

Centerville Library Redesign



You may have noticed some changes at the Centerville Library recently. The staff is working to make the space a more relaxing, inviting place – where you can still find the books, DVDs, and audio materials that you love. Soon, you will begin to see more places to sit, work, and enjoy the Library. Please ‘pardon our dust’ as we make these changes come to life. We know the Centerville Library is an important place for the community, and we are working to make sure it is the best library it can be.

Is the Library closing?

No! The library will be better than ever.

What will the library look like when this is done?

Centerville Library will have more chairs and tables. Near the adults section, it will be easier to browse the magazines and DVDs, or to find a book in the stacks.

You may have noticed the children’s area is already better organized and clutter-free! The seating area will be a more open and inviting place. Plus, an interactive Tots Touch! tablet table is planned for the picture book space. Families will be able to relax and explore all of Centerville Library’s resources with ease.

Don’t worry – the carpet and the artwork are staying.

Where did all the books go?

Books and DVDs in the Alameda County Library system ‘float,’ which means they often move from library to library. Many of the items in Centerville didn’t start there – they were checked out from another branch and were returned to Centerville. Those items have been returned to their originating branches or moved to branches that have more space.

Books and DVDs that were warped, stained or broken have been removed from the library collection. We want everyone to have fresh, clean copies of their favorite books. Torn, yellowed pages and worn out covers are not very attractive or kid-friendly. So, we’ve removed the tattered books to make room for new arrivals and fresh copies of beloved classics.

What about the board books?

You may have noticed that the board books aren't slipping off the windowsill or spilling out of the shelves any longer. This is because we removed the chewed, faded and broken copies and added clean and colorful books. Babies and toddlers will love their new, less cluttered reading corner!

Why did you remove those big tall bookcases?

Centerville is a small building – to make it comfortable for reading and doing homework, there needs to be more space. The three ranges behind the information desk have been removed to make way for open seating and more displays.

Why are there fewer shelves in the children's area?

Most young children can't reach books shelved higher than four feet. To discourage climbing, we've removed some of the tallest shelves. We want Centerville Library to be a fun, safe place for the youngest members of our community.

Why aren't there more books and DVDS on the shelves?

Books jammed tightly onto shelves make it difficult for kids and adults to browse. Since Centerville Library is open two days a week, we sent some of the overflow books to other Alameda County Library branches. We also discarded the more severely outdated homework books and books that were in bad condition. People in our communities need and deserve updated materials for schoolwork and leisure reading. Clean, well-organized shelves will make it easier to find books for school assignments and general reading.

I can't find the book I want. What should I do?

You can always request items through our library catalog – day or night, even on days when Centerville is not open. The library will send any of our titles to Centerville for you to borrow. This process is fast and free! Please ask staff if you would like assistance requesting a title through the library catalog. We'll be happy to show you how.

Where can I send feedback about the changes?

Centerville is your library – your thoughts are important to us. Please e-mail any questions or concerns to the manager of the Fremont Libraries, Sallie Pine, at spine@aclibrary.org, with a copy to Collection Development Manager Randy McDevitt-Parks at rmcdevitt@aclibrary.org.