

County Librarian's Report to the Library Commission

Thursday July 16, 2026

Groundbreaking Ceremony for Orbisonia Heights/New Bay Point Library

The groundbreaking ceremony for the Orbisonia Heights Development, of which the new Bay Point Library will be a part of, will take place in the afternoon of September 8th after the Board of Supervisors meeting. The entire Board will be present and the Library Foundation of Contra Costa will also be present to kick off their \$1.5 million fundraising campaign (\$1 million for FF&E and \$500,000 for the opening day collection). All Library Commissioners are invited and details of the event will be sent to Commissioners as soon as they are available.

UPDATED TIMELINE FOR LIBRARY RENOVATIONS AND CLOSURES (changes are highlighted)

Pinole Library

Closure length: March 1, 2026, for approximately 11 months

Scope of work: New roof, new all-electric HVAC, modernized electrical system, energy-efficient interior lighting and cleaner air technology, and a repaved parking lot with ADA improvements

Closure details: <https://ccclib.org/news/pinole-library-to-undergo-major-renovation-to-modernize-50-year-old-facility/>

Kensington Library

Closure length: July 24, 2026 for at least one year

Scope of work: HVAC, electrical and lighting upgrades, ADA improvements, and interior renovations and remodel

Closure details: Coming soon

Ygnacio Valley Library

Closure length: **September 9**, 2026 for approximately 10 months

Scope of work: New roof, new HVAC, lighting & electrical upgrades

Closure details: Coming soon

Antioch Library

Closure length: September 1, 2026 for approximately 4 months

Scope of work: Electrical and lighting upgrades, ADA improvements to parking lot

Closure details: Coming Summer of 2026

We are also expecting to close the **Clayton Library** for two months this Fall for an interior refresh. Details will follow as they are available.

Increased Open Hours for WCL

The City of Walnut Creek has decided that the City will fund sixteen (16) extra hours at the Walnut Creek Library for fiscal year 2026-2027, which will increase the Walnut Creek Library's weekly open hours from fifty-two (52) to fifty-six (56). This increase is in recognition that there will likely be additional demand at the Walnut Creek Library while the Ygnacio Valley Library is closed for renovations from September 9, 2026, to approximately May 31, 2027.

Decreased Open Hours for PIT

The City of Pittsburg has decided that the City will not fund any extra hours at the Pittsburg Library for fiscal year 2026-2027 starting on August 1st, which will decrease the Pittsburg Library's weekly open hours from fifty-two (52) to forty (40). The City has a structural deficit of roughly \$5 million this year, which is projected to grow to about \$7 million next year if they took no action. At the city's final budget workshop on June 1, the City Council made the difficult decision not to continue funding the extended library hours as part of their immediate efforts to address this deficit.

Self-Service Sundays Update

Self-Service Sunday was successfully launched at the San Pablo Library on Sunday, June 7. The Pittsburg Library launch has been postponed due to a mechanical issue with the front door. We are working to correct the door issue and will notify staff when a new launch date is set. In the meantime, please spread the word about Sundays at SPL (especially West County branches)!

TechExchange Partnership

After a successful year of operation, the TechHub program at the San Pablo, Pittsburg, and Walnut Creek libraries is coming to a close. Funded through the

Contra Costa County Innovation Fund and Measure X, the program provided community members with access to one-on-one technology assistance while creating meaningful workforce opportunities for approximately a dozen interns. Throughout the year, these interns gained valuable career and life skills as they supported library customers with their technology needs. On Thursday, June 25, TechExchange hosted a celebration at its Oakland warehouse to recognize the interns and celebrate their many accomplishments and contributions.

While the TechHub program is ending, we will continue our partnership with TechExchange to offer occasional digital literacy classes at our libraries, including opportunities for participants to receive free laptops.

Career Online High School Graduation

Eight students participated in our Career Online High School (COHS) graduation ceremony on May 23rd at the Orinda Library auditorium. The students were from seven cities across the County and were supported by friends and family. This was by far our largest graduating class and was attended by a representative from COHS who drove up from San Diego to participate in the ceremony. Lynn Mackey, Contra Costa County's Superintendent of Schools handed out certificates, and each student received a bouquet of flowers and a gift bag. We also provided each student with a cap & gown. The ceremony was generously funded by the Library Foundation of Contra Costa.