

# LIBRARY HAPPENINGS

CAROLINE COUNTY LIBRARY'S QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER



Unlimited access,  
kid-safe and ad-free!

Entertaining and  
educational videos,  
games, songs,  
interactives and  
more!

Just for Kids is provided by  
**Infobase**

**JUST FOR KIDS**  
ACCESS VIDEO



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With the holidays fast approaching, we would like to remind patrons that Access Video: Just For Kids is an excellent resource for after-school fun, homeschoolers, homework help, entertainment, and more! Content is added from trusted producers, such as PBS Kids, Reading Rainbow, Highlights, and many more. All content is reviewed, vetted, and ad-free, making it a great kid-safe environment! Access Video: Just For Kids can be found on our website under the Read/Watch/Listen category of our Digital Resources page, or by using the following link: [www.carolinelibrary.org/digital-resources/read-listen-watch/](http://www.carolinelibrary.org/digital-resources/read-listen-watch/).

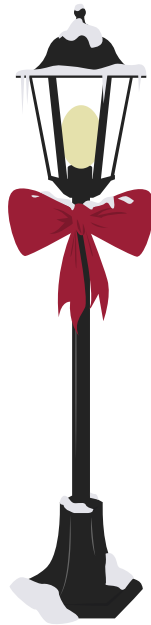
# Hello and Welcome!

Hello all and welcome to the Winter 2025-26 edition of the Library Happenings newsletter! Winter is tough- full of bad weather and lots of obligations. While winter may have some terrible weather, it is a great time in the library. We have tons of fun and exciting activities ongoing- not to mention lots of cozy books to enjoy next to a warm fireplace. Even if you can't make it into a branch, the library is still here for you. Check out ebooks and audiobooks from anywhere with OverDrive and the Libby app. Catch up on local and national news by reading the newspaper with our NewsBank databases. Can't get away from your house to hear your favorite author speak- check out our current and past author talks on the Library Speakers Consortium. It doesn't matter where you are or if the weather is bad, you can access all of these and more with your library card on our website- [www.carolinelibrary.org](http://www.carolinelibrary.org)!

*Megan Upshaw*  
Library Director

## Please Note:

In the event of inclement weather, Caroline County Library follows the Caroline County Government Offices in regard to closings and delays. Follow our Facebook page for the most reliable updates!



## 'Tis the Season for Branch Closings

### December 24

All Branches  
Closing at 12 PM

### December 25—27

Closed for  
the Holidays

### December 31

All Branches  
Closing at 5 PM

### January 1

Closed for  
New Years Day

### January 19

Closed for Martin  
Luther King Jr. Day

### February 3

Dawn & Port Royal  
Branches Closed for  
Special Election

### February 16

Closed for  
President's Day

# Children's Storytime!



## **Mother Goose Storytime**

**Ages 0-2.** Stories, songs and rhymes for babies and toddlers with their caregiver.

**Tuesdays at 10:00 AM**

Ladysmith Branch

**Thursdays at 9:30 AM**

Bowling Green Branch

## **Preschool Storytime**

**Ages 2-5.** Stories, crafts and more for young children with their parent and/or guardian.

**Thursdays at 10:00 AM**

Ladysmith Branch

**Thursdays at 10:00 AM**

Bowling Green Branch

## **Family Storytime**

**All Ages.** Stories and a craft.

**Wednesdays at 10:00 AM**

Dawn Branch

## **Storytime Cancellations**

Storytime will be canceled on the following days:

**Wednesday, December 24, 2024 (Closing Early for Christmas Eve)**

**Thursday, December 25, 2025 (Closed Christmas Day)**

**Thursday, January 1, 2026 (Closed New Year's Day)**

In the event of closures or delays due to inclement weather, storytime may be canceled. Check our Facebook page regularly for updates.

# Children & Teen Programs

## Fine Motor Skills

**Ages 2-5.** Participate in a variety of activities to help with a child's development and independence.

**Second & Fourth Thursdays**

**11:00 AM - 12:00 PM**

**Ladysmith Branch**

## LEGO Club

**Ages 6+.** Participate in themed building challenges or free build. All LEGOs provided.

**Every Thursday**

**5:00 PM - 6:30 PM**

**Ladysmith Branch**



## Teen Writing Group

**Ages 13-17.** Join us at the Ladysmith Branch for our monthly meeting. Share your drafts of your creative writing and help one another to improve your skills!

