

# **A to Z**

## ***Guide to Catawba County Services***



***Keeping the Spirit Alive Since 1842!***  
***Catawba County, NC***

## **A TO Z**

This handy booklet is a directory of information and services offered by Catawba County to its residents. All phone numbers are in the 828 area code, unless noted.

### **ABANDONED AND JUNKED VEHICLES**

To report abandoned vehicles contact the Code Enforcement Office at 465-8261. This office is located in the Utilities & Engineering department on the second floor of the Government Center, 100-A South West Boulevard in Newton.

### **AGRICULTURAL RESOURCES CENTER**

Located at 1175 South Brady Avenue, this building consolidates all agricultural-related agencies--Cooperative Extension Service 465-8240; NC Forestry Service 465-8443; Rural Development Agency (formerly Farmers Home Administration) 464-1382, ext. 4; Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service 464-1382, ext. 2; Catawba Soil and Water Conservation District 465-8950.

### **AMBULANCE BILLS**

The County contracts with EMS Management and Consultants for all ambulance billing. You may pay your bill directly or have EMS|MC file for third party reimbursement through Medicare, Medicaid or private insurance. Questions about your ambulance bill? Call our billing company at (800) 814-5339.

### **ANIMAL CONTROL/ANIMAL SHELTER**

The Board of Commissioners has adopted an animal control ordinance to combat the problems of animal nuisance, animal cruelty, stray and abandoned animals and dangerous/potentially dangerous dogs. To report animal related problems Monday through Friday 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., contact the Animal Control Office by calling 464-7686. After hours and weekends, contact the Catawba County Communication Center at 464-3112. The Catawba County Animal Shelter also provides one year rabies vaccinations to pet owners year round, Monday through Friday between 11:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m.

**Rabies Vaccinations:** All dogs, cats and ferrets more than four months of age are required to have a current rabies vaccination. After vaccination, a metal tag is given to the owner to place on the collar of the pet. Dog owners must provide the dog with a collar or harness to display the vaccination tag at all times. Cats and ferrets are not required to wear the metallic tag; however the owner must maintain the rabies vaccination certificate as written evidence. For further information call Animal Control at 464-7686.

**Animal Shelter:** The shelter is located on Southwest Boulevard in Newton on the south side of the Catawba County Justice Center and is open Monday through Friday, 11:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.; Saturday 10:00 am - 3:00 p.m. Pets may be purchased under a mandatory pet adoption agreement. The agreement addresses proper care of the animal as

well as spaying and neutering. For further information, contact the Animal Shelter at 464-7686. **Note: a new expanded shelter is expected to open in June 2014 on Government Services Drive, off Radio Station Road in Newton.**

**Hogs, Pigs, Swine:** It is against the law to keep hogs, swine, or pigs within a radius of 200 feet of a building that is frequently occupied by humans, except for lands owned by hog owners. For further information, contact the Sheriff's Department at 464-5241.

### **Exotic and Inherently Dangerous Animals**

A County ordinance regulates the possession of such animals. An exotic animal is 1) not native or indigenous to NC; 2) does not have an established wild population in NC; or 3) is not regulated by the NC Wildlife Commission. An inherently dangerous exotic mammal is any member of the *canidae*, *felidae*, or *ursidae* families, including hybrids thereof, which due to their inherent nature may be considered dangerous to humans. An inherently dangerous reptile is any member of the class *reptilia* which is venomous or a member of the order *crocodilia*. For information contact Animal Control at 464-7686.

### **APPALACHIAN STATE UNIVERSITY CENTER**

Formerly known as The Hickory Metropolitan Higher Education Center (HMHEC) opened in the fall of 2003. It is a collaborative partnership among Appalachian State University, Catawba Valley Community College, Lenoir-Rhyne University and other colleges and universities. The mission of the center is to support and enhance the educational attainment and economic development of the region by offering a broad range of educational courses and training in targeted areas of study, as needed and requested by the community. (828) 324-6966

### **BOATING AND WATER SAFETY**

Catawba County requires every description of watercraft other than a seaplane to carry at least one life preserver, life belt, ring buoy, etc., as prescribed by the NC Wildlife Resources Commission for each person on board on all lakes in Catawba County. All persons operating vessels on Catawba County lakes must stop for a blue light or siren exhibited by any law enforcement officer during the performance of duties. Motorboats must be equipped with an efficient muffler, underwater exhaust or other device which at all times adequately muffles or suppresses the sound of the motor exhaust and motors cannot be equipped with a cutout. The County's noise ordinance also prohibits loud, disturbing and unnecessary noises.

### **BUILDING INSPECTION DEPARTMENT**

Building regulations are administered by the Building Inspection Department. Permits are required for general construction, electrical, mechanical, and plumbing. A permit is required for moving a structure, for placement of a manufactured home, remodeling, swimming pool, accessory structure, deck, and for demolition of buildings. The department's jurisdiction covers all areas of the County.

Before beginning any building or repair project, contact the Building Inspection office located on the first floor of the Government Center, 100-A Southwest Boulevard in Newton and at Hickory City Hall at 76 North Center Street in Hickory or call the Permit Center at 465-8399.

### **BURNING OF TRASH, LEAVES, DEBRIS**

There are regulations and permit requirements for open burning. For information contact the Catawba County Forest Service at 465-8443 or the Catawba County Fire-Rescue Division at 465-8230.

### **CHILDREN, SERVICES CONCERNING**

The County's human resources agencies provide services in many areas for children. Public Health provides physical examinations, vision and hearing tests and laboratory tests; counseling, immunizations, nutrition counseling, dental health screening, scoliosis screening and nurse follow up and/or referral. For more information on these programs call Public Health at 695-5800.

For information on adoption, day care, problem pregnancies, child abuse, delinquency prevention programs, conventional and specialized foster care, work permits for minors, and child support services, call Social Services (see listing below).

For information on adolescent counseling, mental retardation and developmental disability programs, psychiatric services, drug and alcohol abuse problems, and parent training/education, call Partners Behavioral Health Management at 327-2595.

