



SAN RAFAEL

LIBRARY AND RECREATION

CHECK IT OUT

LIBRARY NEWSLETTER

JANUARY 2026

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LOVE YOUR LIBRARY

SAN RAFAEL PUBLIC LIBRARY

You Love Your Library and It Shows!

This past year was one of change, creativity, and deep community connection, and it showed in how you used your library. While our Downtown Library operated from a temporary Pop-Up location on 4th Street, our Pickleweed and Northgate branches remained active community hubs, together ensuring library services stayed accessible and welcoming across the city.

In a city of nearly 60,000 residents, more than 32,000 library cardholders made the most of what the library has to offer. Across all locations, you checked out more than 379,000 items, connected with library staff for nearly 39,000 questions and research needs, and helped share our collections far beyond our city through 21,000 interlibrary loans. Programs also brought people together in big ways, with 503 programs offered and 17,406 attendees gathering for storytimes, workshops, author talks, and community events for all ages.

Taken together, these numbers tell a powerful story. Whether you visited us at the 4th Street Pop-Up, stopped by Pickleweed or Northgate, or connected with us online, you showed that the library is more than a building, it's a shared community space powered by curiosity, learning, and fun. Thank you for loving your library this year. We can't wait to keep that love growing in the year ahead.

Quick Highlights



31

San Rafael Public Libraries will be closed on **Monday, January 19th** for **MLK Day Holiday**



SRPL invites you to write a letter to your future self! Pick up a set of stationery at our Downtown and Northgate libraries; we've got different sets for all ages, from little ones to adults. Once your letter is ready, return it to us sealed in the envelope, self-addressed, that we provide, and we'll do the rest! Your letter will arrive in one year.



The San Rafael Library invites the community to volunteer for the Reading Buddies program. Volunteers support children in developing their reading skills and help foster a love of books in a positive environment. No prior experience is required—just an interest in working with children and enjoying reading.

If you are interested or would like more information, please contact please contact Alejandra Barrios at Alejandra.Barrios@cityofsanrafael.org



While the Pickleweed Library is being remodeled, staff will be available at the **Albert J. Boro Community Center's** front desk on **Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays**, from 9:00AM to 5:00PM for basic services.



Hey teens, there are **free** after school snacks available at the **Downtown Library's** Teen area! Monday–Friday 2:30 PM–4:30 PM. For ages 12–18.



SRPL is joining forces with Zero Waste Marin and Reuse Alliance is bringing back the **Repair Fair** to the San Rafael Community Center. Saturday, January 10 from 1pm-4pm. **Registration is required.**

[More Info](#)

You can now get eBooks and eAudiobooks with

ZIP BOOKS

Your library delivered

[Read Here](#)

Program Spotlight



San Rafael Public Library

AFTERSCHOOL HOMEWORK HELP FOR TEENS

Mondays and Wednesdays

Downtown San Rafael Library | [1100 E Street](#)

3:00 PM–5:00 PM

Drop-in program with the teen librarian who is available to assist with homework. We will have after school snacks, school supplies, games and crafts!

[Learn More](#)



Wednesday, January 21

Downtown San Rafael Library | [1100 E Street](#)

2:00 PM–3:30 PM

Join us every 3rd Wednesday of the month in the program room to explore and connect with other Pokémon trainers. **For Ages 8-12.** Please note there will be **no card trading** during this program.

[Learn More](#)



Friday, January 23

12:30 PM–4:00 PM

Member Preview

11:00 AM–12:30 PM

Saturday, January 24

10:00 AM–3:30 PM

Half Price Sale

Starts at 2:30 PM

Downtown San Rafael Library | [1100 E Street](#)

Don't miss this beloved sale featuring rare and special books published between 1790 and 1950—perfect for collectors, artists, designers, and book lovers of all kinds. Offerings include history, western history, large-format art books, poetry (including local beat poets), spirituality, vintage cookbooks, ephemera, sheet music, classic music, classic CDs, and more.

[Learn More](#)



Wednesday, January 28

Downtown San Rafael Library | [1100 E Street](#)

3:30 PM–4:30 PM

Are you interested in finding a new hobby? Ready to explore what you can make with your hands? Looking for things to do outside of playing video games or using a computer?

Join us for an afternoon craft activity, where you can explore a new craft or work on an ongoing project in the Program Room. **For children ages 7-12.**

[Learn More](#)



Saturday, January 31

Downtown San Rafael Library | [1100 E Street](#)

10:00 AM–12:00 PM

The San Rafael Public Library and Marin Master Gardeners present a Community Seed Swap. Attendees are invited to bring and exchange seeds, learn about spring edible and pollinator planting from the Marin Master Gardeners. Also, join us in celebrating our new seed library!

[Learn More](#)



Saturday, January 31

Downtown San Rafael Library | [1100 E Street](#)

1:30 PM–2:30 PM

Join us as we go beyond the bookshelves and discover the powerful digital library you can access for **free** with your library card!

[Learn More](#)

Ongoing Programs

Books Beyond Borders



Club de Lectura Sabores Literarios



ESL Club





MARIN MASTER GARDENERS





STORYTIME!



Zen-tangle



[See More](#)

Tech Assistance

DROP-IN TECH HELP

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AYUDA TECNICA

EN LA BIBLIOTECA PICKLEWEED



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Learn a new language with real TV!



The New York Times





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Need a Library Card?

Don't miss out on everything San Rafael Public Library has to offer. Sign up for your Library Card today!

[Get Started](#)

Friends of the Library

Special thanks to the Friends of the San Rafael Public Library for supporting the programming at all San Rafael Public Libraries!

[Learn More](#)

Connect With Us



srpubliclibrary.org | library@cityofsanrafael.org

Downtown Library

1109 E St.

415.485.3323

Pickleweed Library

50 Canal St.

415.485.3483

Northgate Library

5809 Northgate Dr. Ste. 083

415.890.5670