



## Mendocino County Library Advisory Board

### NOTICE OF MEETING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Mendocino County Library Advisory Board (“LAB”) will hold its regular Board Meeting at:

**1:00 P.M. – Wednesday, May 17, 2023**

**At the Round Valley Branch Library Commons Room and at the Ukiah Branch Community Room via Teams**

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Agendas and attachments available at <https://www.mendolibrary.org/about/library-advisory-board/lab-agendas-and-minutes>

### AGENDA

1. Call to Order
2. Introductions and Welcome
3. Approval of the Agenda
4. Approval of the Minutes from the January 18, 2023, meeting
5. Public Expression

Note: The Library Advisory Board welcomes public and government participation at its meeting. Items can be added to the official agenda up to 72 hours in advance of the meeting date and time. For items not on the Agenda, comments within the jurisdiction of the Board shall be limited to three minutes per person so that everyone may be heard. No more than ten minutes will be devoted to any non-agenda subject. No official action on non-agenda items will be taken by the LAB at the meeting where presented. Individuals wishing to address the Board under Public Expression are welcome to do so throughout the meeting at the appropriate points in the approved Agenda.

6. Library Director's Report
  - a. Library Quarterly Budget report

7. Round Valley Branch Report by Josh Bennett
8. Unfinished Business
  - a. News from Measure O Committee
  - b. Fort Bragg Expansion and Renovation Project Grant due May 18
  - c. Ukiah Needs Assessment and Feasibility Study
  - d. Ad Hoc Committee for FOL Collaboration Report
9. Facility improvements: updates from working groups to improve libraries
  - a. Willits
  - b. Ukiah
  - c. Fort Bragg
  - d. Laytonville
  - e. Round Valley
  - f. Coast Community
10. New Business
  - a. LAB strategic plan update from 2018 or adopt Library's plan
  - b. Changing Measure O standing committee to Ad Hoc to allow teleconferencing
  - c. Pictures and paragraph bios of LAB members to put on the website.
  - d. The Friends of the Bookmobile discussion
  - e. Advisory Board training sessions with County Counsel
11. Next Meeting, July 19, 2023 (Fort Bragg Branch)
12. Announcements and Comments

Attachments:

March 15, 2023, LAB Meeting Minutes  
Director's Report  
Draft Library Five-Year Strategic Plan  
3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter Budget Report

**Mendocino County Library Advisory Board**  
***Draft Minutes of March 15, 2023 meeting***

**Meeting called to order:** 1:00 by Chair, Carolyn Schneider

**Introduction and Welcome:** Chair Schneider greeted the committee and introductions were made.

**Members Present:** Michele Bisson Savoy, Michael Schaeffer, Richard Towle, Carole Poma, Lew Chichester, Josefina Duenas

**Others Present:** Barb Chapman (Admin. Services Manager), Deb Fader Samson (Library Director), Melissa Carr (Ukiah Branch Manager), Victor Hoosac (Ukiah FOL)

**Approval of the Agenda:** Michele requested an item be added to the agenda. Under New Business: the overcrowding of the offices at the Ukiah Branch. Richard moved to approve. Carole seconded. Agenda was approved.

**Approval of 1-18-2023 minutes:** Michael moved to approve. Richard seconded. Minutes were approved.

**Public Expression:** None

Next LAB meeting will be May 17<sup>th</sup> in Covelo.

**Library Director's report.** See written report. Highlights: Several staff were trained to use Naloxone for patrons experiencing an overdose at the library. Training was voluntary and provided by the County at no charge. Barb and Deb watched a Webinar for Working with Library Advisory Boards. It was suggested that the website include board member's' photos and bios. Willits roof and solar project was approved by the BOS on the consent agenda and the GSA director mentioned that the project will begin this year. Lunch at the Library grant was approved for \$20,000 to offer free lunches along with literary and educational opportunities for children and teens during the summer. Strategic plan should be available for review at the May 17<sup>th</sup> meeting. One staff member from Ft. Bragg will be attending the California Library Association Conference in Sacramento in June.

**Admin. Service Manager's report.** See written report. Key points ARPA repayment hasn't happened yet, but it should show up soon. (Expect to see it in the net LAB budget report). A87 budget has been revised from \$318,081 to \$137,325.

**Branch Report:** See written report. Yearly report included some highlights for Summer Reading programs, Seed library and Teen programs. First Friday art, music, and book sale. Tech help on Saturday.

Lines and Spines book club and Amble and Ramble any book, book club. Walk the Rail trail. Gate count is around 450 per day. 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary, 70's themed event with cake and goodie bags. Intro to 3D printer, and music (Ukelele) and herbal talk.

**Measure O Capital improvements Standing committee report:**

The Measure O committee recommended that the LAB pass a motion to approve the expenditure of Measure O capital funds for the Willits Branch Roof project. (Matching grant). Michele made the motion that the BOS approve the usage of Measure O funds for the matching grant, approximately \$300,000. Richard seconded. The LAB moved and approved. (This is a Building Forward grant,; the state is providing 50%, the LAB is recommending that the BOS fund it from Measure O).

The committee is waiting for clarification from County counsel on capital expense definition, pending approval of new carpet and new circulation desk for Willits.

Measure O committee recommended that the LAB pass a motion to approve the expenditure of Measure O capital funds for the Ft. Bragg expansion project. The FOL will provide up to \$500,000 of the local match for the grant and we ask the BOS to allow Measure O funding to supplement that for the total amount.

Michele moved that the LAB approve the expenditure of Measure O funds. Michael seconded. The LAB moved and approved. The Round Valley Public Library Lease is pending.

**Ad Hoc committee for outreach to Friends of the Library groups report:** Michele met with Willits and shared ideas on website, membership, and outreach. Willits doesn't have a

Facebook page or a website. Richard and Michele will attend the Ft. Bragg FOL board meeting on March 17<sup>th</sup>.

**Library Strategic plan survey and report.** See written report. Should be done for May meeting.

**County Auditor's office update:** Barb reported that the Measure O 40% capital improvement funds will be detailed in the 2024 budget.

**Facility Improvement:** Working groups update

1 Willits roof repair, Building Forward Library Infrastructure grant to be matched with funds from Measure O.

2 Ukiah – nothing at this time

3 Fort Bragg Expansion: Building Forward Library Infrastructure grant being submitted for \$2.9 million for addition. It would cover up to 75% of costs. The LAB voted to recommend to the Board of Supervisors to use Measure O funds to cover the balance needed for the addition after the Fort Bragg Friends of the Library put an additional \$500k into the expansion.

4 Laytonville – Opening for late March, hopefully March 25<sup>th</sup>.

5 Round Valley –tabled for MOU

**Unfinished business: LAB Chair and Vice Chair to meet with new Chair of BOS:** Carolyn and Richard to meet with Supervisor Glenn McGourty and remind him that the BOS is supposed to meet yearly with the LAB and possibly mention the Willits roof. Trying to get roof and solar panel project completed by 2026. ACTION ITEM: Carolyn to set up a meeting.

**District 3 Vacancy:** Lew Chichester has submitted his application. John Haschak has to move it forward.

**Measure O committee:** Voting members would be LAB members. Staff should participate (Barb and Deb).

**Overcrowding of staff at the Ukiah Library:** Discussion on the

Library Administrative staff(6 people) that were moved into the Ukiah Branch library. There is not enough room, the lunch room is barely big enough for 5 people, 1 bathroom. 20 staff people there now. The Bookmobile Staff asked to be located in the basement. Any possibility for a professional space planning study? Can space be found in other County buildings? GSA recommended that they move into the Mendocino County Museum. Deb stated that they were given a couple of weeks to find a place. Josephina noted that Mo has space for rent, and there is room in the Court house. Lew stated that it would be 6 to 8 years for a new building. The time frame too long to stay in the Ukiah Branch. Michael stated that it was overcrowded 5 years ago when the Library Administrative staff moved out and into the County Administrative Buildings. Michele made a motion that the office staff overcrowding needs be discussed at the meeting with Glenn. Michael seconded. Motion passed. Michael made another motion that a letter be sent requesting the BOS find office for Administration. Richard seconded the motion.

**LIBRARY DIRECTOR'S REPORT  
to ADVISORY BOARD  
MAY 17, 2023**

- March 25 2:00 p.m. - Laytonville Grand Opening saw 80 people in attendance. A couple Friends of the Long Valley Branch Library addressed the crowd and John Haschak said a few words. KZYX and the Willits Weekly were on site. The Friends served refreshments.
- March 31 – The Director visited the Fort Bragg Branch staff meeting.
- April 4 - Library Administration met with Fort Bragg Branch Manager to help with some persistent patron issues.
- Library will soon be able to offer open access content through the online catalogue, providing easily found free articles, some of which are peer-reviewed, as well as articles for which the library already pays through its database subscriptions.
- April 20 - Director attended a Reading Building Plans webinar and a Designing for Human Behavior webinar due to the upcoming changes to branches.
- April 21 - Director attended Coast Community Branch's Staff meeting.
- All library staff were offered the opportunity to contribute to the Five-Year Strategic Plan. In addition to the Strategic Planning Committee, Josh Bennett, Melissa Carr, Roseanne Wetzell, Sam White, Alexandria Villareal, Katherine Marmer, and Dan Hess did so.
- The branches have been hosting creative Book to Action programs involving local chefs, farmers, and business owners.
- April 25 – BOS unanimously gave permission to move forward with the MOU for the property transfer steps for the Fort Bragg expansion after several meetings with County Counsel, Facilities, and the Executive Office. Marie Jones, Dan Hess, Carolyn Schneider, Victor Hoosak, and Janice Marcell called in and supported the expansion.
- May 4 – Director attended a webinar “If you Bid It, They Will Come – The Bidding Process Start to Finish” from California Libraries Learn.
- May 9 – Supervisor Gjerde and Library Director attended the Fort Bragg Branch Expansion DRAFT design meeting in the branch where the community was asked for more input (for the Building Forward Grant application due May 18).
- Civil Service Commission meeting on May 17<sup>th</sup> to determine if Branch Librarians should be changed to Branch Managers.
- Director registered for “Building it Right – Building Codes and Standards” from CA Libraries Learn on May 18<sup>th</sup>.
- Northnet Library System Executive Committee and North Bay Cooperative Library System Board of Directors meeting coming up in the next couple of weeks. The Director has agreed to stay on the NLS Executive Committee for a second two-year term.
- LAB members may be needed as Library Administration moves forward with the Fort Bragg expansion and the future Ukiah Branch feasibility study.





