



The Friendly News

July, 2025



Greetings from the President

Greetings, Friends!

A big thank you to our hard-working members who made this year a success.

You have earned a summer break!

I wish you a safe and happy summer and look forward to kicking off another program year in September.

Cheers, Erica

Why Does Summer Learning Matter?

The Northwest Evaluation Association (a non-profit founded in 1977 and acquired by Houghton Mifflin Harcourt in 2023) has conducted studies on the “summer slide” since the 1970’s. A recent collection of studies in the last six years provides a fresh look at students’ learning challenges during the summer.

These studies show that on average, test scores flatten or drop during the summer, with larger drops in math than in reading. During the summer of 2022, an estimated 90% of school districts surveyed offered summer programs with an academic focus. The lengths of the programs varied, as did the percentages of student attendance, but a summary of the results reinforced the idea that any summer learning program can show results if implemented on a consistent basis.

From 1998 to 2011, a synthesis of the different evaluative surveys showed that for K-8 students, teacher- or parent-directed summer literacy lessons delivered significant improvement on multiple reading outcomes. Within-study comparisons indicated that summer reading interventions had significantly larger benefits for children from low-income backgrounds than for children from a mix of income backgrounds.

“The findings highlight the potentially positive impact of ...home-based summer reading interventions...on reading comprehension ability of low-income children.” James S. Kim, David M. Quinn, Harvard University

Megan Kuhfeld, NWEA, and Andrew McEachin, NWEA

FOSFTL Calendar for 2025-2026

August 8th

Ice Cream Social for the Summer Learning Program, **3-5 p.m.**

November 11th

Joyce O’Neal’s annual **Piano Recital**, Community Room, **6:30 p.m.**



An Historical Surprise Unveiled at Meeting's Conclusion

President Erica Batten could hardly contain her excitement as she carefully pulled the wrapped package out from behind the corner screen.

A painting of the Terrell Country Store, along with the Sally Gabriel house, was unveiled and its story shared with the members.

Susan Hunsucker

found the painting by chance in Florida, about 20 years ago! She immediately recognized our now-gone landmark and has treasured its depiction ever since.

Susan generously donated the painting for permanent display in the library and FOSFTL had it beautifully framed by Four Corners in Mooresville.

A companion piece, framed newspaper clippings and a brochure about the artist are still in progress and these documents will be included in the permanent display.

A Clowder of Cats Starring Pete the Cat

Yes, three or more cats in a group is a “clowder,” a term that dates back to the Middle English “clotter,” meaning “to huddle together.” There are PLENTY of Pete the Cat books in the library and **Christine Rupolo** celebrates July with a take-home cat kit.

The July Friendly Kraft 4 Kids is now available in the lobby. Supplies needed are a toilet paper tube, glue, tape, scissors, and a black marker or crayon. Christine says, “Choose any Pete the Cat adventure to complement your creation.”



Annual Meeting Approves 2025-2026 Slate of Officers

Vice-President **Lisa Yakovenko** and Treasurer **Joe Lebens** were unanimously re-elected.

President **Erica Batten** and Secretary **Charlene Callahan** will continue in their present positions.

Jeanne Lebens, **Joanie Gardner**, and **Pat Elston** were unanimously re-elected to the Board. Erica Batten will continue to serve as a tie-breaker.



UNCLE SAM WANTS YOU TO DONATE BOOKS!

Members at the June 17th annual dinner applauded the hard work of **Susan Hunsucker**, the Book Bonanza **marvel**. She personally supervises the #1 contributor to the FOSFTL budget.

But **Susan needs books** in order to keep the dollars rolling in.

Please take clean, gently-used volumes to the library lobby and help fill the blue bin!

SFT Library Summer Learning Numbers Exceed Expectations

Shelley Orr, Library Services Manager, attended the FOSFTL business meeting on June 17th and announced the our library has overwhelmingly exceeded its sign-up goals for the Summer Learning Program.

As of June 17th (and with the sign-up deadline still in the future), 241 children are planning to participate, greatly exceeding the goal of 175! There were also 36 teens and 158 adults signed up at that time.

The growth in these numbers reflects the added interest in the library generated by our increasing population and **especially reflects the commitment and energy exhibited EVERY DAY by the library staff.**

FOSFTL will again host an Ice Cream Social on August 8th from 3-5 p.m. to reward the children who meet their Summer Learning reading goals.

In addition, Shelley announced that the SFT Library remains the model for the county with 93 children signed up for the “1000 Books Before Kindergarten” program.

