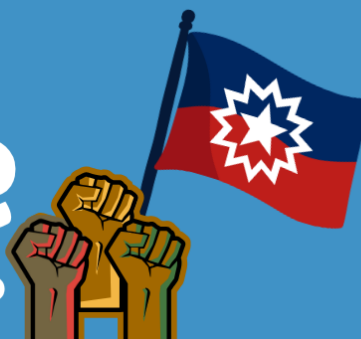
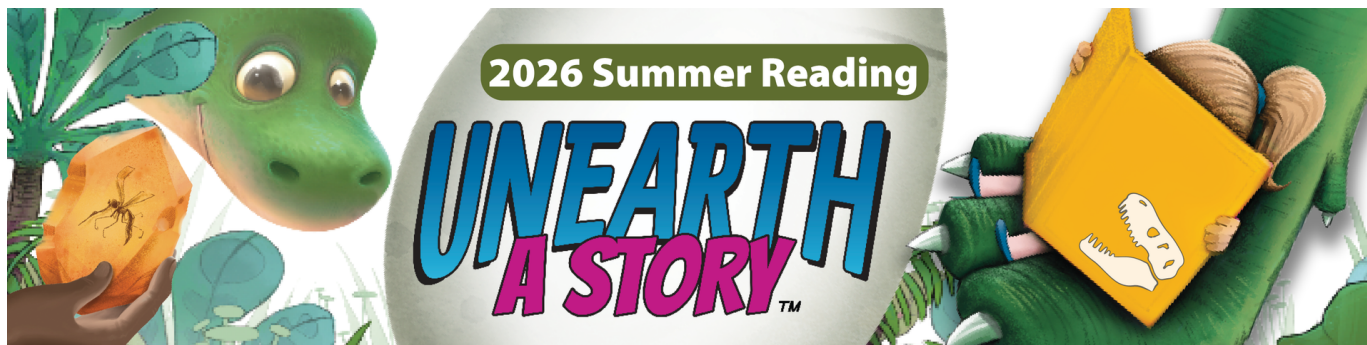




Newsletter June 2026



2026 Summer Reading



Come 'Unearth a Story' at the Library!

Summer is near and that means it's time for Durham County Library's annual Summer Reading Program! Beginning in June, Library patrons of all ages will begin participating in this year's journey, with the theme of "Unearth a Story." The theme underscores the joy of discovery that reading brings and that every person and every community have stories waiting to be found and shared – through books, programs, and local knowledge. Free programs and special events will be hosted by all seven Durham County Library locations, with each offering a unique lineup centered around dinosaurs, paleontology, and archaeology!

Everyone is invited to stop by any Durham County Library location from Monday, June 15, to Saturday, August 8, 2026, to pick up a paper reading log. You can also [download the reading log and print at home](#). Reading logs must be turned in at a Durham County Library location. Sign up and completion prizes will be available while supplies last. Summer Reading is made possible by the generous support of the Durham Library Foundation and the Friends of the Durham Library. Be sure [to visit our Summer Reading webpage for more information](#).

"We are thrilled to be launching the Durham County Library's 2026 Summer Reading program in June," said Bragtown Branch Library Location Manager Felicia Brown. "This year's 'Unearth a Story' theme invites readers of all ages to dig into dinosaurs, fossils, and the science of discovery through exciting programs at the Library. Our hands-on activities will include interactive STEAM experiments, creative craft projects, storytimes, and many more exploration-themed programs inspired by the natural world. Stop by your local library location to pick up a reading log and start tracking your summer reads – your name might be drawn for one of our grand prizes. We can't wait to see what you discover this summer!"

Readers of all ages are encouraged to participate, and a library card is not necessary to sign up. At the end Summer Reading, which spans the majority of Durham Public Schools' traditional calendar summer break, a raffle for grand prizes will take place at each location for toddlers and preschoolers, elementary school-aged children, teens and young adults, and adults. Each completed reading log submitted to a Library location earns one entry in the raffle. Completed reading logs will be accepted until 6 p.m. on Saturday, August 15, and the prize drawings will be on the following week. Winners will be contacted to arrange pick up of their prizes.

Be sure to [search our events calendar online](#) or follow our social media accounts on [Facebook](#) or [Instagram](#) to find out more!

We invite members of the Durham community to join us for our kickoff events at each of our locations. Please see below for details:

South Regional Library Kickoff Event

Thursday, June 11, 2 p.m.

[South Regional](#)

[Click to learn more; registration table at event.](#)

Bragtown Branch Library Kickoff Event

Friday, June 12, 10:30 a.m.

