



Mendocino County Library Advisory Board

Annual Report to the Mendocino County Board of Supervisors

The Mendocino County Library Advisory Board (LAB) was established in 1970. The LAB acts in an advisory capacity to the Board of Supervisors to make recommendations to the County Librarian and the Board of Supervisors regarding issues of County Library operations, policy, services and programs, review of the budget programs and recommendations, consideration of proposals or requests submitted by citizens or groups pertaining to the County Library operations and matters affecting public library services in Mendocino County. The LAB is comprised of nine voting members, one from each district and one from each city. Current board members are: District 1, Jody Nyberg (Secretary Elect); District 2, Michele Bisson Savoy (Chair); District 3, Lew Chichester; District 4, Carole Poma; District 5, Megan Riley; City of Fort Bragg, Linda Stumpf; City of Point Arena, Vacant; City of Willits, Olga O'Neill (Vice Chair), City of Ukiah, Susan Sher; County Librarian, Mellisa Hannum (non-voting).

The passage of Measure O in November 2022, making permanent a one-quarter cent (.25%) sales tax for library services with at least forty percent (40%) reserved for capital investments requires the LAB to determine a fair and equitable distribution of funds to all areas of the county. Process from this tax shall be allocated by the Board of Supervisors in consideration of recommendations of the Advisory Board.

The board meets six times a year rotating between individual library sites. Dates, time and meeting locations are posted on the County Library website. Mendocino County Board Supervisors are encouraged to attend the meeting in their districts.

The Mendocino County Library Advisory Board's goal is to support the library system and ensure that its revenue is used wisely. The board is made up of volunteers who meet bi-monthly to advise the library director and listen to feedback from the community.

Mendocino County Library

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.

Coast Community (Pt. Arena), 225 Main St., Point Arena, CA 95468 (707) 882-3114

Ft. Bragg, 499 Laurel St., Fort Bragg, CA 95437 (707) 964-2020

Laytonville, 44960 N. HWY 101, Suite D., Laytonville, CA 95454 (707) 234-6390

Round Valley, 23925 Howard St., Covelo, CA 95428 (707) 983-6736

Ukiah, 105 N. Main St., Ukiah, CA 95482 (707) 463-4490

Willits, 390 E. Commercial St., Willits, CA 95490 (707) 459-5908

Bookmobile (offices are in the Ukiah Branch) (707) 234-2874



The Bookmobile services the entire county with stops in Navarro*, Comptche, Philo*, Boonville*, Manchester, Stewarts Point*, Sea Ranch*, Gualala*, Hopland*, Golden Rule*, Redwood Valley*, Potter Valley*, Laytonville, Leggett, Piercy*, Three Rivers School, Caspar*, Mendocino*, Westport*, Albion*, Elk

*Denotes Wi-Fi service is available through the Bookmobile at that location.

Services and Programs provided by the Library

All Mendocino County Library branches provide these services:-

- Books, Ebooks, Audiobooks, Music, Movies, Zip Books, Interlibrary Loan Books
- Educational databases, digital books and materials, technology trainings online: Adult Learning Center, Alexander Street, Archives Unbound, Britannica Escolar, Britannica School, CollegeNow, Consumer Reports, DigitalLearn, Discover & Go, Ebsco Research, Enki Biblioboard, Explora, Gale Science and Environmental Studies, HelpNow, Legal Information Source, Libby/Overdrive, National Geographic for Kids, New York Times, Newsbank, NextReads, Novelist K-8 Plus, NovelistPlus, Palace Project, PebbleGo Science & Capstone Interactive eBooks, Points of View Reference Source, Press Democrat, ProCitizen, ProQuest, San Francisco Chronicle, Small Business Source, Sora for Schools, Teacher Reference Center, TeachingBooks
- Library catalog for Mendocino, Lake, and Sonoma Counties' Collections – Request items and manage patron accounts
- Delivery to all Branches of Requested Items
- Agency Library Cards, Educator Library Cards, Student Success Cards, Class Visits to the Library
- Author Talks & Virtual Author Talks – Live and Recorded
- Library Outreach, Library by Mail: books, DVDs, CDs, etc.
- Computers, Internet, Hotspots, Chromebooks
- Summer Reading Challenges and Live Programs
- Discover & Go Museum Passes, California State Library Parks Passes, Backpack Hiking Kits, Cooking Kits, Senior Memory Kits, Solar Panel Charger Kits, DIY Toolkits, Literacy Kits, Radon Discovery Kit
- Seed Libraries & Seed Library Programming
- Specialty Classes/Presentations/Programs and Partnership Programs
- Programs and Events for all Ages
- Storytimes
- Mendocino County Book Club selections

