

***From the President***

*The Friendly News*  
**May, 2026**

**Dear Friends,**

For those of you who have been with the Friends of the Library for a while, the changes that have taken place this year might be hard to grasp; we're not doing things the way we used to! While it's important to acknowledge the years of service that many members have dedicated to the FOSFTL (which we did most recently at our pre-meeting reception; see page 6), I would also like to acknowledge the flexibility and creative thinking that you all are applying to keeping our programs going. We've noted how the Book Bonanza has transitioned from a one-woman to a committee-run endeavor. Publicity will be doing something similar; we will need a few more volunteers to make this happen.

Which brings up an important question that is a hot topic across many organizations, including our small nonprofits like ours: artificial intelligence. In the most recent Friends of NC Libraries newsletter, contributor Cindy Shipley discusses how Friends organizations can use AI for program planning, outreach, administrative tasks, and even book sales! See her article on page 9.

In upcoming meetings, we'll have more discussion about modernizing our payment system, but might we also begin thinking about how AI can lighten the load? I admit that I'm a skeptical adopter of AI—particularly given my background as a teacher—but as a GenXer I realize that hanging on to analog procedures, and even old technology, is futile.

What do you think? And in case you're wondering: no, AI didn't write this letter.

**Cheers, Erica**

**2025-2026 FOSFTL Schedule**

- May 12:** Author **Joni Prew**, Community Room, **7-8 p.m.**
- June 1:** **Movie Night**, Community Room, **6-8 p.m.** **"Because of Winn Dixie"**
- June 6:** **Summer Learning Kickoff**, **11 a.m. to 1 p.m.**
- June 16:** **Annual Social and election of new officers**, Community Room, **6:30 p.m.**
- Nov. 30:** **10th Annual Piano Recital** by **Joyce O'Neal**, Community Room, **6:30 p.m.**

COME & JOIN US FOR

# JONI PREW

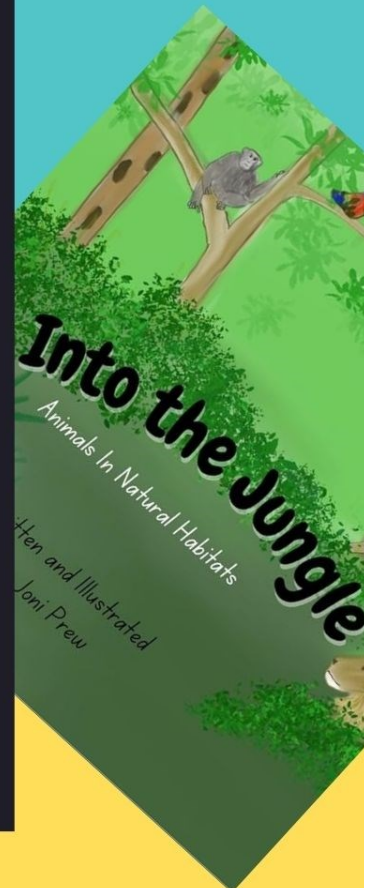
CHILDREN'S  
AUTHOR AND  
ILLUSTRATOR  
EVENT



**Tuesday, May 12, 2026, 7-8PM  
Sherrills Ford-Terrell Library  
9154 Sherrills Ford Rd, Terrell,  
NC 28682**

**Brought to you by Friends of the  
Sherrills Ford-Terrell Library and  
the Catawba County Library  
System**

**All programs free and open to the  
public**



JOIN US FOR MOVIE NIGHT

# MOVIE NIGHT



A TALE OF FRIENDSHIP,  
FAMILY, AND FORGIVENESS.