[Bragtown Branch](#)

[Click to learn more; registration not required.](#)

North Regional Library Kickoff Event

Saturday, June 13, 10 a.m.

[North Regional](#)

[Click to learn more; registration not required.](#)

Main Library Kickoff Event

Saturday, June 13, 10:30 a.m. – 12 p.m.

[Main Library](#)

[Click to learn more; registration not required.](#)

East Regional Library Kickoff Event

Saturday, June 13, 11 – 11:45 a.m.

[East Regional Library](#)

[Click to learn more; registration opens May 23.](#)

Southwest Regional Library Kickoff Event

Monday, June 15, 3 p.m.

[Southwest Regional](#)

[Click to learn more; registration not required.](#)

Stanford L. Warren Branch Kickoff Event

Behind the Shelves



East Regional Library Turns 20!

It was 20 years ago today (well, June 16, 2006),

Durham County's first regional location opened its doors to the community!

They've been always in style,

And its programming is guaranteed to raise a smile.

So, may I introduce to you,

The library you've known for all these years...

East Regional Library at 211 Lick Creek Lane!

Apologies to the Beatles and Sgt. Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band, but we're in the mood to be festive as our own East Regional Library celebrates its 20th anniversary this month.

On December 9, 2002, the Board of County Commissioners approved the design contract agreement with The Freelon Group, P.A., to provide architectural services to develop a prototype regional branch library to be located in the eastern and northern parts of Durham County.

The location was paid for with funds via the November 2001 bond referendum passed by voters to build regional libraries in the eastern and northern sections of Durham County. The budget was \$6.7 million.

When the 25,000-square-foot East Regional Library was opened to the public it became just the second LEED certified facility owned by Durham County Government, joining the Triangle Wastewater Treatment Plant Administrative Building, which obtained its certification in April of 2005.

The staff over at East, led by Location Manager Lauren Doll, invites everyone to join them in celebrating this milestone from June 13-17.

"The staff and I are thrilled to celebrate East Regional's 20th birthday! We are incredibly grateful for the love and support the East Durham community has shown us over the years," said Doll. "Thank you for being such an amazing part of our story – here's to the next 20 years and beyond!"

On Saturday, June 13, from 11:30 a.m. – 1 p.m., the staff at East Regional Library will host a 20th Birthday Party along with the kickoff of Summer Reading! There will be birthday cake provided by the Friends of the Durham Library, a fossil dig (the theme for Summer Reading is Unearth a Story), book giveaways, crafts, party favors, and more! This dinosaur-themed party is FREE, open to all ages, and no RSVP is required.

From Monday, June 15 through Saturday, June 20, tweens and teens can stop by and pick up a Take & Make Book Folding Hedgehogs kit!

A special birthday-themed afternoon storytime will take place from 2 – 2:35 p.m. on Tuesday, June 16 for those ages 0 to 5 years old!

And finally, a Happy 20th Birthday East: Paint & Sip will be on Wednesday, June 17, from 6 – 7:30 p.m. for adults and teens. We will bring the art supplies and some beverages to sip on (you may bring your own if preferred), set the mood with a little music ... and then relax and paint!

Registration is required for these final two events [by visiting our website at DurhamCountyLibrary.org/Events](http://DurhamCountyLibrary.org/Events).

Holiday Closing



DCo Library to Close for Juneteenth Holiday

All Durham County Library locations will be closed on Friday, June 19, in observance of the Juneteenth holiday. We will reopen with normal hours of business at 9:30 a.m. on Saturday, June 20.

Juneteenth, celebrated on June 19, commemorates the day in 1865 when enslaved African Americans in Galveston, Texas, were informed of their freedom more than two years after the Emancipation Proclamation was signed.

While our physical locations are closed, you can continue to take advantage of your Durham County Library card by accessing a broad range of FREE ebooks, E-audiobooks, movies, television programs, magazines, newspapers, learning resources, and more!

Launch into an exploration of what we have to offer by visiting DurhamCountyLibrary.org

Flashback Durham



Beach Trips and Summer Fun!

This month, we are highlighting summer fun with #ArchivesBeachTrips in the North Carolina Collection! These photographs show Durham residents enjoying beach time on North and South Carolina's beautiful coastline, including a woman and two men from Durham's West End and Lyon Park neighborhoods soaking up some sun in Atlantic Beach, S.C. (above), in this 1963 photo.