Branch Specific Services:

- Physical Newspapers and Magazines: Ukiah, Coast, Willits, Round Valley, and Fort Bragg
- Community Rooms: Round Valley, Willits, Fort Bragg, Ukiah, and Coast
- Study Booths: Ukiah, Willits, and Coast
- Specialty Book Collections:-Grateful Dead Collection (Ukiah), Cannabis Collection (Ukiah), Book Club Collections (Ukiah), D&D Collection (Ukiah), Mushroom Collection (Willits), Legal and

Business Self-Help (Willits), First American Collection (Round Valley), Local History Room for Mendocino North Coast (Fort Bragg)

- Board Games: Round Valley, Ukiah, Fort Bragg, and Willits
- In-Library Passive Programming: Ukiah, Fort Bragg, Willits
- Video Games: Ukiah and Fort Bragg
- Art Displays & Exhibits: Ukiah, Round Valley, and Fort Bragg
- Awe Learning Computers: Ukiah and Willits
- 3-D Printers & Print Designs: Ukiah
- Honor Lending Library, Senior Tech Help, County Wide outreach: Outreach
- Self-Check Machines: Ukiah, Coast, Willits, Round Valley, and Fort Bragg
- Ukuleles: Ukiah
- Lunch at the Library: Fort Bragg (pop-up), Coast (in-branch), Ukiah (pop-up), Willits (pop-up, in-branch 2025), Round Valley (pop-up), and Outreach
- Annual Cold Weather Clothing Donation Table: Ukiah, Willits
- Formal Wear clothes for high school students: Coast
- FOL Bookstore: Ukiah, Coast, Willits, Round Valley, (Noyo Book Store in Harbor) Fort Bragg, Laytonville Book Room
- Back to school supply round-up: Willits

Ongoing Branch Programs:

- Adult Book Clubs: Wines and Spines, Amble & Ramble, Lines & Spines (Ukiah), Books-n-Brews (Coast), and Adult Book Club (Fort Bragg), Book Lovers Discussion Group (Willits)
- Tech Help: Ukiah, Fort Bragg, Coast, Round Valley, Willits, Outreach Teen Hangout: Coast
- Teen Library Council: Ukiah and Coast
- Teen Lock-Ins: Ukiah, Coast, and Fort Bragg
- Teen D&D: Fort Bragg and Coast
- Teen Gaming: Ukiah
- Coding Club: Ukiah
- 3D Design Workshops: Ukiah
- Anime Asylum: Ukiah
- Read with a Ranger Partnership with the California State Parks: (twice a year) Ukiah, Fort Bragg

- Fire Preparedness Classes and Presentations/Partnerships with Mendocino County Firesafe Council: Round Valley, Ukiah, Coast, Fort Bragg
- Partnership Programs/Presentations with The Dharma Realm Buddhist University: Ukiah
- Children's Farmer's Market: Ukiah
- Reading at the Farmer's Market: Ukiah, Willits
- Open Mic & Poetry Events: Ukiah, Fort Bragg, Coast
- Ongoing music programs: Ukiah, Outreach, Coast
- Career Day: (annual) Ukiah
- Knit and Crochet and Quilting and Sewing Groups: Willits, Coast, Ukiah
- First Friday Artwalk Events: Ukiah
- Urban Homesteader Series: Ukiah
- Makerspaces: Ukiah
- Creation Station: Willits
- Storytimes for Families: Fort Bragg, Ukiah, Round Valley, Coast, Willits, Bookmobile, Outreach, Laytonville
- Craft Programs – children, teens, or adults: Fort Bragg, Coast, Ukiah, Willits, Round Valley, Outreach, Laytonville
- LEGO® Programming: Fort Bragg, Ukiah, Willits, Coast
- Therapy Dog Programs: Ukiah
- Build a Robot, Scratch Coding: Outreach
- Documentary Film Series/Movie Nights: Round Valley, Coast
- Senior Exploration Series: Round Valley
- Life-Long Learning Series: Coast
- Chair Yoga: Coast
- Point Arena Merchants Association Events (Hometown Holidays, Almost Fringe Festival, Independence Parade): Coast
- Paul Bunyan Labor Days Events (Kiddie Parade): Fort Bragg
- Social Services Navigation Day: Round Valley
- Penny University: Willits

Friends of Coast Community Library (located in Point Arena)

P. O. Box 808, Point Arena, CA 95468

President Chas Higgins, contact email: cwh@sonic.net, (707) 934-0483

The FOCCL group meets monthly at the library on the 4th Friday of the month at 1:30.

