York County Library is pleased to announce the first annual Winter Reading Challenge! The library is encouraging all ages to continue their love of reading over the winter school break and throughout those long, cold winter nights. Winter is a great time to improve family literacy, increase library usage, and snuggle up with a good book.

The online Winter Reading Challenge will run Dec. 17 – Jan. 31, and all ages are welcome to participate. Register at any YCL branch, the Bookmobile, or online, starting Nov. 29. Log in to your existing Beanstack account through our website or create one at yclibrary.beanstack.org. Just keep track of the time you read or listen to an audiobook.

Once you have logged five hours through Beanstack, stop by any YCL location by Jan. 31 to pick up a prize from local sponsors, while supplies last. For every five hours logged through Beanstack, readers will be entered to win a Family Fun Grand Prize. The more you read, the more chances you have to win!

As an added bonus, when you sign up for the Winter Reading Challenge you will automatically be entered in a special community program offered through Beanstack. To celebrate the new year, we challenge York County to complete this program during the month of January. If all participating libraries meet one nationwide goal, Shark Tank investor Mark Cuban will donate $25,000 to the top libraries. Winning libraries will use a portion of their reward to fund initiatives at the library and a portion to “pay it forward” to a local organization.

So, make a new year’s resolution to read more books and help us meet our goal. It’s easy — just sign up at yclibrary.org or your local library and follow the challenge via the hashtag #YCLreads on social media.

WATCH FOR ELVES IN THE SHELVES!

Get into the spirit! The annual Elves in the Shelves celebration, part of Old Town Rock Hill's ChristmasVille festival, will take place Thursday, Nov. 29, from 4–6 p.m. at the Main Library in Rock Hill. The library will be merry and bright with holiday music by Ed Wielunski, letters to Santa, children’s crafts by community partners, face-painting by Rock Hill High School Teacher Cadets, and a visit from our own Elf on the Shelf.

Bring a camera to take family photos with our life-size elf, warm up with hot chocolate and cookies, and check out our festive holiday books and materials. All ages are welcome, and no registration is required. For more information, call the Children’s Department at 803-981-5888, visit yclibrary.org, or view a complete schedule of ChristmasVille events at ChristmasVilleRockHill.com.
National Novel Writing Month, or NaNoWriMo, has taken place during November since 1999. The yearly NaNoWriMo challenge is to write a brand new 50,000-word novel in 30 days, from midnight, Nov. 1, to 11:59 p.m., Nov. 30. NaNoWriMo is also the name of the non-profit organization that hosts this challenge.

Check out NaNoWriMo.org for information, inspiration, and writing tips. You can also register to track the word count of your novel, connect with local writers, and find "Come Write In" events. The Main Library in Rock Hill will host Come Write In sessions every Tuesday in November from 5–7 p.m. See below for more information.

Don’t feel like you can make the 50,000-word challenge? Set a writing goal for November that fits your schedule. Take on a smaller challenge — set a word limit, page, or paragraph goal that is manageable but challenging. Make it fit your writing style and preferences.

Want motivation to tackle NaNoWriMo? "Come Write In" to these writing programs this November:

Fort Mill Writers’ Group: A safe, welcoming place to hone your writing. Contact jef.tobias@yclibrary.org for more information. Saturdays, Oct. 13 & 27, Nov. 10, & Dec. 8, 1:15–2:45 p.m., Fort Mill Library

Rock Hill Writers: Writers of all subjects and genres are invited to share and discuss their writing. Contact garrett.urban@yclibrary.org for more information. Wednesdays, Oct. 24, Nov. 28, & Dec. 26, 6–7 p.m., Main Library

Local Author Fair: Join YCL in welcoming local authors to display their works of poetry, fiction, and non-fiction. The books will be available for sale, and authors will be on hand to sign copies and answer questions. No registration required. Saturday, Nov. 3, 2–4 p.m., Main Library

Come Write In: Bring your laptops, paper, and pens and enjoy the company of fellow writers for the NaNoWriMo 50,000-word challenge or other writing goal. Light refreshments will be provided, as well as plenty of outlets for your devices. Those who complete the NaNoWriMo goal by midnight Nov. 31 will be eligible to win a McAlister’s gift card on Dec. 3. Registration is encouraged and limited to 25. Walk-ins are welcome. Contact sarah.metts@yclibrary.org for more information. Tuesdays, Nov. 6, 13, 20, & 27, 5–7 p.m., Main Library

Teen Writers’ Workshop: Join us to share your writing and receive constructive feedback from your peers. Bring your notebooks, laptops, and any work you would like to share. Ages 11-17. Limit 10. Register online or call 803-831-7774, starting Nov. 14. Wednesday, Nov. 28, 6–7 p.m., Lake Wylie Library

Get Help with These Writing Tips!