For most of the 20th century, ocean beaches were racially segregated, leaving Black families with fewer options for seaside recreation. In response, vibrant historic Black beach communities emerged as safe havens. Nearby resorts like Seabreeze (est. 1922) and Freeman Beach near Carolina Beach were highly popular, while Ocean City (est. 1949) on Topsail Island became a unique community of Black property owners. Just over the state line near Myrtle Beach, families also flocked to Atlantic Beach, South Carolina, famously nicknamed "The Black Pearl."

We also have one unidentified photo from the 1940s (below) - if you recognize anyone, let us know!

You can look back at more Durham residents hanging out at the beach, rivers, and other summertime places from the past in the Durham County Library records digital collection. You can always [visit our North Carolina Collection online](#) or in person on the third floor of Main Library (300 N. Roxboro St.).

The NCC preserves and provides access to materials documenting the history of the City and County of Durham, as well as resources for researching North Carolina-related topics. You can support the Collection by donating materials related to Durham's history.

For research requests or to get more information, contact staff at ncc@dconc.gov.

The North Carolina Collection – Durham history research happens here!



Digital Resource Highlight



Get Learning Help!

at home 24/7

**Tutoring,
practice tests
& more**

Free

with

your library card



DURHAM COUNTY
Library

Brainfuse HelpNow Can Help Stop the Summer Slide

Summer is here, which means many Durham County students on traditional calendars are out of school for a long while. Did you know that Durham County Library offers Brainfuse HelpNow that can help your student keep learning from home?

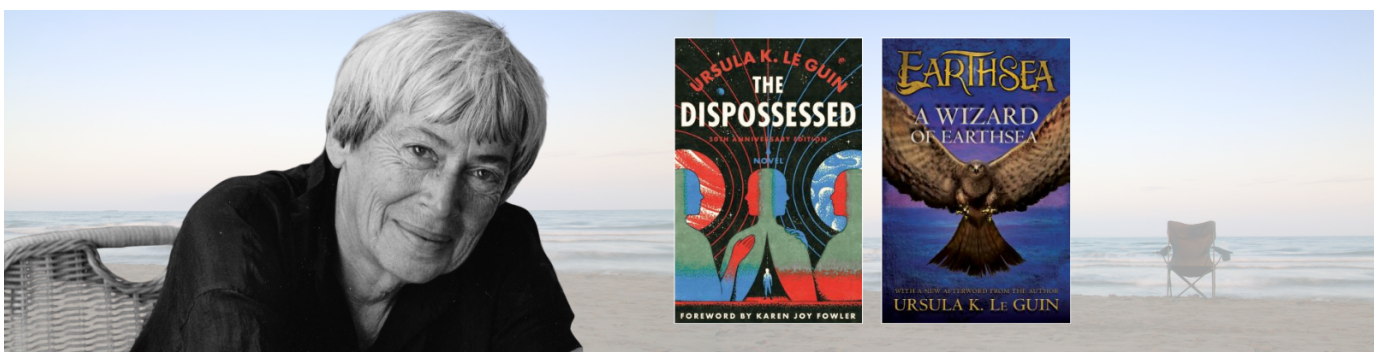
HelpNow offers a dynamic suite of tools for tutoring, homework help, and skills building, designed to empower learners of all ages. Whether you are at home or in the library, HelpNow is available 24/7, providing flexible tutoring and homework help when it's needed most.

This FREE resource requires a library card and PIN.

Once you are logged in, get help with writing assignments, expert tutors, take practice tests, prep for the GED or the U.S. Citizenship test, and much more!

Get started today by [visiting the Brainfuse HelpNow via the Durham County Library website](#).

Library Inspiration



“We read books to find out who we are. What other people, real or imaginary, do and think and feel... is an essential guide to our understanding of what we ourselves are and may become.”

- Ursula K. Le Guin

Ursula K. Le Guin's special talent was creating worlds that pull you in and make you feel right at home, even when they're full of wizards, dragons, or far-off planets. In works like the *Earthsea* series and her many science-fiction stories, she loved exploring big questions, how people live together, what shapes our identities, and how we can imagine better futures. Her background in anthropology gives her stories a rich, lived-in feel, and her writing has a gentle wisdom that sticks with you long after you close the book. Le Guin's work invites readers of all ages to dream big and think deeply at the same time.

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 titles from Le Guin in the Durham County Library here](#).

Photo by Marian Wood Kolisch, Oregon State University | Restored by Adam Cuerden

Events and Programs by Location

Discover what's happening at Durham County Library!

Each month, Durham County Library hosts over 500 programs and there's something for everyone! There are too many to share here, but you can explore June'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!