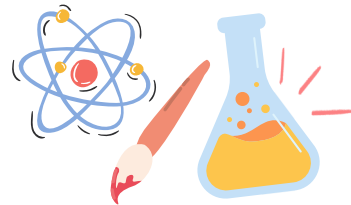
**Second Mondays**

**5:30 PM - 6:30 PM**

**Ladysmith Branch**



Experience STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, Mathematics) based activities, practical skills, games and more at the **Ladysmith Branch!**



## Kidz Corner

**(Ages 6-8)**

**Second Tuesdays**

**5:30 PM - 6:30 PM**

## Tween Hideout

**(Ages 9-12)**

**Fourth Tuesdays**

**5:30 PM - 6:30 PM**

## Teen Hangout

**(Ages 13-17)**

**Third Wednesdays**

**5:30 PM - 6:30 PM**

## Dawn Monthly Scavenger Hunt

Join us at the Dawn Branch each month for a themed scavenger hunt. Find all the pictures and get a sticker as a prize!



## Helpful Digital Resources for Kids!

### Access Video: Just For Kids



Unlimited ad-free access to kid-safe resources for after-school fun, homeschoolers, homework help, entertainment, and more!

### Homework HelpNow



Connect LIVE with a certified tutor, seven days a week between 2 and 11 pm, for assistance with assignments, research and writing. Also find practice tests, study plans, and more. Tutoring is available in English and Spanish.

### Gale In Context: Elementary



Meet the research needs of students in Kindergarten through grade 5, with age-appropriate content from magazines, newspapers, and reference materials, covering current events, the arts, science, health, people, government, history, and more.

### Explora: Secondary Schools



Supports both student research and classroom instruction with age-appropriate content for middle and high school learners with an easy-to-use interface and great accessibility tools, including translation and text to sound.

### Transparent Language



Language learners can build vocabulary, practice skills, and maintain what they have learned with Transparent Language Online, available anytime, anywhere in 110+ languages.

These Digital Resources and many more can be found at <https://carolinelibrary.org/digital-resources/>.



Track your reading and participate in reading challenges on your mobile device with the Beanstack Tracker app.

Scan the QR Code to download the app!



### Upcoming Challenges:



### 2026 Year Long Challenge: Read It Your Way



### December: Reading Wrap-Up



### January: Read With Benny



### February: Winter Olympics



# Adult Craft & Hobby Groups

## Creative Hands

Explore a variety of crafts.  
Supplies not provided. For more information call the Ladysmith Branch at (804) 448-0357.

**Every Wednesday**  
**1 PM - 3 PM**  
Ladysmith Branch

## Knitting and Crocheting Group

Learn to knit or crochet with instruction at the Dawn Branch! A few basic supplies are available. For more information call the Dawn Branch at (804) 632-8341.

**Every Wednesday**  
**2:30 PM - 4:30 PM**  
Dawn Branch

## Quilting Group

Experienced quilters work on projects of their own. Instructions are not provided. For more information call the manager of the Ladysmith Branch at (804) 448-0357.

**Every Monday**  
**9 AM - 2 PM**  
Ladysmith Branch

## Beginner Quilting

Sign up is required.  
Class Size Limited to 10.  
All Sessions Must Be Attended.

Hone your skills in quilting basics, including machine maintenance, terminology, sewing 1/4" seams, cutting, pressing and block construction.

A list of supplies will be available for the class.

**Classes are from 9 AM - 12:30 PM at the Ladysmith Branch on the following dates:**

- Saturday, January 17<sup>th</sup>
- Saturday, January 24<sup>th</sup>
- Saturday, January 31<sup>st</sup>
- Saturday, February 7<sup>th</sup>
- Saturday, February 14<sup>th</sup>
- Saturday, February 21<sup>st</sup>



## Adult Craft & Hobby Groups Cont.

### Adult Writing Group

Ages 21+. Love to write? Would you like to meet other writers? Come explore your inner author with other members of the Caroline Wordsmith Society. No matter what genre you like to write, all are welcome!

All meetings are held in the Economic Development Conference Room at the Caroline County Visitor's Center



#### Regular Meeting

**Fourth Monday  
of the Month  
6PM—8PM**

#### Writing Workshop

**First Wednesday  
of the Month  
6PM—8PM**

### Winter Themed Paint Night

**Ages 18+.** Create a painting with guidance. Canvases, paintbrushes & paints provided. Smocks not provided. Space is limited. Sign up required. Visit or call the Bowling Green Branch at (804) 633-5455 to sign up!

