



# Newsletter August 2026



## Behind the Shelves



### This Week in the Lab Series Highlighted!

The Library of North Carolina stopped by our own Innovation Lab at Main Library – home of our Maker + STEAM services department on July 17th to check out all of the excitement going on. They happened to stop by during the Lab's "This Week in the Lab: Makedo Kit" program.

Each week for three years now, the Lab has a new program for Library patrons to come in and experience a cool, self-paced, drop-in activity for the "This Week in the Lab" series.

The filming team from the Library of North Carolina will feature the "This Week in the Lab" series in one of their upcoming behind the scenes "The Library's Doing What Now?" video. Find these spotlights on their website at [library.nc.gov/nc-libraries/libraries-doing-what-now](https://library.nc.gov/nc-libraries/libraries-doing-what-now).

The goal of Maker + STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics) is to empower a community of makers, encourage creation, and support people of all ages in their endeavors to grow as innovators.

The "This Week in the Lab" series is a perfect and FREE introduction to all things Maker + STEAM. These drop-in activities are excellent ways to come into the Lab and experience all it has to offer in a low-stress environment. These sessions increase everyone's access to varying types of STEAM kits, like coding, help patrons walk in and interact with something immediately

upon entering the makerspace. While patrons are in the lab for the self-paced activity, they are welcome to ask staff questions, learn how to sign up for trainings to reserve equipment, and explore curiosity!

The Makedo Kit is a cardboard construction kit where participants of all ages can build creations out of four basic tools, cardboard, plastic screws, and creativity! When patrons come in, one of our team members explains the basic tools, shows the materials and resources we have set out, and then patrons are free to create, iterate, and explore tool usage.

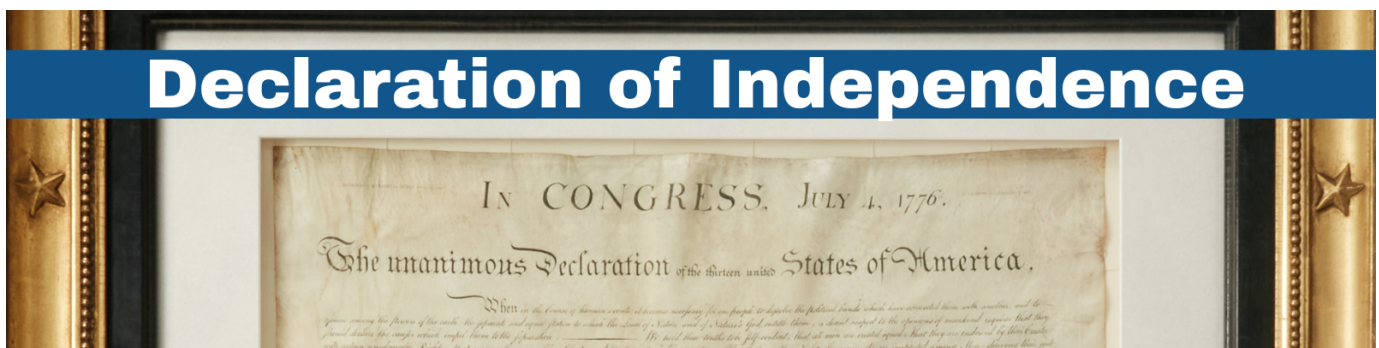
A quick glance at the wall when you enter the Innovation Lab shows you a schedule of upcoming Week in the Labs, with August's including Paper Crafts, Snap Circuits, and Ozobots. [Go online to see the full schedule.](#)

The Maker + STEAM team re-evaluates the activities provided in the "This Week in the Lab" series with usage stats, as well as customer interest and new equipment or kits they are able to obtain. For example, in late August, they'll be swapping out one activity in the rotation for Cubelets, a fun block robot building set that incorporates sequencing and circuitry.

You never know what you may get – kits on coding, circuitry, building and engineering, arts, and so much more!

