

## Hercules Library Report, May 2025

### Library Programming & Outreach Staff:

Alison Peters, Library Manager  
Justine Rea, Teens & Adults Librarian  
Katy Buder, Children's Librarian  
Eric Lee, Library Assistant  
Kayla Etheridge, Clerk Specialist  
Ary Rangel, Senior Clerk

### Programs & Activities – Year Round

#### Children's Storytime – every Saturday, 10 & 10:30am

Month	Attendees
January	364
February	428
March	418
April	277

#### Play Pals – 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of the month, 10am

Month	Attendees
January	35
February	38
March	31
April	52

#### Pajama Storytime – Last Wednesday of the month, 6:30pm

Month	Attendees
January	12
February	17
March	27
April	14

#### LEGO Builders Club - 1<sup>st</sup> Thursday of the month, 3pm

Month	Attendees
January	32
February	18
March	27
April	18

#### Chess Club – 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday of the month, 4:15-5:15pm

Month	Attendees
January	19
February	14
March	20
April	18

**Insiders – 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of the month, 11:30-12:30pm**

Month	Attendees
January	10
February	20
March	21
April	39

**Max Meditation – 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of the month, 6-7pm**

Month	Attendees
January	7
February	3
March	4
April	8

**Homework Help – Wednesdays, 3-6pm**

Month	Attendees
January	14
February	33
March	25
April	9

**Senior Center Visits – 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of the month, 12pm**

Month	Attendees
January	25
February	55
March	30
April	Canceled

**School/Class Visits/Outreach**

August: Hercules Middle School @ library	180
September: Learn and Play Montessori	30
September: Ohlone Elementary @ library	65
October: Lupine Hills Elementary @ library	25
October: Ohlone Elementary	84
October: Ohlone Elementary @ library	28
October: Carquinez Middle School	90
October: John Swett High School	64
October: Salesian Prep @ library	35
November: Lupine Hills @ library	26
December: Tiny Tots Preschool	17
December: Hercules High/Middle School	132
December: Health & Wellness Holiday Market	75
January: Lupine Hills Spelling Bee	125
January: Tiny Tots Preschool	30

February: Lupine Hills Black History Month Storytimes	125
February: Senior Center Black History Month Library Visit	28
February: Hercules Middle/High School Book Fair	10
March: Hercules Health & Wellness Fair	105

## March/April Programs Review

**Rebecca Walker Storytime, Saturday March 1, 11am – 117 avid storytimers**



**Reptiles and Amphibians with East Bay Parks, Wednesday, March 19 – 95 snake lovers**



**Homeschool Science Fair, Tuesday, March 25, 1pm - 32 Young Scientists**





**Titan TUNESdays, April 2, 6:30pm – 48 concertgoers**



**Hercules Library Insiders Enjoy The Bubble Lady, Tuesday April 8, 11:30am – 26 Insiders**



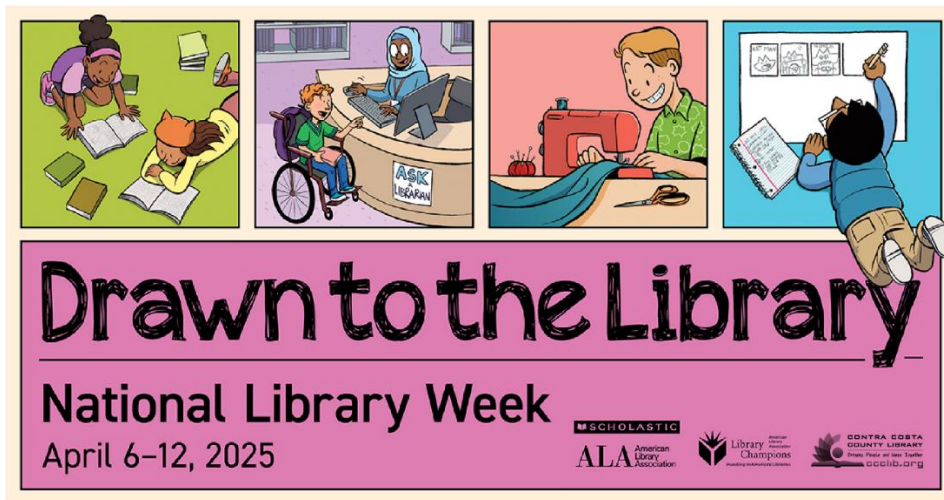


**The Art of Belly Dance for Arab American Heritage Month, Saturday April 19 – 17 Dancers**



**Homeschool Picture Day! April 29, 12:30pm – 47 Homeschoolers & caregivers**





### Hercules Library and the City of Hercules

Hercules is a city-owned library, which means that the County and City share responsibility for the building, staffing, and collection. Contra Costa County supports a minimum of 40 hours of operation per library.