# Table of Contents

Mission, Vision, and Values

History of Library

County Demographics

Strategic Planning Process

Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats Summary

Public Survey Summary

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

Collection Objectives

Program Objectives

Space Objectives

Marketing and Communications

Technology

Staff Development

Accountability

Check-Ins

## Appendices

- A. How the Library Supports the Mendocino County Strategic Plan
- B. Public Survey Results
- C. Biophilic Design in Libraries
- D. Timelines

## **MISSION**

The mission of the Mendocino County Library is to enrich lives through free and equitable access to materials and programs centered on education, culture, and entertainment.

## **VISION**

Our vision is an informed, connected, inclusive, and creative community where opportunities for discovery are celebrated.

## **VALUES**

- Equity
- Inclusion
- Free access to information
- Serving others
- Social justice

## **HISTORY OF MENDOCINO COUNTY LIBRARY**

Mendocino County has a long history of support for libraries. In the early 1900s, the Carnegie Corporation funded libraries in Willits and Ukiah. Fort Bragg built a library through donations by local benefactors, their local communities, and local taxes.

In the 1960s, these local libraries joined together with the Bookmobile under the newly created Mendocino County Library (MCL) system.

Over the years, there have been periods requiring budgetary restrictions, and one of them occurred during the recession of the mid-2000s. During this time, the County, and the State reduced MCL funding, which resulted in fewer open hours and staff, a minimal collection budget, and fewer programs and services.

The funding crisis was so extreme that by 2010, the County considered closing two or three of the branches and eliminating the Bookmobile altogether. During this time, the various community-based Friends of the Library organizations kept the library branches open by providing money for books, magazines, programming, supplies, and services.

The Library Advisory Board, with support from the Friends of the Library, initiated a ballot measure to provide for stable and dedicated library funding. The County passed Measure A in 2010 with 75% voter approval, which provided dedicated annual funding to the library to increase staffing and circulation materials.

In 2017, the Board of Supervisors joined the Library with the Museum and formed the Cultural Services Agency since our missions are similar.

In 2022, Mendocino County voters approved an additional 1/8 cent sales tax, bringing the total to ¼ cent so there will be designated funding for capital investments.

## COUNTY DEMOGRAPHICS

Population, Census, April 1, 2020 91,601

### Age

Under 5 years, percent	5.2%
Under 18 years, percent	21.1%
Between 19 and 64, percent	50%
65 years and over, percent	23.7%

### Race and Hispanic Origin

White	85.7%
Black or African American alone	1.1%
American Indian and Alaska Native alone	6.6%
Asian alone	2.4%
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander alone	0.3%
Two or More Races	4.0%
Hispanic or Latino	27.2%
White alone, not Hispanic or Latino	62.9%
Language other than English spoken at home, percent of persons aged 5+ yrs.	22.2%
Households with a computer	89.3%
Households with a broadband Internet subscription	83.6%

### Income & Poverty

Median household income (in 2021 dollars)	\$56,378
Per capita income in past 12 months (in 2021 dollars)	\$31,324
Persons in poverty (2021)	16.1%

In 2023, the poverty rate in Mendocino County overall has risen to 19.46% while the rate for the State of California is 12.3%. That highlights how important the free library services are to this community and the necessity of keeping them available.

<https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/fact/table/mendocinocountycalifornia/PST045222>

## STRATEGIC PLANNING PROCESS

The Strategic Planning process started in April of 2022. The committee met every other month as needed. To have as broad a representation as possible, it consisted of the following members:

Barb Chapman, Administrative Services Manager for the Library;

Deb Fader Samson, Library Director;

Mellisa Hannum, Coast Community Branch Librarian;

Denise Jesse, Willits Branch Library Assistant;

Mo Mulheren, 2<sup>nd</sup> District Supervisor;

Olga O'Neill, Library Advisory Board representative

Among the initial exercises were brainstorming words the committee members would like to have equated with the MCL five years from now, preparing a Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats analysis, and compiling a list of ways the Mendocino County Library currently supports the County Strategic Plan, passed in 2022. The committee also created a list of potential stakeholders to consult throughout the planning process. The products of all these exercises are included in or attached to this document. Members of the planning committee helped decide what the staff and community surveys would ask.

Library Administration sent staff their survey first to solicit their opinions of MCL from an employee perspective. Then, the Committee devised an online survey and made it available for the months of October and November of 2022 on the library website. Hard copy surveys were available at each branch and on the bookmobile in case patrons did not have access to broadband at home.

The Library Director attended a Library Design Trends webinar and a California State Association of Counties class on Strategic Planning during the beginning of this process.

After the online community survey closed, the results were made available to each individual branch of their respondents and of the system overall. In addition to the survey, Branch Librarians held community forums at their locations to get more feedback from the community members that live or work closest to them. Administrative staff requested Branch staff to go out into their communities to meet with local tribes, service organizations, and education institutions. Each Branch librarian wrote up a summary of topics discussed in their area, which was then turned in to the committee.

Library Administration assigned each section of the plan to various library staff to write and then the entire committee met to determine what should be refined, added, deleted, etc. The Committee shared the section on Space objectives with the Library Advisory Board Measure O Committee for their input since they may advise the Board of Supervisors how to spend the capital improvement portion of Measure O revenue.

The Committee then shared the plan with the Library Leadership Team before sending it to the Library Advisory Board for their input and approval.

## STRENGTHS, WEAKNESSES, OPPORTUNITIES, THREATS

### Mendocino County Library SWOT Analysis

<b>STRENGTHS</b>	<b>WEAKNESSES</b>
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Incredible staff: educated, dedicated, and collaborative – creative programs</li> <li>2. Branch programming and collections are culturally relevant to their communities</li> <li>3. FOL and LAB support of library and its branches</li> <li>4. Supportive community and volunteers</li> <li>5. Finding, applying for, and tracking grants</li> <li>6. Support of and collaboration with County Museum and other partners</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Geographically isolated branches</li> <li>2. History of independent rather than interdependent branches</li> <li>3. Budget restraints as expenses continue to grow</li> <li>4. Facility improvements have not been prioritized</li> <li>5. Limited IT support</li> <li>6. Lack of employees assigned solely to IT, social media, or marketing</li> </ol>
<b>OPPORTUNITIES</b>	<b>THREATS</b>
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. To get the word out to underserved communities and meet potential new library supporters</li> <li>2. Increased funding from Measure O</li> <li>3. Outreach van events</li> <li>4. Meeting rooms available for communities</li> <li>5. Other forms of literacy: Lunch at the Library, Financial Literacy</li> <li>6. Expansion into newer/more technological formats to connect with public</li> <li>7. To increase and improve marketing</li> <li>8. To form new community partnerships</li> <li>9. Diverse communities bring opportunities for diverse programming</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Funding fluctuates – dependent on sales and property taxes</li> <li>2. Staff need to stay on top of new technology and internet information so they can teach tech classes and informational awareness</li> <li>3. Public distrust of government</li> <li>4. Inflation increasing expenses and a possible recession looming</li> <li>5. Finding quality employees in remote locations for the wages we can offer – housing costs</li> </ol>

Branch Managers were invited to participate in a Strengths/ Weaknesses/ Opportunities/ Threats analysis and some of their answers are included here with those of the Strategic Planning Committee.

## **PUBLIC SURVEY SUMMARY**

Library staff promoted the survey on the library's website, at the branches, on social media, and through the County email system in addition to via word of mouth of our staff, Friends, and Library Advisory Board members. Most respondents either use the library or care about its success, though non-users made two negative comments about de-funding the library.

The survey compiled the responses into categories based on the branch the respondents visited most often AND put them all together into one overall "average" for the system. Branch Librarians have been provided with the individual responses for their communities so that they can tailor their local programs to their most frequent users' particular tastes. This plan is based on the aggregate response from the entire county, which does not differ greatly.

\*Please see Appendix B for the results of the entire survey by specific question.

## **DIVERSITY, EQUITY, AND INCLUSION**

Mendocino County Library staff value diversity, equity, and inclusion and work to create an environment where equity is sought, difference is respected, and inclusiveness is practiced. Equity signifies a commitment and an obligation to promote fairness, balance, and justice. Staff work to bring equal access to resources and opportunities that have been hard to reach, due to structural and societal inequalities or barriers to learning. An organization committed to equity is a work in progress; it actively listens and seeks fairness, balance, and justice in its policies and decisions. The inclusive library fosters a sense of co-creation and belonging.

### **DEI Goals**

1. To encourage self-reflection about diversity, equity, and inclusion in the workplace and larger society.
2. To create opportunities for staff to expand their cultural competency and to express authentic feelings about obstacles or challenges surrounding these goals.
3. To develop an inclusive library collection by acquiring materials that go beyond accepted structures, collection types, and established canons. Gaps in the collection must be identified, evaluations of the representation of diverse populations in both print and digital resources must be conducted, and materials acquired to fill those vacancies.

