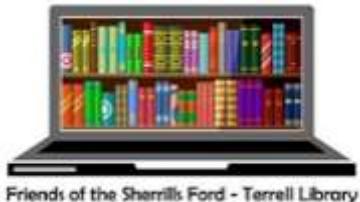




## ***The Friendly News***

*January, 2026*



### **Greetings from the President**

#### **Greetings, Friends!**

This issue is a tribute to the impact you're making in the community. Just try to find a page without joy all over it! As far as I'm concerned, the "most wonderful time of the year" has spilled over into 2026.

Happy New Year, by the way! It is time to start looking forward to some important changes on the horizon. At our last meeting we made some progress on adding board members and finding a team to take over Ellen's role as publicity chair.

Our next step is to consider candidates to take over my position starting this summer, when my term as president ends. Ideally, we can identify a capable (and willing) person soon so that the transition will be seamless. So please let me know if you're interested!

In the meantime, enjoy the joy in the pages below.

**Cheers, Erica**

#### **Your Opinions Are Being Sought—Take a Survey!**

From Shelley Orr, Library Services Manager:

Our library is building a new strategic plan with one goal in mind:  
*putting our community first.*

We want to hear from you about what matters most—your needs, priorities, and hopes for the future of our library. Please take a moment and share your thoughts by taking our community survey. Help shape what comes next!

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/GFGBJC3>

**January 20th**

Business meeting, Community Room, **6:30 p.m.**



## A Heartfelt Thank You for a Wonderful Holiday Event!

Our recent holiday event was a tremendous success, bringing the community together in a joyful celebration of the season. Laughter, creativity, and holiday cheer filled the day — all thanks to our amazing volunteers. Over 90 children and their families joined us at the Sherrills Ford – Terrell Library, making the event a truly memorable experience.

Special thanks to **Ellen Dewey** for promoting the event, managing registration, and processing images for the newsletter.

Thanks to **Barbara MacArthur** and **Christine Rupolo** for preparing crafts, books, and treats.

**Jeannette Dolan** transformed the community room into a magical space for Santa's visit, with the help of **Emily Huling**, **Kathryn Baranackie**, and **Barbara MacArthur**.

Thank you to **Sheryl Schuhose** and **Martha Petterez** for warmly welcoming guests at registration.

A very special thank you to **Hallie Chitwood** for assisting Santa, creating unforgettable moments for so many children.

The children's book table was a highlight thanks to **Trish Flanagan**, **Dick Steffens**, **Lisa Yakovenko**, **Tina Huber**, **Pat Elston**, and **Charlene Callahan**, whose kindness made choosing a book a joyful experience.

Our Friendly Crafts-4-Kids were made possible by **Barbara MacArthur**, **Christine Rupolo**, **Tina Huber**, and **Kathy Bradham**. The kits included special Kwanza and Hanukkah crafts. **Barbara MacArthur** and **Anne Smith** helped children select their craft kits.

Thanks to **Erica Batten** and **Kathryn Baranackie** for helping **Jeannette Dolan** with games in the community room.

At the ornament-making table, **Donna and Chris Korte** and **MaryBeth DiBernard** guided kids in creating keepsakes, bringing pride and joy to every child.

Musical magic came from **David Couch** and **Angela Couch**, whose piano selections filled the room with festive spirit.

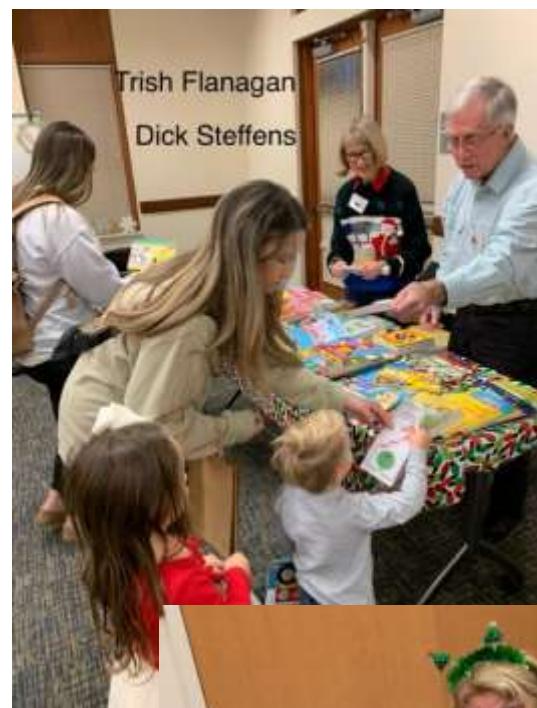
Finally, **Shelley Orr** and **Melissa Housel** and their team provided invaluable support and organization, keeping everything running smoothly from start to finish.



