



Newsletter May 2026



Behind the Shelves



The SBC: Where Ideas Take Root - and Grow

Durham County Library's Small Business Center (SBC) helps local entrepreneurs, creatives, and job seekers turn ideas into action – entirely for free. Under Manager Ciera Williams, the center has rebranded and expanded its outreach, making sure more residents learn about the powerful business support available at the library.

Partnerships fuel the SBC's impact. Through collaborations with groups like Infinity Bridges, Give It to the People, and strong ties with city and county departments, the center extends its reach. Its partnership with SCORE brings retired business professionals to Main Library twice a week for free one-on-one mentorship, helping entrepreneurs strengthen pricing, operations, and grant readiness with expert guidance.

Business research and data literacy are also core services. SBC staff teach patrons how to use the library's robust business databases for market analysis and competitive research – critical tools for anyone preparing a business plan or grant application.

The SBC team brings a wide range of talents: Jana's standout research skills, Austin's focus on financial and health literacy, and Alex's creative programming like Shelf Sessions. Together, they support both business development and community culture. The center also serves job seekers with career resources, digital learning tools, and workshops that build practical skills.

What inspires Williams most are the success stories – when a successful entrepreneur returns to say, “We did it.”

As the SBC approaches its 10-year anniversary in 2027, the team hopes even more residents will discover what the center offers. To learn more, [you can visit the SBC website](#), stop by Main Library at 300 N. Roxboro St., [browse the events calendar](#), or ask any librarian.

The message is simple: you don't need to pay for high-quality business guidance. You just have to walk through the door. And when you do, the SBC team is there to help your idea take root – and grow!

Library Staff Day - May 14



DCo Library Closed, Online Outage on May 14

All Durham County Library locations will be closed and our online catalog will be unavailable on **Thursday May 14, 2026**, due to Staff Development Day and software updates.

This software outage means account logins, new ebook checkouts, and other online resource access will be unavailable in the morning on Thursday but should be available again in the afternoon.

We apologize for any inconvenience this may cause and appreciate your patience as we make our computer systems better for you!

All library locations will reopen on Friday, May 15. [Check for our normal hours of operation on our website.](#)

Flashback Durham



Horses and Mules!

For this month's flashback we spotlight horses and mules around Durham County, some of our Archives Animals.

In the photo above, the Durham Fire Department employed these working animals to pull Hose Wagon Number 2. You can see them posing in front of old Fire Station Number 1 near Mangum and Holloway Streets. Humans used horsepower for transportation, growing and harvesting crops, and even emergency services for the fire department until 1918.

In the photo below from 1929, Lonnie Canty posed with his horse Dock, with a saddle blanket hanging nearby. In August 1929, Durham's City Stables at Pine and Pettigrew Streets were being torn down to make way for a street extension, and a new city stable complete with blacksmith's shop was ready at Gilbert Street and Alston Avenue.

For more information or to learn more about Durham's history, visit the North Carolina Collection online at <https://durhamcountylibrary.org/ncc>. You can stop by during normal business hours at our location inside Main Library (300 N. Roxboro St.) on the third floor. Stop by and say hello!

The North Carolina Collection – *Durham history research happens here.*



MORNINGSTAR®



Access Morningstar Investing Center with Your Library Card

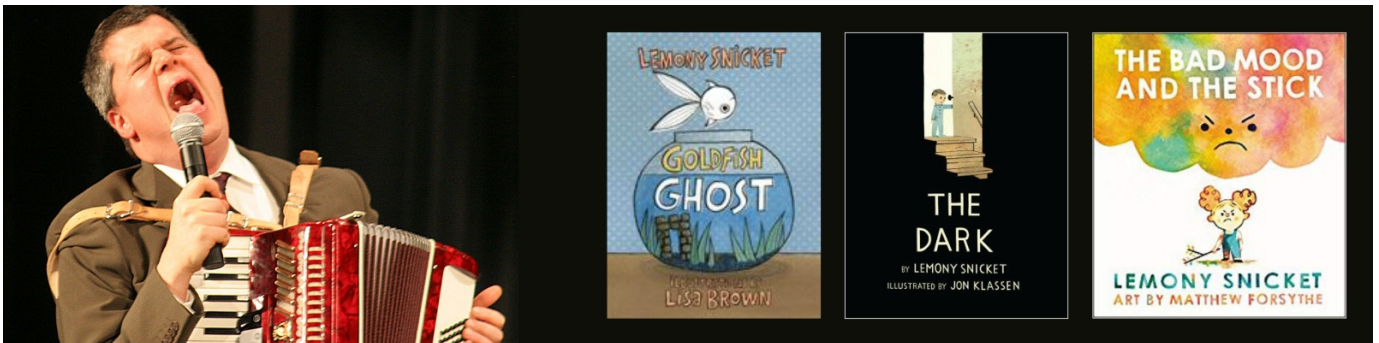
Did you know that the FREE digital resource - Morningstar Investing Center - is available to all Durham County Library card holders!