The Friends of Coast Community Library is responsible for maintaining the building housing our library in Point Arena. Keeping the building dry has been an ongoing challenge. This year FOCCL volunteers made improvements to drainage in the rear of the building that, combined with street improvements completed by the city of Point Arena, eliminated water intrusion on the ground level. We also made repairs to the walls and floor of our Annex structure to correct years of water damage. These efforts, while they were completed mostly by volunteers, cost around \$11,000 for materials and skilled labor for plastering and painting.

Our book sales volunteers have held three major book sales this year, offering grocery sacks full of books at a nominal cost. These sales supplement our daily book sales in the library as well as our free “Box Of Books” (BOB) available 24/7 on Main Street Point Arena.

FOCCL volunteers organized Lifetime Learning classes based on the Great Courses series of video classes taught by university faculty from around the world. Volunteers serve as facilitators, leading discussions about the video lectures. Classes offered in the last year include “Why Insects Matter” and “The Celtic World.” FOCCL also hosted presentations by community members Carol Wilder, on contemporary media, and Alan Levine, who read from the late Nancy Kay Webb’s book “Where the West Ends”, recounting stories from mid twentieth-century Point Arena.



Friends of the Fort Bragg Library

499 East Laurel Street

Fort Bragg, CA 95437

(707) 964-2020

Email: ffblnews@gmail.com

The Friends of the Fort Bragg Library meets on the 3rd Friday of each month at 10:00 am.

The fundraising efforts have been well received by our generous coastal community. We held 2 well-attended Book Sale events and 3 restaurant fundraisers earlier this year. We have another restaurant fundraiser planned for October 16th and a Pop-Up Book, Pottery and Rock Poster fundraiser scheduled for December 6 and 7. Our \$1000 Club fundraising total this year, thus far, is \$8000. We have received an estimated total of \$20,000 in fundraising efforts this year. Of this funding, we have donated nearly \$14,000 to the Fort Bragg Library for programs and services. We also purchased two new rugs, one each, for the children's room and the teen area.

One of our very generous and dedicated library patrons gifted our organization her home and property, including the entire contents of her home. She was an admirable potter, originally from San Francisco, who created an abundance of beautiful pottery. We have been successfully fundraising her unique pottery and vintage rock posters. We put the home on the market on October 1st with an asking price of \$650,000. All proceeds from the sale are earmarked for our Library Annex Project.

Our building plans have been revised once more this year, with the assistance of our exceptional Planning Consultant, Marie Jones. Our 3,348 square foot Library Annex proposal was approved by the Mendocino Coast Planning Commission October 8th. We have signed a contract with Dancing Dog Designs, as our Project Manager and a timeline has been created. We plan to break ground for our Library Annex at 421 Whipple Street in the Spring of 2026.

Proposed drawing of new building.



Friends of the Laytonville Library

Book Shop/Seed Library/Community Mtg Rm

200 Branscomb Rd., Laytonville

Tues., Wed., Fri. 12 - 4 pm

Mailing Address: PO Box 1382, Laytonville, CA 95454

(707) 984-8089 (Healthy Start offices)

Website: <https://www.laytonville.org/friends-of-the-laytonville-library/>

The Friends of the Laytonville Library meet every 2nd Friday at 12:00 noon in the Community Room at the Book Shop.

In 2025 a new, growing team of volunteers has now stepped up to continue the legacy of the original founding members. New Volunteer policy and procedure documents have been established, including volunteer roles and descriptions, book sorting and shelving guidelines, community room use request form, volunteer code of conduct policy, and public code of conduct Friends of the Laytonville Library postings. Newly renovated space, expanded shelving, an energized Facebook presence, a new vintage book room, and a complete reorganization and presentation of book holdings now make book shopping an easy and pleasant experience. Our many regulars continue to come in to support our library, and many new visitors are coming through the doors!

The mission of the Friends of the Laytonville Library is to facilitate the joyful experience of reading and learning. The Friends group raises funds to support this goal by covering Laytonville Library needs not provided by the Mendocino County Library System, by providing free books for children, and through class visits and other collaborative programs encouraging reading. As 2025 moves to a close, we're proud to be meeting these needs through our dedicated volunteers and financial support.



