



# Santa Clara City Library

**A PLACE TO LEARN, CREATE, CONTEMPLATE AND CONNECT**

In 2004, Santa Clara opened the doors of the new Central Park Library. Ten years later, the Library continues to be one of the most utilized, most appreciated community assets in the City. Even if you are a frequent visitor to the Library, you may not be aware of everything it has to offer to residents of all ages. Keep this insert publication to remind everyone in your family that the Santa Clara City Library is there for you in so many ways.

## The Library's changing, surprising place in the digital age

In the mid 1990s, when people first began to learn about and use the World Wide Web for communication and research, some predicted the Internet would make libraries obsolete.

Actually, the opposite has proven to be true. More than ever before, individuals are relying on public libraries and professional library staff to help them sort through the overwhelming information that pours forth from every search engine.

This doesn't mean the Library hasn't changed. It has kept up with – and in many cases been one step ahead of – the technology innovations that have revolutionized how we access, process and share information.

Some of the Library's most popular items are not on shelves along with books, periodicals, CDs and DVDs. The Library's website is a portal to thousands of eBooks, downloadable audio books, digital magazines, research databases, and other online resources, such as language learning courses and homework help. More than 770,000 visitors log on to the Library's website each year.

Surprising as it may be, not everyone has a computer or smart phone and not everyone has access to a high speed Internet connection. Those are two reasons why the Library's 90 public



computers are usually so busy. Patrons can use these computers to browse the Internet, use word processing and other office software, scan and print documents, and more.

For those who would like help in improving computer skills, the Library offers basic computer classes and there are drop-in labs where patrons can bring questions and receive one-on-one help.



### Annual visitor count at Santa Clara Library

1994-95		652,216
2012-13		1,449,103

### Annual circulation at Santa Clara Library

1994-95		1,131,044
2012-13		2,525,555

### Program attendance at Santa Clara Library

1994-95		19,855
2012-13		35,515

## New Northside Library

A branch library to serve people who live and work north of Bayshore has long been a dream of Santa Clara residents. A beautiful new 17,000-square-foot library is still under development in the Rivermark community, adjacent to Don Callejon School.

The new branch will feature a starting collection of about 54,000 items, 40 public computers, group study rooms, a community room large enough to accommodate 125, free WiFi, a computer training room and plenty of comfortable seating. It will also contain a small bookstore operated



by the Friends of the Library, with proceeds dedicated to additional library enhancements.

Information about the opening date and hours of operation will be posted on the City's website as soon as details are known.

## We've got an app for that!

Wherever you and your smart phone should wander, a free mobile app can help you quickly and conveniently access services from the Santa Clara City Library.

The app allows you to search the catalog, place requests, manage your account, check out eBooks and digital audiobooks through Overdrive, and obtain information about Library events, news, and hours of operation.



Another feature of the app lets you scan the barcode of a book to determine if the Library carries it in its collection. And if you are in the Library, you can scan a book to check it out without using the self-check machine or standing in line for staff assistance.

Apple users can download the app for their iPhones and iPads in the iTunes App Store. Android users can download the app from the Amazon App Store or from the Library web page [Library.SantaClaraCA.gov](http://Library.SantaClaraCA.gov).

## A family's best friend – the Library

From help with last minute homework assignments to free entertainment and fun events, the Santa Clara City Library can be a family's best friend.

Children who are introduced to the joys of reading early in life, and those who visit the library frequently have a head start in school



and getting ready for a productive career. All ages, from babies through toddlers to school-age and teens, are welcome at the Library where a significant amount of space is dedicated to serving their needs.

Family events are offered frequently and the Library's collection includes a wide range of books, movies and music. All can be accessed at no cost, allowing families to explore and enjoy without breaking open the piggybank.

The Library website contains information on all programs and services, such as these popular activities:

### Summer Reading Program

"I'm bored!" How many days after school is out do parents begin to hear this lament? One

way to keep summertime boredom at bay is the Library's annual Summer Reading Program. Between June and August, youngsters are invited to keep a reading log that they can turn in for a prize. Special activities for different age groups keep children, teens and adults coming to the Library for fun and excitement.

