



City of Alameda, California

November 4, 2025

Dear President Amarasiriwardena and Members of the Library Board,

I write to update you on significant activities occurring at Alameda Free Library in September and October 2025 and inform you of future activities.

PERSONNEL

Staffing Update

The Library will interview for the librarian vacancy at Bay Farm Island Library on November 4. Because the School Resource Services Librarian has accepted a position with another library, the Library hopes to find a suitable candidate for that position from the same recruitment.

Michelle Long started as a Library Aide at Bay Farm Island Library on Monday, October 20.

Classification Revision

On October 8, the Civil Service Board approved revisions to the Library Technician classification, which will now be known as Library Assistant – a title more commonly used in public libraries. The updated job specification reflects the broad variety of duties performed by employees in the classification. Additionally, the job classification is the foundation upon which all full-time library classifications are based.

The Civil Service Board also approved revisions to Senior Librarian, which will now be known as Librarian II. The revised classification reflects the current duties of a supervisor for a branch library or small department. Additionally, the revised classification provides a pathway to promotion that is based on skill rather than educational attainment by permitting people without a Master of Library and Information Science to apply.

Labor Negotiations

As announced by City Manager Ott at the October 7, 2025 City Council meeting, the City will begin bargaining with part-time library workers on salaries, benefits, and terms of employment following their request to join the Alameda City Employees Association this month.

COLLECTION, RESOURCES & SERVICES

Primary Book Vendor Closes

In early October, Baker & Taylor announced that the company would cease operations by the

end of the year after nearly 200 years. Along with Ingram and Brodart, Baker & Taylor was one of three primary companies that supply books to public libraries.

Baker & Taylor was the Library's primary book vendor. While Brodart is the Library's secondary book vendor, the sudden closure of Baker & Taylor means that the Library must reorder all titles previously placed with Baker & Taylor.

Baker & Taylor's closure is a significant event for libraries across the country and its impact will be long lasting. The Library is actively working with alternate suppliers to minimize the impact, but patrons will experience slower arrival times in the coming weeks and months.

New Catalog Interface

The Library will launch a new [catalog interface](#) this month. Overall, the interface is more modern and automatically groups similar titles together. For example, there is one entry for the book *To Kill a Mockingbird*.



The screenshot shows a library catalog entry for the book *To Kill a Mockingbird* by Harper Lee. The entry includes a book cover image, the title, author, and publication information (Published: 2006-2015 | English). Below this, there are tabs for different formats: Book (Available), Large Print (Checked Out), Audio Book on CD (Available), Eaudiobook (Checked Out), and Ebook (Checked Out). A green checkmark indicates the book is 'On shelf at Main Library'. The collection is identified as 'Fic LEE | Collection Fiction'. At the bottom, there are links for 'Main Library', 'Bay Farm Island Library', and 'West End Branch Library', along with a 'Find a copy' button. On the right side, there are buttons for 'Request Any Edition' and 'Find Specific Edition'. The bottom right corner shows '0 holds 4 copies'.

Additionally, patrons may limit search results to what is currently available at the Library or online. The account feature also has an updated look and feel.

PROGRAMS AND EVENTS

Weekly Storytimes

To better serve the community, Library staff now offer the following storytimes.

- Baby & Me – Bay Farm Island Library, Wednesday 10:30 am
- Baby & Me – West End Library, Wednesday, 10:30 am
- Family Storytime – Main Library, Saturday 10:30 am
- Family Storytime – West End Library, Saturday, 10:30 am
- Family Storytime – Main Library, Sunday, 12:30 pm

- Mother Goose on the Loose – Main Library, Thursday 10:30 am
- Mother Goose on the Loose – Main Library, Thursday 1:30 pm
- New Book Storytime – Main Library, Monday 4:00 pm
- Toddler Storytime – West End Library, Tuesday, 10:30 am
- Toddler Storytime – Bay Farm Island Library, Thursday 10:30 am
- Toddler+ Storytime – Bay Farm Island Library, Monday 10:30 am
- Toddler+ Storytime – Main Library, Tuesday 10:30 am
- Toddler+ Storytime – Main Library, Friday 10:30 am

