

## **Modesto Library to Close for Major Renovations – Including Special Collections!**

The Modesto Library will close to the public for an estimated 20 months with November 27 the last day open to the public. The Special Collections Room will not be accessible again until reopening in summer of 2026. Modesto Librarian Christopher Moreno stated that the collection will be secured to a safe location during the construction, but the books will not be available for use.

The building changes needed to wiring, lighting, heating/cooling and elevators are among the upgrades that will be done, along with asbestos removal required before those systems can be safely accessed. Some areas of the library will also be brought up to ADA standards, including bathrooms and the old Children's Story Hour Room with its wickedly steep steps/seating.

In addition to public funding for the changes, Friends of the Modesto Library's Lifelong Legacy Campaign is raising \$3Million to enhance technology, furnishings and equipment not covered by the approximately \$18Million county, library and grant funding. Here are some of these enhancements planned:

- Reimagined Early Childhood Room (using the story hour space)
  - Comfortable, durable furnishings for the main floor
  - Inviting, durable furnishings for the Children's Library
  - Tech upgrades for public meeting rooms
  - Quiet Reading Room furniture and fixtures
  - Upgrades to the McHenry Room auditorium
  - Art gallery to display work of local artists
- ... and other enhancements.

Personally, as a 20+ year volunteer in the building, I'm looking forward to elevators that work all the time, and HVAC system that can be better regulated, and quality zoom meeting capability throughout the "quiet" spaces. (Note the "Tech upgrades" under the Legacy Campaign for that one.)

Donations are still needed to reach the Legacy campaign final goal. Anyone interested in making a contribution, no matter the size, please find more information at [www.modestolibraryfriends.org/legacy](http://www.modestolibraryfriends.org/legacy)

Thank you in advance for making our Modesto Library the best it can be!

Anne Britton