<b>Adolescent Pregnancy Prevention</b>	<b>695-4427</b>
<b>Adoption</b>	<b>465-8901</b>
<b>Work First</b>	<b>695-5712</b>
<b>Child Abuse/Neglect (Available 24 hours a day)</b>	<b>324-9111</b>
<b>Child Support</b>	<b>695-5722</b>
<b>Child support payment information</b>	<b>1-800-992-9457</b>
<b>Day Care</b>	<b>695-5721</b>
<b>Foster Care</b>	<b>695-4535</b>
<b>Medicaid (all programs)</b>	<b>695-5712</b>
<b>School Social Work</b>	<b>695-4427</b>
<b>Work Permits</b>	<b>695-5707</b>

## **COMMISSIONERS, BOARD OF**

Regular meetings of the Catawba County Board of Commissioners are held on the first Monday of each month at 9:30 a.m., except for the first meeting in September which is held on the first Tuesday due to the Labor Day holiday, and on the third Monday at 7:00 p.m. The mid-month meeting in January is held on the third Tuesday due to the commemoration of Dr. Martin Luther King's Birthday. Most meetings are in the Robert E. Hibbitts Meeting Room of the 1924 Courthouse at 21 East 1<sup>st</sup> Street in Newton. Call INFOTALK @ 465-8468 for information on Board meetings or go to [www.catawbacountync.gov](http://www.catawbacountync.gov).

All meetings are open to the public and citizens are encouraged to attend and participate. For more information call the County Clerk at 465-8990.

The five-member Board of Commissioners is responsible for considering and providing for the needs of the residents of the County. They are elected on an at-large basis to staggered four year terms in November of even numbered years.

## **COMMUNITY ALERT SYSTEM**

Catawba County provides an emergency notification system that contacts citizens when there is a public safety emergency affecting their neighborhood by phone, text, and e-mail. Emergency messages may include alerts regarding hazardous material spills, acts of terrorism, major fires, floods and other emergencies. Urgent messages from municipal officials may include notifications about utility service interruptions, public water contamination, major traffic disruptions. The message would include information and instructions about where to go, what to do, and contact numbers for further assistance. People who live, work or go to school in Catawba County are encouraged to register their mobile devices and landlines at: <http://www.catawbacountync.gov/alert> or by calling (828) 465-8230.

## **COMMUNITY COLLEGE**

Catawba Valley Community College, a member of the North Carolina Community College System, offers a variety of educational opportunities to the residents of Catawba County including, one- and two-year vocational programs, a two-year college transfer program and continuing education programs that include Graduate Equivalent Degree (GED), Adult Basic Education (ABE), and English as a second language training. CVCC is located on Highway 70, SE in Hickory. For more information, call 327-7000.

## **COMMUNITY WATCH**

The Crime Prevention Officer of the Sheriff's Department offers information to residential communities and businesses on ways to lessen their chances of becoming crime victims. For further information call the Crime Prevention Division at 465-8337. The Sheriff's Department is located in the Catawba County Justice Center on Southwest Boulevard in Newton.

## **COOPERATIVE EXTENSION SERVICE**

C.E.S. is an out-of-school approach to extending the knowledge and research of NC State and A & T Universities. It is cooperatively funded and managed by County, State, and Federal governments. Offices are located in the Agricultural Resources Center, 1175 South Brady Avenue, Newton. Information on agriculture, family and consumer education, 4-H and youth, waste management education and community development is provided for citizens. Teaching and learning take place in community rooms, through telephone calls, publications, correspondence, mass media, exhibits, and on-site demonstrations. Subject matter examples include: gardening, weed and insect control, lawn and tree care, beef cattle management, financial management, nutrition, leadership development, and youth development. 4-H activities are available through clubs, camps, special interest activities, and after school programs. For more information call 465-8240.

## **DEER HUNTING**

It is unlawful, from one-half hour after sunset until one-half hour before sunrise, to intentionally shine a light upon a deer or intentionally sweep a light in search of deer anywhere in Catawba County.

For further information, contact the Sheriff's Department at 464-5241.

## **ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION (EDC)**

The Catawba County EDC provides management and technical assistance to existing local business and industry, and attracts industry to the County in order to diversify area economy and increase the tax base. The EDC is funded primarily by the County with support and cooperation of the municipalities.

The EDC is located at the Hickory Metro Convention Center, 1960-B 13th Ave. Dr. SE Hickory, NC 28602 and may be reached at 267-1564.

## **EDUCATION**

There are three public school systems in Catawba County--Catawba County (464-8333), Hickory Public (322-2855), and Newton-Conover City (464-3191). Catawba Valley Community College, a part of the State's community college system, may be reached at 327-7000.

## **ELECTIONS**

For information on elections, voter registration, absentee voting procedures, etc., you may call the Board of Elections at 464-2424 or 465-8440.

## **EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT**

Catawba County's Emergency Management division protects our community by coordinating all the activities necessary to build, sustain and improve the capability to

prepare for, respond to and recovery from natural disasters such as tornadoes, flooding and ice storms, man-made disasters such as hazardous materials spills, industrial and transportation incidents, and acts of terrorism. Emergency Management coordinates the following for the county:

- Development of the County's plans for large-scale emergencies and disasters.
- Education of individuals, families, businesses and community groups on emergency preparedness.
- Conducting training and exercises to evaluate the effectiveness of plans
- Collection, analysis, and dissemination of incident information.
- Manages and supports responses to and recovery from emergencies.
- Obtains funding in support of preparedness and mitigation for the county.
- Community Right to Know, Local Emergency Planning Committee and Tier II reporting.

For further information, call the Department of Emergency Services, which is located in the Government Center at 465-8230.

### **EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES**

Catawba County's paramedics are capable of stabilizing patients at the scene of an emergency almost as effectively as in an emergency room. A paramedic is in contact with a physician who authorizes all treatment, and is trained to perform electrocardiograms, administer intravenous medication and fluids, insert advanced airway tubes, and perform defibrillation - a process by which the heart is restarted by electrical shock.

For more information contact Emergency Medical Services at 465-8473.

Training in cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR), a heart-lung lifesaving technique, is available through Emergency Medical Services. For more information contact Emergency Medical Services at 465-8473. For CPR certification classes contact Catawba Valley Community College (CVCC) at 327-7000.

### **EMERGENCY SERVICES**

The Emergency Services Department provides leadership and direction for the entire department which includes Animal Services, Emergency Management, Emergency Medical Services, Fire/Rescue and Veterans Services divisions.

