Mission Branch Library is on Target for an August 2018 Opening

The Library is over halfway done with the renovation on the Mission Branch. The new study rooms have been framed out, the insulation and electrical work are almost done, and patio construction is underway. Work will continue through July, with a grand opening expected in August 2018.

Because we know you want to keep abreast of all the new services, events, and classes and what the state of the construction is, the Library will hold several family-friendly informational events in the park outside the library over the summer. Keep an eye on the city's website and social media accounts for dates and times.

Lastly, we're excited to announce that Justin Wasterlain, a long-time librarian at the Central Park Library, will serve as the Mission Branch supervisor. Justin looks forward to creating a vibrant community library with expanded hours and lots of programs for all ages. He said,

“As a stereotypically bookish kid growing up in Santa Clara, the library was my refuge. I spent countless hours escaping into novels and learning as much as I could about whatever random curiosities were obsessing me at that moment. Over the past 20 years, I've worked for the Santa Clara City Library to ensure that everyone in our community can find that same sense of belonging. As the librarian at Mission Library, I look forward to working closely with the community to create services and collections that will be the educational and creative springboard for everyone that enters its doors.”

Keep your fingers crossed that everything continues to go smoothly with the Mission Branch Library construction, and we hope to see you at one of the informational events happening over the summer!

Expanded Services at the New Mission Branch Library

The new Mission Library staff is designing classes and events that engage and inspire our community. Examples of these programs may include:

CHILDREN & STUDENTS

• Reading programs for preschool and elementary-age children, including specific resources for children from families whose primary language spoken at home is other than English.
• Programs and resources that support and supplement STEM and STEAM emphasis in Santa Clara schools.
• Educational and study skill resources for high school and college students.
• Concerts and cultural events for the whole family.

SENIORS

• Classes for older adults who may need help navigating finances, medical care, and other issues.
• Concerts, cultural events and films.
• Access to, and support of, technology - including computers and Wi-Fi.

ADULTS

• Adult literacy programs.
• Home repair and maintenance workshops for those who live in our area’s more historic homes.
• Courses that teach communication skills, providing increased confidence for those seeking employment and/or wanting to become more active in community affairs.
• Cooking classes for those who wish to explore better nutrition, including the use of organic foods.

INTERNATIONAL FAMILIES

• Classes and resources for adults whose primary language is other than English.
• Workshops providing information about local culture and the many library resources available for immigrants.
Meet Cody Christiaens, Bookmobile Driver extraordinaire

Tell me a bit about yourself. How did you start working at libraries?

Like most staff in libraryland, I grew up a reading enthusiast and collector of knowledge. As a kid I was mostly fond of encyclopedias, dictionaries, and science fiction. In high school, I worked summers at my uncle’s bookstore and dedicated myself to bildungstext. When I got to college, I popped in at the library to see if they were hiring. I never really left. These days, with two small humans at home to chase after, I’m deeply invested in the works of Willems, Holabird, and Peppa Pig. I occasionally get to peek at a collection of humorous essays for myself, usually nodding off after a few pages. Fun fact: The only book I’ve read more than once is *Wuthering Heights*.

I am grateful for the opportunity to work at the Santa Clara City Library. The staff here is uniquely dedicated and deeply talented across the board. It’s like being on a team of library all-stars!

You used to drive the bookmobile for Mountain View Public Library. How did you get to be the Bookmobile Guru?

While at Mountain View, I considered myself to be merely a Bookmobile Apprentice. It was my sandbox. Over the course of 11 years behind the wheel I drilled the basics, learned much from those around me, and helped build the service model that is going to make this bookmobile program one of the best. My motto is: Be nice/Be genuine/Pay attention to the details.

What’s your favorite part about the bookmobile?

The microwave. Kidding! Really though, it’s the people we meet around town. We’ve already had the opportunity to serve so many here in Santa Clara. Students, educators, families, seniors, city employees, and those who visit us at corporate campuses and community events. We’re off to a amazing start, and I expect more great things as we evolve the service.

What’s bookmobile karaoke, how can people find it, and what people/songs are coming up?