4. To model the values of diversity, inclusion, and respect in our interactions with each other and with members of the library community, recognizing microaggression and competition for resources as obstacles to equity and sharing.
5. To work with Mendocino County residents to ensure that diverse people are represented and given a chance to participate, express themselves, and advocate for their respective communities.
6. To facilitate conversations, partnerships, and meetings that address community challenges, providing a safe, unbiased public forum.
7. To ensure accessibility and inclusivity in our outreach to the public with special focus on the under-served.
8. To create and maintain an environment of diversity, inclusion, and respect both in the library and in all aspects of its role in the community.
9. To set guidelines for handling microaggressions, both internally and externally, to allow staff to practice accountability and a willingness to learn from mistakes.
10. To create a safe space for others to express themselves and access library programs and resources, free from bias or judgment.
11. To partner with local transformative justice organizations for community events and outreach.
12. To work with Mendocino County residents to ensure that disenfranchised people are being reached and encouraged to express their voices.
13. To serve as a convener and facilitator of conversations and partnerships to address community challenges, i.e., as a community forum.
14. To understand and eliminate bias in hiring practices to the extent that can be done using culturally appropriate job posting and outreach materials.
15. To build cultural competency of staff by assessing employee needs and preferences for DEI training and development and ensuring that these needs are met by trainings and professional development opportunities.
16. To understand inclusion as a moral commitment and responsibility to create a safe environment where all individuals are treated fairly and respectfully.
17. To recognize the importance of practicing cultural humility and the continual need for education to create safer spaces for all members of the community.

### **DEI Programming**

1. Organize programs and events around DEI, using cultural awareness months as jumping off points, but not as the only time cultural awareness is important.
2. Coordinate programs and events demonstrating the ethical and moral responsibility of individuals to support and promote diversity, equity, and inclusion for all.

3. Use displays to promote awareness of the diversity of the Mendocino County community.
4. Conduct programming for specific groups, such as Indigenous people, Latino, African American, Deaf, etc. and invite members of the group to give programs.
5. Consult with experts in the community (educators, leaders of organizations, etc.) about creating a meeting space for unique groups to conduct their regular business and invite them to assist in the programming for that group.

## **COLLECTION OBJECTIVES**

The library collection should reflect the community where it's located, but also introduce users to other cultures and ways of seeing the world.

The MCL is lucky to share an ILS and a collection with Lake and Sonoma Counties. Most items can be requested by any user in any of the three service areas.

As of 2023, 22% of Mendocino County's community speak Spanish and collections range from 0% - 3% Spanish language materials, depending on branch. Increasing the number of Spanish language materials will be a major undertaking going forward. The first goal will be for each branch to offer at least 5% of its materials in Spanish. Our ultimate goal by the end of FY 2028 will be for 15-20% of the collection offered be in Spanish. Spanish speakers may not be comfortable using the library because of their (perception of) few Spanish speakers on staff at the branches. Library staff will continue promoting library resources to this portion of the community so that, at some point, it may be desirable to increase the amount of Spanish language materials to equate with the actual percentage of Spanish speakers, i.e. 22%.

There are grants available for Spanish language materials that staff can apply for to beef up our collection in the beginning and there is a Spanish language book fair, Liber, taking place in Madrid this autumn that staff should attend annually if possible. Its location alternates between Barcelona and Madrid each year. Travel cost can usually be covered by the Spanish trade commission.

[\(Link to MCL Collection Development Guidelines\)](#)

## **PROGRAMMING OBJECTIVES**

Mendocino County Library's goals for programming and services will align with the American Library Association's values of equal access, community, literacy, learning, and engagement. Libraries are safe spaces, and the programming offered will support diverse voices, equity, and inclusion.

Programming will also align with Mendocino County's goals of:

- An Effective County Government



- A Safe & Healthy County
- A Thriving Economy
- A Prepared and Resilient County

This will be accomplished through partnerships with local organizations, businesses, artists, educators, and more, in addition to library staff.

To ensure these goals, Mendocino County Library will offer programs under the headings of Supporting Literacy, Connecting Community, Encouraging Creativity, and Health & Wellness.

- **Supporting literacy**
  - Science and technology literacy
  - Nutritional literacy
  - Early literacy
    - 1,000 Books Before Kindergarten
    - Story times
  - Continuing literacy
  - Adult literacy
  - Financial literacy
  - Media literacy
  - Transmedia literacy
- **Connecting Communities**
  - Discussion Groups
  - Game nights
  - Host Support groups (AA, Autism Spectrum Disorder, End of Life, Grief, etc.)
  - Community conversations and presentations (Women with Infants and Children, Action Network, Non-profits)
  - Community Night Out
  - Art Walks
- **Encouraging Creativity**
  - Adult Arts and craft programs
  - Youth Arts and craft programs
  - Music and movement programs
  - Poetry and writing groups
  - Local Artist exhibits
- **Health and Wellness**
  - Emotional and mental wellness programs
  - Physical fitness programs
    - Yoga for kids and adults
    - Walking Book Discussion Group
  - Opportunities for socialization
  - Cooking classes or demonstrations

## SPACE OBJECTIVES

This strategic plan addresses years 2023-2028. Of the buildings housing library branches, three are owned by the County: Ukiah, Fort Bragg, and Willits; two are owned by Friends of the Library groups: Coast Community and Round Valley. One is rented by a Friends of the Library group: Laytonville.

Measure O passed in 2022, providing the library with an additional 1/8 cent sales tax, bringing the total to ¼ cent. The Library Advisory Board recommended that 40% of the funds go to capital investments. The Library Advisory Board formed a Measure O committee to make recommendations to the Board of Supervisors and Library regarding how the additional revenue should be spent. Some library staff sit on the committee as well to ensure that goals are appropriate.

The following six goals will be at the top of the list to accomplish (or at least begin) in the next five years. They represent the most pressing needs, and some should be finished before 2029. The time it will take to complete the projects is not determined by library staff. A good deal of it rests with County Facilities and their ability to manage the projects.

- 1.) Of our building objectives, the highest priority is the Willits branch roof, which has been leaking for years. Leaks require a great deal of staff time and endanger the collection. The State awarded MCL a Building Forward Infrastructure grant to pay for half the cost of replacement along with half the cost of installing solar panels and battery back-up, a total of \$247,000. Facilities staff are preparing a request for proposal and the work will be completed by the end of Summer, 2024.
- 2.) The current Ukiah branch building, located at 105 N. Main St., is no longer adequate for the materials, staff, programming, or processing space needed to be successful. The Friends of that Library conducted a needs assessment study a couple of years ago, which clearly showed that the building is too small. The next step is to procure a feasibility study regarding several viable options, which are as follows:
  - the building can be adapted (by constructing a second floor or expanding outwards in addition to a second floor)
  - the branch can be moved into a currently standing but unused building, or
  - a new branch can be constructed on a plot of land at another location within Ukiah.

- 3.) While this is going on, the Fort Bragg Branch is just starting an expansion made possible by the Friends of the Fort Bragg Branch Library. They raised money, purchased a neighboring parcel of land, had the deteriorating buildings located on it demolished, and paid an architect to draw up expansion plans. The Library Advisory Board voted to recommend to the County Supervisors to move the project forward. The Board of Supervisors voted unanimously on April 25<sup>th</sup> of 2023 to begin the process of transferring the property to the ownership of the County.
- 4.) Library Administration promised the Willits branch years ago a refresh with modern furniture, new circulation desk, and most importantly, new flooring. In addition, the General Services Agency sent a price estimate of \$25,000 to install a windowed door between the Willits Branch Manager's office and the work room. This will enable the librarian to monitor the goings-on of staff and deliveries from the office. Library staff will look for grants to help pay for those items in addition to bringing the accessibility up to date.
- 5.) To aid the County in its Carbon neutral efforts and to ensure future sustainability, staff should include solar panels and battery back-up in any new space that is created.
- 6.) Once all these priorities are accomplished, it will be appropriate to look towards replacing the Bookmobile with a new one or adding a second bookmobile that will be dedicated to inland stops. Staff would seek a grant to help pay for that. Wi-Fi will continue to be provided through the Bookmobile's mounted mobile hotspot.

## **MARKETING AND COMMUNICATIONS**

- **Staff create Promotional Fliers** in English and Spanish versions, in hard copy in the branches, and in electronic format on the website, on the branches' Facebook pages, in the County Executive Officer's monthly report, and shared with the Museum to post.
  - Depending on what the program is, the fliers may also be taken to various neighborhood gathering places/ stores that cater to that type of audience. For example, fliers that promote Book Discussions on Nature Hikes could be posted at both bookstores and outdoor stores.
- **County-wide Library Newsletter:** The Department Applications Specialist will design a county-wide newsletter that patrons can opt into from the library website. The Specialist can choose from the branches' contributions to each monthly CSA report so branch staff do not have to perform any extra work and notices of their events will be more broadly circulated.

- **Social Media:** All branches currently use Facebook; all branches should also currently be using Instagram; Staff at each location should participate in any social media with which they are familiar or want to try.
- **Radio spots:** Reporters regularly interview various library staff on local channel KZYX. It would be helpful to have Outreach staff check in with the station once during every quarter to promote new measure or service that staff may be working on.
- **Newspaper articles/ interviews:** Staff routinely send press releases to local media. It would also be beneficial to encourage Library Advisory Board members and Friends of the Library to write to the newspapers periodically about the good things the library does in the community, either in letters to the editor or to ask that they send a photographer to cover an event. This would be a helpful way for the Library Advisory Board and Friends of the Library to advocate for the department.
- **Public Transportation Ads:** Staff can design different ads for public transportation in the County to highlight new services and initiatives.

## **TECHNOLOGY OBJECTIVES**

The Mendocino County Library is the technology hub of the entire County, providing essential services to patrons who have no or limited access to computers and Wi-Fi. The MCL'S goal is to update and increase technology services for the public at all branches.