## Partnership Roles

### Cities

- Facility ownership and upkeep
- Utilities and landscaping
- Furniture and shelving
- Certain technology costs
- Extra open hours

### County

- Operations
- Staffing
- Collections
- 40 base open hours
- Most technology

Contra Costa County also provides a collection that includes **one million items** available for physical checkout, over **four million** e-books and audiobooks, **35 electronic resources**, such as movies, newspapers and online learning tools.

**Hercules Library Collection = 44,892 items (Books, Audiobooks, Periodicals, Newspapers)**

### Other County Provided Resources

- Library Administration, which includes back-of-the-house support for computing and networking equipment, hiring and retention, shipping through three delivery routes, budget and finance support, and programs and services designed to meet the specific needs of each community.
- Staffing. At Hercules Library, this includes one Senior Community Library Manager, two Librarians, two Library Assistants, two Clerks, eight part-time Library Aides.



- Computers/Technology and Support. 32 public computers, 5 self-check-out computers, 12 staff computers, 2 printer/copiers, 1 AWE station (children's educational games), 1 scanner.

### Hercules Library Funding – City

Above the base 40 hours paid for by Contra Costa County, the City of Hercules generously supports 6 additional open hours, bringing the total to 46 hours. We are open: Tuesday-Thursday 10am-8pm, Friday/Saturday 9am-5pm.

The City of Hercules is also responsible for facility upkeep, and over the past several years has supported major projects, such as:

- Greening the building's electricity as part of City Engie Energy Conservation Project, 2021
  - Updated library phones and phone systems, 2022
- Hiring KleenTech janitorial services as part of City buildings project, 2023
  - Fixed the Starry Cone flooding/leak, 2024
- Updated the library fireplace with a beautiful safety screen, 2024
- Updated/fixed library HVAC so the library properly heats/cools, 2024

### Contra Costa County Library Funding - Federal

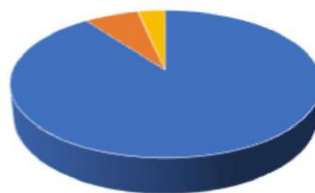
Contra Costa County Library receives very little federal funding. Some federal funds supplement the Library Department's offerings via resources provided by the State Library to all public libraries in California at no cost. These resources include hundreds of free trainings for library staff annually (CALL Academy) and New York Times subscription access for all library card holders (a savings of approximately \$35,000 annually). Additionally, the Library receives federal e-rate reimbursements annually. E-rate provides deep discounts for Internet access.

The library receives approximately \$118,000 annually in reimbursements. Other than those relatively very small amounts, our revenue is derived entirely from local property taxes and extra hours funding from our city partners.

### Contra Costa County Library Funding – County

Contra Costa County Libraries are funded by **1.5% of the 1%** County ad valorem property tax.

FY 24-25 Library Recommended Budget  
Revenue \$43,978,087



Property Tax	\$39,506,021	89.8%
Towns & Cities	\$2,966,130	6.7%
Fines & Fees	\$48,000	.1%
Other	\$1,457,936	3.3%

For the low low price of always free, your library card opens up another world where you can check out 100 books at a time. We do not charge late fees. We do not monitor or judge what you check out and will happily help you research the topic you choose, thoroughly and privately. With your card you can save some money on subscriptions and watch free movies, tv shows, listen to music, download an eBook, get online tutoring, resume and interview assistance, learn a new language, learn how to



fix your car, practice for DMV tests. You can check out and learn to play ukulele, take home a wifi hotspot, learn to code with Raspberry Pi, take home an Outdoor Explorer backpack & visit a State Park or explore a local museum/garden/attraction thanks to Discover and Go.

**Funding Support – The Friends of the Hercules Library & The Hercules Library Foundation**

Based solely on donations and book sales at the Bookstore and two annual book sales, The Friends of the Hercules Library support:

- All Hercules Library Programs – Hercules Library held **364 programs in 2024** and the Friends support totaled **\$12,360**.
- Books for Hercules Collection - **\$14,000 annually**

Based solely on donations from the community, the Hercules Library Foundation pays for:

- Annual Furniture Cleaning – est. **\$1600** to clean the upholstered sofas, chairs, and rugs
- Aunt Flow Period Products - **\$1540** to install four dispensers, **\$150** for period product refills in 2024, and **\$1084** for refills in 2025.
- Burgeon Interactive Play Stars & Planets, for the Starry Cone - **\$3411** in 2024 for the final star in our galaxy.
- New shelving for the YA room - **\$1500** in 2025.
- Other Library hardware requests as necessary.

**Contra Costa vs. Other Bay Area Libraries**

Library	Total number of branches	Library	LIPC-Funding per Person
Contra Costa	26	Alameda	\$64.36
Alameda	12	Contra Costa	\$36.31
Marin	10	Napa	\$91.83
Napa	4	Marin	\$121.29
Solano	9	Solano	\$63.73

## Spotlight On: Contra Costa County Library Annual Report



# CONTRA COSTA COUNTY LIBRARY

## ANNUAL REPORT

### 2024



**2024** was a year of remarkable achievements for the Library. We launched Self-Service Sundays at the Concord Library, allowing the public to access the branch on Sundays when it would normally be closed.