The increased attendance at the library’s Storytime programs has resulted in the addition of another Storytime, this one on Fridays!

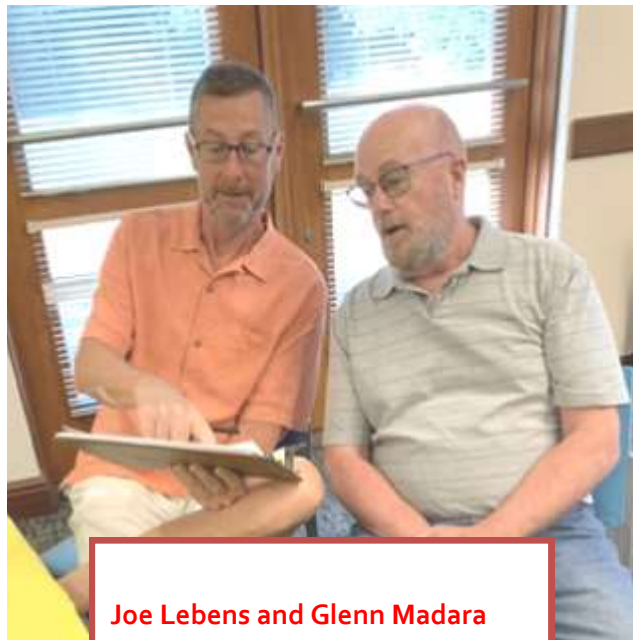
Which Came First—the Chicken or the Dinner???

The chicken, at least on June 17th! Our Annual Meeting and Dinner was, as always, a social and culinary success. And how could it NOT be? **Shelley Orr** had the room ready and **Lisa Yakovenko** arranged for Publix fried chicken, and brought in big, heavenly-smelling boxes. Lisa also had the table looking most inviting and we ate wonderfully well before we got down to the “business” part.

Thank you to **Ellen Dewey** for the photos. Extra chicken and deserts were donated to the library staff and taken home by members for family to enjoy!



Publix Fried Chicken waiting to be enjoyed.



Joe Lebens and Glenn Madara discuss a financial point.



Sheryl Schuhose and Christine Rupulo were ready for dinner.

Attending the dinner, but not pictured, were:

Ellen Dewey,

Lisa Yakovenko,

Evelyn Campbell, and

Shelley Orr.

Tina Huber and Joanie Gardner catch up.



Joyce O'Neal and Dick Steffens talk piano, of course.



Veteran member Jan Liska celebrating with Erica Batten and Trish Flanagan.



Jeanne Lebens, Charlene Callahan, and Pat Elston are all smiles.



You Can Follow Us on Facebook and Instagram

We currently post pictures and information about our events on both platforms. You do not need a Facebook account to keep current.



<https://www.facebook.com/FOSFTL/>

We are listed on Instagram as: sherrillsfordfol

Search for **Friends of Sherrills Ford-Terrell Library** on Facebook and if you're on Instagram, we are **sherrillsfordfol**. Please LIKE and share posts! Feel free to send a message if you would like a photo of you at the library or a Friends Event posted to either site. Ellen Janzen Dewey is the Administrator and initiator of our social media sites.

To see more of what is happening at SFT—by the week—and throughout the Catawba County Library System, visit :

<https://www.catawbacountync.gov/county-services/library/about/friends-of-the-library>

OR: Search in your browser for Catawba County Library/This Week @ Your Library.

Newsletter Submissions: Please e-mail **news and photo submissions, and community announcements** to Joyce O'Neal, newsletter editor, by the fourth Tuesday of the month: joyceoneal417@gmail.com.

Friends of the Sherrills Ford-Terrell Library 2023-2024

Officers:

President — Erica Batten

Vice-president: — Lisa Yakovenko

Secretary —Charlene Callahan

Treasurer — Joe Lebens

Publicity — Ellen Dewey

Membership — Sabine Detzel

Programs — We're looking!!