This includes:

- Upgrading and replacing all computers five years or older at each branch
- Creating a Chromebook lending program for patrons
- Expanding the Wi-Fi hotspot lending program by purchasing additional devices and allocating funds for replacing lost/damaged hotspots
- Developing additional programming to teach technology skills to patrons
- increasing staff training so that staff are confident in their ability to help patrons with routine technology queries
- Researching and applying for grants that will help fund new technology initiatives
- Promoting awareness and use of the Library's digital learning resources
- Completing the upgrade of the wireless network at all branches to CENIC to ensure quality broadband connectivity
- Upgrading circulation system to RFID (Radio Frequency Identification)
- Exploring the newest technological advancements and finding ways to harness them for the community
- Adding a dedicated IT person to Library staff

## **STAFF DEVELOPMENT**

Because the branches are so geographically isolated due to the vast size of the service area, 3878 square miles, many branch staff have never seen locations other than where they work. Staff are encouraged to cross-train at different branches. One goal is that every staff member will visit every other branch of the library during the first year that they work for the County Library. The library will pay mileage to accomplish this. The camaraderie that develops will be priceless. A more inclusive culture among library staff will ensure that everyone is working for the betterment of the entire library, not just an individual branch. This should foster a more teamwork-oriented approach. By working together, increasing communication, sharing common goals, and supporting each other in professional endeavors, the staff and services at each branch will benefit. Staff should continue to visit each other after their first year of employment in an ongoing exchange of ideas.

The library's first All-Staff Training Day after the COVID pandemic was held at the Willits Branch in November 2022, and staff reported they had a wonderful time and learned a lot. Going forward, Staff Day will be held during a month when there are no other scheduled branch closures; April would be a wonderful time as roads will be safe. It is too much responsibility for one person to handle on their own, so duties will be divided by staff: 1. Speaker 2. Training session(s) 3. Food and drink 4. Set-up and Tear Down, etc. To even out required travel time for staff and to promote knowledge of all branches among all employees, it would be appropriate to adopt the old habit of having each branch host All-Staff Training Day successively.

In addition to cross training and working together, every staff member shall take at least one online webinar/ training every six months. There are many entities that offer them for free: infopeople, WebJunction, CALL Academy, etc. Infopeople provides 5 seats of every class of training free to rural libraries, so Library Administration will keep a list of employees' preferences for what they want to take so that staff can be registered as soon as possible after notice is sent out of an upcoming course.

Library staff have already instituted mandatory Implicit Bias training and had the Human Resources department make it a requirement for all CSA staff. In addition, as the library moves towards a more diverse and equitable workspace, supervisors will seek other training opportunities at the branch and library settings.

The Director shall collaborate with each manager to help their reporting staff to find goals that are relevant to their jobs, that they are interested in, and that will help them in their career path, whether that's at Mendocino County Library or at their next place of employment. If staff are challenged and appreciated, they will stay engaged.

Staff at all levels are continually encouraged to participate on interview panels to help develop their leadership potential.

The newly appointed Department Applications Specialist is visiting all the branches and will provide periodical trainings on technical issues and electronic resources so staff at all levels feel comfortable helping patrons.

Many library organizations have annual conferences; the Public Library Association, The American Library Association, The California Library Association, and the Association of Rural and Small Libraries, to name a few. It is a goal to send as many staff as possible to these events for training and networking, paying especial attention to ARSL and CLA since they directly relate to Mendocino County more than the others.

Permanent full-time staff at all levels are eligible to attend conferences. Care is taken to spread the opportunities around so that no one staff member attends more conferences than the others. Every year funds are set aside in the library budget for staff training. Friends of the Library groups have been generously offsetting the cost of sending local branch employees to conferences by paying for transportation or lodging so the library only needs to pay for food and registration, enabling training dollars to stretch farther. It is hoped this tradition continues.

A requirement of attending a conference or training session is that the employee who does so must come back to the group and share something exciting that they learned or hope to implement at MCL. This has the added benefit of getting staff used to speaking before an audience of their peers, growing their skills so they can reach farther in their careers.

Administrative staff are going through all library job classifications systematically to make sure they are written correctly and accurately reflect the work being performed. During this process similar positions in other library jurisdictions are studied to keep our salaries competitive to keep the best personnel.

## **ACCOUNTABILITY**

Intra-agency collaboration is critical to the success of the goals the library sets. The library administrative staff have a strong understanding of county processes and various departments. Staff strive to maintain effective communication and hold regular meetings with other departments to ensure completion of projects and to advocate as necessary.

Having the Board of Supervisors approve the MCL strategic plan will also give it more merit to other County departments, so they will help the library to reach its goals as they are also the Board's goals.

The following positions will "oversee" each section of this plan, taking regular stock of progress and encouraging others, as necessary.

Collections – Director, Administrative Librarian, Branch Managers, and Orderers  
Programming – Director, Administrative Librarian, Branch Managers, Librarians

Space – Director, Administrative Services Manager, Library Advisory Board Measure O Committee

Staff Development - Director, Supervisors, Branch Managers

Technology – Director, Department Applications Specialist, Administrative Services Manager, Branch Managers

## **CHECK-INS**

Administration will hold check-ins regularly to make sure staff are on track. Reminders will be set on calendars at the end of every quarter of this five-year plan to meet and discuss progress to determine if any area needs more attention than it has been given and if objectives are still relevant. Staff will take notes, track progress, and the responsible party will follow-up when necessary. Tasks will be checked off/ added/ deleted to the quarterly lists as needed and major milestones will be celebrated.

Budget Unit	Description	2022-23 Revised Budget	2022-23 3rd Quarter Actuals	Department Projections for 6/30/23	Difference
<b>Budget Unit</b>					
6110	Library				
1000 Series	Salaries & Benefits	3,183,751	2,211,421	3,058,900	124,851
2000 Series	Services & Supplies	1,588,202	803,150	1,248,456	339,746
3000 Series	N/A	-	-	-	-
4000 Series	Equip: Laytonville furniture & Cisco Broadband switch	66,878	66,546	66,546	332
5000 Series	N/A	-	-	-	-
Revenue	All Revenue	(4,737,426)	(2,737,314)	(4,216,911)	(520,515)
<b>Library Total</b>		<b>101,405</b>	<b>343,803</b>	<b>156,991</b>	<b>(55,586)</b>



# **Appendix A**

## **How the Mendocino County Library Supports the County's Strategic Plan**

### An Effective County Government

- Library and Museum staff regularly meet and collaborate on projects where their missions intersect.
- Library offers free online classes and webinars to all levels of staff from infopeople, WebJunction, CALL Academy, etc.
- Branch Managers meet monthly to confer and review progress on long term goals.
- Instituting exit interviews with all departing staff.
- Conduct staff fulfillment surveys.
- Work with Library Advisory Board in a cooperative way to ensure all tax dollars are spent equitably and responsibly and to the greatest benefit.
- All supervisors continue to provide annual evaluations and help staff meet personal goals to ensure optimal customer satisfaction.
- Have made an EDI training course on Implicit Bias a mandatory requirement of all staff.
- Are advertising job openings in new places to reach a broader pool of applicants.
- Provide regular DEI trainings for staff.
- Offer a wide variety of viewpoints in our materials and programming.
- Branches partner with schools, organizations, tribes, and non-profit organizations on programs.
- Encourage Spanish speaking staff to take the language proficiency exam so they can earn more money and feel more confident in their skills.
- Working with HR to loosen the entry requirements for non-MLIS positions.
- Regularly reach out to schedule interviews with applicants as soon as we receive their names from HR.
- Our new Department Applications Specialist is examining all our technology needs to make sure we are making the best use of funds.
- Constantly working to meet the changing needs of our communities and consulting statistics to find out where to put resources for the most impact.
- Created a records retention schedule to help eliminate unnecessary paper clutter and help staff find things more quickly.
- Branch Managers meet regularly as do Youth Librarians, Seed Specialists, etc. to ensure we're all providing the best service possible.
- Branch reports sent to Department Head every month are compiled into a CSA Report, which is ultimately published in the CEO Report monthly.
- Planning an internal newsletter like the CSA report to send out monthly to all staff.

- Our website serves to advertise community services available from other County departments and weather news, pandemic, health, disaster, etc. community resources.
- Library putting out press releases in English and Spanish and there is a Spanish language option on website, library card applications, catalogue, and informational pamphlets.
- Constantly updating Library website to reflect current offerings.
- Provide applications and other documents in both paper and electronic format.
- Library Branches work on grants together as a county unit rather than individually to make more efficient use of staff time.
- Friends of Library groups regularly look for fundraising opportunities.
- Developing an Endowment brochure to encourage bequests.

### A Safe & Healthy County

- We provide information on multiple services available from County departments along with links to other departments on the library website, food security through foodbanks and seeds, etc.
- Make available COVID tests at branches when supplied by Public Health.
- Supplying condoms and other personal care items to teens.
- Hotspots
- Internet
- Laptops
- Senior programming re finances, aging in place, travel, mental health, and socialization.
- N-95 masks during fires and bottles of water when serving as cooling center.
- Evacuation tags for residents to hang on mailboxes to let law enforcement know the family had evacuated safely.
- Offer fire preparedness programming, library staff have put in hundreds of hours in Emergency Operations Center of the County during fires, PSPS, and pandemic.
- Provide resources and connections to people in the community experiencing mental stressors.
- Provide memory kits to residents experiencing dementia and memory loss to encourage remembrance and conversations with caregivers.
- Trying to partner with Social Services to develop hours in the branches where Social Workers are available to the public.
- Partnering with local police stations and sheriff regarding anti-crime programs.
- Law enforcement officer presents bike safety programs.
- Through 1,000 Books Before Kindergarten, library is hub of literacy and community involvement so that kids grow up with support and feeling connected.
- Bookmobile visits conservation camps and provides educational materials.
- Offer tutorial services for adults and children on website and in branches.

- Outreach to local tribes, schools, and nonprofits.
- Obtainable Sustainable year-round theme of videos, collection development, pamphlets, online presentations, etc. around the idea of environmental conservation.
- Frequent programming at branches on how to help the environment at home.
- Sustainable gardening
- Virtual programming
- Currently working on reducing the C footprint of Library branches by installing solar panels and battery back-ups, hope to add electric charging stations, etc.
- Provide bike racks, native plant gardens, and pollinator gardens at branches and give away seeds for people to do the same thing at home.