## Library is safe, welcoming environment for teens



Santa Clara is fortunate to have many public recreation and sports facilities serving youth, but the Library holds a special place of importance in the lives of our teens. It is a place where they are welcome alone or in groups ... where they can be quiet or actively involved ... where they can explore new ideas and dream about their future.

The Library offers a dynamic schedule of activities for teens, including movie nights, videogame tournaments, crafting programs, art and poetry contests, scavenger hunts, and a popular summer reading program.

School is the centerpiece of teen life and the Library supports students with a variety of services designed to help them achieve academic excellence, such as prep sessions for college entrance exams, online homework help, and interactive tools to assist with research and learning of difficult concepts.

## ONLINE Homework Help

Brainfuse is a free, live, online homework assistance service on the Library's website that provides students in grades 3-12 with access to one-on-one tutoring in English and Spanish from 4-10 p.m. daily. A wide variety of subjects are available, including math, science, social studies and English/language arts, plus skill building exercises and a 24-hour writing lab. There is no limit on the amount of tutoring that one student can access.

Best of all, teens feel comfortable in the Library and – hopefully – begin a habit of learning and thoughtful reading that will help them with their careers and personal interests throughout their lives.



## What you should know about a Santa Clara City Library Card



- It's free!
- You do not need a Library card to use materials in the Library – only if you want to check items out or access some online Library services.
- You can complete the application in person or online.
- You will need a valid government issued photo identification, but you do not have to live in the City of Santa Clara.
- Parents or guardians must accompany children under 17 who want a library card.
- Library card holders are eligible for free and discounted passes to local museums and cultural institutions through the Discover & Go program.
- Using your library card, you can access 39 online Library databases from home, such as ReferenceUSA, Brainfuse (homework help), Mango Languages, and Heritage Quest.

## Support the Library as a volunteer

More than 250 residents volunteer about 15,000 hours each year at the Santa Clara City Library – but there is always a need for more. Volunteer opportunities include delivering books and other library materials to homebound residents, sorting materials on carts, shelving books and videos, and straightening shelves. Individuals who have some experience with family history research are needed to help beginning genealogists locate materials in the Library's Heritage Pavilion collection. For information on how to become a volunteer, call 408-615-2919.

Volunteers are also the heart and soul of the Santa Clara City Library Foundation and Friends, a nonprofit

organization that raises funds to support Library programs, primarily through the sale of donated used books. The Friends hold book sales on the third Saturday of the month and operate the Friends Bookstore in the Central Park Library. To get involved, visit [LoveTheLibrary.org](http://LoveTheLibrary.org).



### Story Times

Some of the most popular programs at the Library are the weekly story times for different ages, when children, parents and sometimes grandparents nestle down in a comfortable, distraction-free environment to enjoy listening to a good story read aloud.

Reading aloud to children has been found to help them later succeed in school. It stimulates their brain development and they learn listening, social and pre literacy skills while building a bigger vocabulary.

Story time dates and times are listed on the Library website. At home, parents can take a break from reading aloud by accessing more than 1,000 online books for kids, some of which are interactive.

## History Highlights of Santa Clara Library

### 1903

Population in Santa Clara is about 3,650. Local library club and reading room book collections are consolidated in a "library" housed in the Franck building located on Franklin Street, supervised by Town Trustees.



Santa Clara's first Public Library on the second floor of the Franck Building, 1047 Franklin St.

### 1914

The town's library moves into second floor space in a recently completed Town Hall, located at Franklin and Washington streets.

### 1955

Population in Santa Clara grows to more than 30,000. Santa Clara's first stand-alone library building opens in City Plaza Park at Main and Lexington streets. The 7,900 square foot building cost \$100,000 to construct with a capacity of 30,000 books. (This building now serves as the Mission Library Family Reading Center.)



The Library massive card catalog was replaced in the 1990s with online computer access.