The Rolling Reader celebrated its first full year of service, bringing books, storytimes, and hands-on learning to underserved communities across the county. Exceeding all expectations, the team connected with 13,050 people, distributed 7,136 books, issued 175 new library cards, and traveled 6,285 miles to foster early literacy, fine motor skills, and STEM education.

June marked the 40th anniversary of *Project Second Chance (PSC)*, the Library's adult literacy program. Over four decades, PSC has empowered more than 6,500 adults with the support of over 4,000 trained volunteer tutors. Participants have not only improved their reading skills, but also achieved life-changing milestones, such as earning a driver's license, passing the U.S. citizenship test, and reading to their grandchildren.

Looking ahead, we are setting an ambitious goal: to put a library card in the hands of every third grader in the county. We know that access to books, reading, and literacy lays the foundation for lifelong success, and we are eager to take on this challenge in 2025.

Alison McKee  
County Librarian

### MOST POPULAR BOOKS



EARLY READER

The Thank You Book  
by Mo Williams



TEEN READER

Divine Rivals  
by Rebecca Ross



MIDDLE READER

Dog Man: Twenty Thousand  
Fleas Under the Sea  
by Dav Pilkey



ADULT READER

The Women  
by Kristin Hannah

### BY THE NUMBERS



PressReader  
Articles opened  
693,073  
113.8% increase

East Bay Times  
views  
1,073,794  
8.8% increase

Brainfuse  
HelpNow  
56,892 visits  
67.9% increase

OverDrive / Libby  
2.51M Checkouts  
34.8% increase

\*Percentages are based on increases from 2023 to 2024

### PROGRAMS



	Virtual Programs	In-Person Programs	Total Attendees
Children	19	4,291	258.9K
Teens	11	762	18.1K
Adults	189	1,487	34.5K
All Ages	3	1,202	71.9K
Total	222	6,540	383.4K

### ROLLING READER

Number of Events: **227**  
People Served: **12,842**  
Giveaway books: **7,015**  
Giveaway crafts: **506**  
New Library cards: **177**  
Unique partners: **67**  
Miles travelled: **6,475**



### VISITS



Virtual visits  
6,076,159

In-Person Visits  
2,450,877



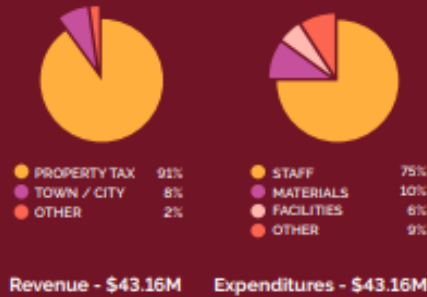
# CONTRA COSTA COUNTY LIBRARY

## ANNUAL REPORT

### 2024



### BUDGET



### VOLUNTEERS

**677**  
volunteers  
**21,105**  
hours served

### MEALS SERVED



**15,669**

\*Free healthy lunch and afterschool meals for children and teens 18 and under.

### COUNTYWIDE READING PROGRAMS

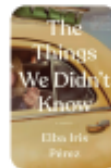


**SUMMER READING**  
**7,881** participants



**COMMUNITY READS FOR KIDS**

**Dogtown**  
by Katherine Applegate and Gennifer Choldenko



**READ CONTRA COSTA**

**The Things We Didn't Know**  
by Elba Iris Perez

### PROJECT SECOND CHANCE Adult Literacy Program

<b>Volunteer Tutors</b>	<b>301</b>
<b>Adult Learners</b>	<b>366</b>
<b>Tutoring Hours</b>	<b>18,200</b>
<b>Met/ Made Progress toward literacy goals</b>	<b>75%</b>

**26**   
**Locations**

**District I  
Supervisor  
John Gloia**  
El Cerrito  
El Sobrante  
Kensington  
Pinole  
San Pablo

**District II  
Supervisor  
Candace Andersen**  
Danville  
Dougherty Station  
Lafayette  
Moraga  
Orinda  
San Ramon  
Walnut Creek\*

**District III  
Supervisor  
Diane Burgis**  
Antioch\*  
Brentwood  
Oakley  
Prewett

**District IV  
Supervisor  
Ken Carlson**  
Clayton  
Concord  
Pleasant Hill  
Walnut Creek\*  
Ygnacio Valley

**District V  
Supervisor  
Shanelle Scales-Preston**  
Antioch\*  
Bay Point  
Crockett  
Hercules  
Martinez  
Pittsburg  
Rodeo

\*Shared library

**MISSION:** Bringing People and Ideas Together

**VISION:** The Contra Costa County Library is the pulse of the community. Working together, we spark imagination, fuel potential, and connect people with ideas and each other.