North Regional Library



Stanford L. Warren Branch Library



Main Library



South Regional Library



Bragtown Branch Library



East Regional Library



Southwest Regional Library



Outreach Programs

Special Event at Stanford L. Warren

Author Talk & Book Signing

Have Mercy Baby:

The Life of Clyde McPhatter

Saturday, June 6

2 - 4 p.m.

Stanford L. Warren Branch Library

1201 Fayetteville St.



Collaborated by

MUSEUM of
DURHAM
HISTORY



Visit our website at DurhamCountyLibrary.org



DURHAM COUNTY
Library

Have Mercy Baby: The Life of Clyde McPhatter

First two-time Rock and Roll Hall of Fame honoree and Durham native Clyde McPhatter began his singing career as a 5-year-old in the Baptist church pastored by his father. In the Bull City he stayed until he was 13 when Rev. George McPhatter and wife Beulah moved to New Jersey. Soon after, McPhatter won "Amateur Night" at the Apollo Theater in Harlem, and a legend was born.

On Saturday, June 6, 2026, Durham County Library, the Stanford L. Warren Branch Library, Preservation Durham, and the Museum of Durham History will host "*Have Mercy Baby: The Life of Clyde McPhatter*," an author talk with McPhatter biographer

Steve Bergsman, Debbie McPhatter, the singer's daughter, and music journalist Howard Burchette. The free event will run from 2 – 4 p.m. at SLW, located at 1201 Fayetteville Street in downtown Durham. [Visit our website for more information.](#)

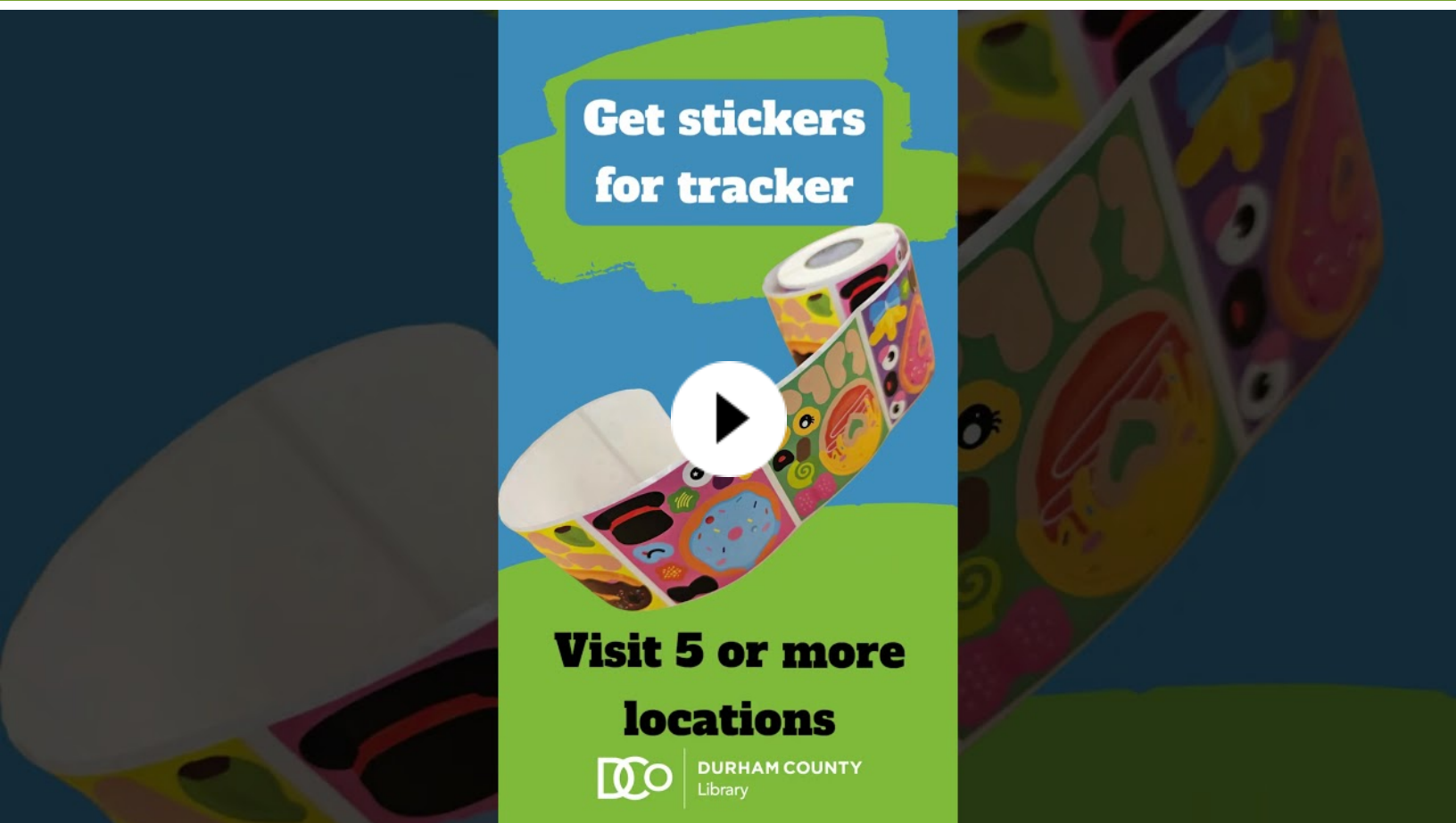
After the Apollo, he soon joined 1950s powerhouse Rhythm and Blues group the Dominoes, where his vocals on hits such as "Sixty Minute Man" and "Have Mercy Baby" helped make doo-wop a national sensation. Later, McPhatter joined The Drifters and record chart success with hits like "Money Honey." After a stint in the military in the mid-50s, McPhatter enjoyed a solo career with hits such as "A Lover's Question" and "Treasure of Love" until his passing in 1972.