Call 465-8230 for information.

**Emergencies!**  
**Ambulance, Fire, Law Enforcement**  
**Dial 911**

## **FINANCE DEPARTMENT**

The County's Finance Department is responsible for maintaining the budget, which supports the services offered by Catawba County. The department is also responsible for paying the County's bills (accounts payable), receiving all money due the County, and the purchasing of all supplies, materials, products, and equipment for the County. For further information about their services call 465-8210.

## **FIRE HYDRANT REPAIR**

For repair of fire hydrants in the unincorporated areas of the County, call the Communications Center at 464-3112.

## **FIRE-RESCUE DIVISION**

Working with the County Fire Departments and Rescue Squads is only part of the services offered by the Fire-Rescue Division (previously known as the Fire Marshal's Office). The Division is responsible for conducting regular fire inspection programs on all manufacturing, business establishments, schools and places of public assembly. The Fire-Rescue Division works with law enforcement agencies (both state and local) to combat the crime of arson and unlawful burning. They also address the concerns of our fire and rescue services in response to hazardous material incidents. Fire safety education is a major goal of this office.

For more information about these and other services, call the Fire-Rescue Division at 465-8230.

## **FIREWORKS DISPLAY**

State law requires organizations and businesses to get a permit from the fire code official and approval from the Board of Commissioners prior to having a fireworks display for public exhibition. For further information contact the Catawba County Fire-Rescue Division at 465-8230. This office is located in the Government Center, 100-A South West Boulevard, in Newton.

## **FOREST RANGER**

The Catawba County Forest Rangers, employees of the North Carolina Forest Service, assist in forest management and fire control. They will assist private landowners in properly managing forest lands, offering recommendations on tree planting, and helping to find markets for timber, etc.

The Forest Rangers should be contacted for regulations and permits for burning of yard waste, leaves, and other natural vegetation.

For information on forestlands, contact the forest rangers at 465-8443. Their office is located in the Agricultural Resources Center, 1175 South Brady Avenue, in Newton. For information on burning, contact the ranger's office at 465-8443 or the Fire and Rescue Management Office at 465-8237.

## **GARBAGE COLLECTION (See also “Landfill,” “Materials Recovery Facility,” “Recycling.”)**

Each town and city provides residential trash collection and weekly curbside recycling services. Republic Services (formerly known as GDS), under franchise to the County, offers weekly trash collection and curbside recycling to all homes in the County not served by a municipality. Cities and towns provide different levels of commercial waste collection services.

***For information on recycling and conservation programs, call Republic Services at 256-2158 or the Catawba County’s Recycling Coordinator at 465-8217.***

## **HANDGUNS/FIREARMS**

The purchase of a handgun is allowed for purposes of home protection, gun collections, and target practice. *Citizens wishing to purchase a handgun must be issued a permit by the Sheriff’s Department.*

It is unlawful to discharge or fire any pistol, shotgun, rifle, or other firearm of any description whatsoever on, or from any public street or highway, or the rights-of-way thereof in Catawba County (Chapter 350, 1967 Session Laws).

County ordinance prohibits the use of firearms to terrorize, or to annoy and endanger others, punishable by fine or imprisonment.

For further information or to learn more about concealed handgun permits contact the Sheriff’s Office at 464-5241.

## **Weapons prohibited on County property!**

**Firearms or other weapons, concealed or otherwise are prohibited in County buildings, property, and workplaces!**

## **HEALTH DEPARTMENT (See Public Health)**

**HICKORY METRO HIGHER EDUCATION CENTER (See Appalachian State University Center)**

## **HISTORIC PRESERVATION**

For technical assistance and general information, visit the Museum of History located in the 1924 Courthouse in Newton (30 North College Avenue), or call 466-2471 or 465-0383. The museum is closed on Sunday and Monday. Museum hours are Tuesday through Saturday 9 am to 4 p.m.

## **HOSPITAL, CATAWBA VALLEY MEDICAL CENTER**

Catawba Valley Medical Center is a modern, 258 bed acute care facility which offers medical, surgical, pediatric, psychiatric, inpatient rehabilitation and obstetrical care. The hospital provides 24-hour, physician-staffed emergency room service. Catawba Valley operates Catawba Mammography Center, a low-cost, self-referral mammography clinic. The hospital is also the location of the Western North Carolina Regional Imaging Center, a regional referral center for magnetic resonance diagnostic imaging services, and the Western NC Rehabilitation Center. The operation of the county hospital is administered by the Catawba Valley Medical Center Board of Trustees. A state-of-the-art new Birthing Center was opened in February 2013. The Center is located at 810 Fairgrove Church Road, SE, in Hickory, one mile north of I-40 exit 128. For information call 326-3000.

## **HUMAN RESOURCES**

The Human Resources Department provides a wide array of services to departments and employees. This department is responsible for personnel records, benefits, employee relations, recruitment, and compensation.

County services require many skills resulting in a variety of positions. Information regarding available positions and County applications are available from the Human Resources Department located in the Government Center, Employment Security and all Catawba County Libraries. Information is available by calling Infotalk at 465-8468 or at our Web Site at <http://www.catawbacountync.gov>.

For further information about the County's Human Resources Department call 465-8383.

## **IMMUNIZATIONS (children and adult)**

Catawba County Public Health offers State-required immunizations free of charge to county residents. State law requires school-aged children to be immunized against diphtheria, pertussis (whooping cough), polio, rubeola (red measles), and rubella (German measles). Specific immunizations for overseas travel also available for a nominal fee.

For further information contact Catawba County Public Health at 695-5800.

## **INFORMATION/GENERAL**

For general information on County government, call the Public Information Office at 465-8464.

## **INFOTALK**

**Information about Catawba County is available 24 hours a day by dialing 465-8468 on your touch-tone phone.**

**INTERNET**  
**Reach Catawba County through our web site**  
<http://www.catawbacountync.gov>

**LAKES AND WATERWAYS**

*See "Boating and Water Safety."*

**LANDFILL**

Catawba County operates one sanitary landfill located in the Blackburn community on Rocky Ford Road (SR 2019) off the Hickory-Lincolnton Highway, south of Highway 10. The landfill is closed on Sundays and holidays. Normal operating hours are 8:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, and 8:00 a.m. until 11:30 a.m. on Saturday.

