

County Librarian's Report to the Library Commission

Thursday, September 18, 2025

Interim Executive Secretary

Walt Beveridge will be out for several months. During this time Nadia Bagdasar Mills will be filling in as Interim Executive Secretary. Please email her with any Library Commission related items.

Bilingual Spanish Collections Survey

A survey for Spanish language speakers will be administered September 2, 2025 through October 17, 2025. The primary goals of this survey are to identify gaps in the Library's Spanish language collection and to inform Spanish language speakers about available services and resources. The results from the survey will inform future purchases for the Library's Spanish language collection. [Spanish Collection Survey - for Spanish-speaking Cardholders](#)[Encuesta de materiales en Español - para hispano-hablantes](#)

Self-Service Sundays Upcoming Service Changes

Two new locations will be added this fiscal year - San Pablo and Pittsburg Libraries. Beginning in September, patrons 13 and older will be eligible (currently only 18 and older are eligible); however, minors under 18 will need parent/guardian consent, and will not be able to bring in other minors who are not registered. Prior to January 2026, open hours will change from 12:00-4:00 to 12:00-5:00. No later than January 2026 the required orientation session will change from scheduled, in-person sessions to recorded, online sessions.

Crockett Library Change of Saturday Open hours

Starting Saturday, October 4th, the Crockett Library's Saturday open hours will change to 11 a.m.–5 p.m. All other open hours remain unchanged. This adjustment optimizes staffing without reducing total hours open.

Friends Foundation and Commission Forum Keynote Speaker Confirmed

Ashley Stewart from EveryLibrary will be the keynote speaker at the October 4, 2025 Friends, Foundation and Commission Forum. The Forum is an annual event meant to bring together key library stakeholders for learning, information sharing and networking. This year's event will be at the Walnut Creek Library from 8:30-noon. A detailed program will be sent out to all invitees by mid September.

Report from Visioning Conversation for California Public Library Directors

On Wednesday July 9th, I attended a 3-hour strategic and creative thinking session hosted by the CA State Library about the future of libraries in California. It was a special interactive session with the State Librarian and was designed to give library leaders space for a deeper, forward-looking conversation about the future of our libraries. Here is the report from that session.

[Revised_Shaping the Future Conversation Analysis and Recommendations.pdf - Google Drive](#)

New Library Ad Campaign

On August 25, the Library launched a new series of commercials which are airing on cable, video-on-demand and streaming platforms. There are six, 15-second ads in both English and Spanish. The six-month campaign focuses on library services, programs and resources that will bring people physically into library facilities. The ads were filmed at the Walnut Creek and Hercules libraries over two days in July. In addition to airing on popular channels like HGTV, Food Network, TBS and CNN, the ads will also air during four San Francisco Giants games, three Golden State Warriors Games, one 49ers game, one Cal Bears game in primetime, and 20 times during the Winter Olympics in February 2026. The ads are available on our website and on our YouTube channel (@theccclib). There are six English versions and six Spanish versions. You might see some familiar faces!

[English ads](#)

[Spanish ads](#)

Read Contra Costa 2025 Launch

The Contra Costa County Library is excited to announce that "James" by Percival Everett is this year's Read Contra Costa book. The Pulitzer Prize and National Book Award-winning novel is a powerful retelling of Huckleberry Finn from Jim's perspective. The countywide program runs from September 2 to November 8, encouraging all residents to read the same book and share their experiences. The culminating event will be a two-hour event with Percival Everett at Los Medanos College on Saturday November 8th at 11:00 a.m. He will give a 40-minute talk followed by a 20-minute Q&A. Mr. Everett will sign books for an hour after the talk.

You can find "James" in hardback, eBook, and eAudiobook formats. Ebooks and eaudiobooks are available with no wait through Libby. Join the conversation and visit ccclib.org for upcoming events and information on local book clubs. This year, the Contra Costa County Library is proud to partner with Richmond Public Library, Los Medanos

College, Diablo Valley College and Contra Costa College to bring this program to the community. Funding for the November 8th event is generously provided in part by Los Medanos College, The Library Foundation of Contra Costa and the Richmond Public Library Foundation.