Interested in checking out the Makerspace? Head to our website at [durhamcountylibrary.org/maker-steam-services/](http://durhamcountylibrary.org/maker-steam-services/) to find out all about it – from upcoming programming, staff profiles, self-paced equipment trainings, and so much more!

## Coming Soon!



## A Visit from the Past, Inspiring the Future

The year 2026 is the 250th birthday of the Continental Congress adoption of the Declaration of Independence!

This September, we will have a special treat for you as Durham will host a rare exhibition of three early copies of the Declaration of Independence at the Durham County Main Library and the Nasher Museum of Art at Duke University. Everyone is invited to come out and visit this foundational document and explore how it was circulated and visually rendered in the United States' early decades.

A central public feature of We the People will be the presentation of the three historic copies of the Declaration of Independence, will offer visitors a rare opportunity to encounter how the document was circulated and visually rendered in the early decades of the nation.

The exhibition will feature three rare prints on loan from the David M. Rubenstein Americana Collection: a rare official full-sized 1823 facsimile engraved by William J. Stone (known as a Stone Declaration) alongside two historic broadside copies from the same era: an 1818 reproduction by calligrapher Benjamin Owen Tyler and a more ornate 1819 illustrated version published by John Binns.

It will first be at Durham County Main Library, 300 N. Roxboro Street, from September 8 - 22, 2026. Afterwards, the Nasher Museum of Art at Duke University, 2001 Campus Drive, will host it from September 24, 2026 - January 3, 2027.

Durham County Library will also have programming for children, teens, and adults around the subject of America's history, the Declaration, and more! Be sure to [check out our events calendar online](#) soon to see what we have planned!

Photos are courtesy of the David M. Rubenstein Americana Collection.

## Flashback Durham



### United Service Organizations in Durham

There's something timeless about gathering around a shared meal in the open air on a summer evening. The photograph above, circa 1940s, was taken at one of Durham's four United Service Organization clubs and captures that feeling beautifully. Members and their guests sit together outdoors, enjoying a simple alfresco meal and each other's company.

In the photo below, boxers Sugar Ray Robinson and Joe Louis visit Durham, possibly at the local USO for Black servicemen in this 1944 photo with many local residents.

During the 1940s, USO centers played a vital role in communities across the country, offering recreation, support, and a sense of normalcy for service members and civilians alike. In Durham, these spaces became hubs for social events, meals, dances, and informal gatherings that helped boost morale during World War II.

Outdoor meals like the one pictured in the top photo were common and reflected both practical necessity and a desire to create welcoming environments where people could relax away from wartime pressures. Robinson and Louis traveled the country as boxing stars, as did many other sporting and other celebrities to help boost morale.

Scenes such as this highlight the everyday social life that flourished around USO activities and the important place these organizations held in local history.

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



Digital Resource Highlight



Ferguson's **Career Guidance Center**

**FREE!**

The Essential Career Research Database –

**Job Profiles, Skills  
and Resources**

Provided by  **NC  
LIVE**

 **DURHAM COUNTY  
Library**

**Ferguson's Career Guidance Center**

Whether you know exactly what you want to do, you want to find out what careers you are suited for, or you're doing research on careers and industries you're interested in. Durham County Library is excited to let you know that your library card gets you **FREE** access to Ferguson's Career Guidance Center thanks to NC LIVE!

The award-winning Ferguson's Career Guidance Center is the first stop for career exploration, job skills, and more—including industry and professions articles, school planning resources, and skills and career advice. There are school searches to find the perfect undergraduate, nursing, and vocational/technical schools. Take part in the “My Life” interviews and Career Q&A videos to find out what a certain job is really like. Be sure to take the career interest assessment quiz that can help narrow your focus. Read the career advice blog or watch career tips videos for everything from interviewing tips to internship advice. Plus, there is advice and tips on networking and social media and much more!

[Take a trip to the Durham County Library website to begin your career research today!](#)

## Library Inspiration



“Reading should not be presented to children as a chore or duty. It should be offered to them as a precious gift.”