The County operates five sites for disposal of household solid waste, which also serve as recycling stations. Following is a schedule for the sites:

<b>Schedule</b>		
<b>Bethany Church Road</b>	<b>Bethany Church Road (SR 1804)</b>	<b>Tuesday through Saturday, 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.</b>
<b>Blackburn</b>	<b>Blackburn Landfill entrance, Rocky Ford Road (SR 2019)</b>	<b>Monday through Saturday, 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.</b>
<b>Cooksville</b>	<b>Rhoney Farm Road</b>	<b>Friday and Saturday, 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.</b>
<b>Oxford</b>	<b>Lookout Dam Road (SR 1006)</b>	<b>Wednesday through Sunday, 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.</b>
<b>Sherrills Ford</b>	<b>Sherrills Ford Road (SR 1848)</b>	<b>Wednesday through Sunday, 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.</b>

*Save valuable landfill space by recycling! Call Republic Services at 256-2158, the County Recycling Coordinator at 465-8217 or the Blackburn Landfill at 704-462-1348 for more information.*

**LIBRARY -**

Home page: <http://www.catawbacountync.gov/library>

The **mission** of the Catawba County Library System is to inspire the joy of reading, life-long learning, cultural appreciation and creative thinking, and to promote economic development and individual growth through comprehensive resources, a knowledgeable and responsive staff, innovative technologies and welcoming facilities.

The library is headquartered in Newton with branches located in Conover, Claremont, Maiden, Sherrills Ford, St. Stephens and Southwest (Mountain View). Customers enjoy free access to the internet (wifi and public access work stations) as well as print materials,

DVDs, audiobooks. Customers with library cards can access the powerful NCLIVE data base and enjoy mobile access to digital media through Hoopla, a streaming service. Library cards are issued free of charge and accepted at all county library locations.

### **Main Library**

115 West "C" Street  
Newton, NC 28658

<b>Hours of Operation, Main Library in Newton</b>	
<b>Monday - Thursday</b>	<b>9:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m.</b>
<b>Friday and Saturday</b>	<b>9:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.</b>
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>CLOSED</b>

**Main Library, the hub of the library system, provides a variety of services:**

**Circulation (465-8665)** offers help in finding books, audiobooks and DVDs. Most materials check out for 14 days. DVDs, music CDs and computer software which are loaned for 7 days.

**Information Services (465-8663)** offers reference and research assistance. A variety of print and digital research tools are available. Materials from other libraries may be borrowed through the Interlibrary Loan Service for a small fee.

**Genealogy (465-8669)** provides resources for researchers interested in local history and family lineage research. More information about the Evelyn Rhodes Local History Room can be viewed on-line at <http://www.catawbacountync.gov/library/genealogy/>

For further information on services and programs contact the **Main Library** at (828) 465-8664.

### **Claremont Branch Library (located in the Claremont City Hall)**

3288 East Main Street  
Claremont NC 28610

<b>Hours of Operation, Claremont Branch</b>	
<b>Tuesday-Friday</b>	<b>12:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.</b>
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.</b>
<b>Sunday &amp; Monday</b>	<b>CLOSED</b>

The **Claremont Branch** offers a popular collection of fiction and nonfiction books and magazines. Information resources and public access to the Internet are available for

research purposes. For more information contact the **Claremont Branch Library** at (828) 466-6817.

**Conover Branch Library (located at Conover Station)**

403 Conover Station Southeast

Conover, NC 28613

<b>Hours of Operation, Conover Express Branch</b>	
<b>Sunday and Monday</b>	<b>CLOSED</b>
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>12 Noon- 8 p.m.</b>
<b>Wednesday through Friday</b>	<b>9:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.</b>
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>9:00 a.m.- 2:00 p.m.</b>

The **Conover Branch** offers a popular collection of fiction and nonfiction books and magazines. A special computer lab offers access to the Internet. For more information contact the **Conover Library** at (828) 466-5108.

**Maiden Branch Library**

11 South “A” Avenue

Maiden, NC 28650 Newton, NC 28658

<b>Hours of Operation, Maiden Library</b>	
<b>Sunday and Monday</b>	<b>CLOSED</b>
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>12:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.</b>
<b>Wednesday - Friday</b>	<b>9:00 a.m. -6:00 p.m.</b>
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>9:00 a.m. -2:00 p.m.</b>

The **Maiden Branch Library** offers a popular collection of fiction and nonfiction books, audiocassettes and videocassettes. Information resources and public access to the Internet are available for research purposes. Special programs for children include weekly preschool story times and a Summer Reading Program for school age children. Library tours and reader’s advisory service are a staff specialty. For more information contact the **Maiden Branch Library** at (828) 428-2712.

## **Sherrills Ford Branch Library**

8456 Sherrills Ford Road

Sherrills Ford, NC 28673

<b>Hours of Operation, Sherrills Ford Library</b>	
<b>Sunday and Monday</b>	<b>CLOSED</b>
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>12:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.</b>
<b>Wednesday -Friday</b>	<b>9:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.</b>
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.</b>

Located in the heart of the Sherrills Ford community, the **Sherrills Ford Branch Library** serves the communities of Sherrills Ford, Catawba, Mountain Creek, Terrell, and surrounding areas. This 3,500 square foot branch library provides information resources, Internet access and programs of interest to children and adults are available year round. A new branch library, at 9154 Sherrills Ford Road, is expected to open in late summer 2014. For further information contact the **Sherrills Ford Branch Library** at (828) 478-2729.

## **Southwest Branch Library**

2944 Highway 127 South

Hickory, NC 28602

<b>Hours of Operation, Southwest Library</b>	
<b>Monday &amp; Tuesday</b>	<b>12:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.</b>
<b>Wednesday-Friday</b>	<b>9:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.</b>
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.</b>
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>CLOSED</b>

Located in the Westover Plaza Shopping Center in the Mountain View Community, the **Southwest Branch Library** offers almost 10,000 square feet of library information and resources. This quaint storefront library offers preschool story time and a summer reading program for children. As a full service library, Southwest Branch Library offers public Internet access as well as print and media resources. For more information contact the **Southwest Branch Library** at (828) 294-2343.

