

CHECK IT OUT

LIBRARY NEWSLETTER

APRIL 2026

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LOVE YOUR LIBRARY

SAN RAFAEL PUBLIC LIBRARY

Every Story Counts – Survey Results!

Every Story Counts is a statewide survey initiative that helps libraries better understand how people use and value their local libraries. Over the course of one week, 170 community members shared feedback online and in person, giving us a meaningful snapshot of how the library shows up in everyday life – input that helps guide planning, strengthen advocacy, and ensure services reflect real community needs.

The results affirm that San Rafael Public Library is a vital, everyday resource. More than 95% of respondents said they use the library to borrow materials, from books and movies to eBooks and park passes, while many others rely on it for information, quiet workspaces, programs, and essential services like printing or checking email. Respondents consistently highlighted that the library is free, welcoming, and accessible to everyone – a calm, comfortable place with trusted resources, friendly staff, beloved children's programs, and easy access to materials both in person and online. Every story shared helps shape the future of San Rafael Public Library and reminds us why there's so much to love about your library.

[Read More](#)

Quick Highlights

- National Library Week is April 20-25. Stay tuned to see out what we have planned for you!
- While the Pickleweed Library is being remodeled, staff will be available at the [Albans L. Esso 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.
- During the month of April we are celebrating Southwest Asian and North African (SWANA) Heritage Month. Read our [blog post](#) to explore our librarian curated book lists, or stop by the library to browse our collections that highlight SWANA authors and creators.



The City of San Rafael is gifted with a vibrant community of library supporters! To celebrate our community's love of the library, we are launching an art contest which will feature the winners work on our Summer Reading Prizes. Artists of all ages are invited to submit their original works in the sticker design contest. Additionally, artists 13+ are invited to submit their original works in the tote bag design contest!

Visit our website or stop by one of the San Rafael Public Libraries to pick up an application form. The contest closes Monday, April 27th. Winners will be announced on Monday, May 4th!

[Learn More](#)



Unlock The Atlantic, Bloomberg Businessweek, and Consumer Reports on Flipster

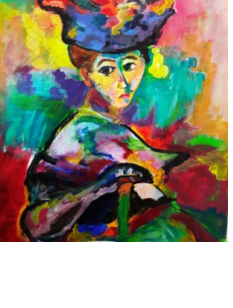
We are expanding our digital magazine collection to bring you even more value. You might already know that your San Rafael Public Library card gives you free access to **Consumer Reports** on the **Flipster app** or **website**. Now, we are adding **The Atlantic** and **Bloomberg Businessweek** to that same collection. The Atlantic provides crucial context for national politics, culture, and current events. Bloomberg Businessweek delivers the global financial trends you need to understand their impact on local business. Access this premium journalism today and skip the subscription fees entirely. **Available on your computer or mobile device.**

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Program Spotlight

FIRST WEDNESDAY ART TALK

Wednesday, April 1
San Rafael Downtown Library | [1100 E Street](#)
1:00 PM–2:00 PM



Henri Matisse's *Femme au Chapeau*, a portrait of his wife Amélie in a truly revolutionary hat. It is also the first and most fabulous work of Fauvism. Learn more about the painting's genesis, the world in which it was created, and the decade that shook the world.

Please note, this month's program will be held in the Carnegie Room of the Downtown Library.

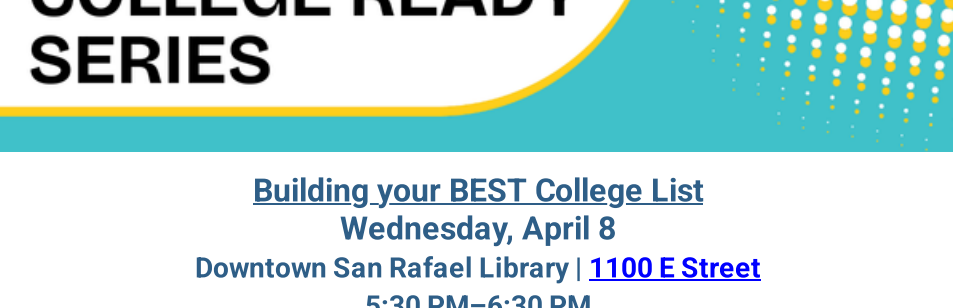
[Learn More](#)



Friday, April 3
San Rafael Downtown Library | [1100 E Street](#)
2:00 PM–3:30 PM

In Part 2 we will learn how to get more accurate results from generative AI, how to check answers, and how to spot common mistakes (including "confident-sounding" misinformation). We'll also cover privacy basics—what to share, what not to share—and simple habits that help us stay secure while using AI in daily life. No prior attendance required to join Part 2. All adults welcome to drop-in. Questions or want a reminder? Contact [Javier Morales](#)

