

County Librarian's Report to the Library Commission

Thursday, January 15, 2026

Congratulations to Walt Beveridge

Executive Secretary Walt Beveridge retired from the County on Friday December 19th. Walt served as the Library's Executive Secretary since 2016, when he was appointed by former County Librarian Melinda Cervantes. He was particularly proud of the work he did supporting the Library Commission. Walt's permanent successor is Nadia Bagdasar.

Pinole Library Closure

The Pinole Library is scheduled to close on March 1, 2026, for deferred maintenance including lighting, electrical, HVAC, and roof upgrades, as well as ADA improvements to the parking lot. The library is anticipated to reopen in January 2027. Board of Supervisors approval for the closure is still pending; public messaging will be shared following Board approval.

NEW VENDORS FOR MATERIALS IN LANGUAGES OTHER THAN ENGLISH (LOTE)

During calendar year 2025, the library added three new language vendors that will allow the department to enhance, update, and maintain its collections of materials in Farsi, Vietnamese, Korean, and Russian. The new vendors enabled the department to launch its first Children's Farsi collection and refresh its existing Farsi materials for adults, expand the Vietnamese collection and establish a Korean collection, and refresh the Russian collection.

Share Your Stories

The Library's Marketing team is creating short stories and videos that will feature our library users. They are looking for first-time library cardholders, nostalgic library memories, stories about how the library has helped someone, and testimonials from library super fans. If you would like to participate or know someone who would, please email Nadia.

Results of School Engagement Efforts

5,000 more public school students have library cards than did in August of 2024. That is a 2.45% increase. Library staff have been focusing on school engagement in order to comply with SB321 which aims for every student in public schools to have a library card by third grade.

\$30,000 Gift From Carnegie Corporation

The Carnegie Corporation of New York is awarding a \$10,000 gift to all Carnegie Libraries nationwide in commemoration of the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence. Although CCCL does not have any existing Carnegie buildings, the original [Antioch](#), [Concord](#) and [Walnut Creek](#) libraries were Carnegie buildings and therefore qualified for the gift. We have not yet determined how the funds will be spent, but it appears there are no restrictions other than the funds being spent for the benefit of each of the respective existing libraries.

Workforce Development Services in Libraries

Every four years the Workforce Development Board (WDB) issues a Request for Proposals (RFP) related to providing job services to the community. The WDB has agreed to include a stipulation in their upcoming RFP that respondents must provide services in at least one of the libraries that are listed in the RFP. The services that would be provided are part of the America's Job Center of California program, which includes free career counseling, training referrals, job listings and searches and other employment related services for everyone. The libraries listed in the RFP are Bay Point, Brentwood, Concord, El Sobrante, Hercules, Pittsburg, and San Pablo.