Morningstar Investing Center (MIC) covers mutual funds, stocks, and exchange-traded funds (ETFs) for the individual investor. [Access the MIC via the Durham County Library](#) and read in-depth, independent stock and fund reports written by experts with the proprietary Morningstar Rating and Style Box.

Morningstar is an investment research database with global data and research. As a respected source of investment information, Morningstar empowers you with reliable market data, analysis, and education!

This FREE resource is provided by NC LIVE - North Carolina's statewide library cooperative that aims to help libraries support education, enhance economic development, and improve the quality of life of all North Carolinians. [See what NC LIVE does for you every day on its website.](#)

Library Inspiration



“A good library will never be too neat, or too dusty, because somebody will always be in it, taking books off the shelves and staying up late reading them.”

- Daniel "Lemony Snicket" Handler

Daniel Handler's work - better known under his pen name Lemony Snicket, crosses age ranges and genres - from witty adult novels like *We Are Pirates* to his signature children's mysteries under the Snicket persona, including the 13-book series "A Series of Unfortunate Events". If you're in the mood for clever narration, dry humor, or shadowy intrigue, his books - be it on paper or a screen - are a treat.

To check current availability, place holds, or explore more titles, [visit the Durham County Library catalog](#) or [borrow the eBook through the Libby app with your library card](#).

[Check for Lemony Snicket items in our catalog](#) or [search for Daniel Handler titles](#).

Photographed by Mike Huang, <http://www.mikehuang.com/blog>, CC BY-SA 2.0 <<https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/2.0>>, via Wikimedia Commons.

Events and Programs by Location

Discover what's happening at Durham County Library!

Each month, Durham County Library hosts over 500 programs - there's something for everyone! There are too many to share here, but you can explore April's offerings by clicking on a location below to see programs for all age groups.

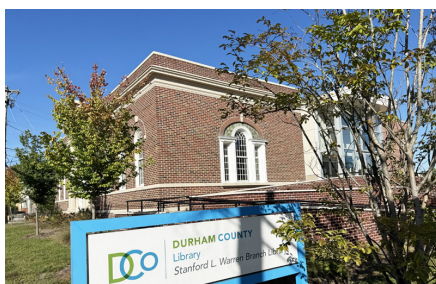
Want to know if the [Bookmobile](#) is making a public stop near you? Just click on Outreach Programs to find out!



All Programs



North Regional Library



Stanford L. Warren Branch Library



Main Library



South Regional Library



Bragtown Branch Library



East Regional Library



Southwest Regional Library



Outreach Programs

Career Opportunities

Durham County is a fantastic place to work!

A rewarding career in public service awaits you at the links below.



Durham County Careers
Library



Durham County Careers
All Departments

Durham County is committed to fair and equitable treatment in employment, rooted in the principles of merit and equal opportunity.

Friends of the Durham Library



Online Book Sale in May

The Friends of the Durham Library are holding an online sale in the month of May!

Now through May 31, there will be 25 percent discounts on the following categories: math, science, social sciences, computers, education, psychology, and law.

[Shop now on our website to see what we have on hand.](#) And be sure to come back throughout the month because we are shelving exciting new finds every week and you don't want to miss out!

As always, you can browse all our books online here: shopfodlnc.org

Pick up your items in person at the Books Among Friends store, located at 3825 S. Roxboro St., during the following pick-up hours: Tuesdays from 10 a.m. – 3 p.m.; Thursdays from 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.; and Saturdays from 10 a.m. – 3 p.m.

The Friends of the Durham Library is a member-supported, all-volunteer 501(c) (3) non-profit organization. All proceeds support the Durham County Library. For more information, [visit the Friends of the Durham Library website.](#)

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DURHAM COUNTY
Library



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