**- Kate DiCamillo**

Author Kate DiCamillo's books have a way of sneaking up on you – in the gentlest, most surprising ways. When we first met the scruffy dog in *Because of Winn-Dixie*, the expected sweet story ended up reminding us how healing small, unexpected friendships can be. And then there's *The Tale of Despereaux*, where a tiny mouse with impossible courage makes the world feel just a little bigger and a little brighter.

What makes DiCamillo's writing linger is that it speaks to whatever version of yourself shows up on the page. Kids get unforgettable characters and adventure. Adults get these quiet emotional truths tucked between the lines – little reminders about bravery, kindness, loneliness, and hope. Her stories grow with you, or maybe you grow into them, which is why so many of us return to her books at different stages of life.

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 DiCamillo in the Durham County Library via our online catalog.](#)

Photo credit: Dina Kantor - [https://www.katedicamillo.com/for\\_press/](https://www.katedicamillo.com/for_press/)

## 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 August's offerings by clicking on a location below to see programs for all age groups.

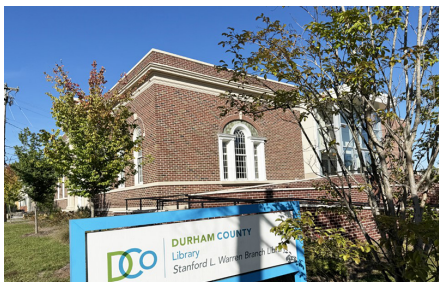
Want to know if the [Bookmobile](#) is making a public stop near you? Just click on Outreach Programs to find out!