## DATE

6-8 PM  
MONDAY, JUNE 1, 2026

## LOCATION

SHERRILLS FORD-TERRELL LIBRARY  
9154 SHERRILLS FORD RD  
TERRELL, NC 28682

## MOVIE TITLE

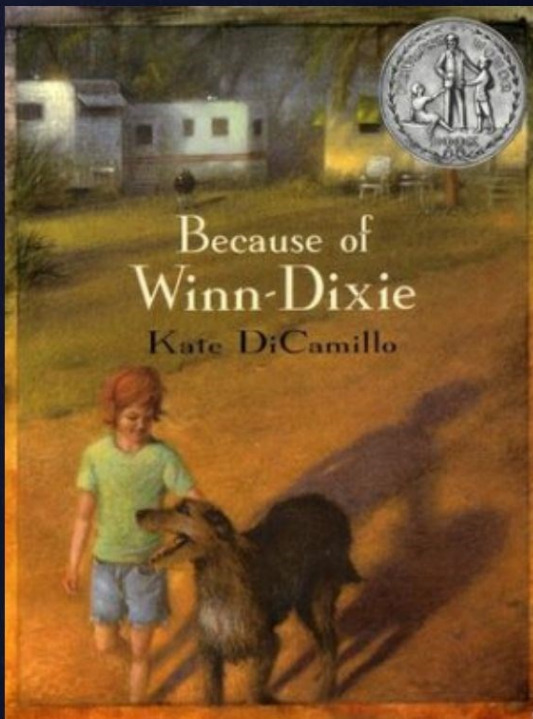
BECAUSE OF WINN-DIXIE

## MORE INFO

BASED ON THE BOOK BY  
NEWBERRY AWARD WINNER  
KATE DICAMILLO

## BROUGHT TO YOU BY

FRIENDS OF THE SFT LIBRARY IN  
PARTNERSHIP WITH CATAWBA  
COUNTY LIBRARY SYSTEM



# Lake Norman Garden Club and FOSFTL Expand the Library's Beautification Project



**Kathy Bradham** and **Donna Smith** hard at work. The millstones are from the Uncle Billy's Garden at the old library "down the road a piece."

Dirt and heat hold no terrors for the ladies of the Lake Norman Garden Club! They have been faithfully dedicated for over a year now to landscaping the SFT library. Although the FOSFTL has funded the effort, the labor has been a volunteer project by the members of the garden club.

The plants—all native to North Carolina—are now identified by weatherproof placards and the

millstones have been brought from Uncle Billy's Garden (at what is now the sheriff's office). The benches, too, were from there and are now pleasantly arranged for outdoor seating. Since the weather has remained so cool, perhaps you can enjoy a quiet moment there!

Special attention has been given to selecting plants that are drought-resistant; that is particularly pertinent right now with our current drought conditions.



## Kreepy Krawley Kraft for May

**Barbara MacArthur** must have been paying close attention at our recent educational program on the Monarch butterfly, because she designed its precursor, the caterpillar, for children to assemble.

Using just a paper plate, a little glue and lots of colors, this colorful and important creature can be claimed in the lobby.

Plenty of books are available, too, that tie in to this theme from nature.



## FOSFTL Hosts Two Meet-and-Greets in April

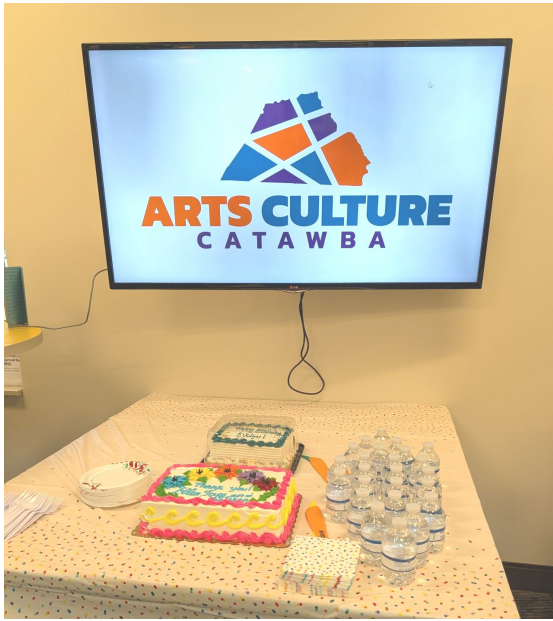
The banner was out and the refreshments ready, thanks to the ever-enthusiastic efforts of **Emily Huling**, as the Community Room opened its doors to our Friends and neighbors. Emily organized the Friends' Bingo game and a special raffle for a \$25 gift certificate available to a Friend bringing a guest!