Schedule It: Dedicate a time and place for writing that works for you. You may be an early bird or night owl, enjoy background music, or prefer total silence. Make a date to write and pick a place that inspires you.

Gather Inspiration on the Go: Keep a journal or note-keeping app to track ideas as they come to mind. That little idea could be the seed for something bigger.

Treat Yourself: Meet your goal today? Having trouble feeling motivated? Promise yourself a treat when you reach your daily goal, as simple as a walk outside, browsing the Internet, or a sweet treat.

Find Other Writers: Find a writing group for critiques and helpful advice. Check out our Events Calendar for more information.

From Big to Small: A large word-count goal can be intimidating. Break your big goal into daily goals, each an individual step of your long (and rewarding) journey.

Silence the Inner Critic: When trying to meet a large word count, it is not the time to edit grammar and spelling. Push those worries aside as you work on your first draft. Worry about the fine details afterwards.

Find it Out: Search the 808 section of non-fiction to find instructional books on writing.
Imagínese sentado en una “Piazza en Roma,” saboreando un “Expreso” o comenzando su mañana disfrutando de un “café con leche” sentado en una “Plaza en el centro de Madrid.” Mientras está sentado allí, se escuchan diferentes conversaciones por todas partes. Como no eres de la localidad y no hablas el idioma local, ¿Cómo podrías entender el idioma que se está hablando? Una buena forma es seguir lo que sucede en contexto de lo que observas, no solo escuchando atentamente las palabras que oyes sino, también estudiando detenidamente la manera en cómo se usan.

Aprender un nuevo lenguaje puede ser una aventura divertida y emocionante que cualquiera puede lograr. Uno de mis recursos en línea favoritos se llama “Mango Languages.” “Mango” tiene lecciones contextualizadas de la vida real que permite a los usuarios iniciar una sesión y practicar un lenguaje extranjero desde cualquier lugar y en cualquier momento. ¡De hecho, “Mango” ofrece una aplicación móvil para teléfonos celulares! La primera lección comienza con unas pocas palabras básicas del vocabulario, pero luego presenta diferentes situaciones en las que el usuario escucha varias formas en que puede proseguir la conversación. ¿Qué tal aprender el dialecto de un Pirata? ¡Ahoy Mateys!

Ahora, ¿qué pasa si el usuario desea aprender un nuevo lenguaje además de viajar a un país distante y desconocido? ¿Cuáles son algunas costumbres, festivales, comidas disfrutadas en estos lugares lejanos? “Credo” es un recurso en línea que proporciona información detallada sobre una amplia variedad de temas, como culturas y pueblos lejanos.

Entonces, el usuario está aprendiendo una nueva lengua, aprendiendo sobre una nueva cultura, y ahora decide que quiere conducir por el campo de un lugar nuevo. ¿Hay algún lugar o recurso en línea donde pueda investigar y preparar todo lo necesario para usar un automóvil para este gran viaje por carretera? “AutoMate” es un recurso en línea que incluye tutoriales, “paso a paso” para efectuar reparaciones, con imágenes originales de los fabricantes de equipos, programas de mantenimiento, estimaciones de mano de obra, boletines de servicio técnico, especificaciones y códigos de diagnóstico de fallas.

Provistos en parte por la Biblioteca Estatal de Carolina del Sur y la Biblioteca del Condado de York, los servicios que ofrecen estas bases de datos, son una ayuda invaluable para familias de bajos ingresos. No importa cuál sea el tema, la Biblioteca del Condado de York tiene un recurso en línea disponible en su biblioteca virtual. Para obtener más información, no dude en visitar “La Biblioteca Virtual del Condado de York” en el sitio: www.yclibrary.org/all-resources.