## **St. Stephens Branch Library**

3225 Springs Road

Hickory, NC 28601

<b>Hours of Operation, St. Stephens Library</b>	
<b>Monday &amp; Tuesday</b>	<b>12:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.</b>

<b>Wednesday through Saturday</b>	<b>9:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.</b>
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>CLOSED</b>

The **St. Stephens Branch Library** is located in the northern part of Catawba County. This modern 10,000 square foot facility offers a full range of library services including videos, audio books, on-line reference resources, interlibrary loan, story times, a summer reading program for children and Internet access for the public. For more information contact the **St. Stephens Branch Library** at (828) 256-3030.

## **LICENSES**

**Privilege Licenses** - Catawba County privilege licenses are due July 1 and a 5% penalty is imposed for each 30 days that the license is not paid.

**Beer-Wine Licenses** - Catawba County Beer and Wine Licenses are due May 1 and a 5% penalty is imposed for each 30 days it remains unpaid.

For further information call the Tax Collector's Office at 465-8414.

## **MAPS, COUNTY**

County tax maps may be purchased by contacting the Mapping Department in the Tax Administrator's Office at 465-8420. The Tax Offices are located on the first floor of the Government Center in Newton.

The Technology Department coordinates the sale of County maps. They may be purchased by calling 465-8387 or by going to the second floor of the Government Center at 100-A Southwest Boulevard, Newton to the GIS department. Copies of specialized maps including topography and aerial photos may be purchased through this department.

## **MATERIALS RECOVERY FACILITY**

The Materials Recovery Facility (MRF) extracts approximately 2,900 tons of saleable commodities per month from the waste stream, about one-third from Catawba County and the rest from neighboring counties. Separated commodities include newspaper, office waste paper, corrugated containers, aluminum and steel cans, glass, plastic beverage bottles, textiles, lead acid batteries and other metals, plastics and paper. ***Be a recycler! Call Republic Services at 256-2158.***

## **MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES**

As of July 1, 2008, mental health services are no longer provided by Catawba County following a decision by the North Carolina General Assembly to reform the statewide mental health system. A new agency, Partners Behavioral Health Management, now provides referrals and oversight of private sector mental health services for citizens of Catawba County. For more information, visit <http://www.partnersbhm.org/> or call 877-327-2593.

## **NOISE ORDINANCE**

The noise ordinance regulates the production or emission of noises or amplified speech, music, or other sounds that tend to annoy, disturb, or affect the health and well being of the residents of the county. For more information contact the Sheriff's Office at 464-5241.

## **PARKS**

**Riverbend Park** - Riverbend Park is one of the largest non-state or federal parks in North Carolina. There are 450 acres and nearly 12 miles of trails to explore in this beautiful river basin park. You may explore a variety of wildlife habitats that range from freshwater wetlands to upland forest. Come and explore the beauty and diversity of Catawba County's natural heritage at Riverbend Park. For more information, you may call (828) 256-9157 Fridays, Saturdays, Sundays and Mondays.

**Bakers Mountain** - Bakers Mountain Park, Catawba County's second passive recreation facility, opened on June 1, 2002. The park further preserves the County's natural heritage, and gives residents another unique opportunity to marvel at the natural beauty of the Western North Carolina foothills. Bakers Mountain is the highest point of elevation in Catawba County. For more information about Bakers Mountain Park, you may call 324-8461 Fridays, Saturdays, Sundays and Mondays.

**St. Stephens Park**, Catawba County's third park, opened on December 12, 2008. The park features a 1/3 mile loop trail, picnic shelter, outdoor sitting area, children's playground, horseshoe pits, a bird feeding observation area, a one-acre fenced dog park and educational meeting room. It is open on Fridays, Saturdays, Sundays, and Mondays and can be reached at 441-7277.

## **PERSONNEL DEPARTMENT (See Human Resources)**

### **PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES, ELDERLY (See also "Senior Citizens")**

The County's human resources agencies, Public Health, and Social Services, provide services to meet the needs of these citizens, including transportation, nutrition, medical care and assistance, housing, counseling. For information, contact Public Health 695-5800; Social Services 695-5600.

## **PLANNING BOARD**

The Catawba County Planning Board, a twelve-member appointed body, is responsible for guiding growth and development in the county. The Planning Board is supported by a technical planning staff. The Board's work includes preparation and amendment of the County's land development regulations such as zoning and subdivision ordinances; making recommendations to the Board of Commissioners on requests for zoning changes; approval of the subdivision of land and its improvements. The Board also conducts long range planning studies. For more information contact the Planning, Parks and Development Office at 465-8380.

## **POISON CONTROL CENTER**

Catawba Valley Medical Center's Regional Poison Control Center offers continuous 24-hour information services by a registered pharmacist on antidotes from all forms of poisons and advice on pursuing medical treatment.

**POISON CONTROL CENTER  
828-322-6649 AND 911**

## **PUBLIC HEALTH**

Catawba County Public Health is responsible for addressing the health issues and promoting the health status of the individual, family, community, and industry. The services available include the following:

***Clinic Services*** - addressing the topics of maternal health and prenatal care, family planning services, child health care, pediatric dental service, diagnosis and treatment of sexually transmitted diseases, HIV testing and counseling, cancer screening, immunizations, tuberculosis treatment/chest x-rays, and the Women, Infants, Children (WIC) nutrition supplement program.

***Educational Services*** - nutrition education and counseling, dental health screening (in schools) and dental health programs; various pamphlets and materials on public health issues are available on a request basis, specific health topic programs presented by staff are available to schools, businesses, or interested community groups.

***Environmental Health Services*** -Environmental Health Specialists inspect all food handling and lodging establishments, school cafeterias, and day care centers. They also inspect subsurface sewage disposal systems, water supplies, and swimming pools, and investigate environmental health complaints. Contact Environmental Health at 465-8270.

***Home Health Agency*** - provides skilled nursing and therapeutic medical care to residents in their home. Services are available seven days a week, 24 hours a day; all medical care is under supervision of the patient's physician. The agency also serves Alexander, Caldwell, Lincoln, Burke and Iredell Counties.