### A Thriving Economy

- Offer programs and materials on small business development, job search and resume assistance, advertise local jobs, provide computer access to apply for positions.
- Cannabis resources available at some branches.
- Provide meeting space for people who want to collaborate.
- Provide 3-D printers where people in the community can perfect designs for patent applications.
- Open-Source Design Artistic Expression Club and the Engineering club meet at the branch.
- Assist people experiencing homelessness regularly.
- Working with CENIC to get broadband access to all parts of the county and, in the meantime, providing hotspots for checkout along with laptops and Chromebooks.
- Citizens learn practical skills as well as theory through the programs the library provides, enabling them to obtain better jobs and reach their full potential.

### A Prepared and Resilient County

- Fire Safe Council meets at branches and Librarian serves on committee.
- Present instructional programs on evacuating livestock in the event of a fire.
- ABC plan prepared and available for use in the event of an emergency with a phone tree for staff to follow.
- Use our social media to spread messages of Tribes and other community-based organizations re upcoming events and potential disasters.
- Provide EIRs, etc. to communities when any planned improvement is upcoming.

## APPENDIX B

### MENDOCINO COUNTY LIBRARY SURVEY RESULTS

The survey compiled the responses into categories based on the branch the respondents visited most often AND put them all together into one overall “average” for the system. Branch Librarians have been provided with the individual responses for their communities so that they can tailor their local programs to their most frequent users’ particular taste. The responses below represent the aggregate response from the entire County.

1. **Survey respondents visit the branches in the following percentages.** At the time of the survey, the Laytonville branch hadn’t yet opened, so is not reflected in the results.

Ukiah	46.51%
Fort Bragg	15.94%
Willits	15.5%
Bookmobile	6.55%
Coast Community	5.68%
Round Valley	4.80%

2. **Respondents come to the library for the following reasons, in order of most popular.**  
(Never, occasionally, very often)

1. Check out or return materials
2. Read materials on site
3. Attend programming or a meeting
4. Access the internet
5. Perform research for school or work
6. Access resources available through other agencies
7. Use computers for business or personal tasks
8. Print items or make copies
9. Meet with friends, tutors, or business associates
10. Ask library staff for assistance with devices or resources

It is notable that the **primary need the library fills for the community is for reading material.** If finances become scarce, which might happen over the next five years as resources are devoted to repairing, updating, and expanding the branches, limited financial resources should be spent on selecting, purchasing, processing, and weeding our collection and not on programs, additional staff, or more open hours.

3. **Respondents’ primary concerns, in order of importance, are:**

(Not important, somewhat important, very important)

1. Buildings maintained in good condition

2. Larger branch building
3. Improved selection of materials at the branch
4. Improved selection of materials available to request
5. More in-person programs
6. More online programs
7. More staff
8. More open hours

**Most respondents are happy with the current hours their branches are open and they are very concerned that the buildings are in good working condition and ADA compliant.**

4. **Respondents check out most frequently, in order of popularity:**  
(Never check out, occasionally check out, often check out)

1. Books
2. E-books
3. DVDs
4. Digital Audiobooks
5. Seeds
6. Books on CD
7. Online movies
8. Music CDs
9. Kits
10. Hotspots and Tech
11. Digital music

This survey was completed before it became widely known that the library supplies Hotspots for check-out. Now that word is getting out, they are so popular, they are never on the shelves for long once returned.

5. **How often respondents use the library website:** [www.mendolibrary.org](http://www.mendolibrary.org) (Every day, once or twice per week, once or twice per month, once to three times each year, every year or so, never)

**The library website is most used by Mendocino County residents once or twice per week.**

There is also a significant portion of the population who never use it. Staff need to promote the website more.

6. **How often respondents use the library catalogue:** [www.mendolibrary.org/find](http://www.mendolibrary.org/find) (Every day, once or twice per week, once or twice per month, once to three times per year, every year or so, never)

**The library online catalogue is also most used once or twice a week**, then once or twice a month, with the third most frequently cited being “never.” It’s clear that priority should be placed on instructing more users how to help themselves take full advantage of library offerings.

7. **Respondents find the following resources most valuable:**  
(Not valuable, somewhat valuable, very valuable)

1. E-books and digital audiobooks
2. Free and reduced museum passes
3. Digital newspapers
4. Educational such as Britannica, Explora, Ebsco
5. Online magazines
6. Job search, business, and grant tools
7. Readers’ Advisory (NovelList)

This ranking shows that, if funding decreases, the subscription to NovelList, for instance, should be cancelled before discontinuing digital newspapers.

**8. Respondents ranked programs in the following order of popularity:**

1. Seed library and gardening
2. Author talks
3. Reading programs
4. Crafts
5. Book discussion groups
6. Basic computer training
7. Financial education
8. Travel and history
9. Music
10. Job seeking
11. Science and technology
12. Creative Writing
13. Genealogy
14. College applications

This means that on a system-wide level, staff shouldn't put as much effort into college applications, genealogy, or creative writing programs at this point as they do on seed library and gardening, author talks, and reading programs. As mentioned earlier, each branch received the rankings of its community, so they can adapt programming to the preferences of their most frequent users.

9. **Most respondents were happy with the current hours of their branch at 46.05%.** 32.73% want the branch to be open additional days. 27.54% would like their branch to be open more evening hours and 12.19% prefer it to be open more morning hours. 7 % are indifferent.

This data reveals two things: 1.) Overall, open hours are acceptable to the community and 2.) if ever revenue increases enough to allow for more open hours, an additional open day each week should be added before adding hours to any specific day. Also, hours should be added to the evening schedule and not the morning.

10. How aware are respondents that Coast Community, Fort Bragg, Laytonville, Round Valley, Ukiah, and Willits Branches and the Bookmobile are all part of the Mendocino County Library System?

94% of the community know that all the branches in Mendocino County are part of the same system, while 6% do not. **The library's consistent marketing, signage, and notices are working.**

11. How aware are the respondents that they can use Mendocino County Library cards at any branch of the Mendocino, Lake, or Sonoma County Libraries to check out and drop off materials?

Surprisingly, though all correspondence and emails sent to patrons regarding holds or bills come from Sonoma County Library, **21% of our community do not realize that the three counties share an ILS (Integrated Library System) and a collection.** Effort needs to be made to make more Mendocino County residents aware that they have access to so much more than just what our county can afford to purchase alone.

12. How respondents receive information about library news such as programs, services, and materials? (Library website and calendar, social media, word of mouth, press releases, library staff, fliers, none of the above)

**Most people, 47.3%, utilize the library website and calendar to find out about programming, services, and materials, 40% use social media,** followed by word-of-mouth, library staff, fliers, and press releases.

13. On which social media platform(s) do respondents prefer to see library news? (Facebook, Instagram, YouTube, other, Twitter, TikTok, None of the above)

**Most patrons, 55.07%, use Facebook as their social media of choice** while 14.52% don't use any social media at all. Instagram is the next most popular media, followed by YouTube, Twitter, and TikTok. All branches and the main system should create Instagram accounts and use them daily if they don't already have them.

14. From eight pages of miscellaneous Mendocino County residents' comments, the following suggestions occurred two or more times:

1. New carpet for Willits branch
2. Please keep the Bookmobile on the road
3. Looking forward to two branch expansions: Ukiah and Fort Bragg
4. Tool lending library
5. Private meeting room at Ukiah branch
6. Better educate the public about all your offerings
7. Partner with senior centers to deliver books with meals
8. Get rid of old books
9. Community garden
10. DIY Zero Waste programs
11. Announce events on radio
12. Ongoing literacy programs
13. Better parking at Ukiah branch
14. More books in Spanish please
15. Would like to receive notices of events and programs via e-mail



16. ASL Story Times
17. ASL classes
18. More books by authors of color
19. Do more to make the library feel safe
20. Buildings are not ADA compliant

Again, the survey compiled the responses into categories based on the branch the respondents visited most often AND put them all together into one overall “average” for the system. Branch Librarians have been provided with the individual responses for their communities so that they can tailor their local programs to their most frequent users’ particular taste.

## APPENDIX C

### BIOPHILIC DESIGN IN LIBRARIES

#### NATURE IN THE SPACE

1. **Visual Connection with Nature** – A view to an element of nature, living systems, and natural processes.
2. **Non-Visual Connection with Nature** – Auditory, Haptic, olfactory, or gustatory stimuli that engender a deliberate and positive reference to nature, living, systems, and natural processes.
3. **Non-Rhythmic Sensory Stimuli** – Stochastic and ephemeral connection with nature that may be analyzed statistically but may not be predicted precisely.
4. **Thermal and Air Flow Variability** – Changes in air temperature, relative humidity, air flow across the skin, and surface temperatures that mimic natural environments.
5. **Presence of Water** – A condition that enhances the experience of a place through seeing, hearing, or touching water.
6. **Dynamic and Diffuse Light** – Leverages varying intensities and color of light and shadow that change over time to create conditions that occur in nature.
7. **Connection with Natural Systems** – Awareness of natural processes, especially seasonal and temporal changes characteristic of healthy ecosystems.

#### NATURAL ANALOGUES

8. **Biomorphic Forms and Patterns** – Symbolic references to contoured, patterned, textured, or numerical arrangements that persist in nature.
9. **Material Connection to Nature** - Materials and elements from nature that through minimal processing, reflect the local ecology or geology and create a distinct sense of place.
10. **Complexity and Order** – Rich sensory information that adheres to spatial hierarchy similar to those encountered in nature.

#### NATURE OF THE SPACE

11. **Prospect** – An unimpeded view over a distance for surveillance and planning.
12. **Refuge** – A place for withdrawal from environmental conditions or the main flow of activity, in which the individual is protected from behind and overhead.
13. **Mystery** - The promise of more information, achieved through partially obscured views or other sensory devices that entice the individual to travel deeper into the environment.
14. **Risk/ Peril** – An identifiable threat coupled with a reliable safeguard.
15. **Awe** – Stimuli that defy an existing frame of reference and lead to a change in perception.