In addition to supporting the library through Book Sales and donations, the Friends are an important hub for community activities. We host a newly expanded Seed Library with bi-annual seed exchanges, internet access, computer use and printing, and a children's art and play area. We recently hosted a visit from the High School's Yearbook club and October offers weekly children's face painting. Planning is underway to hold a children's reading session at the weekly Farmers Market in Harwood Hall. We continue a busy monthly calendar of hosting groups and meetings in our Community Rm, including the Book Club, student tutoring, GMRS Emergency Radio club, the Long Valley Animal Welfare Coalition, a weekly children's playgroup, and a Fiber Arts meetup. The FOLL are proud of their role in supporting the Laytonville community and the mission of the Mendocino County Laytonville Library branch!

The Friends of the Round Valley Public Library

P.O. Box 620, Covelo, CA 95428

President Ed Tepas, Facebook: The Friends of the Round Valley Public Library

Meets monthly the first Friday of every month at 5:00 PM in Library Commons.

The Round Valley Branch had over 24,000 visits last year and we made 147 new library cards. 1927 folks attended one or more of our over 100 programs. Our branch added 1427 new items to our collection, and we circulated 17,572 items, many of these library materials were sent to patrons at other branches. The Round Valley Branch was awarded the prestigious *Eisner Innovation Grant for Libraries*, which supports the creative use of graphic novels and comics in library programming. Senior Library Tech Pat Sobrero travelled to Philadelphia to attend the American Library Association annual conference to accept the award. The grant will pay for graphic novels for children and teens and a community “open house” to celebrate the graphic novel format and explore how comics can enrich learning and build community.

The Friends fundraising activities have been ongoing, and thus far we have received \$15,933 in donations, merchandise sales, and the sponsorship of a community Earth Day event. We contribute a fairly substantial portion of this income as a supplemental source of funds for the librarians to add to the collections or produce events.

The Library Commons includes the Mendocino County Round Valley Branch Library, a community meeting room, a cafe, an art gallery, a community kitchen, an outdoor covered patio, an FM radio station broadcast studio, and the Walnut Grove community park. Along with our commitment and active support of our local library, The Library Commons is an important focus of the Friends' activities. Owning our own building and grounds allows us to sponsor quite a few diverse activities, including a dynamic Art Committee, which curates at least six separate art installations during the year as well as a live figure drawing class.

We maintain the Walnut Grove, a shaded and landscaped area which is the home of the weekly Round Valley Farmers' Market and other seasonal outdoor events. KYBU 96.9FM is the Friends community radio station, which broadcasts music and public affairs programming, provides remote live coverage of events, and is streaming and on line with a backup generator in the event of some form of natural disaster.



The Friends are the sponsoring organization for the Round Valley Skate Park Project, an attempt of the local skater enthusiasts to develop and build a skate park in Covelo. The Round Valley Emergency and Disaster Preparedness Planning group meets regularly in the Commons and has created a functional template for local area responses to disruptions to transportation or other services in the event of a severe storm or wildfire.

We also host in the community meeting room the meetings of the Round Valley Area Municipal Advisory Council, the Covelo Cemetery District Board and the Round Valley Blackberry Festival steering committee. The community meeting room is a very busy place, and as well as all these meetings we host a monthly live music evening, various presentations and events of the County Library throughout the year including a monthly documentary film showing, and any number of special events and public gatherings.

The activities and commitments of the Friends of the Round Valley Public Library continue to ensure that we will remain the BEST SMALL LIBRARY IN AMERICA.

Ukiah Valley Friends of the Library

105 North Main Street, Ukiah, CA 95482

(707) 510-6270

Email: FriendsOfTheLibrary.Ukiah@gmail.com

Website: UkiahLibraryFriends.com

The Ukiah Valley Friends of the Library meets monthly every third Thursday at the library at 4:00.

The Ukiah FOL has been very busy this past year. We completed a project of raising funds to purchase an exterior book drop for the library to replace the through-the-wall one presently in use. The proposed book drop will provide for safe retrieval by the librarians and quick, efficient drop-off by library patrons. Installation has been delayed due to construction of the ADA parking spot, new doors and updated walkway. We expect to purchase it in November with a December installation date.

The Ukiah FOL created an endowment fund under the auspices of the Community Foundation whereby we can build long term equity. The goal is to keep pace with inflation and show growth in real terms. Library patrons can contribute to the endowment by direct donations and through estate bequeathals.