We are very grateful to the Foundation & Friends for providing the grant money to get us started! We see Bookmobile Karaoke as a fun way for us to highlight library services, programs, and events. We will post our videos on the library’s Facebook page, and you can expect to see various staff giving it their all. We get to sing a bit and maybe get a little silly, but it’s really about celebrating the library, the staff, and the community. We have a few filmed already and will push them out when we can. I am already excited for our end-of-the-year blooper reel!

Where can people find the bookmobile?

See our current schedule of stops and events online at www.santaclaraca.gov/bookmobile. Honk or wave when you see us around town!

What our volunteers are reading

Our volunteers are a diverse bunch! While they’re from a wide range of cultural, educational, and occupational backgrounds, they’re united in their love of reading and education. Here’s what some of them are reading:

I just finished *A River in Darkness* by Masaji Ishikawa...very suspenseful and sad but I liked it. My husband liked it too—it’s rare to find a book we both like.

“The Real Work: Interviews & Talks 1964-1979” by Gary Snyder. From the library’s collection...

Recently finished ‘*The Great Alone*” by Kristin Hannah. Harrowing, but a good read - hard to put down.

“Aunt Dimity and the Deep Blue Sea” by Nancy Atherton. One of a fun mystery series.


“The Last Days of Night” by Graham Moore. It’s historical fiction. I’m intrigued to know more about what took place decades ago when the electric bulb was invented and how we are where we are. (editor’s note: three different volunteers are reading this book! It must be good.)
Your donations to the Santa Clara City Library Foundation & Friends help pay for many of the Library’s wonderful programs. These classes and events enrich everyone’s lives. If you would like to support us by making a donation, please use the enclosed envelope or visit lovethelibrary.org/donate
Naming Opportunities at Mission Branch Library

You can support the Mission Branch Library by helping to create a fund for classes, events, and other resources. Your donation of any amount can make a big difference. We also have the following naming opportunities available so you can show your Love of the Library.

For more information, please go to LoveTheLibrary.org/mission-library-renovation, or contact Tracy Wingrove at 408-615-2936 or at twingrove@SantaClaraCA.gov.

Showing Mission Library some love

The Mission Branch Library is surrounded by schools. Before it closed last December, the students who frequent the library decorated paper hearts to show their love and appreciation for Mission Branch Library and all it does for the community. Let us share some of them with you!

Support the Foundation & Friends

Have you considered leaving a bequest to the Santa Clara City Library Foundation & Friends in your will? These gifts provide an estate tax deduction and have a tremendous impact on our ability to enrich lives. If you would like information on how to include the Santa Clara City Library Foundation & Friends in your will or estate plan, please contact us at director@lovethelibrary.org or call 408-615-2936.

Opportunities to Support the Library
- Volunteer your time
- Make a monetary donation
- Donate your gently used books and media

Buy Books, Movies, and Music from Us!
- Shop at our bookstore on Amazon. You can find the link at LoveTheLibrary.org
- Browse the Friends Bookstore and Central Park Library.
- Purchase books from the “Book Nook at Northside Library.
- Join us at our monthly book sales at the Central Park Library on the 3rd Saturday of the month!

Letter from the Librarian

Santa Clara is evolving, growing, and increasingly diverse. The Library must keep up with our community.

We are on the move! The Library has brought back the bookmobile to better reach the underserved areas of the city, support local schools, and connect with our corporate neighbors.

More than 55% of new Americans use the public library at least once a week. For many people new to the United States, libraries serve as a gateway to citizenship, offering English language learning, training materials, and resources on immigration and citizenship.

The Mission Branch Library is getting a well-deserved makeover. We’re on schedule for a mid-summer 2018 opening. The Library is so excited the Foundation & Friends has taken on fundraising to pay for furniture and classes and events. I hope you can participate and get your name on the new donor wall!

The Library can be nimble and responsive to the ever-changing community needs and interests with the Foundation & Friends’ support. Please check out our calendar of events at sclibrary.org.

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- Make a monetary donation
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