To all our volunteers — your time, creativity, and generosity made this holiday event truly special for our community.

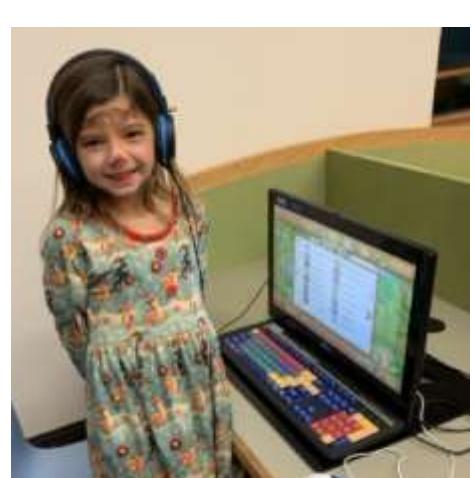
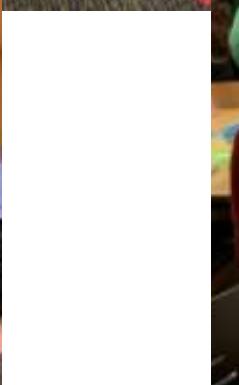
**Sabine Detzel**







With the kids jingle-belling, & everyone telling you



Be of good cheer,  
*It's the hap, happiest*  
season of all...



With those gay happy meetings when FRIENDS come to call...



And hearts will be glowing when loved ones are near...



*It's the most  
wonderful time...  
of the year!*

## The Scenes of the Season Beckoned with Holiday Greetings

In December, Santa's elves were busy decorating the library entrance and all the

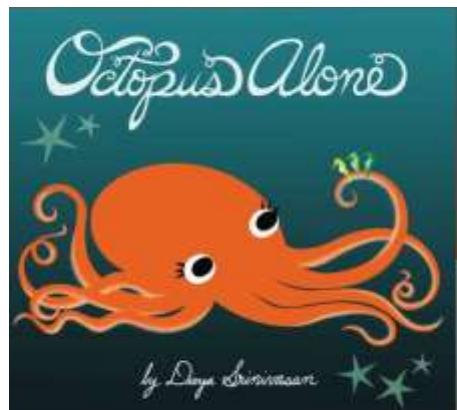
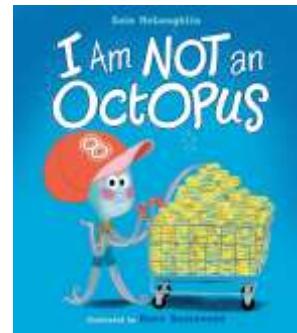
holiday images provided an exciting walk to the Family Holiday Event. Thanks to those elves (you know who you are!) for a warm experience on a frosty night!



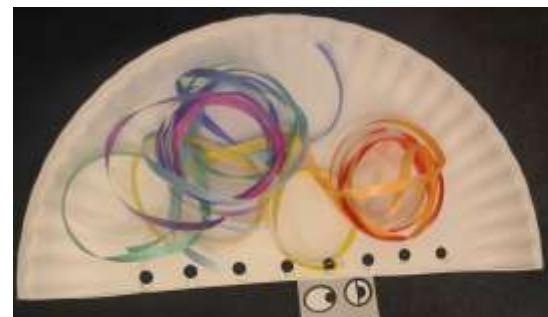
## January's Krafts-4-Kids Makes an Octopus!

