

## **ANNOUNCEMENT**

### **San Mateo County Library Offers Wireless Hotspots Check Out**

San Mateo, CA – To celebrate National Library Week, April 12-18, 2015, the San Mateo County Library is pleased to announce a new service that offers wireless hotspots and wireless hotspots/laptop combinations for check out at all 12 library locations and the bookmobile.

In an effort to expand access and bridge the digital divide in the County, the Library is embracing a new model for public Internet access by working with commercial wireless carriers to extend Internet access to patrons who don't have broadband at home. This new service will enable hundreds of households to continue education activities at home, gain access to important information and resources, build digital confidence, and take advantage of online opportunities to contribute and participate in civic activities. "This program essentially provides 24/7 access to those who are currently limited to using the Internet at a physical library facility during a once-a-day, 2-hour time slot, allowing them to continue to learn, work, explore, and create even after the library is closed," said Anne-Marie Despain, Director of Library Services.

The program, which allows library patrons to check out WiFi hotspots and laptop combos just like they would a book, has been added as part of the Library's popular In Luck collection. As with other In Luck items, the WiFi hotspots will be available on a first-come, first-served basis for a one-week check out.

Funding for this program was provided in part by an Innovation Grant from the Pacific Library Partnership and by generous donations from providers Mobile Beacon and TechSoup.

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The San Mateo County Library is a Joint Powers Authority (JPA) that comprises the cities of Atherton, Belmont, Brisbane, East Palo Alto, Foster City, Half Moon Bay, Millbrae, Pacifica, Portola Valley, San Carlos, Woodside, and the unincorporated areas of San Mateo County. The 12 branches, one bookmobile and website provide innovative, dynamic library services designed to connect diverse communities with opportunities for individual growth and enrichment. Visit San Mateo County Library's award-winning website at [www.smcl.org](http://www.smcl.org) for information about the Library and its services.

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