County Librarian's Report to the Library Commission
Thursday, May 15, 2025

BUDGET HEARINGS

The Library Department's proposed budget was presented to the Board of Supervisors on Tuesday April 30th. They had a lot of great questions and compliments. They were particularly impressed with the success of the LFCC, who have raised $146,000 through December 2024, almost tripling the amount of Measure X seed money allocated as start up funds to establish the LFCC.

SELF SERVICE SUNDAYS UPDATE

As of this writing, the Concord Library has been open for Self Service for 21 Sundays. Although actual usage has been modest, the service has gone smoothly and there have been no incidents or concerns. We have every intention to continue this service indefinitely and are in the beginning stages of identifying additional potential locations. Marketing efforts have increased and the service is being promoted in all Library branches as well as at Diablo Valley College (thank you Dist. 5 Commissioner Eckert for that excellent suggestion!).

- 106 patrons are currently approved for Self-Service Sundays.
- 5 people are registered for orientations through May 31, 2025
- Actual usage for each open date (only includes cardholders and not any children)

Date	Number of Card Entries		
12/1	4	2/23	3
12/8	3	3/1	4
12/15	1	3/9	4
12/22	0	3/16	7
12/29	1	3/23	7
1/5	0	3/30	8
1/12	2	4/6	6
1/26	2	4/13	4
2/2	3	4/20	6
2/9	0	4/27	6
		5/4	12

On May 1st, a survey was sent to all current Self Service Sundays patrons. The results of the survey will help us evaluate the first six months of Self-Service Sundays and guide future decisions about refining the service and potentially expanding it to other libraries across the county.

FREE NARCAN AVAILABLE TO PUBLIC

The Library is partnering with Bay Area Community Resources (BACR) to provide freely accessible Narcan (Naloxone) to the public. BACR received grant funding to purchase "Naloxone Stand Boxes" (NSBs) to be placed inside the Antioch, Orinda, Pleasant Hill, and San Pablo Libraries. The Narcan is provided at no cost by the CA Department of Health Care Services Naloxone Distribution Project.

NEW TECH EXCHANGE PROGRAM

The Oakland Based non-profit Tech Exchange applied for and received an Innovation Grant of Measure X funds for tech support hubs at 3-4 libraries in Contra Costa County for one year (summer 2025 - summer 2026). One of the hubs will be at the Richmond Public Library. Their hub services will include two Tech Exchange staff interns working two 8-hour days at each location starting this summer. They will provide:

- computer help to library patrons on library computers
- computer help to the public on their personal devices
- hardware help for personal devices
- computer classes for the public
- signups for affordable broadband

We are in the process of determining which branches will host the hubs.

NEW BAY POINT LIBRARY UPDATED TIMELINE

The current estimated timeline for the construction and opening of the new Bay Point Library is as follows:

- December 2025: Building Permit Approval
- Spring 2026: Developer begins construction of library shell and core
- Spring 2027: Developer turns over library space to the County
- Spring 2027: Library tenant improvements begin
- Fall 2028: Library tenant improvements complete, library staff add books and computer equipment
- End of 2028: Library opening day

We are also planning a final community engagement session with Noll and Tam Architects sometime this Fall so we can present the final design of the new library to the community. Exact date and time TBD.

PINOLE LIBRARY FACILITY UPDATES

From February 2026 through November 2026 the Pinole Library will be closed for the following work:

- New HVAC
- New Roof
- Upgraded electrical and lighting
- ADA upgrades to the parking lot

Once the work is completed, the county plans to turn over the title, ownership, and full responsibility of the Pinole Library facility to the City of Pinole. At the completion of all projects, the county will have invested approximately $3.8 million in these upgrades and the facility will be all-electric.

ANTIOCH LIBRARY FACILITY UPDATES

- HVAC system improvement was completed in May 2023.
- The roof was replaced in May of 2024.
- The electrical project has triggered necessary ADA upgrades to the parking lot.
- The parking lot, electrical and lighting upgrades work will begin in Janauray of 2026 and go through November of 2026. The library will be closed to the public during this time.

Once the work is completed, the county plans to turn over the title, ownership and full responsibility of the Antioch Library facility to the City of Antioch. At the completion of all projects, the county will have invested approximately $2.6 million in these upgrades.

PATRON SURVEY

The latest patron survey was sent to all library cardholders 18 years and older on May 1st. The survey will be open through June 8th and was created in partnership with Orangeboy to help focus the Library's goals over the next two years. The survey is available in English, Spanish, and Chinese and is linked to on the Library website homepage. Additionally, all branch service desks are displaying a flyer with a QR code to the survey, and an image with the QR code is rotating on the digital signs at all branches. Printable versions in all three languages are also available.

KENSINGTON LIBRARY HVAC REPAIRED

The Kensington Library reopened on Saturday, March 22 after a brief closure (3/18-3/21) for HVAC maintenance and repairs.

LFCC PROGRAMMING FUNDS

The following branches applied for and received generous funding from the LFCC for in-person library programs and events. Funds must be expended by December 31, 2025. Thank you LFCC!

Crockett	$500.00
Bay Point	$500.00
San Pablo	$1,200.00
Pittsburg	$1,250.00
Concord	$1,250.00
Antioch	$1,100.00
El Sobrante	$1,250.00
Pinole	$1,250.00
Rodeo	$500.00
Oakley	$1,250.00
	$10,050.00

LEASE AGREEMENT WITH CITY OF EL CERRITO

On Tuesday April 1, 2025, the El Cerrito City Council approved the standard Library Lease and Services Agreement with the County. On Tuesday April 15, 2025 the Board of Supervisors also approved it and the lease agreement is now fully executed.

SUMMER READING 2025

Summer Reading will take place from June 2 - August 2 and is called "Level Up at Your Library" (puzzles and games themed). Participants can sign up to participate online via Beanstack, print out their reading passport from our website, or come into a library to pick one up. Everyone who completes summer reading wins prizes, including a free book, and is entered into a drawing for a chance to win more amazing prizes.

LUNCH AT THE LIBRARY

The following libraries will host lunch at their locations in partnership with their local school districts: Antioch, Concord, Crockett, El Cerrito, El Sobrante, Pinole, Rodeo, San Pablo. The Bay Point, Pittsburg and Prewett (Antioch) Libraries will provide library services and programming outside of the libraries at school-sponsored meal sites. Anyone under the age of 18 may participate. Dates and times will vary depending on each school district partner and library open hours.

COMMISSIONERS WITH EXPIRING TERMS

The following commissioners' terms will expire on June 30, 2025. If you are interested in continuing to serve on the Library Commission (and we hope you are!), please work with your appointing body to reapply.

- John Huh
- Dorothy Walker
- Kevin Armonio
- Arnold Fitzpatrick
- Susan Hildreth
- Michael Swernoff

Respectfully submitted by Alison McKee, County Librarian