\*As seen in *Nature Inside: A Biophilic Design Guide* by William D. Browning and Catherine O. Ryan (RIBA Publishing, 2020)

## **APPENDIX D TIMELINES BY QUARTER**

It should be noted that this plan is a working document, and the estimates below are only guesses as to when the work on different goals will be undertaken. Unforeseen circumstances will undoubtedly arise that may affect the timing of project steps.

### **FY 22/23**

- Q1:    Begin Strategic Plan  
        Set up required Implicit Bias Training with HR  
        Promote the Privilege Walk online video to all staff  
        Develop online public priorities input survey  
        Staff complete feedback survey
  
- Q2:    Request any branches that do not already have Instagram accounts begin using the platform  
        Seek help from Sonoma County Library on recommendations for purchase of Spanish language materials  
        Remind Seed Specialists and Youth Librarians to meet monthly to exchange ideas  
        Branches conduct/ attend local community meetings to seek feedback  
        Begin sending press releases/ program fliers in English and Spanish
  
- Q3:    Meet with Facilities about Willits Roof Project to discuss process  
        Secure Board approval to begin Willits roof project  
        Finalize dual English/ Spanish press releases, library brochures, applications, forms, etc.
  
- Q4:    Plan for specific budget for Spanish language materials  
        Transfer of property for Fort Bragg branch must be complete by June  
        Secure permission from Board to apply for Building Forward grant for Fort Bragg expansion  
        If grant awarded, secure Board approval to proceed with Fort Bragg expansion project  
        Secure Board approval of 5 Year Strategic Plan  
        Budget for Willits Roof project  
        Finalize updates on two positions  
        Administrative Librarian Attends DEI Collection Development course

### **FY 23/24**

- Q1 Help Facilities put out request for proposal for Willits Branch Roof project  
Begin more staff classification updates  
Finish RV MOU  
Set up floating Spanish collection with Sonoma County Library  
Set up Books by Mail process  
Create and launch a Chromebook lending program for patrons  
Increase staff training so that staff are confident in their ability to help patrons with routine technology queries  
Search for grants to help fund our technology services
- Q2 Deposit Fort Bragg Friends of Library funds to library savings account  
Begin ordering Spanish language materials  
Initiate Books by Mail process  
Complete replacements of all computers 5 years or older at each branch  
Develop additional programming to teach technology skills to patrons  
Laytonville branch should be RFID operative
- Q3 Ukiah FOL MOU, Coast FOL MOU  
Search for grants to help fund our technology services  
Expand the Wi-Fi hotspot lending program by purchasing additional devices and allocating funds for replacing lost/ damaged hotspots  
Increase staff training so that staff are confident in their ability to help patrons with routine technology queries  
Start RFID at Coast Community Branch
- Q4 Willits branch roof should be complete  
Start request for proposal for Ukiah branch feasibility study  
Complete upgrade of wireless network at all branches to CENIC to ensure quality broadband connectivity  
Have Coast Community Branch RFID operative

## **FY 24/25**

- Q1 Have feasibility study conducted for Ukiah branch  
Increase staff training so that staff are confident in their ability to help patrons with routine technology queries  
Search for grants to help fund our technology services
- Q2 Take study results to Library Advisory Board  
Take study results to Board of Supervisors  
Develop additional programming to teach technology skills to patrons  
Have Round Valley Branch RFID operative

- Q3 Facility Modification requests for Willits branch upgrades  
Increase staff training so that staff are confident in their ability to help patrons with routine technology queries  
Search for grants to help fund our technology services
- Q4 Look into adding or replacing the bookmobile  
Develop additional programming to teach technology skills to patrons  
Begin transferring Willits branch to RFID

### **FY 25/26**

- Q1 Help Facilities staff write request for proposal for Willits branch upgrades  
Increase staff training so that staff are confident in their ability to help patrons with routine technology queries  
Search for grants to help fund our technology services  
Willits branch RFID operative
- Q2 Develop additional programming to teach technology skills to patrons
- Q3 Increase staff training so that staff are confident in their ability to help patrons with routine technology queries  
Search for grants to help fund our technology services  
Begin Fort Bragg branch transfer to RFID
- Q4 Develop additional programming to teach technology skills to patrons  
Fort Bragg Branch RFID operative

### **FY 26/27**

- Q1 Increase staff training so that staff are confident in their ability to help patrons with routine technology queries  
Search for grants to help fund our technology services  
Begin transfer of Ukiah branch to RFID
- Q2 Develop additional programming to teach technology skills to patrons
- Q3 Search for grants to help fund our technology services  
Ukiah Branch should be RFID operative
- Q4 Develop additional programming to teach technology skills to patrons

**FY 27/28**

- Q1    Increase staff training so that staff are confident in their ability to help patrons with routine technology queries  
      Search for grants to help fund our technology services  
      Work with HR to develop position description for Library IT personnel
  
- Q2    Develop additional programming to teach technology skills to patrons  
      Have Library IT position approved by Civil Service Commission  
      Have Library IT position approved by Board of Supervisors
  
- Q3    Increase staff training so that staff are confident in their ability to help patrons with routine technology queries  
      Search for grants to help fund our technology services  
      Recruit for Library IT position
  
- Q4    Develop additional programming to teach technology skills to patrons  
      Library IT staff starts

APRIL 2023

# Coast Connect

BIG NEWS AND MONTHLY UPDATES FOR THE AVID READER

## Librarian's Corner

BY MELLISA HANNUM

Mendocino County Reads programming is taking off!

Thanks to Karen and Tim Bates and the staff at The Apple Farm in Philo, we had a wonderful book discussion of *Six California Kitchens* and a tour of the farm.

Now it's time to celebrate our local fooderies! Coming up, there will be events at Pelican Bread, Franny's Cup & Saucer, and a coffee tasting led by Tom from Little Green Bean Roastery. More information is on the back of this newsletter.



### The Latest on the Library Scene

*ALMOST FRINGE FESTIVAL*  
SATURDAY, APRIL 22, 10-5

*THIS YEAR THE LIBRARY IS OFFERING:*

**EXQUISITE CORPSE**

- WRITING & DRAWING

**SIDEWALK ART**

- CHALK
- PASTELS

**UNIQUE MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS**

- THEREMINI
- THUMB PIANO
- POCKET SYNTH
- FROG GUIRO RASP
- RAIN STICKS
- AND MORE!

**LOCH NESS MONSTER CRAFT**

- MODELING CLAY
- COLORING PAGES

**FRIENDS OF COAST COMMUNITY LIBRARY**

- BOOK SALE IN THE COMMUNITY ROOM

*AND OCCURRING AT HIGH NOON AT THE PARK...*

**FEATS OF STRENGTH (COMPETE FOR PRIZES!)**

- RACE UP THE HILL
- CABER (POOL NOODLE) TOSS
- STONE (BALL) PUT
- TUG-O-WAR
- HAGGIS (WATER BALLOON) TOSS

## **TOUR: Pelican Bread**

*TUESDAY, APRIL 11, 3:00 P.M.  
40 PORT RD, POINT ARENA*

Have you ever wanted to get a behind-the-scenes at Pelican Bread? Now's your chance! Owner and baker James McKenna will give a talk and tour of his facility in Point Arena, discussing the differences between sourdough and yeast-risen bread, baking artisan bread, and more.



## **TASTING: Coffee Cupping with Little Green Bean Roastery**

*FRIDAY, APRIL 21, 3:30 P.M.*

Join Tom from Point Arena's Little Green Bean Roastery as he guides us on a journey through tasting coffee. Coffee cupping is the way roasters, baristas, and coffee connoisseurs taste the complex flavor profiles in various Arabica beans. Sweetness, acidity, smokiness, floral notes, chocolate, and fruit can all be found in coffee. The type of roast and where the beans are grown influence the flavors. It's marvelous what fruit tempered with fire and water can create, and you will leave with a deeper appreciation for your morning cup o' Joe.

## **CLASS: Learn About Patisserie at Franny's Cup & Saucer**

*WEDNESDAY, MAY 10, 2:00 P.M.  
213 MAIN ST. POINT ARENA*

Join Barbara at Franny's Cup & Saucer to learn about patisserie just in time for Mother's Day. We will bake Pavlovas, learn how to make a meringue, and the steps involved in creating something crisp with a soft inside. Finally, you will get to choose how to decorate it with either fresh flowers, berries, chocolate, or a combination thereof.

Space is extremely limited, so sign up by emailing Coast Branch Librarian Mellisa at [hannumm@mendocinocounty.org](mailto:hannumm@mendocinocounty.org).



Mendocino County Reads is supported in whole or in part by the U.S. Institute of Museum and Library Services under the provisions of the Library Services and Technology Act, administered in California by the State Librarian.

## **COMMUNITY CONVERSATION WITH MARIA FROM WIC Wednesday, May 24, 9:30 a.m.**



What is WIC? According to the USDA, "The Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children - better known as the WIC program - serves to safeguard the health of low-income pregnant, postpartum, and breastfeeding women, infants, and children up to age 5 who are at nutritional risk by providing nutritious foods to supplement diets, information on healthy eating including breastfeeding promotion and support, and referrals to health care."

Maria from the Fort Bragg WIC Program will be available to discuss the program, how to qualify, food security, healthy eating, and the good WIC can do for a community. This Community Conversation will meet the hour before the Library's regularly scheduled Storytime, so make sure to stay for that, too.





# The Bookmobile IS HEADED YOUR WAY



## WITH A STORYTIME!



subject to cancellation due to weather

Boonville,  
1:30 p.m.

Let's sing,  
rhyme,  
dance, read,  
and  
learn about  
the five early  
literacy  
practices  
with  
Librarian  
Mellisa on  
Bookmobile  
Tuesdays.

All ages  
welcome!

