

GUEST COLUMN

5 things for June at Monterey County Free Libraries branches

BY BE ASTENGO
MANAGING LIBRARIAN, MCFL

Happy June! At Monterey County Free Libraries (MCFL), we are really excited because it's time for the Summer Reading Club. Summer is the best time of year at the library since we have so many fun programs and prizes.

1. When you sign up for the Summer Reading Club, you get a free book and a reading log or reading challenge card to start your reading journey. Any book you read or audiobook that you listen to counts toward your summer reading goals. For kids, the goal is to read 20 minutes a day. After a total of six hours of reading, you can come back to the library for your finisher prize. Participants can also sign up on Beanstack and track their reading online. Programs for the Summer Reading Club

with music, drumming, magic and more start the second week of June. Look on the Events Calendar or the Summer Reading Club page at mcfl.org to see the dates and times for programs at a branch near you.

2. In addition to the Summer Reading Club, most MCFL branches will be serving Lunch at the Library at least one time per week this summer, with nutritious lunches for children 18 and under and fun activities. Check the Events Calendar or the Lunch at the Library page for details.

3. The resource of the month for June is Transparent Languages. This is a great way to start learning a new language for your trip to Mexico or France this summer. Did you know that Transparent Languages has an app? This makes it easy to take language learning with

you wherever you go, on your smartphone or tablet. Download the app from your app store and sign up with your library card for free language learning.

4. In June, we celebrate Pride month to lift the voices of LGBTQ authors. Each Tuesday, we will feature an LGBTQ author on our Facebook and Instagram pages. Also look for displays and activities at your local branch to celebrate Pride.

5. On Thursday, June 19, all libraries will be closed in recognition of Juneteenth, which marks the end of slavery in the United States. It's a time to commemorate freedom, reflect on the struggle for equality, and honor the legacy of African Americans who fought for liberation.

We can't wait to see you all at the library this summer at our summer reading club programs.

SALINAS VALLEY

News Briefs from the Valley

STAFF REPORT

Fair housing services

ECHO Housing will resume monthly office hours at City Hall in King City beginning Wednesday, June 11. They are available for free private counseling and mediation services for individuals in need of assistance with tenant rights issues. Office hours occur every second Wednesday of the month from 1 to 4:30 p.m. City Hall is located at 212 S. Vanderhurst Ave. For more information, call Fernando Galindo at 831-566-0824 or email fernando@echofairhousing.org.

Summer job fairs

The summer job market is heating up, and Monterey County Works is inviting jobseekers to upcoming specialized recruitment and multi-employer job fairs this month in Salinas. Events include a Healthcare Recruitment Fair on June 18, as well as multiple employer job fairs on June 11 and June 25, all held at the Salinas Career Center, 344 Salinas St., from 1 to 4 p.m. Jobseekers are encouraged to register online, review the list of participating employers and come prepared with resumes and professional attire. Assistance with resumes and interview preparation is available at the Monterey County Works Career Center. For more information, visit montereycountyworks.com or call 831-796-3335.

Beautification BBQ

The public is invited to the annual Beautification Week Hamburger BBQ at San Lorenzo Park on Wednesday, June 18, hosted by the King City Chamber of Commerce and Agriculture and King City Rotary Club. The event is free thanks to the sponsorship of WM, and will start at noon at the DeAnza building. Beautification Awards will be presented and guest speakers will talk about beautification efforts in the last year. Reservations are required by calling or emailing the Chamber office at 831-385-3814 or kccchambermanager@kingcitychamber.com by Monday, June 16. Beautification Week is scheduled June 20-29, and is jointly sponsored by the King City Chamber in partnership with WM, Salinas Valley Recycles, City of King and King City in Bloom.

Listening session

Monterey County Supervisor Chris Lopez and his District 3 office will be hosting a community listening session on Wednesday, June 18, in Greenfield. The session will take place at 6 p.m. at Greenfield Branch Library, 315 El Camino Real. Residents are invited to share their thoughts and concerns about the community and county government.

Chualar plan

The County of Monterey's Housing and Community Development Department is forming a Community Advisory Committee (CAC) to help shape the new

Chualar Community Plan. The plan will address housing, transportation, parks, land use, economic development and more. CAC members will participate in four meetings to share their insights and ensure the plan reflects local priorities. Interested residents can learn more about the role and application process by visiting comryus/ChualarPlan before July 15.

Water quality reports

California Water Service (Cal Water) has published its annual Consumer Confidence Reports (CCR) for each of its water systems and invites customers to learn about the quality of their local water supply. Customers can access their 2024 CCRs, also called water quality reports, along with previous years' reports online at calwater.com/ccr. Importantly, the reports confirm that Cal Water met all primary and secondary, federal and state water quality standards set for drinking water in 2024. The reports also provide comprehensive information on the local water supply, standards, testing, current hot topics and more for last year. Customers who do not have internet access may obtain a copy by contacting their local Cal Water office. Cal Water focuses relentlessly on water quality by doing the following: conducting more than 600,000 water quality tests per year for more than 300 contaminants in its state-certified, state-of-the-art lab; investing in technologies and infrastructure to remove chemicals, contaminants, and other pollutants from the raw water supply; and maintaining and upgrading the water system infrastructure needed to transport water from its source through pumps, tanks and pipes to customers' homes.

Housing Authority awarded

Housing Authority of the County of Monterey (HACM) has received two distinguished awards from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) during the Northern California/Nevada NAHRO Chapter Conference. These awards recognize outstanding performance by public housing agencies in various categories. HACM was honored with the 2025 Compliance Monitoring Review Award and the 2025 Family Unification Program Award. The Compliance Monitoring Review Award acknowledges an agency's adherence to program regulations, grant requirements and the conditions tied to federal funding. This review ensures that HUD resources are used efficiently, transparently, and in alignment with federal expectations. The Family Unification Program Award highlights excellence in implementing a HUD initiative that provides rental assistance through the Housing Choice Voucher Program. This vital program supports families and youth aged 18-24, aiming to keep families together and prevent homelessness among young people aging out of foster care. HACM administers this program in collaboration with Monterey County's Department of Social Services.

HAPPY FATHER'S DAY!
MEN'S SHIRT SALE
This Saturday-Sunday, June 14-15
ALL SHIRTS & TEE SHIRTS

Long Sleeved Short Sleeved

FREE GIFT WRAPPING WHEN YOU SHOP WITH US

hearnestore.com
L.A. HEARNE CO. KING
Feed & Ranch Supply
524 Metz Rd. King City, 831-385-4841
And 8525 Prunedale North Rd. Prunedale, 831-663-1572

Rural Residents —

Take a quick survey to share how you use water at home. Your input will help guide strategies for long-term water sustainability—and survey participants could win raffle prizes!



Take the survey:
svbgsa.org/demand-management/wepp/



Salinas Valley Basin
Groundwater Sustainability Agency