**All Programs**



**North Regional Library**



**Stanford L. Warren Branch Library**



**Main Library**



**South Regional Library**



**Bragtown Branch Library**



**East Regional Library**

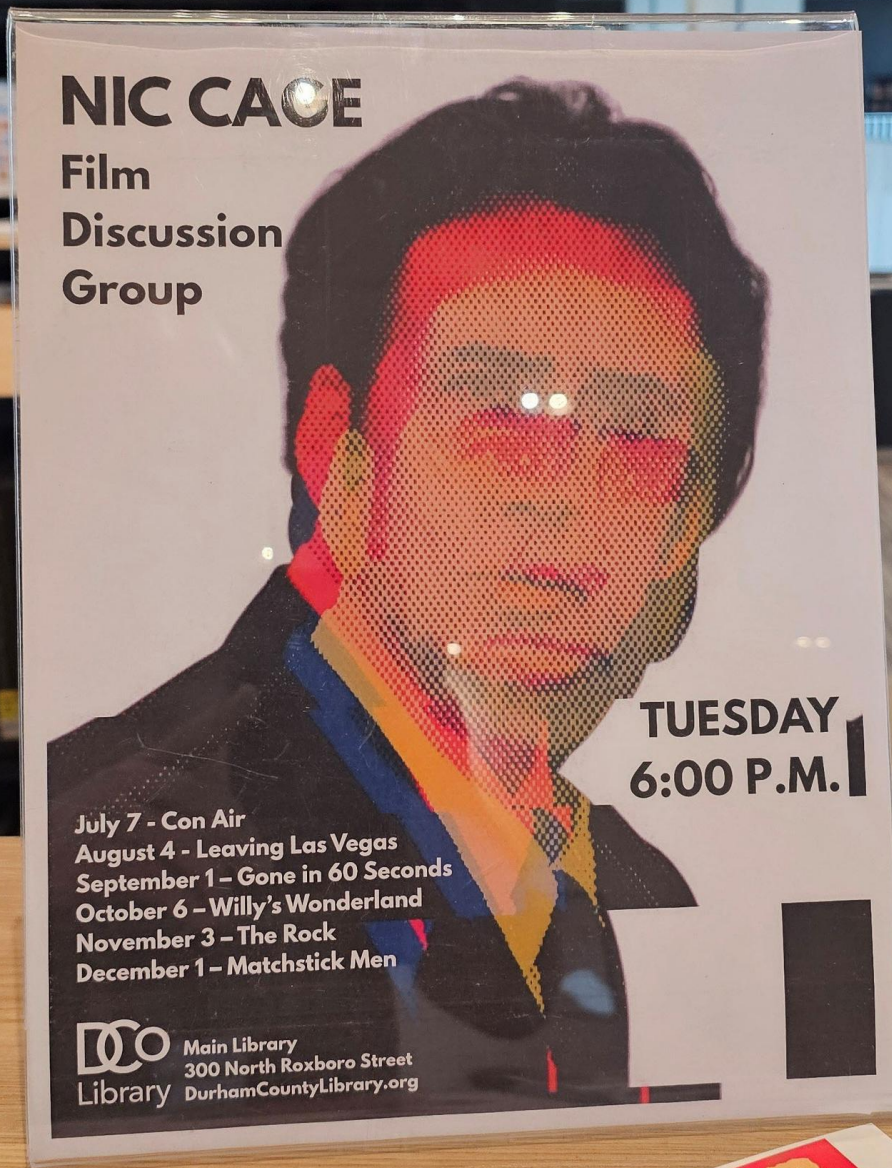


**Southwest Regional Library**



**Outreach Programs**

## **Feature Event at DCo Library**



## The Man, The Myth, The Legend ... Nic Cage!

Celebrate two of America's national treasures: The Declaration of Independence and Nicolas Cage at Main Library in August!

On Tuesday, August 4, the Nic Cage Film Discussion Group will have its monthly meetup from 6 - 7:30 p.m. in the Main Library's Children's Programming Room. Each month we will discuss a different film from Cage's long and productive film career, and this month's film is *Leaving Las Vegas*.

A film career that has spanned decades and genres, blockbusters and direct to video, Cage is a force unto himself. Incomparable practicing his own style of method acting which he calls Nouveau shamanism he transcends acting conventions. The only actor meta enough to have played himself. The only actor to have become an internet meme. The only actor to have a library film discussion group devoted to him.

Didn't watch the film? That's ok! Feel free to join as Nic Cage transcends discussions about specific films!

Refreshments will be served however please bring your own covered beverage.

[Register for August's Discussion Group meet up.](#)

Two more Cage-y events will be open for everyone on Saturday, August 22!

Start the celebration at 1:30 p.m. by learning "How Does He Do It? A Nic Cage Acting Workshop!" This is a question many ask themselves while watching a Nicolas Cage performance. How can one man contain so much range and is able to go from 0 to 100 in the blink of an eye? Well now we can finally start to answer these big questions. This acting workshop is dedicated to studying the craft of the Cage. From his Oscar nominated turns, to voiceover roles, the memes and everything in between, this is a wholly sincere program where we will learn and practice techniques that the legend himself has utilized.

This workshop will consist of acting warmup exercises, improv and some light scene work. Be ready to be on your feet and do some silly things! Everyone is welcome and it's all in the name of the Cage (and good fun)!

This program is for all ages and will be held in the Children's Programming Room located on the second floor of the Main Library.

[Register for How Does He Do It? A Nic Cage Acting Workshop!](#)

Want to prepare yourself for the Declaration of Independence coming to Main Library in September? Sneak your way into the Main Auditorium for a special film screening of *National Treasure* and learn how to steal it!

Activity sheets will be available! A limited number of free DVDs of *National Treasure* and *National Treasure: Book of Secrets* will be available thanks to generous donations from the community to The Friends of the Durham Library!

Released in 2004, Cage plays Benjamin Franklin Gates, a historian, along with a computer expert and archivist, search for a massive lost Freemason treasure, which includes a map hidden on the back of the United States Declaration of Independence.

The movie will start at 3 p.m. The film runs about 2 1/2 hours and is rated PG.

[Register for the film screening to receive a program reminder!](#)

Still not enough Nic Cage for you? Complete the National Treasure scavenger hunt in the Children's area and win a prize from the treasure box!

The scavenger hunt is suitable for juveniles accompanied by an adult and is an all-day drop in event.

All Nic Cage materials at the library can be found in the [Durham County Library Online Catalog](#).

