Charles M. Schulz Creative Associates, features beloved *Peanuts* characters Franklin, Charlie Brown, Lucy and Snoopy and shares the message, "Libraries Are for Everyone."

An alternative version has the identical message in Spanish: "Las bibliotecas son para todos."

"Charles Schulz was a lifelong reader, and his love of books and all forms of literature fed his creative genius," said Chris Bracco, Senior Vice President Creative Director at Charles M. Schulz Creative Associates. "We are proud to collaborate with the Sonoma County Library on this new library card. We hope that the new card will inspire readers of all ages to embrace the wonderful opportunities available to them at any Sonoma County library."

Another library card features the artwork of local second grader Caleb T, winner of a summer library card art contest. More than 200 local students submitted a library card design based on the question, "What does Sonoma County

Library mean to you?" Library staff voted for their favorites and Caleb's "Everyone's Invited/ Todos están invitados" design was selected as the contest winner. Honorable Mention awards go to Hana Leah D, Ubaydatullah H, and Dalila S.

Sonoma County Library Director Erika Thibault called the new library cards "exciting, fun

options" for potential new cardholders and those with a current card who might want to switch card designs. "We feel everyone should have a Sonoma County Library card, and here are great new options to choose from," Thibault said.

The new cards and prizes are part of an annual Library Card Sign-Up Month celebration throughout September. New cardholders

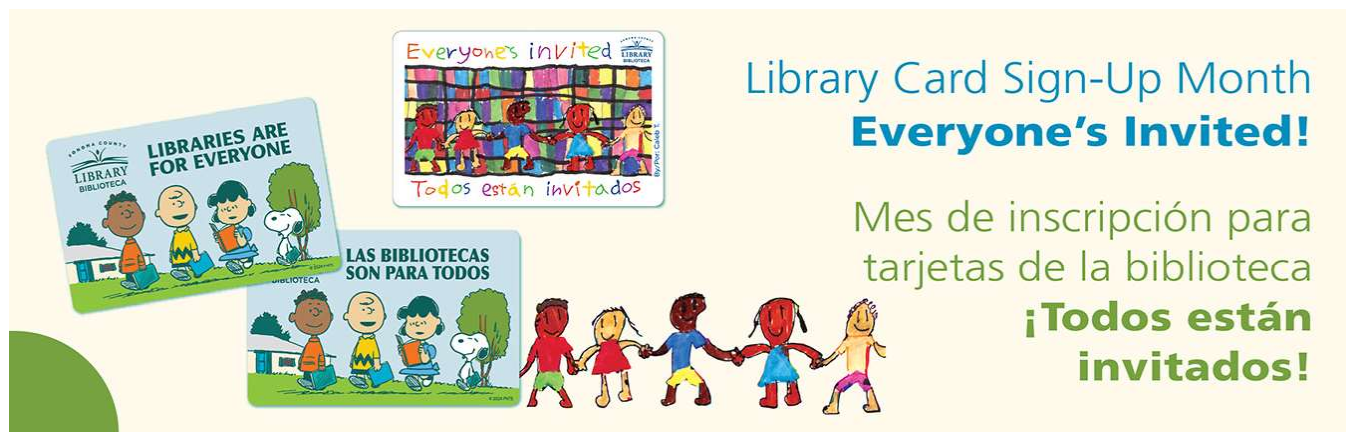
can win a private tour of the Charles M. Schulz Museum and skate passes to Snoopy's Home Ice arena, or an Oliver's Market gift card.

Library cards are free, and there is no age limit to receive a card. (Children need a parent or guardian's signature to get their own card.) A cardholder must simply apply in-person and show a valid photo ID. Cardholders can check out up to 100 library materials at a time, request items from another library, enjoy eBooks and eAudiobooks, use library computers and printers, attend library events and more.

"We are proud to collaborate with the Sonoma County Library on this new library card. We hope that the new card will inspire readers of all ages to embrace the wonderful opportunities available to them at any Sonoma County library."

—Chris Bracco

Charles M. Schulz Creative Associates



The graphic features three library cards. The first card, titled "LIBRARIES ARE FOR EVERYONE", shows Peanuts characters Franklin, Charlie Brown, Lucy, and Snoopy. The second card, titled "Everyone's invited" and "Todos están invitados", shows a group of diverse children holding hands. The third card, titled "LAS BIBLIOTECAS SON PARA TODOS", also shows the Peanuts characters. Below the cards is a row of five diverse children holding hands. The text on the right reads: "Library Card Sign-Up Month Everyone's Invited! Mes de inscripción para tarjetas de la biblioteca ¡Todos están invitados!"