Fundraising efforts include our monthly book sales, a bookstore shelf (honor system) in the library and a new online presence on Ebay for vintage and collectible books. The library hosts 450 to 500 patrons a day. Last year the FOL donated \$16,000 to maintain its support of the library programs funding Summer Reading (Teen, Children, and Adult), the Seed Program, Chinese brush painting, the Kids Farmers Market, readings by individual authors, and programs for adults like the Renter's Rights Workshop. First Friday Artwalk with music and a book sale always draws a big crowd.

We worked with the city to add five permitted parking spaces in the lot across the street from the library to help ease the parking situation. The new ADA spot in front of the library is great. It provides direct access to the sidewalk and the ramps on the corners have improved ADA access.



Friends of the Willits Library

Meets are held monthly at the library on the third Saturday at 10:00 am.

The Willits Friends has continued to focus its efforts on providing financial assistance for programs and specific needs for the library. The updated roster has close to 250 members, and there are increased efforts to recruit more members. The Willits Friends has a permanent for-sale bookshelf, offers weekend sales in the meeting room twice yearly, and provides several pop-up book sales. Working with Better World Books has provided some income as well as a means to get all usable books into readers' hands. There are free adult and children's books available at the site and are also provided to the food bank and other community areas.

Recently, the Friends administered the Downey Fund, which began with a \$10,000 donation earmarked for non-fiction books for the Willits Branch. Members can continue to donate specifically to this fund or choose to make general donations. In addition to funds provided for programs and specific needs, this year the Friends will contribute \$10,000 towards the book collection.

The completion of the Willits Branch roof has been a welcome sight! Other needed improvements identified several years ago are now in the beginning phases of being planned toward implementation. The Friends will work with the librarian to re-establish the working group as a way to offer input on needs and ideas.



The Bookmobile

The Mendocino County Bookmobile checked out 18,799 books. They had 4,318 visits by patrons during 28 stops per month. The bi-weekly bookmobile schedule covers the coast and the north county. Coast stops start on Tuesday with the Anderson Valley. Tuesday stops include the Navarro Store*, Comptche School, Comptche Store, Philo by the Post Office* ending in Boonville at the Apple Building*. Wednesday is the South Coast, starting at the Manchester School, Stewarts Point opposite the store*, Sea Ranch at Ohlson Ranch*, ending the day in Gualala at the Mall parking lot*. Thursday is the Inland Route. Starting in Hopland at the Casino*, Golden Rule*, Redwood Valley Lions Club Park*, Potter Valley Community Resource Center/PVYCC*. The next week on Tuesday is the Laytonville-Piercey route, starting in Laytonville near the Post Office, Leggett School, Leggett Store ending at Piercey*. Wednesday's route is Caspar and Mendocino, starting at the Three Rivers School, Caspar Community Center*, ending at the Mendocino Community Center*. Thursday is Westport and Elk, starting at Westport near the Post Office*, Albion School*, Albion Store*, and ending at the Elk Store.

In addition to the route, the Bookmobile took part in the Touch-a-Truck event. It hosts Storytime at the Anderson Valley/Boonville location. It was able to provide library services to the Anderson Valley Junior-Senior High School when their library was being renovated. The Bookmobile provides services to the Hopland Band of Pomo Indians and the Pinoleville Pomo Nation.

The Friends of the Bookmobile are currently re-organizing. Please see the Library Annual report for the status on the new bookmobile.

The * indicates Wi-Fi is available from the Bookmobile.



Summary

We have a LAB Ad Hoc working on the Ukiah Expansion Feasibility Study. The committee includes staff Melissa Carr and Barb Chapman, LAB members Michele Savoy and Carol Poma, Supervisor Mulheren, Friends of the Library President Barbie Blake, and an Ukiah patron. An intriguing possibility came up that we are looking into property near the Courthouse is being considered by a senior affordable housing developer that is interested in the library occupying the first floor with possible connection to an MTA transit hub. This is still in the initial stages, and we don't have confirmation of any of the details yet.

Each library has a "Friends of the Library" group (FOL). Every FOL has money, volunteers and expertise. The FOL groups would like to work with the County to accomplish more for our library branches.

Requests:

The LAB would like a detailed report on the A-87 charges for 2023/2024 which exceeded the original Library budget by \$220,000. Our small budget of \$3,985,375 allocated \$367,432 for A-87 charges. The additional surprise cost of \$220,000 is a budget buster. Add to that the loss of money from the State (due to Federal Grant cuts) has forced the library to cut the many services, personnel and programs going forward. It is important to cut the A-87 charges back to a more reasonable level. It is also important for the County to be forthcoming with the reasons and details for this expense.