Questions? Contact [mkoslofsky@dconc.gov](mailto:mkoslofsky@dconc.gov)

# Community Choice Award



## Breastfeed Durham Honors Durham County Library

Durham County Library was honored recently by Breastfeed Durham with their Community Choice Award: Celebrating Quiet Champions of Lactation Equity.

This is an award that is given to those who do the work to help everyone feel good about feeding their children. To quote Breastfeed Durham's website "This award is different. It's not based on forms, signatures, or official designations. It's based on real-life experiences – on what families tell us, what coalition members notice, and how welcoming a place feels."

Durham County Library prides itself on being exactly that – a welcoming place for everyone in our community. Durham County Main Library and East Regional Library each have dedicated lactation stations for customers and employees who need to feed their child or pump milk in a private setting.

And while our other locations don't have specifically labeled space for breastfeeding or pumping, all locations welcome those needing to do so can.

The Community Choice Award goes to places where staff members go out of their way to make parents feel comfortable feeding their babies; managers accommodate breastfeeding employees with kindness and respect – even without a written policy; and community members consistently say, "That's my favorite place to go when I need to nurse."

Durham County has partnered with local organizations and the Durham County Department of Public Health on programming such as Body/Breast/Bottle Feeding Basics, Breastfeeding Support Groups, and Ready, Set, Baby; as well as providing a wealth of information in [both our physical and digital catalogs](#).

"Durham County Library believes every family deserves to feel welcomed, supported, and seen. Receiving this Community Choice Award from Breastfeed Durham is an honor as it reflects the lived experiences of our community," said Durham County Library Director Dana Conners. "Library and County leadership and our staff strive to create spaces where caregivers can feed their children with comfort and dignity. As a parent, knowing a quiet, private place is available or having staff offer a chair, a smile, or simply reassurance truly matters and this honor reminds us of that. Thank you."

To learn more about Breastfeed Durham, visit their website at [BreastfeedDurham.org](https://BreastfeedDurham.org).

## 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



## In-Person Book Sale



**At:** *Books Among Friends*  
Shoppes of Hope Valley  
3825 South Roxboro St.  
Durham, NC 27713

**Friday, Aug. 21**  
**3pm to 7pm**

***Member Day***

***25% OFF all items for  
Members only***

**Memberships available at the door  
or online at [fodlnc.org](http://fodlnc.org)**

**Saturday, Aug. 22**  
**10am to 4pm**  
***Open to the Public***

## In-Person Book Sale

The next in-person book sale at the Friends of the Durham Library's *Books Among Friends* bookstore, located at 3825 S. Roxboro St. (The Shoppes of Hope Valley) in Durham will be held on August 21 and 22.

The FoDL's bookstore has over 20,000 fine donated books of all kinds, suitable for readers of all ages. It also has a wide selection of puzzles and games. Shop early for best selection!