Farm Chicks Vintage of York, S.C., recently gifted the Clover Library with its own Blessing Box. What is a Blessing Box? It’s much like a small “Little Free Library” seen in neighborhoods, but instead of books to borrow or give, a Blessing Box holds hygiene items such as toothpaste, deodorant, and shampoo. These items are donated, with no charge for taking them, encouraging visitors to “Leave what you can; take what you need.”

A local patron of the Clover branch has volunteered to decoratively paint the box, which will be installed under the light in the parking lot median, near the picnic table. This will allow folks to help themselves to needed items without embarrassment of asking for help. Also, it will be available when other places of assistance are closed.

Farm Chicks Vintage has seen these boxes used in the lower part of the state with much success. They hope there will be one in every town in York County! You may never know how a friend, neighbor, or visitor needs a little help. Hopefully it will allow patrons to be good to each other! We’re excited to reach out and support a need in our community our services haven’t included in the past.
Growing up, I would always listen to fantastic stories my father would tell me about our family. An amateur genealogist, he would spend hours and hours researching where everyone came from. While hearing what newfound ancestor I was related to at home, I would also be studying the culture through the history textbooks at school. Admittedly, I was not a huge history fan. Hearing about a culture and learning about the life in a book was not my favorite thing to do. In addition, there were so many cultures I was related to. Where to begin? German, Scots-Irish, French-Canadian, ... and then there was Puerto Rico.

I always gravitated to our Puerto Rican side of my family for some reason. Was it the bright colors of the costumes I saw in the books and movies? Was it the dancing and lively music I always heard? Could it be that I just absolutely love “Arroz con gandules,” “Alcapurrias,” “Pasteles,” and “Cerveza?” Yum! Now as a grown-up with my own daughter, I get to teach her about some of our family heritage, as well as her father’s. He can trace his family to the South American country of Chile.

Hispanic Heritage Month was created to celebrate all the many contributions Hispanics around the globe make to keep their culture not just alive, but vibrant and real for future generations. From Sept. 15 – Oct. 15, 2018, events can be found all over the country that bring to life this diverse culture and history. Please visit York County Library and look at the many books we have that showcase this wonderful culture. While there, go by the Spanish language section to read many classics and bestsellers in Spanish. Not a big Spanish language reader? Not a problem! Visit yclibrary.org and check out Mango Languages, where patrons can practice learning Spanish on their own time for free.

Sírvase a visitar la Biblioteca del Condado de York y vea los diferentes libros que tenemos disponibles sobre esta maravillosa cultura. Una vez ahí, pase por la sección del lenguaje Español, para leer literatura clásica regional e internacional junto a libros de mayor venta en Español. Y si por casualidad, usted no es un fanático de la lectura, ¡eso no es ningún problema! Visite: www.yclibrary.org y averigüe acerca del servicio de internet “Mango Languages,” mediante el cual nuestros clientes pueden aprender a hablar Español al igual que cualquier otro idioma, en su propio tiempo y de manera gratuita. ¡Lo esperamos!

By / Por: Jennifer Allan
T-MOBILE HOTSPOTS
AVAILABLE TO CHECK OUT

Don’t have Internet access at home? York County Library may have a solution for you. As your community link, the Library is pleased to announce the availability of T-Mobile HotSpots for checkout at our locations in Rock Hill, Clover, and York, as well as the Bookmobile. Patrons in our community can use the T-Mobile 4G LTE network to be productive anywhere T-Mobile towers have available coverage.

To connect to the device, power it on by holding down the left side of the power button for three seconds only and releasing it. Wait for the network indicator and the Wi-Fi signal (the first two icons on the device) to remain blue, then look for the assigned SSID (Service Set Identifier) on the back of the device in the available Wi-Fi networks. Enter this password when prompted to connect to the HotSpot. Data is unlimited, and patrons can connect up to five devices.

HotSpots can be checked out by any York County resident age 18 years or older with a valid YC card. Patrons must be in good standing with the library and have no fines above $5 on their account. HotSpot checkouts are limited to one family at a time and may be checked out for two weeks with no renewals. Holds cannot be placed on the devices and are available on a first-come, first-served basis. For more details on this service, please go to yclibrary.org/hotspots.