It was a special treat to welcome **Kristy Womack Smith** (seen here in the forefront) who is running for the Catawba County Schoolboard. She offered many insights into the current debate on a



county-wide school merger. The goodies were delicious, and the fellowship was even better!

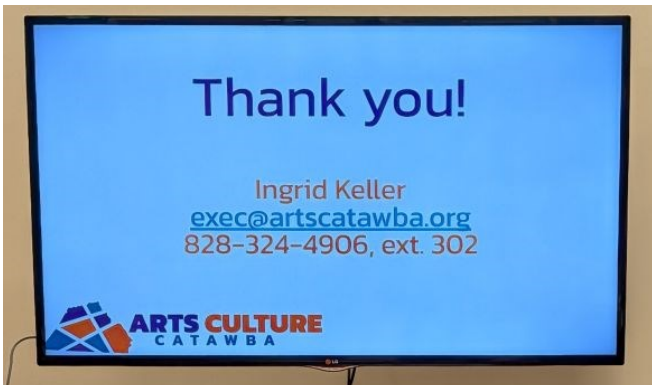
Thanks also to **Kathryn Baranackie** for her support in our Meet-and-Greets!



Ingrid Keller, Executive Director  
Arts Culture of Catawba County



**Ingrid Keller**, Executive Director of Arts Culture Catawba County (formerly The United Arts Council of Catawba County) visited our April business meeting to introduce new ventures and strategies for the organization. Among other efforts will be a central website highlighting upcoming cultural events in the county, with a special effort made to incorporate OUR Sherrills Ford-Terrell events. Special refreshments were served: one cake in honor of the three long-serving assets of FOSFTL. Ellen Dewey, the wearer of many FOSFTL hats and now our publicity guru, will be moving to Pennsylvania to be closer to her two darling grandchildren. Susan Hunsucker, who initiated and cared for the Book Sale (our fundraiser) for so many years has turned that over to a committee of dedicated members. Joyce O'Neal, who has edited the newsletter for the last twelve years, will be retiring the newsletter in favor of more modern social media sites. Publix gift cards from FOSFTL were presented to the three as tokens of appreciation. In addition, a cake celebrating Evelyn Campbell's 90th was enjoyed and she was serenaded by the group. Then it was down to business as usual...



# First grade Literacy Tackles Anxiety with Curious George

From Emily Huling

Our April book choice for first-grade students was a big hit. *Curiously Calm with Curious George* taught the students several calming techniques to use when feeling sad, angry, scared, or tired. Deep breathing, playing with a pet or stuffed animal, reading a book, or resting and eating a healthy snack are great calming strategies for people of all ages!

The 280+ students in 16 classrooms in Sherrills Ford, Catawba, and Balls Creek elementary



Cat Webb, Colette Suntum, Debbie Zilli, Emily Huling



Colette and Mrs. Turcotte

schools had fun making their own personal visors decorated with stickers and markers.

FOL supplies craft materials. A copy of the book is donated to each classroom, and each student receives a personal bookmark to remember the book and our visit.

Our reading team included Colette Suntum, Debbie Brignoli, Beth DeMauro, Catherine Webb, Debbie Zilli and Emily Huling.