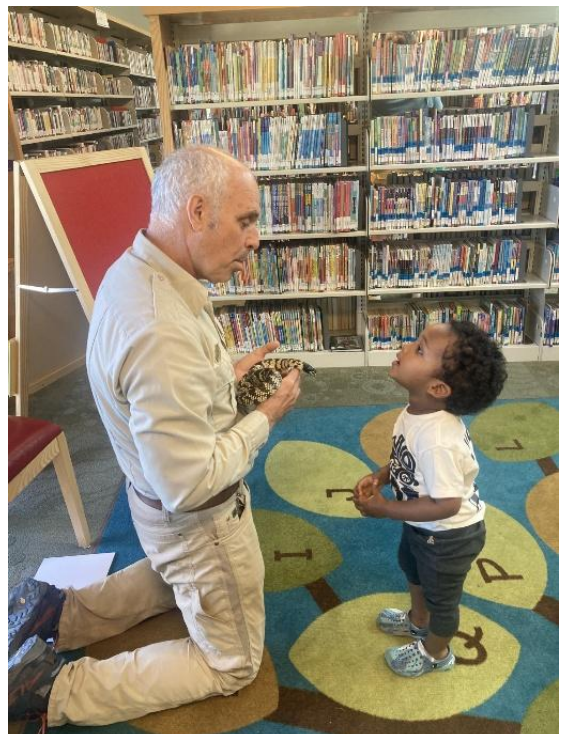
Grandparents Day



On September 6, the Bay Farm Island Library hosted grandparents and grandchildren for an intergenerational program. Grandparents and grandchildren co-created flower pens in vases and two-dimensional homes with windows that opened to family photos taken of participants as they arrived.

Crab Cove Storytime at Bay Farm Island Library

Kevin and Siren the snake from Doug Siden Visitor Center at Crab Cove delighted attendees at a special storytime on September 22.



Malinky Music

As part of Hispanic Heritage Month, Emilia Lopez-Yañez of Malinky Music performed songs in English and Spanish that were enjoyed by kids and adults alike at the Main and Bay Farm Island Libraries. Emilia also taught attendees some Spanish words and invited kids to strum her guitar after the program was over.



DIY Canvas Bag at West End Library

Teens enjoyed decorating their own canvas bags at the West End Library on October 16.



Banned Books Week

In addition to programs highlighting banned books, library workers created informative displays and a banned book scavenger hunt at Bay Farm Island and West End Libraries.



Barangay Dance and Halo-Halo

In celebration of Filipino American Heritage Month, more than 120 people enjoyed a performance of traditional folk dance and music by Barangay Dance Company of San Francisco. After the performance, attendees were treated to Halo-Halo from The Sarap Shop.





Afternoon with Café Ohlone

Thursday, November 13
Main Library, 4:00 PM

Vincent Medina and Louis Trevino present about Ohlone culture past and present and introduce families to traditional Ohlone games. Brownies made with preserved indigenous ingredients will be served while supplies last.

Sogorea Te' Land Trust

Thursday, November 13
Main Library, 4:00 PM

Corrina Gould of Sogorea Te' Land Trust will speak on her organization's history, values, and commitment to uplifting and expanding Indigenous land stewardship on Turtle Island.

Ohlone Star Stories

Saturday, November 22
Bay Farm Island Library, 1:00 PM

Join Cafe Ohlone co-founders and planetarium show developers Vincent Medina and Louis Trevino to hear some Ohlone stories about the stars and learn how to sing a song about stars in Chocheyno, the language of the East Bay Ohlone people. Ages 5 and up.

Storyteller Alicia Retes

Saturday, November 22
West End Library, 2:00 PM

Storytelling artisan and educator Alicia Retes will present an interactive program that includes indigenous stories and songs related to ecological techniques practiced by indigenous peoples

as well as her mobile garden. The program is for all ages.

Other Events

Puppet Art presents The Boy Who Cried Wolf

Saturday, November 15
West End Library, 3:00 PM

Puppet Art returns with a wintry inspired rendition of The Boy Who Cried Wolf. The show is certain to entertain the whole family! Please come early to get a good seat.

Respectfully submitted,
Michael Eitner
Library Director