PAWS FOR READING!

The Clover Library is starting a new Paws for Reading program this fall. Members of a local chapter of Therapy Dogs International (TDI) are bringing therapy dogs for one-on-one, 15-minute reading sessions with children.

For children who have an affinity with dogs, Paws for Reading provides a fun, relaxed atmosphere to practice reading aloud. Because dogs are completely non-judgmental, this program will enhance young patrons’ self-esteem, motivate speech, and build confidence.

We hope it will alleviate future stress associated with reading aloud in classrooms. Sign up for a Paws for Reading session at the Clover Library or call 803-222-3474.

GREAT AMERICAN READ GALA

Celebrate the finale of The Great America Read! Dress as your favorite book character, walk the red carpet, and choose from activities inspired by America’s 100 best-loved books: a Ready Player One gaming area, Dr. Frankenstein's Maker Lab, Harry Potter Escape Room, refreshments with the Mad Hatter, Gatsby’s trivia party, photo booths, and more. The gala will be held Friday, Oct. 19, at the Main Library in Rock Hill from 7–9 p.m. Registration is recommended.

The Great American Read, hosted by Meredith Vieira, is a television and online series about reading and the books that have inspired, moved, and shaped us. The series engages audiences with a list of 100 diverse books, encouraging them to read and vote from the list until the finale Oct. 23.

SECOND ANNUAL LOCAL AUTHOR FAIR

Calling all writers! The art of writing, whether for a newsletter, a book, or a simple instruction manual, can be a daunting task. Where do you begin? How do you get published? Whom do you talk to for advice? On Saturday, Nov. 3, from 2–4 p.m., join York County Library in welcoming several local authors to display their works of poetry, fiction, and non-fiction. Authors will be on hand to sell and sign their books as they answer any questions aspiring writers might have. These authors have gone through the struggles many writers experience and are full of information to share. For further information, please call 803-981-5847. We look forward to seeing you!

Featured Authors

Tia Capers
Sabrina and Laura Colvin
Anita Hart

Yesenia Hernandez
Barbara Lunow
Donna Medley
Zelma Orr

Matt Parker
Taylor Spencer
Matt D. Talford
Tommy Whitaker

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Introducing Turing Tumble

Alan Turing is not a well-known name in America. He was a Briton, most famously known for cracking the code utilized by the Germans during World War II in their ENIGMA machines, thus shortening the war by an estimated two years and saving millions of lives. Turing is also known as the father of modern computer science because of his thoughts on computer memory.

In 1936, Turing hypothesized that one day we could build machines to compute any problem a human could, using 0s and 1s. His proposed single-task "Turing machines" would be capable of solving just one type of math problem, but a "universal computer" would be able to tackle any kind of problem thrown at it by storing instructional code in the computer's memory. Turing’s ideas about memory storage and using a single machine to carry out all tasks laid the foundation for what would become the digital computer.

In 1945, while working for the UK’s National Physical Laboratory, he developed the Automatic Computing Machine, the first digital computer with stored programs. Previous computers didn’t have electric memory storage and had to be manually rewired to switch between different programs, much the same as Turing Tumble.

So ... What is Turing Tumble? It is a Turing machine, a revolutionary new game where players (ages 8 to adult) build mechanical computers powered by marbles to solve logic puzzles. Sixty puzzles are woven into a comic story where each solved puzzle brings Alia, a space engineer, closer to rescue from a forgotten planet. By connecting simple switches in clever ways, it can do incredibly smart things, and you can discover how computers really work. The logic isn't hidden inside a computer chip; it's right there in front of you.

Kids learn best when they are using their senses to explore new concepts. Turing Tumble teaches coding strategy, as well as abstract concepts like binary counting, binary operations, and logic gates in a fun, tangible way. Imagine learning to code in a language without words. Turing Tumble blurs the line between coding and building machinery, with no syntax to learn, no abstract thinking, and, most important, no electronics at all. Come check out the Library’s latest acquisition. We have several at each branch for in-library checkout and use.