### 1960

The Library acquires a \$16,000 bookmobile and begins providing bookmobile service to outlying neighborhoods. (Bookmobile service was discontinued in 2003.)

### 1967

Population is now past 83,000. The Central Library, designed by architect Edward Durrell Stone, opens with a book collection of about 85,000 volumes.

### 1980

The Central Library is rededicated after a remodeling project that adds 12,000 square feet, bringing its total size to 44,000 square feet.

## Getting a job, moving ahead in career is aided by Library resources

The knowledge a jobseeker can claim on a resume is just one type of information that is needed to be successful in finding employment.

An applicant needs to know who is hiring, what talents they are looking for, and as much background as possible about the industry and the specific business before walking through the door for an interview.



The Santa Clara City Library is a convenient and reliable place to access this information – to find a job, upgrade skills, or explore new career options. In addition to books, DVDs and research databases, the Library frequently hosts workshops on how to write a resume, find job leads, interview effectively, and network.

## 'Sustainable U' speaker amazed at what she saw at the Library

Becky Herbert of the Eating with the Seasons organization had not been in any library for quite awhile, so her recent visit to the Central Park Library to give a presentation amazed her. Her experience is not unique. Every week, Library staff members welcome first-time visitors who are astounded at the resources available and at the number of people who make the Library part of their regular routine.

*"I hadn't been to a library in ages, and I wasn't sure who would gather at a library on a Tuesday night to hear what I had to say. As I walked into the building, I was overwhelmed by my surroundings. The place was bustling with activity. A line of people with multiple books stood in line to get checked out. An entire wing of the facility was the children's section complete with gorgeous desks filled with kids doing their homework. Everyone was so gracious and helpful. All I could think is that if I didn't love my job, I'd want to work here."*

Becky's presentation was one of many "Sustainable U" activities at the Library designed to educate the public about living a more environmentally friendly life, understanding where food comes from, and learning new skills for a healthy existence. "Sustainable U" is funded by a \$50,000 grant from the federal Library Science and Technology Act.



This display about growing and eating fresh local produce was one of many things that impressed Becky Herbert when she came to the Library.

## Reference librarians hear it all

Every year, reference librarians at Santa Clara City Library receive more than 175,000 questions from the public. They range from students asking for recommendations of books to read for a class assignment, to advice on what key words to use in a search engine, to requests for help in finding where in the Library to go to browse for materials of personal interest.



Some questions are life-changing, such as the newly diagnosed cancer patient who wants to find out about the latest treatments for the disease, or the person who has just lost a job and doesn't know how to apply for unemployment. As one librarian noted, "When I think of all the people I have helped in 18 years, the ones I mostly recall are those in need. This is what public libraries are for."

Reference librarians also get humorous and unexpected inquiries, such as these:

- Do you have a biography on Mother Nature?
- Can you help me find the green book with the dinosaur on it?
- What animal is Naugahyde made from?
- Where would I find a photo of the underground railroad?
- Is the "Wizard of Oz" fiction or non-fiction?
- How do you get red paint out of a carpet?

Reference librarians can be accessed in person at the Library, by phone at 408-615-2900 during Library hours, or the Library website through the Ask A Librarian service that promises a response within two business days.

## Literacy program helps adults improve their reading skills

It is estimated that 16% of adults in Santa Clara County have below basic skills in reading and writing. They are functionally illiterate, meaning that they have trouble with everyday tasks like reading a map, filling out a job application or following instructions on medications.

Read Santa Clara is an adult and family literacy program at the Santa Clara City Library. It offers free, confidential, one-on-one and small group tutoring to adults who wish to improve their basic reading, writing or math skills.

Each year, many of the individuals whose lives have been changed with improved literacy write about their experiences. Their stories are published in a book called "In Our Own Words."

For more information on Read Santa Clara, call 408-615-2956.



Rejoyce meets with a Read Santa Clara volunteer tutor every week. "It took me until the age of 57 before I told anybody I couldn't read," she said. "Now I'm getting help and not ashamed to tell people that this is my story."

