



City Manager Lorie Tinfow contributes a monthly column to the *Pacifica Tribune* to connect with local residents and keep Pacificans informed on issues that are of current interest in the City of Pacifica. Below is the submission for the December 2, 2015 edition of the *Pacifica Tribune*, which focuses on planning for a new Pacifica library.

The City Moves Forward with Planning for a New Pacifica Library

At its last meeting, the Pacifica City Council unanimously voted to continue progress toward building a new library. Specifically, it approved the steps necessary to prepare for a bond measure to pay for the new library, with the intention of placing the measure on the November 2016 ballot. A copy of the full report and presentation can be found on the New Pacifica Library webpage on the City's website.

This action is just the latest taken by a Pacifica City Council in favor a new library—the first was in 1999, when the Council seated at that time approved joining the San Mateo County Library Joint Powers Authority. This action pooled resources among eleven cities and the County to create robust library operations that benefited from sharing staff resources and other economies of scale. The JPA's stated vision was for one well-supported library for each community and by joining, Pacifica acknowledged the expectation that we would eventually consolidate our two libraries into one.

Today, most communities served by SMC Library JPA have libraries that are open 60 hours per week with state-of-the-art programs, materials and activities. In Pacifica's case, the 60 hours are split between two libraries, and the programs and services offered are constrained by the small size and inadequate functionality of the two facilities. Even so, almost 60% of Pacifica residents hold library cards and check out more than 290,000 items annually. The libraries also host more than 175,000 visits a year.

Since 1999, the City of Pacifica has worked with our community partners—Pacifica Friends of the Library, Pacifica Library Foundation, SMC Library JPA, and San Mateo County—on various planning efforts. These include completing a Library Needs Assessment to determine the library functions and services needed by our community to support life-long learning, and completing the Conceptual Design to begin envisioning how the new library will work.

Over that same timeframe, library services have evolved to match the Information Age and, in some cases, to bridge the "digital divide" by providing some users their sole access to computers. Librarians have evolved as well; they are now navigators for the Information Age.

Modern library buildings have evolved too and are now designed with flexible space that can be reconfigured to meet shifting needs. New buildings also operate more efficiently. With more space for automated handling of materials and more self-check machines, a relatively small number of staff can operate a new larger library. In addition, "green" features such as daylight harvesting lighting systems are standard.

But don't take my word for it; visit a new modern library—Millbrae, Belmont, and Burlingame are a few nearby. Check out the meeting spaces, the programs and services (including 3-D printing at some), the variety of available items (not just books but also CDs, DVDs, audio books, etc.), and the number of open hours. With your support, these same library services can also be in Pacifica's future.

To learn more, visit these online resources: City of Pacifica's New Pacifica Library webpage, the Pacifica Library Foundation, and the SMC Library JPA.