## Event series celebrates the life of famed Mendocino County chef Sally Schmitt

By Sarah Stierch  | 5 hours ago



PHILO, CA- DECEMBER 19: Chef Sally Schmitt is photographed cutting apples for a pie for Los Angeles Times on December 19, 2019 at The Apple Farm in Philo, California. (Photo by Mariah Tauger/Los Angeles Times via Contour RA by Getty Images)

MENDOCINO Co., 3/10/23 – Mendocino County Library is celebrating the life and legacy of Sally Schmitt, famed chef who called Philo her home. Libraries across the county are hosting events ranging from book discussions to seed-saving workshops to showcase the lasting influence Schmitt, who died on March 5, 2022, at the age of 90, has made locally and on a grander culinary scale.

Schmitt founded the gourmet restaurant the French Laundry, in Yountville, and the Apple Farm, her cooking school and farm in Philo. Schmitt's final project was the cookbook and memoir *Six California Kitchens: A Collection of Recipes, Stories, and Cooking Lessons from a Pioneer of California Cuisine*, which was released posthumously in April 2022. She left behind a legacy of farm-to-table that defines California cuisine.

The highlight of the event series, which runs from March through May, is a book discussion and tour of the Apple Farm with Schmitt's daughter, Karen Bates, on March 25.

In 1978, visionary chef Sally Schmitt and her husband Don founded Napa Valley's trend-setting restaurant, the French Laundry. Thirty years ago, Schmitt wanted to focus on teaching, and she and her husband left the French Laundry and moved to the Apple Farm in Philo. Schmitt transitioned from cooking for others to teaching the full farm-to-table experience to students.

*Six California Kitchens* commemorates the memorable kitchens of Schmitt's food-centered life. "It was all wonderful," said Schmitt in her cookbook and memoir, *Six California Kitchens: A Collection of Recipes, Stories, and Cooking Lessons from a Pioneer of California Cuisine*. "I didn't take my apron off for 15 years."

Schmitt's daughter Karen Bates, along with Karen's husband Tim, had been rehabilitating the derelict apple orchard at the Apple Farm and introducing heirloom varieties. Karen stepped in as Schmitt's teaching assistant while Tim gave tours of the farm. Don poured wine to pair with the food.

The homey tales and enticing recipes of Philo's Apple Farm are part of *Six California Kitchens* as well as the inspiration for the Mendocino County Library choosing it as this year's Mendocino County Reads book. It also gave the library a focus for its spring programming — local food, nutrition literacy, food security, seed libraries, and community gardens. From story times to presentations by local chefs, there is a collection of nutritious options in store at your local branch.

Though Sally Schmitt passed away right before her book was released, her family is celebrating her legacy. Part of that celebration will be a book discussion and farm tour at the Apple Kitchen in Philo on Saturday, March 25th. That and other featured events are listed below.

#### **Book-to-Action Events:**

*Six California Kitchens* at the Apple Farm in Philo at 18501 Philo Greenwood Road.

- Saturday, March 25th The author's daughter, Karen Bates, will host the book talk and the farm tour. Local apple juice and cider will be available as well as a tasting of vinegars and syrups at the farm stand.
  - 2 – 3 PM – *Six California Kitchens* book discussion hosted by author's daughter.
  - 3 – 4 PM – Apple Farm tour
  - Space is limited, so adults who would like to attend should email Coast Community Branch Librarian Mellisa Hannum at [hannumm@mendocinocounty.org](mailto:hannumm@mendocinocounty.org) (<mailto:hannumm@mendocinocounty.org>).

#### **Fort Bragg Branch Library**

- Thursday, April 20th, 6 – 7 PM – Discussion with Margaret Fox: Life of a Local Chef. Margaret Fox, who owned Café Beaujolais in Mendocino for 23 years, shares stories from her life as a chef.

#### **Round Valley Branch Library in Covelo**

- Thursday, May 25th from 5 – 6:30 PM – Round Valley Branch will host a book discussion on *Six California Kitchens*.
- Saturday, April 22nd from 11 AM – 4 PM – Round Valley Branch Seed Library will host a seed planting party at the Farmers' Market.

#### **Ukiah Branch Library**

- Saturday, March 11th from 1 – 2 PM – The Ukiah Branch Seed Library will host Kitchen Garden Design with Seed Saving in Mind. Join longtime garden educator Carolyn Brown from Mendocino College's

Agricultural Department, for a comprehensive presentation on garden tips and techniques that will help participants plan their vegetable gardens for harvesting and seed saving. Learn about locally adapted seeds and how they help to create sustainability in our community.

- Saturday, May 6th from 2 – 4 PM – Everyday Herbs with Donna D’Terra.

#### **Willits Branch Library**

- Saturday, March 18th from 1 – 4 PM – Willits Branch will host a Spring Seed Swap in the meeting room with vegetable, flower, and herb seeds provided. Staff invite the public to bring seeds to share!

The kitchen in Philo is one of two settings within Mendocino County that Sally talked about in her book. Sally and Don retired to a home in Elk and their cottage kitchen for two was the last one featured in the book. “All in all, I really have done just what I loved to do, which has always been simply to cook good food for those I cared for,” said Schmitt in her memoir. “That’s what mattered. That’s all that mattered.”

The Book-to-Action grant provides participants with a limited number of copies to keep or share with others of *Six California Kitchens*, and copies of read-alikes for younger readers. Please visit your branch for availability.

Mendocino County Reads is supported in whole or in part by the U.S. Institute of Museum and Library Services under the provisions of the Library Services and Technology Act, administered in California by the State Librarian. For more information about the events being held for Mendocino County Reads: *Six California Kitchens*, please visit [www.mendolibrary.org/events/library-calendar](http://www.mendolibrary.org/events/library-calendar) (<http://www.mendolibrary.org/events/library-calendar>), [www.mendolibrary.org](http://www.mendolibrary.org) (<http://www.mendolibrary.org>), or contact your local branch.

# Superhero Party

Saturday

May 13

2 pm

Fort Bragg Branch Library

499 E. Laurel St.

Fort Bragg, CA

- ★ Gallant games!
- ☆ Superheroic snacks!
- ★ Fearless fun!



Calling all heroic kids! Perform heroic tasks and earn your certificate from Superhero Academy!



MENDOCINO  
COUNTY *Library*

[www.mendolibrary.org](http://www.mendolibrary.org), [www.fortbragglibrary.org](http://www.fortbragglibrary.org), [facebook.com/fortbragglibraryz](https://facebook.com/fortbragglibraryz)

Instagram @fortbragglibrary, Twitter.com/MendoLibrary, 707-964-2020

# Meteorites: Outer Space Day with Gary Mason

## Meteoritos: día del espacio exterior con Gary Mason

**Saturday**  
**May 20**  
**2-3**

free program  
programa gratis

**sábado,**  
**20 de**  
**mayo**  
**2-3**



Gary Mason, owner of Beautiful Earth, presents a talk about the fiery world of meteorites — some of the planet's most beautiful stones. Gary has taught mineralogy, geology and chemistry. Come to learn and be amazed!

Gary Mason, propietario de Beautiful Earth, presenta una charla sobre el ardiente mundo de los meteoritos, algunas de las piedras más hermosas del planeta. Gary ha enseñado mineralogía, geología y química. ¡Ven a aprender y sorpréndete!



Fort Bragg Branch Library  
Community Room  
499 E. Laurel Street  
Fort Bragg CA 95437  
707-964-2020



**MENDOCINO**  
**COUNTY** *Library*

At its next meeting Tuesday, the Mendocino County Board of Supervisors will discuss a planned expansion of the Fort Bragg **library**, and an appeal of recently adopted limits on vacation rentals.

On the posted agenda for the April 25 meeting is a public hearing to “consider an appeal of the Planning Commission adoption of (a resolution) which clarified interpretation of Mendocino County Code” affecting vacation rentals.

“I am submitting this appeal on behalf of Friends of Coastal Access and Paul Clark,” writes attorney Colin Morrow in a letter to the board. “Friends of Coastal Access is a group of concerned citizens who, among other things, want an inclusive and open County of Mendocino that welcomes visitors from all walks of life and on all kinds of travels.

“The short-sighted and pessimistic justification for limiting short term vacation rentals is the claim that curtailing access to short term vacation rentals will somehow solve a housing shortage for local workers,” Morrow continues. “The implicit message is that we as a county cannot afford to welcome visitors to spend money at our wineries, restaurants, and tourist attractions because we have to sacrifice such economic life. The solution is not to clamp down on the use of what limited housing we have, but to make it easier to develop additional housing. Short-term rentals bring dollars to our community, (while) restricting short-term rentals sends dollars elsewhere and encourages economic stagnation or contraction.”

Also on the April 25 agenda:

- Discussion and Possible Action Including Acceptance of the Update of the Status of the Property Adjacent to the Fort Bragg **Branch**

**Library**; and Direction to Staff Regarding a Memorandum of Understanding with the Fort Bragg Friends of the **Library** and the Transfer and Merging of Property to Prepare for the **Branch** Expansion Project at No Cost to the General Fund.

- Discussion and Possible Action Including Acceptance of the Mendocino County Juvenile Justice Plan (MCJJP) Dated March 2023, Representing Mendocino County’s Comprehensive Multi-Agency Juvenile Justice Plan (CMJJP); Approval of the Juvenile Justice Crime Prevention Act (JJCPA) Budget for Fiscal Year (FY) 2023-24; and Authorization for the Chief Probation Office to Implement the JJCPA Budget.

The meeting will begin at 9 a.m. April 25, and be held both in-person at the board chambers located at 501 Low Gap Road, Room 1070, and virtually on Zoom: <https://mendocinocounty.zoom.us/j/81808143003>

MARCH 2023

# Coast Connect

BIG NEWS AND MONTHLY UPDATES FOR THE AVID READER

## Librarian's Corner

BY MELLISA HANNUM

March is Women's History Month.