## Library wins national award for job skills program

The Santa Clara Public Library received the national John Cotton Dana Library Public Relations Award in 2013 for its innovative program to train food service employees so that they could qualify for a new state-mandated Food Handler Certificate.

The Library offered 26 food handler classes resulting in 130 individuals receiving certification. It also assisted more than 550 people at job workshops and held a job fair attended by 13 companies and 375 potential job seekers.

The prestigious award, which comes with a \$10,000 grant that the Library will use for more job skills development programs, is sponsored by the American Library Association, H.W. Wilson Foundation and EBSCO Publishing.

## UNUSUAL THINGS you can check out of the Library

**Chromebooks** – Check out this personal computing device to browse the web or access cloud computing or web applications. Chromebooks do not run software or store files, but offer fast and simple online access.

**Kill A Watt meter** – Take home this handy gadget for a few days to check how much electricity the appliances in your home are using, even if they're not turned on.

**Seeds** – "Borrow" seeds for fruits and vegetables at the Library and return your own harvested seeds to be used by another gardener. Classes at the Library taught by Master Gardeners help patrons develop a green thumb.

**Security engraver** – Use the Library's engraver to personalize your valuables for added security. Marking your property makes stolen goods more difficult to sell and increases the chance you'll have your belongings returned if they are taken. (Do NOT use your social security number!)

**Able Kits** – Games and books for students and adults with emotional, developmental and/or communicative disabilities can be checked out to provide learning and fun. The kits were funded by the Foundation and Friends.

## Genealogy collection one of largest in the region

One of the most extensive collections of genealogy (the study of family history) materials in the region is contained in the Heritage Pavilion of the Central Park Library.

In addition to maintaining these resources helpful to anyone trying to trace the history of family members, the Library partners with the Santa Clara County Historical and Genealogical Society to offer a variety of classes and trainings on how to find records and chart family relationships.

The materials are also of interest to anyone who would like to learn more about local and state history.

## City's diversity reflected in Library collection, services



91,323 -- that's the number of non-English books, magazines, CDs and DVDs available for check out at the Santa Clara City Library. There are materials in Chinese, French, German, Hindi, Italian, Japanese, Korean, Portuguese, Punjabi, Russian, Spanish, and Vietnamese to serve our diverse community.

The Library also offers an ESL (English as a Second Language) conversation club and a Chinese Book Discussion Group. Those who want to learn a foreign language can get started with online language programs, such as Mango Languages and Powerspeak.

The Language Line Service at the Library provides over-the-phone interpretation in more than 140 languages, from Afrikaans to Yoruba.

## Collaboration leads to Health and Wellness collection

A collaboration between Kaiser Permanente and Santa Clara City Library Foundation & Friends began in 2004 with Kaiser's generous donation of \$80,000 to the Library for the creation of a Kaiser Health and Wellness Collection. Kaiser Permanente provides \$15,000 per year to keep this collection up-to-date with new resources and to support health-related programs, such as speakers and workshops. The collection includes nonfiction books in English and non-English languages, and DVDs.

To feature the popular Kaiser Collection, the Library periodically creates displays of books and flyers on health and wellness and medical topics. In 2013, for example, displays included: "Walking—Get Active," "Rethink Your Drink and Healthy Eating," and "Stop Bullying/Stop Violence." New materials added to the Kaiser Collection that year focused on disease prevention and treatment, exercise, nutrition, and healthy relationships.



### Central Park Library

2635 Homestead Rd.  
408-615-2900  
Mon., Tues.: 10 a.m. – 8 p.m.  
Wed. – Fri.: 10 a.m. – 6 p.m.  
Sat.: 10 a.m. – 5 p.m.  
Sun.: 1 p.m. – 5 p.m.



### Mission Library Family Reading Center

1098 Lexington St.  
408-615-2964  
Mon – Tues: 1 p.m. – 6 p.m.  
Wed: 12 noon – 8 p.m.  
Thurs: 10 a.m. – 6 p.m.  
Fri – Sun: Closed



### Northside Library

695 Moreland Way  
Under construction



Santa Clara Public Library