The Friendly Krafts-4-Kids Committee goes underwater for January's kit—**Make Your Own Octopus!** Using just a paper plate, eight streamers and a little glue, a multi-colored cephalopod will emerge. Though at first glance an unlikely subject, the octopus stars in a number of our library offerings.

[I am Not an Octopus](#), by Eoin McLaughlin and illustrated by Marc Boutavant, is about Terry—a character with eight arms—who insists he is not an octopus, despite his love for tuna and his fear of water. The story follows Terry as he confronts his fear of the water and learns to swim, ultimately accepting his true identity as an octopus in a tale about bravery and self-acceptance.



[Octopus Alone](#), by Divya Srinivasan, is about a shy octopus who enjoys her quiet time away from the busy reef. But she eventually realizes she misses her friends and returns home, learning that being alone and being with others are both valuable. The book, praised for its beautiful illustrations and empathetic story, explores themes of introversion and finding balance. The kits are available in the library, but they disappear quickly!



## Bandys High School Art Works on Display until January 15th

If you take even a casual glance at the artwork now on display—both 2- and 3-dimensional, you will certainly take a second look!

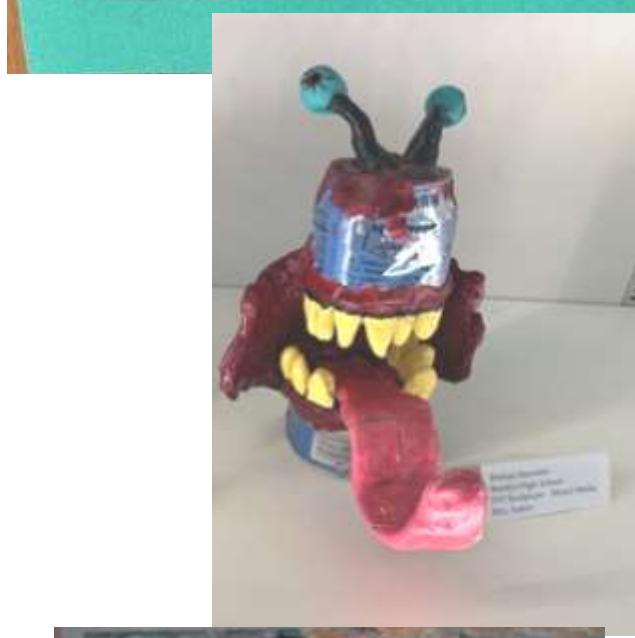
From **Evelyn Campbell** and **Pat Elston**:

We are pleased to announce that the Bandys High School student art work is now on display at the library.

From pastel drawings, to charcoal sketches, oil and acrylic paintings and mixed media sculptures, the display is amazing. It is clear that art teachers **Ms. Marcie Foster** & **Ms. Jessica VanEseltine** have worked hard with students—from beginners to advanced—to create such masterpieces. This Art Exhibition is on display until January 15th.

See just a small selection of these students' creations on the following pages.

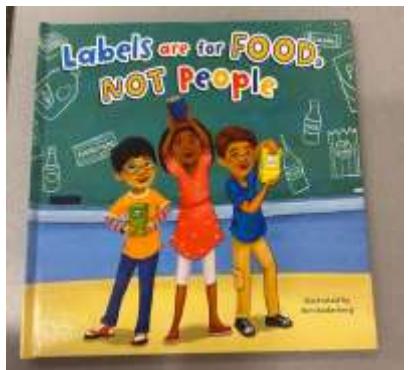




## Literacy Team Visits Three Elementary Schools

Labels are for Food, Not for People, by Little Hippo Books, was well received by students and teachers in the 16 first-grade classrooms at Sherrills Ford, Catawba, and Balls Creek elementary schools. The book reinforces the need to support others, not judge or criticize, when classmates make a mistake, eat a different food, or take longer to learn something.

To reinforce positive personal traits, the students wrote down kindness qualities on the petals of a poinsettia. All of the volunteers were impressed with the students' writing, spelling and understanding of what it takes to be a good person.



Our December reading team included Colette Suntum, Debbie Brignoli, Beth DeMauro, Catherine Webb, Debbie Zilli, and Emily Huling. Charlene Callahan prepared the craft materials.