Not only is March 1-31 a recognition of the lives and achievements of women, the theme for 2023 is, "Celebrating Women Who Tell Our Stories." This a time to honor women in history, and it is also the perfect month to showcase this year's Mendocino County Reads book, *Six California Kitchens* by Sally Schmitt. Sally was a trailblazer in California Cuisine, putting the spotlight on local food and farmers.

Coast is celebrating with displays, Storytimes, and more during the month.

### The Latest on the Library Scene

*SPECIAL PROGRAM:  
BOOK DISCUSSION,  
SIX CALIFORNIA KITCHENS  
AT THE PHILO APPLE FARM*

*JOIN MENDOCINO COUNTY LIBRARY AND THE APPLE FARM FOR A BOOK DISCUSSION OF SIX CALIFORNIA KITCHENS. KAREN BATES, SALLY SCHMITT'S DAUGHTER, WILL TALK ABOUT HER MOM, THE BOOK, AND MORE. THE BOOK DISCUSSION WILL RUN FROM 2:00 TO 3:00 P.M., FOLLOWED BY A FARM TOUR FROM 3:00 TO 4:00 P.M.*

*APPLE JUICE AND CIDER WILL BE AVAILABLE, AND A TASTING OF THE FARM STAND'S VINEGAR AND SYRUP WILL ALSO BE OFFERED.*

*SIGN UP BY EMAILING  
HANNUM@MENDOCINOCOUNTY.ORG  
SPACE IS LIMITED.*





### Pasted Paper

SATURDAYS AT 2:00 P.M.

Feeling creative?  
Want to construct artwork with found objects, cut-out images, and/or weekly collage challenges? Pasted Paper might be right up your alley! This weekly program welcomes artists of all ages.

### Books That Matter: The Federalist Papers

WEDNESDAYS AT 2:00 P.M.

The Great Courses DVD lecture series Books That Matter: The Federalist Papers taught by professor and legal scholar Joseph L Hoffmann of the Indiana University Maurer School of Law and facilitated by local lifelong learner Pearl Watts. Join the class to review and discuss the 85 essays of The Federalist Papers, which have served as essential guides to the interpretation and application of the United States Constitution for more than 230 years and held in the Community Room.



### Book Boogie Storytime

Wednesdays at 10:30 a.m.

### Play Group with Action Network

Tues. & Weds. at 11:00 a.m.

Celebrate the five early literacy practices at the Coast Community Branch each Wednesday. We will talk, sing, read, write, and play, plus there will be dancing, bubbles, and more!

### Special program March 1

Tour of the Co-op at 11:30 a.m. as part of nutrition literacy and Mendocino County Reads!



Mendocino County Reads is supported in whole or in part by the U.S. Institute of Museum and Library Services under the provisions of the Library Services and Technology Act, administered in California by the State Librarian.



**Books -n- Brews Book Club** is on the final Friday of every month at 6:00 p.m. at The New Museum Brewers & Blenders. In March, we will be discussing the Mendocino County Reads book, *Six California Kitchens: A Collection of Recipes, Stories, and Cooking Lessons from a Pioneer of California Cuisine* by Sally Schmitt.

# Willits Weekly

EST. 2013

Online & Print

color activities interests local pages support good information newspaper subscribers staff calendar web idc

A Nostalgic & Modern Record of Community and Life in Willits

Donations Accepted Edition No. 494

Thursday, March 30, 2023



Above, left: Members of the Friends of the Laytonville Library, seen here, worked over 10 years to open a local branch. Above, right: Branch Manager Denise Jessie puts the finishing touches on the library for the grand opening. Below, left: Two members of the Friends of the Laytonville Library, Jayma Shields Spence and Shawna Haven, cut the ribbon while Third District Supervisor John Haschak looks on. Below, right: After the ribbon-cutting, the library fills up with new patrons and well-wishers.



## Laytonville Library

An official Mendocino County branch opens after a decade of hard work

"Finally!" "About time!" "A welcome addition to Laytonville." These are some of the comments that could be heard in the crowd waiting to enter the new Laytonville Library site at 44960 North Highway 101, Suite D, as Library Branch Manager Denise Jessie and Shawna Haven, head of the Friends of the Laytonville Library, prepared to officially open this much-needed North County facility.

Over 10 years of efforts have finally paid dividends as the store-front library, a satellite of the Willits branch of the Mendocino County Library System, was finally able to admit patrons and begin its journey to provide library services to this under-served community.

Jayma Shields Spence, executive director of Harwood Hall and Laytonville Healthy Start, as a charter member of the Friends of the Laytonville Library, has been working with several others for a long while in order to create this space where people can check out books, access WiFi, use the computers, and order books and materials from other libraries in Mendocino, Lake and Sonoma counties.

"Our Friends of the Library group here in Laytonville is so excited that today is our grand-opening celebration of our Mendocino County Library Laytonville branch today," said Spence. "The library will be open three days a week, Wednesdays 11 am to 4 pm, Thursdays 1 to 6 pm, and Saturdays 1 to 6 pm.

"It took our Friends group about a decade long to create this library from start to finish," said Spence. "Our Friends group was a small-but-mighty group under the fiscal sponsorship of our local non-profit Harwood Park and Healthy Start. I've been here since the beginning. It's just been such an exciting project to bring to the community."

Don't let the small size of the store-front facility fool you. All of the resources of the entire library system can be accessed from the location.

"We have a nice selection of books," Spence continued. "We're actually part of the Mendocino County Library system, so these are official county library books. There are also DVDs, public computers with a printer. People can come in with their laptops and utilize the WiFi. There's high-speed internet. If you don't find a book you're interested in here, you can request a book through the library system."

"As of Tuesday," explained Jessie, "I am managing the Willits branch and therefore also this one. We've been working hard to get this branch open. We don't want the people of Laytonville to think they don't have a branch

manager. I will be coming up here weekly. Allison is the dedicated employee of the Laytonville branch and she's a library assistant. We are so lucky to have a Laytonville local to be the dedicated employee for this branch. She knows a lot of the people. She knows the community."

Allison Wild, library assistant, will be in residence at the Laytonville Library and is extremely excited about the new opportunity. "I've been training at the Willits branch for the last two months just to get this computer program dialed in," Wild explained. "It's called Horizon. It's what we use for the library system. This is where the magic happens, where I can check books out to people, reserve books, request them from other branches, get them sent over. I love this space. It's beautiful."

In addition to books and other literary material, the library will maintain the seed-sharing program that was begun at the Book Room, a facility of the Friends of the Laytonville Library, located at the old high school. The Book Room was set up in 2018 as a place to buy books inexpensively, the proceeds of which were one of the funding mechanisms for the new library.

Once preparations were completed, Spence, along with Third District Supervisor John Haschak, Haven, Jessie, all of the members of the Friends of the Laytonville Library, and about 50 members of the public participated in the ribbon-cutting to officially open the facility.

"The idea to bring a library to Laytonville happened, most recently, about 10 years ago," said Spence, addressing the crowd. "Before that, we know of other attempts to make it happen. I got roped into this idea because our former Third District Supervisor John Pinches and then-library board advisor / president Mark Komer made a call to my office, and then I heard from my kindergarten teacher, Susan Bradley.

"It was obvious at the time," said Spence, "forces were at play and the stars were aligning at the right time. Looking back on this journey from where we stand today, there were times in the process of bringing a public library to an unincorporated community in Northern Mendocino County felt like a comedy, a tragedy, or at other times, a children's book.

"Our Friends group learned a lot of lessons along the way. There was no book on the shelf entitled 'How to Bring a Public Library to Laytonville.' Rather, we learned everything along the way. This project really defines what I like to call 'the spirit of community.' Through partnerships, friendships and collaboration, we have arrived at this beautiful destination," Spence concluded.



Above, left: Denise Jessie, library tech and branch manager, will be managing both the Willits and the Laytonville branches. Above, right: The new library has a robust complement of seeds to share. At left: Allison Wild is the Laytonville Library assistant and will be in the facility three days a week. Below, left: The principal of Laytonville High School attends the opening with his two daughters. Below, right: Jayma Shields Spence displays one of the Friends of the Laytonville Library T-shirts.

Photos by Mathew Caine



Above: The library has books on many subjects.

## Boogie Woogie greats perform at Ukiah Library



Boogie Woogie royalty from near and far – Ricky Nye, Sue Palmer and Wendy DeWitt – lay it down at the Ukiah Library on Thursday afternoon. (Photo by Karen Rifkin)

By [KAREN RIFKIN](#) | for The Ukiah Daily Journal

PUBLISHED: March 20, 2023 at 12:38 p.m. | UPDATED: March 20, 2023 at 1:16 p.m.

The children's room at the Ukiah Library was filled Thursday with old and young eager to spend an hour listening to the beat of the Boogie Woogie blues laid down by local legend Wendy DeWitt and her internationally-known friends from far and wide, Sue Palmer and Ricky Nye.

In a collaboration between Wendy and Roseanne Wetzel, Senior Library Technician and musician extraordinaire herself, these three greats brought head bobbing, toe tapping and some outright dancing while they more than tickled the ivories, serving as raconteurs for their personal stories as well as those of Boogie Woogie in general.

Wendy moved to the area about seven years ago and quickly established her credentials as Queen of Boogie Woogie early on at a Pianists Concert at the college and has since been playing her Church of the Boogie Woogie regularly at the Ukiah Brewery on Sunday mornings for brunch (presently on hiatus) and at the Hopland Tap on Wednesday evenings accompanied by her husband, drummer Kirk Harwood, and bassist Pierre Archaine.

If you want a taste of Sue Palmer, San Diego's queen of Boogie Woogie, check out the cover of her new turquoise vinyl album, Sue Palmer and Her Motel Swing Orchestra. That alone will make you smile.

Ricky Nye, an inductee into the International Boogie Woogie Hall of Fame who hails from Cincinnati, regaled the audience with stories of his travels and a Reader's Digest version of everything-you-want-to-know about this driving percussive beat that makes-you-want-to-get out-of-your-seat-and-dance.

Hopefully more events will follow.