Please note, due to high demand and limited supplies, if you are more than 15 minutes late, then you forfeit your spot and will not be able to participate. No participants or guests under 18.

### Ladysmith Book Club



**December 6th  
10:30 AM**

Reader's Choice  
of a Holiday-  
themed book  
at the Ladysmith  
Branch

**January 10th  
1 PM**

Reader's Choice  
of a Gift-themed  
book

**February 14th  
1 PM**

*The Book Club for  
Troublesome  
Women* (2025) by  
Marie Bostwick

Jan. & Feb. meetings at  
Common Grounds Coffee Shop

**December 10, 2025**

**5 PM - 7:30 PM**

Bowling Green Branch  
Meeting Room



## Adult Craft & Hobby Groups Cont.



### 2026 Reading Bingo Challenge

If you love reading then you might be interested in putting yourself to the test with Caroline County Library's 2026 year-long reading bingo challenge! This challenge is designed to encourage library patrons to explore and use a wide range of items from our collection. It is also meant to give that extra "push" to have you read outside your normal comfort zones and try new things in the process.

Rules are simple and the squares are easy to follow. Most are up to the participant's interpretation. There is a total of 25 squares to complete with no overlap, meaning 25 books and/or activities completed throughout the year. Those who choose to participate can claim BINGO a total of 3 times and receive three respective small prizes; however if you complete the entire card then you will be entered into a grand prize drawing where the winner will be announced in December 2026.

Be sure to stop by your local branch starting in January to pick up your copy of the bingo card! Copies will be available throughout the year and on our Facebook to print at your leisure.

### Paint Night: Unbound

**Ages 18+.** Create a painting of your choice. No specific stencils will be given, however previous stencils and example printouts will be available. Feel free to bring your own project or idea!

Canvases, paintbrushes & paints provided. Smocks not provided. Space is limited. Sign up required. Visit or call the Bowling Green Branch at (804) 633-5455 to sign up!

**January 14, 2026**  
**5 PM - 7:30 PM**  
Bowling Green Branch  
Meeting Room

**February 11, 2026**  
**5 PM - 7:30 PM**  
Bowling Green Branch  
Meeting Room



Please note, due to high demand and limited supplies, if you are more than 15 minutes late, then you forfeit your spot and will not be able to participate. No participants or guests under 18.



# Virtual Author Talks: Live and On Demand

## Upcoming Author Talks



**Dec 2, 2025**     Sue Hincenbergs, author of *The Retirement Plan* (2025)  
**2:00 PM ET**

**Jan 13, 2026**     David Brooks, author of *How to Know a Person: The Art of Seeing Others Deeply and Being Deeply Seen* (2023)  
**2:00 PM ET**

**Jan 20, 2025**     Julia Hotz, author of *The Connection Cure: The Prescriptive Power of Movement, Nature, Art, Service, and Belonging* (2024)  
**2:00 PM ET**

**Jan 28, 2026**     Liz Moore, author of *The God of the Woods* (2024)  
**7:00 PM ET**

**Feb 5, 2025**     Vanessa Riley, author of the upcoming novel *Fire Sword & Sea* (2026)  
**7:00 PM ET**

**Feb 12, 2025**     Lindsey Stewart, author of *The Conjuring of America: Mojos, Mermaids, Medicine, and 400 Years of Black Women's Magic* (2025)  
**2:00 PM ET**

**Feb 24, 2025**     Tom Crouch, author of *Smithson's Gamble: The Smithsonian Institution in American Life, 1836–1906* (2025), a Smithsonian Collaboration  
**2:00 PM ET**

Scan the QR code or visit <https://libraryc.org/carolinelibrary> to sign up for future talks or to watch previous ones on demand.



# Want More to Read?

## Try out some of our digital resources!

### OverDrive eBooks & Audiobooks

#### Southern Virginia Libraries United Electronically

Read ebooks, magazines, and listen to audiobooks on your mobile device, tablet, or computer with your Caroline County library card!



#### Libby by OverDrive

The same great titles from OverDrive in a modern, easy-to-use app. Enjoy perks such as offline reading, Apple Carplay and Android Auto support, push notifications, and more.