[Learn More](#)

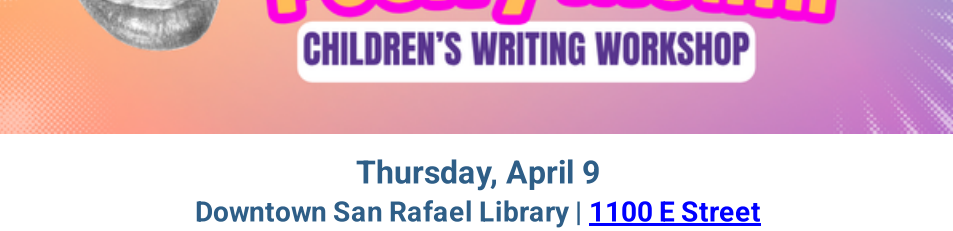


Building your **BEST** College List
Wednesday, April 8
Downtown San Rafael Library | [1100 E Street](#)
5:30 PM–6:30 PM

Are you a Junior in Highschool? Come learn how to create a balanced college list and discover resources to help you find schools that truly fit you.

This step-by-step workshop series helps juniors understand the admissions process, build a strong college list, and prepare competitive UC applications.

[Learn More](#)



Thursday, April 9
Downtown San Rafael Library | [1100 E Street](#)
2:00 PM–3:00 PM

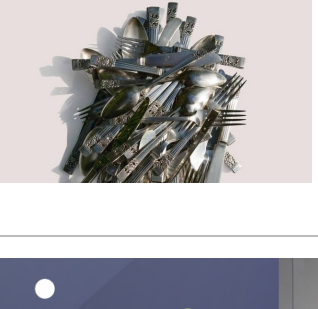
Are you a budding poet? Come bloom with us in a spring break workshop led by librarian and California Poets in the Schools teacher **Lea Aschkenas**. We'll engage our creativity as we play with words and poetic techniques to create a one-of-a-kind poem to take home.

For children ages 8-11.
For more information, email [Lea Aschkenas](#)

[Learn More](#)



En este club de lectura leeremos libros de autores de todo el mundo hispanohablante y nos reuniremos cada dos meses para tener una conversación amigable.



Jueves, 16 de abril
Biblioteca Central San Rafael | [1100 E Street](#)
6:30 PM–7:30 PM

En esta reunión discutiremos el libro: **Clara y confusa** por **Cynthia Rinsky**. En la Biblioteca Central te proporcionaremos una copia del libro (hasta agotar existencias).

[Más Info](#)



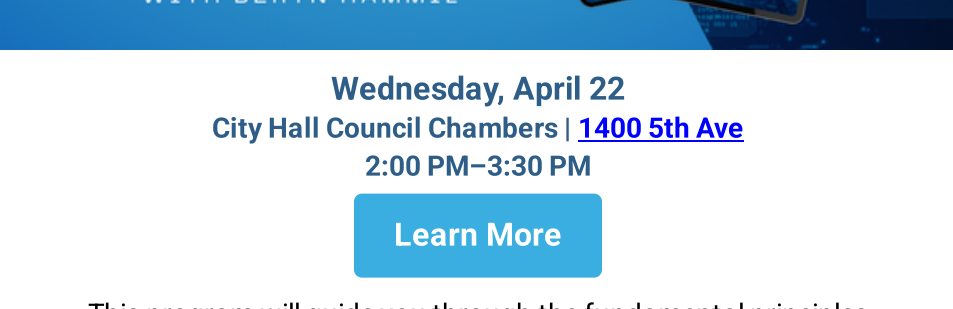
Saturday, April 18
Downtown San Rafael Library | [1100 E Street](#)
6:30 PM–8:15 PM

Through intimate stories, creative collaborations, and archival history, filmmaker Julie Wyman searches for her place in the little people community as she asks whether society should change people or the structures that limit them.

Discussion will follow.

This film hasn't been rated, but it is recommended for adults 18+.

[Learn More](#)



Wednesday, April 22
City Hall Council Chambers | [1400 5th Ave](#)
2:00 PM–3:30 PM

[Learn More](#)

This program will guide you through the fundamental principles of safeguarding your personal information online to prevent you from becoming a victim of scams.

Learn how to protect your identity and your money.

Ongoing Programs

[See More](#)

Tech Assistance

with Beryn Hammil

Most Tuesdays
2:00PM–3:30PM
via Zoom

Free With Your Library Card

[See More](#)

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

[spubliclibrary.org](#) | [library@cityofsanrafael.org](#)

Downtown Library 1100 E St. 415.485.3323	Pickleweed Library 50 Canal St. 415.485.3483	Northgate Library 5800 Northgate Dr. Ste. 083 415.897.5670
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