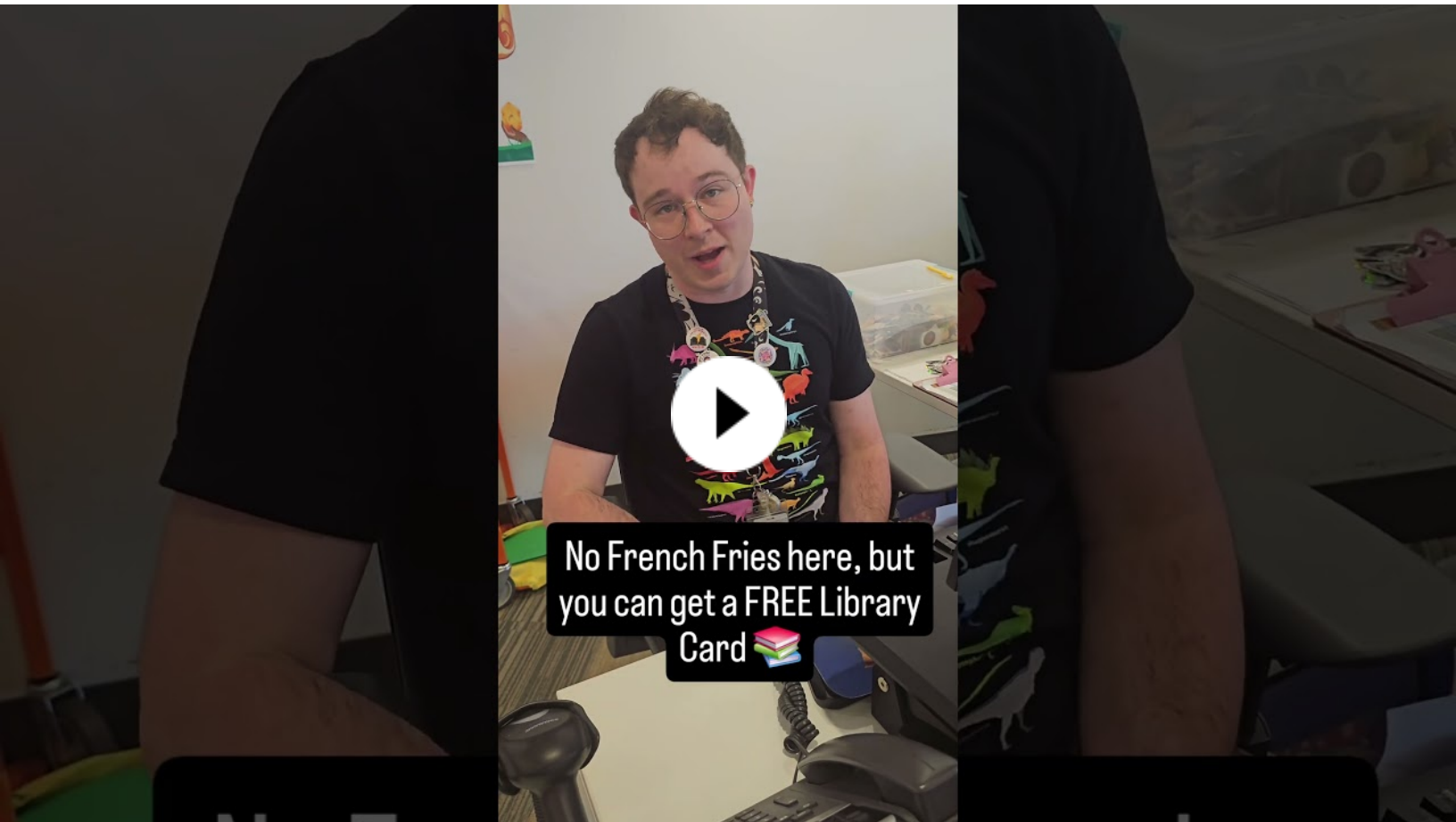
On Friday, August 21 it's Member Day, from 3 - 7 p.m. Everything will be 25% off regular price only for members of the Friends of the Durham Library during the Friday sale. Memberships are available at the door, or online anytime at on the [Friends of the Durham Library website at fodinc.org](https://www.fodinc.org).

On Saturday, August 22, the store will be open to the public from 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. The member discount does not apply during the Saturday sale.

As always, you can [shop all our fine donated books online right now at shopfodinc.org](https://shopfodinc.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](https://www.fodinc.org).

## Social Media Post of the Month



Happy National French Fry Day! 🍟 While we can't serve up shoestring, crinkle-cut, waffle, or curly fries at Durham County Library today, we can offer something even better — a free library card for all DCo residents! Sign up and unlock a world of possibilities, including plenty of fry-themed books, e-books, and deliciously fun reads. Swing by any of our 7 locations (and the bookmobile!) and get your card today! (And on the way, stop and get some fries... mmmmm... fries! To get a card, you'll need a photo ID and proof of address. And boom! It's yours.

*(Originally posted on YouTube Shorts, Facebook & Instagram. Be sure to follow us to see more!)*





DURHAM COUNTY  
Library



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