#### EBSCO Learning ACCEL

Explore a unique business library, featuring videos, book summaries, and articles on professional development, leadership theory, and business best practices. Create an individual account to keep track of your reading materials and progress.



### Newspapers & Magazines

#### NewsBank

Access a variety of news content from local, regional, and national sources, including printed and online newspapers, blogs, journals, newswires, broadcast transcripts and videos. Databases include:



- [America's News](#)
  - [America's News Magazines](#)
  - [Daily Press Collection](#)
  - [Free-Lance Star Collection](#)
  - [Richmond Times-Dispatch Collection](#)
  - [USA Today Collection](#)
- [Black Life in America](#)
- [Asian Life in America](#)
- [Hispanic Life in America](#)
- [Indigenous Life in America](#)
- [Heritage Hub](#)
  - For obituaries, 1704-Present

#### Magzter Library

Unlock unlimited access to digital magazines with your Caroline County library card. If you prefer to take these magazines on the go, download the Magzter Library App for iOS and Android devices.



Find all these resources and more on our website under the Digital Resources tab! <https://carolinelibrary.org/digital-resources/>

# Other Helpful Digital Resources

## Genealogy, Learning, & Research

### Ancestry Library ancestryLibrary™

Search a wide range of unique resources for genealogical and historical research, including US census records, military records, court, land and probate records, vital and church records, directories, passenger lists, and more. **Please note: Ancestry Library is only available in the library.**

### Digital Learn



The Public Library Association's online hub for digital literacy support and training. Contains a collection of self-directed, video-based tutorials to help learners practice basic skills like using a mouse, creating an email address, navigating a website and more.

### Universal Class



From photography to physics and computers to calligraphy choose from over 500 online classes. Learn something new or update your existing skills.

## Career & Legal Resources

### JobNow



Connect with a certified career coach, seven days a week between 2 and 11 pm. Get help with résumé writing, applications, searches, and skill development needs. Also find unemployment assistance, résumé templates, career assessments, and more. Includes test prep resources and practice tests and career credentialing information for over 140 specific careers.

### VetNow



Connect LIVE with a military benefits navigator, seven days a week between 2 and 11 pm, for help with eligibility questions, connecting with veteran's benefits and community resources, transitioning from a military to civilian career, and more.

### Legal Forms



Find downloadable and fillable forms for basic legal transactions, current to Virginia code covering basic legal needs. Includes a comprehensive section of templates for small businesses including: wills, invoices, leases, sales agreements, contracts, power of attorney and more.

Find all these resources and more on our website under the Digital Resources tab! <https://carolinelibrary.org/digital-resources/>





# CAROLINE COUNTY LIBRARY

[www.carolinelibrary.org](http://www.carolinelibrary.org)

## **Bowling Green Branch**

17202 Richmond Turnpike  
Milford, VA 22514

Phone: (804) 633-5455

FAX: (804) 633-9069

MON: 9:00AM-6:00PM

TUE: 9:00AM-6:00PM

WED: 9:00AM-8:00PM

THUR: 9:00AM-5:00PM

FRI: 9:00AM-5:00PM

SAT: 9:00AM-1:00PM

## **Ladysmith Branch**

7199 Clara Smith Street  
Ruther Glen, VA 22546

Phone: (804) 448-0357

FAX: (804) 448-3124

MON: 9:00AM-7:00PM

TUE: 9:00AM-7:00PM

WED: 9:00AM-7:00PM

THUR: 9:00AM-7:00PM

FRI: 9:00AM-5:00PM

SAT: 9:00AM-1:00PM

## **Dawn Branch**

31046 Richmond Turnpike  
Hanover, VA 23069

Phone: (804) 632-8341

FAX: (804) 280-0074

MON: 9:00AM-6:00PM

TUE: 9:00AM-5:00PM

WED: 9:00AM-5:00PM

THUR: 9:00AM-5:00PM

FRI: 9:00AM-5:00PM

## **Port Royal Branch**

419 King Street  
Port Royal, VA 22535

Phone: (804) 742-5254

FAX: (804) 742-5263

MON: 9:00AM-2:00PM

TUE: 9:00AM-2:00PM

WED: 11:00AM-5:00PM

SAT: 9:00AM-1:00PM



Follow us on Facebook and stay up-to-date with  
library programming and events!

[www.facebook.com/carolinelib](https://www.facebook.com/carolinelib)