For further information, contact or visit Public Health located on 11<sup>th</sup> Avenue Drive SE, off Fairgrove Church Road in Hickory, behind Catawba Valley Medical Center at 828-695-5800 or the Environmental Health Division located in the Government Center in Newton at 465-8270.

## **RABIES VACCINATIONS**

All dogs and cats over four months old must receive the rabies vaccine once every three years. See also "Animal Control/Animal Shelter." For further information about Animal Control call 464-7686.

## **RECYCLING (see “LANDFILL” and “MATERIALS RECOVERY FACILITY”)**

### **REGISTER OF DEEDS**

The Register of Deeds Office, located in the Justice Center on Southwest Boulevard in Newton, records births, deaths, applications for notary public, assumed name certificates, corporation charters, deeds of trust, easements, military service discharges, rights-of-way agreements, deed transfers, subdivision plats, marriage licenses, and separation agreements. For further information call 465-1572 or 465-1573.

### **ROADS AND STREETS**

Residents wishing to have their roads paved or added to the State system must petition the North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT). **Roads in unincorporated areas of the County, excluding private streets and roads, are under the jurisdiction of the North Carolina Department of Transportation.** For information or to obtain a petition, call the Zoning Office at 465-8380 or the NCDOT at 466-5519.

### **ROAD AND STREET LOCATIONS**

To find the location of a street or road, call the Zoning Office at 465-8380.

### **ROAD AND STREET SIGN REPAIR AND MAINTENANCE**

For service requests or further information concerning green road and street signs, call the E-911 Addressing Office at 465-8147.

### **SENIOR CITIZENS**

Funded through Title III of the Older Americans Act and Catawba County, the Catawba County Council on Aging works to promote and improve the welfare of its senior citizens. It brings to public attention the needs of the aging in the county and actively promotes programs of benefit to them.

Catawba County Social Services provides transportation to medical and community resources for persons 60 or over who have no means of transportation. Other services provided to senior citizens include nutritional meals for the elderly, Meals on Wheels for the homebound, services to assist disabled and senior adults to remain in their own homes, general in-home services, homemaker services, protective services to adults, rest home licensing, nursing home and rest home placement, alternatives to nursing and rest home placement, counseling, etc. Financial services may include assistance with medical costs, food stamps, etc.

The Sheriff's Office, through its "Are You OK?" and "Elderwatch" programs, provides telephone checkups and visits by on-duty officers to older adults (upon request).

<b>Adult Abuse/Neglect (After 5:00 p.m. and weekends): 324-9111 or 464-3112</b>	<b>695-5609</b>
<b>Adult Services</b>	<b>695-5609</b>
<b>Food Stamps</b>	<b>695-5694</b>
<b>In-Home Aide Services</b>	<b>695-5610</b>
<b>Meals on Wheels</b>	<b>695-5639</b>
<b>Medicaid</b>	<b>695-5712</b>
<b>Nursing Homes/Rest Homes</b>	<b>695-5609</b>
<b>Services for Visually Impaired</b>	<b>695-5605</b>
<b>Transportation</b>	<b>695-5608</b>

For further information contact the Council on Aging at 328-2269, or visit the Council at 400 17th Street, SW, in Hickory, Social Services may be reached at 695-5600 and is located off Fairgrove Church Road, SE, in Hickory behind Catawba Valley Medical Center. The Sheriff's Office can be reached at 464-5241.

### **SHERIFF'S OFFICE**

The Catawba County Sheriff's Office patrols the unincorporated areas of the county. Its sworn officers are supported by one of the most advanced communications systems in western North Carolina.

The department conducts special crime prevention clinics and helps communities organize the Community Watch Programs so neighbors can help one another and the Sheriff's Office fight crime. The Department also maintains a speaker's bureau on many subjects.

The Sheriff's Office, through its "Are You OK?" and "Elderwatch" programs, provides telephone checkups and visits by on-duty officers to older adults (upon request). For more information call the Sheriff's Department at 464-5241.

### **SMOKING**

County ordinance prohibits smoking in any building, enclosure or structure owned, occupied and controlled by the County or its agencies (Catawba County Code, Title 11, Chapter 113). Smoking Control Rules enacted by the Catawba County Board of Health encourage separate facilities for smokers and non-smokers in public places. Public Health staff will provide education, consultation, and technical assistance to all establishments that wish to maintain a smoke free facility. (Catawba County Code, Title 11, Chapter 112). Effective April 1, 2013, all Catawba County buildings and grounds are entirely tobacco-free.

### **SOCIAL SERVICES**

Social Services provide financial assistance and social services to all county citizens who demonstrate need and meet eligibility criteria. Its purpose is to enable individuals to

function at their maximum capacity to become self-sufficient, to improve their standard of living, to learn to cope adequately with their problems, and to provide preventive services to children and adults that will avoid a family breakup and enable individuals to remain in their own homes. Its programs include adoption, services to the blind, chore services (household services), counseling, daycare for children, delinquency prevention services, employment and training, senior citizen employment, family planning, foster care for adults and children and specialized foster care for children, health support services, homemaker services, housing, nutrition programs, unwanted pregnancy, protective services for children and adults, services to the aging and disabled, individuals with disabilities, summer day camp for disadvantaged children, transportation services, financial services, child support services, surplus commodities, teen pregnancy prevention services, fuel assistance, housing assistance.

<b>Administration</b>	<b>695-5601</b>
<b>Adolescent Pregnancy Prevention</b>	<b>695-4427</b>
<b>Adoption</b>	<b>465-8901</b>
<b>Adult Abuse/Neglect</b>	<b>695-5609</b>
<b>Adult Services</b>	<b>695-5609</b>
<b>Business Office</b>	<b>695-5698</b>
<b>Child Abuse/Neglect (available 24 hours a day)</b>	<b>324-9111</b>
<b>Child Support</b>	<b>695-4405</b>
<b>Child Support Payment Info.</b>	<b>1-800-992-9457</b>
<b>Day Care</b>	<b>695-5721</b>
<b>Director</b>	<b>695-5601</b>
<b>Family Preservation</b>	<b>695-5600</b>
<b>Family Net</b>	<b>695-5600</b>
<b>Food Stamps</b>	<b>695-5694</b>
<b>Foster Care</b>	<b>695-4535</b>
<b>Fraud Investigations</b>	<b>695-5666</b>
<b>In Home Aide Services</b>	<b>695-5610</b>
<b>Meals on Wheels</b>	<b>695-5639</b>
<b>Medicaid (all programs)</b>	<b>695-5712</b>
<b>Nursing Homes/Rest Homes</b>	<b>695-5609</b>
<b>School Social Work</b>	<b>695-4427</b>
<b>Services for Visually Impaired</b>	<b>695-5605</b>
<b>Transportation</b>	<b>695-5608</b>