A moment of calm

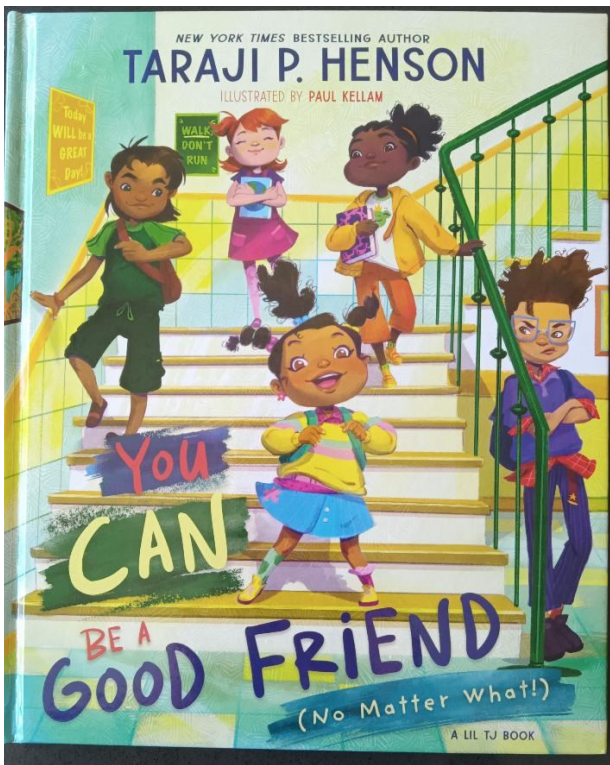


Mrs. Gold at Balls Creek Elementary

# Second-grade Literacy Promotes Good Friendship Initiative

By Kathryn Baranackie

The second-graders at Balls Creek and Sherrills Ford elementary schools enjoyed Kathryn Baranackie's rendition of You Can Be a Good Friend (No Matter What), by Taraji P. Henson during the FOSFTL Literacy visit in April. The children below are engaged in activities inspired by the story. This visit concludes the FOSFTL Literacy project for the school year, and the volunteers are greatly appreciated.



Kathryn at

Catawba Elementary School

Thanks to all the FOSFTL readers for this year. Can **YOU** help with next year?

New readers are always welcome!

Sherrills Ford Elementary Students

## Friends Group Using AI by Cindy Shipley

A Friends of a Public Library group can get a lot of practical value using AI tools—especially for outreach, fundraising, and operations. The key is to focus on tools that save volunteer time, expand community impact and strengthen the mission. The key is using AI as a time-saving assistant — letting it handle drafting, research, and organization so your volunteers can focus on the human side of library advocacy and community building.

Keep in mind that although AI is useful, it shouldn't run everything. Check for accuracy, always review outputs as AI can make mistakes. Never input sensitive patron data. Keep your tone in an authentic voice.

- **For Outreach and Marketing,** AI can help you consistently promote library programs without burning out volunteers. Draft social media posts, newsletters, and flyers using tools like ChatGPT or Canva. Generate event descriptions for book sales, author talks, or children's programs and rewrite announcements in different tones (formal, fun, kid-friendly).
- **For Fundraising Support,** AI can make fundraising efforts more professional and persuasive. Draft donation letters and grant applications; brainstorm fundraising event ideas tailored to your specific community and analyze past campaigns to suggest improvements. AI can create messaging for different audiences such as parents, retirees and local businesses.
- **For Program Planning,** AI can help generate ideas and structure events by suggesting themes for reading programs or seasonal events; creating discussion questions for book clubs and building-schedules or activity plans for children's programs. For a Summer Reading Theme, AI can generate weekly activities, crafts and book lists.
- **For Volunteer Coordination,** AI can help manage volunteers by writing recruitment posts, onboarding guides and training materials and handbooks; creating shift schedules or sign-up sheets and drafting thank-you messages and recognition posts.
- **For Administrative Tasks,** AI is the most helpful at repetitive writing and organization. Use AI tools to summarize meeting notes; create or improve bylaws and policy updates; organize and clean up membership databases and creating templates for reports and emails.
- **For Book Sales,** AI can generate item descriptions for online sales (eBay, Abe-Books, etc.); research book values to help with pricing and write promotional content for used book sales.
- **For Advocacy & Community Engagement,** AI tools can summarize library usage data into compelling talking points for city councils or boards; draft op-eds and letters to elected officials supporting library funding and research best practices from Friends groups elsewhere.





Friends of the Sherrills Ford - Terrell Library

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, Kelsea Farah-Albertson, and Anya Kennelly

**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