Newsletter — Joyce O'Neal

Board of Directors:

Joanie Gardner

Pat Elston

Jeanne Lebens

Sheryl Schuhose

Erica Batten

Library Staff:

Library Services Manager — Shelley Orr

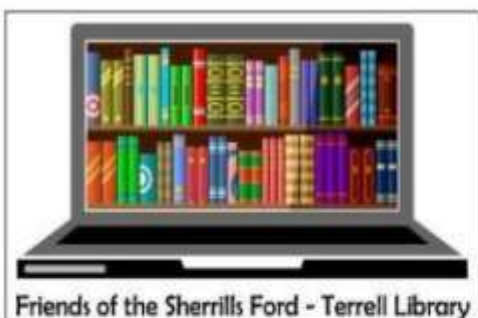
Librarian — Melissa Housel

Library Services Specialist — Kacy Steiger

Library Assistants — Lindsay Lewis, Katherine Sisak

& Kelsey Farah-Albertson

Location: Sherrills Ford-Terrell Branch Library, 9154 Sherrills Ford Road, Terrell, NC 28682 Phone: (828) 466-6827



2024 - 2025 Membership Form July 1 – June 30

Friends of the Sherrills Ford-Terrell Library

Consider following us on Facebook or Instagram to keep current on planned activities

<http://www.facebook.com/FOSFTL> or  @sherrillsfordfol

Who are we?

• **The Friends of the Sherrills Ford-Terrell Library** is a local non-profit 501(c) (3) organization comprised of members of the community. We are dedicated to supporting the mission of the Catawba County Library System, encouraging reading, expanding literacy, providing cultural opportunities, and inspiring a passion for life-long learning in our community.

What do we do?

- Support Library Programs such as the Summer Reading Program for adults and children
- Provide Community Programs throughout the year that offer broad learning opportunities for all ages
- Facilitate Literacy Programs at Sherrills Ford and Catawba Elementary
- Advocate for the Library by offering support and resources to fill needs not covered by their budget

What do you get?

- Besides the enjoyment of supporting community literacy initiatives and cultural events, your annual membership includes:
- **"The Friendly News"** periodic newsletters which keep you up to date on activities, events, and volunteer opportunities
- **Priority Access** to unique, fun, and enriching programs
- Many opportunities to **Get Involved** (see other side of this form for a complete list)

How do you sign up? We would love to have you join **"The Friends"** and we can't wait to meet you. Being part of this organization is an excellent way to support your community. Simply choose your donation level and fill out the below information.

- Donations above our annual \$10 Family Membership cost fund the bulk of our programs!
- We intentionally keep our Membership cost low and affordable.
- Revenues from Membership cover roughly 25% of our annual operating budget, so we very much appreciate and rely on donations beyond the basic membership cost.
- While most of our funds are used for our Sherrills Ford-Terrell community, a portion of our donations may be used periodically to support the Catawba County Library Endowment to ensure consistent and critical financial support beyond that provided annually by our state and local governments.

- ☐ Annual Renewal – Thank You**
☐ New Membership – Welcome!
***Please consider submitting your donation for possible Gift Matching, if your Company offers the opportunity.**
****Annual Membership July 1 – June 30.**

- ☐ \$10 Family Membership Cost
☐ \$50 Sponsor Donation*
☐ \$100 Patron Donation*
☐ Other Donation Amount \$_____*
- Checks made payable to: **Friends of the Sherrills Ford-Terrell Library**

Name: _____ (as you wish used on our FOSFTL nametag)

Address: _____

_____ Zip Code: _____

Phone: (____) _____ E-mail: _____

You can drop off the membership form and check while at the library or send by mail to:

FOSFTL
 9154 Sherrills Ford Road
 Terrell, NC 28682

If you are interested in any of **the Volunteer Opportunities** below, put a check next to them, and we will get back to you. Teens may be eligible for school volunteer requirements.

- ☐ **Officer Role** – President, Vice-President, Treasurer or Secretary (2-year term)
 - ☐ Nominating Committee to help us recruit talented Officer and Board Members
- ☐ **Fundraising Committee** to help us create a strategic approach to fundraising
 - ☐ **Book Bonanza Committee** helps us ensure ongoing supply of books
- ☐ **Holiday and Special Event Support** helps with our events such as our children's holiday party
- ☐ **Literacy Program** supports our program in the First and Second Grades by helping select books, assemble reading packets, or reading in one of our classrooms
- ☐ **Membership Committee** helps with outreach for renewal/new members through advertising and staffing event tables with information
- ☐ **Program Committee** partners with the library to generate and implement programs
- ☐ **Refreshment Team** organizes and provides refreshments for our events
- ☐ **Roadies Team** helps set up and clean up events
- ☐ **Publicity Committee** helps coordinate and expand how we publicize our work
- ☐ **Art Show Committee** will coordinate the dates for display with each school and the library calendar. The artwork will need to be collected from the school, library display set up and return the artwork to each school at the end.
- ☐ **Little Free Library Committee** helps facilitate a new venture with **Little Free Libraries** throughout our community
- ☐ **Friendly Krafts 4 Kids Committee** creates, organizes and stocks the "Take and Make" literacy-based kits for younger patrons of the library