We need more volunteers for our growing first-grade literacy program! If you are interested in learning more about our program, please contact: Emily Huling at [sellstrat@aol.com](mailto:sellstrat@aol.com) or Colette Suntum at [csuntum@verizon.net](mailto:csuntum@verizon.net).



Emily Huling, where Kindness flowers...



Mrs. Baker's class



## 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](mailto:joyceoneal417@gmail.com) .

## Friends of the Sherrills Ford-Terrell Library 2025-2026

### Officers:

President — Erica Batten  
Vice-president: — Lisa Yakovenko  
Secretary —Charlene Callahan  
Treasurer — Joe Lebens  
  
Publicity — Ellen Dewey  
Membership — Sabine Detzel  
Programs — Jeannette Dolan  
Newsletter — Joyce O'Neal

### Board of Directors:

Joanie Gardner  
Pat Elston  
Jeanne Lebens  
Sheryl Schuhose  
Erica Batten

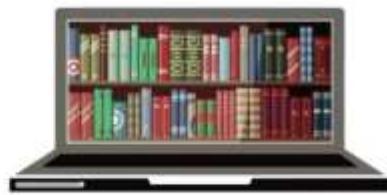
### Library Staff:

Library Services Manager — Shelley Orr  
Librarian — Melissa Housel  
Library Services Specialist — Kacy Steiger  
Library Assistants — Lindsay Lewis, Katherine Sisak  
& Kelsea Farah-Albertson

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

# Friends of the Sherrills Ford-Terrell Library

9154 Sherrills Ford Rd., Terrell, NC 28682



## MEMBERSHIP FORM

JULY 1, 2025 – JUNE 30, 2026



Cultural Events



Family Fun Days



Author Events



1st and 2nd Grade  
Literacy Programs

Friends of the Library is a 503(c) (3) non-profit, charitable organization dedicated to supporting our local library and community. Through our efforts, we provide programs that promote literacy, foster lifelong learning, and strengthen our community ties.



Special "Friends Only"  
Activities

Annual Renewal  
 New Membership

\$10 Family Membership  
 \$50 Patron Donation  
 \$100 Patron Donation  
 Other Donation \$\_\_\_\_\_

Checks made payable to : Friends of the Sherrills Ford-Terrell Library. Drop off at library or submit by mail

Name

Address

Phone

 Email 

Your donation above the \$10 annual Family Membership makes a big impact – it helps fund 75% of our programs. While membership dues cover a portion of our budget, we rely on generous donations to keep offering vibrant literacy and lifelong learning programs for the Sherrills Ford-Terrell community.



Little Free Libraries



Connect with us  
on Facebook



Holiday Event for  
Children

### **Interested in Volunteering?**

Check any opportunities below that catch your eye—we'll be in touch!

*Teens may be eligible to earn school volunteer hours.*

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- Officer Roles** – Serve as President, Vice President, Treasurer, or Secretary (2-year term)
- Nominating Committee** – Help identify and recruit qualified Officers and Board Members during election cycles and as vacancies arise
- Fundraising Committee** – Develop and support fundraising strategies and create campaigns that support the library's programs and goals
- Book Bonanza Committee** – Ensure a steady supply of books for our sales by assisting with book collection, sorting, and inventory management
- Family Holiday Event** – Assist with planning and/or helping on the day of our December celebration
- Literacy Program** – Support early literacy by selecting books, assembling reading packets, or reading in classrooms (Grades 1–2)
- Community Advocacy Committee** – Promote the library and its programs, and build community support
- Membership Committee** – Support member outreach, renewals, thank-you emails, and event table staffing
- Program Committee** – Collaborate with the library to brainstorm, plan, and run programs and events
- Refreshments/Roadies Team** – Provide and serve refreshments, and assist with event setup/cleanup
- Publicity Committee** – Coordinate and expand publicity efforts
- Art Show Committee** – Coordinate collection, library display, and return of student artwork to local schools
- Little Free Library Committee** – Help stock and maintain Little Free Libraries throughout the community and track any needed kiosk repairs
- Friendly Krafts 4 Kids Committee** – Create and organize literacy-themed “Take and Make” craft kits for young library patrons