<b>Work First</b>	<b>695-5625</b>
<b>Work Permits</b>	<b>1-800-625-2267</b>

For further information, call Social Services (see listing above). The agency is located on 11th Avenue Drive, SE, Hickory, behind Catawba Valley Medical Center:

### **SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT**

The Catawba County Soil & Water Conservation District's trained technicians assist landowners in wisely managing and protecting their land, water, and related natural resources. Call the Soil and Water Conservation District Office at 465-8950.

### **SPEAKER'S BUREAU**

County staff will speak in a variety of areas of expertise to schools, religious institutions, civic groups, associations or organizations. For further information contact the Public Information Office at 465-8464.

### **SPECIAL NEEDS REGISTRY**

Catawba County Emergency Management maintains a registry of people dealing with disabilities, functional needs, intellectual and developmental disabilities so they can be located and assisted quickly in a disaster. Individuals, families and caregivers are encouraged to plan for where they will go and what they will do in an emergency if their home is damaged or they have to evacuate or the power is out for an extended time. Information about the Catawba County Special needs Registry is available by calling (828)465-8230 or online at:

<http://www.catawbacountync.gov/EmergencyServices/communityalert.asp#special>

### **TAXES**

All property, real and personal, within the jurisdiction of the State of North Carolina is subject to taxation unless it is excused by a statewide statute or by the Constitution.

"Real property" is "fixed" property--land, buildings, and items permanently affixed to land or buildings. "Personal Property" includes cars, trucks, camper trailers, utility trailers, motorcycles or motor homes, mobile homes, multi-year tagged trailers, boats and boat motors, jet skis, and airplanes.

Bills for real property tax are mailed prior to September 1. These must be paid on or before January 5 to avoid added interest.

Each year, during the last week in December, listing cards are mailed to owners of personal property who do not have a valid license tag as determined by the NC Department of Motor Vehicles. These cards must be completed and returned to the Tax Office by January 31 or with a post office cancellation of no later than January 31. All

business owners who have personal property should receive listing abstracts during the last week in December with the same rules for returning them.

Failure to list by this time results in a 10% penalty on the amount of the tax bill. This late-list penalty is mandated by State law. New listers should contact the Personal Property Department in order to receive their listing card at 465-8402.

Effective January 1, 1993, NC law mandated the taxing of licensed motor vehicles. Motor vehicles that carry a current license tag are billed for taxes on the fourth month following the tag renewal month. For example, taxpayers purchasing or renewing tags in March, must pay the tax during the month of July (by July 31). This includes a 30-day grace period so that the taxpayer may correct errors on the bill before the state-mandated penalty is imposed. Beginning in the spring of 2013, motor vehicle tax collection became the responsibility of the North Carolina Division of Motor Vehicles following action by the North Carolina General Assembly, and vehicle tax bills were combined with license tax renewal fees into a single bill.

April bills are due and payable during the month of August. All months follow in sequence, with January and February following December, to complete the twelve-month cycle. For more information concerning taxes, call the Tax Administrator's Office at 465-8408; for Personal Property Assistance, 465-8402; for Real Estate Assistance, 465-8401; and call 465-8414 for information on the payment of taxes.

## **TOURS**

Tours of the Catawba County Justice Center may be scheduled by calling the Crime Prevention Officer in the Sheriff's Office at 465-8337.

Tours of the Catawba County Historical Museum, Murray's Mill Historic District, and Bunker Hill Covered Bridge may be scheduled by calling 466-2471 or 465-0383.

## **VETERAN'S SERVICE OFFICER**

The Catawba County Veteran's Service Officer assists veterans and their dependents in filing claims with the Veterans Administration for benefits and service. The Veteran's Service Officer is located on the ground floor of the Government Center in Newton and can be reached at 465-8255.

## **ZONING (See also "PLANNING BOARD")**

The zoning ordinance is administered by the Planning and Zoning Office. Permits are required for any new construction, including the placement of mobile homes. Contact the Zoning Office at 465-8380 for information on zoning permits or the zoning ordinance.

**CATAWBA COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA**, is located in the western part of the state in the foothills of the Blue Ridge Mountains. It was established December 12, 1842, and on January 8, 1845, Newton was selected as the County seat. It was one of the first counties of the 100 counties in North Carolina to adopt the county manager form of government (March 1, 1937). The Board of Commissioners has five members elected on an at-large basis to staggered four year terms.

**Population:** Its estimated July 1, 2012, population of 155,353 includes the inhabitants of eight municipalities. It covers 405 square miles (656.10 Km). Early Catawbans were either refugees or descendants of refugees from European political strife. Most were German and Scotch-Irish, who initially settled in Pennsylvania and migrated to the south when converging factors of crowding and under-employment evolved. Many, after being attracted by the fertile ground of the Valley of Virginia, moved into the Catawba County area in the 1740s after troubles developed in Virginia. The specter of future crowding, plus the growing danger of Indian attack from nations in the Ohio Valley, were the primary reasons.

The cities and towns in Catawba County are Brookford, Catawba, Claremont, Conover, Hickory, Long View, Maiden, and Newton.

**Characteristics:** Catawba County's three lakes and its location in the foothills of the Blue Ridge Mountains exert a strong influence on the County's climate and ambience. The County is sheltered by mountains that moderate winter temperatures and provide refreshing summer breezes. Its average year round temperature is 68.8 Fahrenheit (20.4 Celsius). Its three large lakes are strikingly beautiful backdropped against the wooded shorelines. Lake Hickory covers 4,100 acres (1,659 hectares) and 272.1 miles of shore line (169 Km), Lake Lookout Shoals covers 1,270 acres (514 hectares) and 39.1 miles of shoreline (63 Km), and Lake Norman covers 32,510 acres (13,157 hectares) and 520 miles of shoreline (837 Km). Lake Norman is the largest man-made lake in NC.