He was elected to the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame as a solo artist in 1987 and with The Drifters a year later, to become the first person elected more than once. That group is now 27 strong and sometimes referred to as "The Clyde McPhatter Club." He is also a 2009 inductee to the North Carolina Music Hall of Fame.

"Clyde McPhatter's story resonates across generations. Collaborating with local area community partners on this type of program allows us to highlight a North Carolina legend and spark meaningful conversations about music history," said Carter Cue, Senior Librarian at Stanford L. Warren Branch Library.

A book signing facilitated by Letters Book Shop with the author will take place following the event.

It's a DCo Donut Crawl!



Donut Stop Me Now from June 5 - August 1

Get out in your local community and eat some great donuts (and other fried treats) this summer with the 2026 Durham County Library Donut Crawl - "Donut Stop Me Now!"

Visit 5 or more locations to be entered into the final prize drawing for a 4-pack of Durham Bulls tickets! Open to all ages and registration is not required! The crawl begins Friday, June 5 and runs through Saturday, August 1!

Each person participating in the crawl will need a Donut Crawl tracker. Trackers may be picked up at any Durham County Library location or you can email Sara Gibson at sgibson@dconc.gov to receive a copy. You'll earn a completion sticker for each donut location you visit. Completion stickers are available at Durham County Library locations - NOT at the business locations!! Complete rules [are available on our website](#).

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

Summer Reading Kickoff

Book Sale



in the Auditorium on the 1st floor

Saturday, June 13

9:30 am to 12:30 pm



At: Main Library

300 N. Roxboro St.
Durham, NC 27701

Children's Books: \$1 to \$3

Fiction for grown-ups:

- Hardcover \$5
- Softcover \$3



Summer Reading Kickoff Book Sale

As part of the Summer Reading Kickoff, the Friends of the Durham Library will conduct a book sale in the Auditorium at the Main Library on Saturday, June 13 from 9:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

They will have a wide variety of children's books for between \$1 and \$3.

For grown-ups, we'll have fiction books, general fiction, mysteries, romance, science-fiction/fantasy/horror, short stories, and young adult books. Hardcover books are \$5 each, while softcover books are \$3 each.

Come unearth a story!

As always, you can shop all our fine donated books online right now at shopfodlnc.org.

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](http://www.friendsofthedurhamlibrary.org).

Title, Author, Keyword, ISBN...



Category: History ▾

[View Categories / History](#)

Title, Author, Keyword, ISBN



Sort: Author: A-Z ▾

Showing 1-20 of 2161

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Semiquincentennial Online Sale

To celebrate the nation's 250th anniversary, the Friends of the Durham Library is putting all of the HISTORY books available from Books Among Friends on sale at **50% OFF** for the months of June and July this year.

Shop the [History category in our online store](#).

Shop now 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 at shopfodinc.org.

Pick up your items in person at the *Books Among Friends* store, located at 3825 S. Roxboro St., Durham, NC 27713.

Online order pick-up hours:

Tuesdays 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Thursdays 10 a.m. - 12 p.m.

Saturdays 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.



DURHAM COUNTY
Library



DurhamCountyLibrary.org
LibraryMarketing@dconc.gov