**Contemporary County.** Catawba County is the center of a heavily industrialized area. It is known worldwide as a furniture manufacturing center, and has been unofficially proclaimed as the "furniture capital of the world." Its traditional industries of furniture, hosiery and textiles have been joined by industries of the technological age.

The Hickory-Lenoir-Morganton Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) has a population of more than 365,000. The Hickory-Lenoir-Morganton MSA, composed of Catawba, Alexander, Burke, and Caldwell Counties, is corporate headquarters of more than 70 firms with at least 500 employees.

There are 43 public schools in the county with over 24,500 students. It has two colleges: Lenoir-Rhyne University, a liberal arts institution established in 1891 and Catawba Valley Community College, a member of the NC Community College System. CVCC offers a variety of educational opportunities including one- and two-year vocational programs, a two-year college transfer program and continuing education programs.

A major medical area, the county boasts two outstanding hospitals (one County-owned), a large medical community, and nursing and rest homes.

The County, Chamber of Commerce and cities have worked together in bringing new industry. These included the establishment of the Industrial Development Commission (which in 1993 was merged with the Hickory Office of Business Development and renamed the Economic Development Corporation), expansion of water and sewer lines, road and highway improvements, enhancements to public education, and much more. Another major milestone was the completion of Interstate 40 in the mid 1970s which expanded economic development. In 1980, voters approved mixed drink sales in Conover and Hickory, which spurred hotel, motel, restaurant, and entertainment growth in the County. Sherrills Ford area residents approved mixed drink sales on May 22, 2007.

Improvements to NC Highway 16 from the Newton-Conover area to Charlotte and the improvements to US Highway 321 now place Charlotte less than an hour away.

### **SPORTS IN THE CATAWBA COUNTY AREA**

**Golf** - Catawba County has beautiful golf courses playable year-round, due to the temperate climate with an average temperature of 68.8 Fahrenheit (20.4 Celsius).

The Greater Hickory Kia Classic, debuted in 2003 on the PGA Tour's Champions Tour schedule, bringing the legends of golf to the Rock Barn Golf and Spa's new Robert Trent Jones Jr.-designed course in Conover. For one week, more than 80 Champions Tour pros take part in practice rounds, pro-ams, and official competition. The 2014 event is scheduled for October 13-19, 2014.

**Stock Car Racing** - Hickory Motor Speedway has been in continuous operation for over 60 years. It is the birthplace of America's racing stars--Junior Johnson, Ned Jarrett, Ralph Earnhardt, Bobby Isaac, Morgan Shepherd, Tommy Houston, Harry Gant, the late Dale Earnhardt, Dale Jarrett, and Jack Ingram. The Hickory Motor Speedway generates more than \$2 million each year into the local economy.

**Fishing Tournaments** - Bass tournaments are held from March through October on Lake Hickory and Lake Norman. The lakes are famous for Largemouth and White Bass. Striped bass weighing 40 pounds have been pulled from the lakes.

**Minor League Baseball** returned to Catawba County in 1993. The "Crawdads" and L. P. Frans Stadium in Winkler Park led the South Atlantic League in attendance during its first year of play. The team is a Class A affiliate of the Texas Rangers and won the South Atlantic League championship in 2002.

Catawba County was home to the Newton-Conover Twins, a member of the Tarheel League from 1938-1939, and (following a stoppage of play for World War II) from 1948 until 1951. The Twins were reorganized and took the field again from 1960 until 1962.

**The 29th National Football League (NFL) Team** has its home in Charlotte, approximately 60 miles (37.2 kilometers) from Catawba County. The Carolina Panthers played their first season in 1995. Improvements to NC Highway 16 from the Newton-Conover area to Charlotte and US Highway 321 now place Charlotte less than an hour away. Catawba County native Shane Burton played for the Panthers in 2002- 2003 and 2004. The Panthers played in Super Bowl XXXVIII in 2004.

**The National Basketball Association (NBA)** returned to Charlotte in 2004 with the Charlotte Bobcats.

### **Professional athletes**

Race car driver Ned Jarrett of Catawba County began his career at Hickory Motor Speedway in 1952 and won four NASCAR series championships, then later went on to a successful career in radio and TV broadcasting. He was inducted into the North Carolina Sports Hall of Fame in 1990, the National Sports Hall of Fame in 1991, the Hickory Metro Sports Hall of Fame in 2001 and the first class in the NASCAR Hall of Fame in Charlotte in 2011. Ned Jarrett's son, Dale Jarrett, starred in several sports at Newton-Conover High School before deciding to follow his father into stock car racing, also beginning at Hickory Motor Speedway. He is a three-time winner of the Daytona 500, was named one of NASCAR's 50 Greatest Drivers in 1998 and was the 1999 NASCAR series Champion. He now is part of ESPN's broadcast team for NASCAR races.

Catawba County residents Bryan Harvey and Bob Patterson both started as major league baseball pitchers in the 1990s.

### **ARTS**

The arts have always been alive in Catawba County, and present day Catawba County is no exception--the symphony, theater, choral, and much more. Our artists helped to cultivate the country music market in the 1920s, 30s, and 40s. One of these artists, Homer Lee "Pappy" Sherrill of Sherrills Ford, performed in Carnegie Hall in New York City. Hickory's Blue Sky Boys in the 1940s were a top duet in the Southern Music Circuit.

Prehistoric and historic Indian artifacts are also indicative of Catawba County--pottery, carvings, pipes, arrowheads, tools, etc.--become unearthed periodically during building excavations and farming activities. In the mid-1950s, for example, supermarket construction workers found Indian artifacts that have been determined to be prehistoric. This site is approximately six miles from the Government Center.

Mid-1800 Catawba County saltglazed pottery is a collector's item. The Catawba Indians used this type of clay before the settlers came, and passed this knowledge to the settlers.

Woodwright Eddie Hamrick and Potter Burlon Craig are nationally renowned. Both have works displayed in the Smithsonian and in the homes of US Presidents.

The Hickory Museum of Art is the second oldest museum in North Carolina, and is known for its concentration of American art (19th and 20th century).

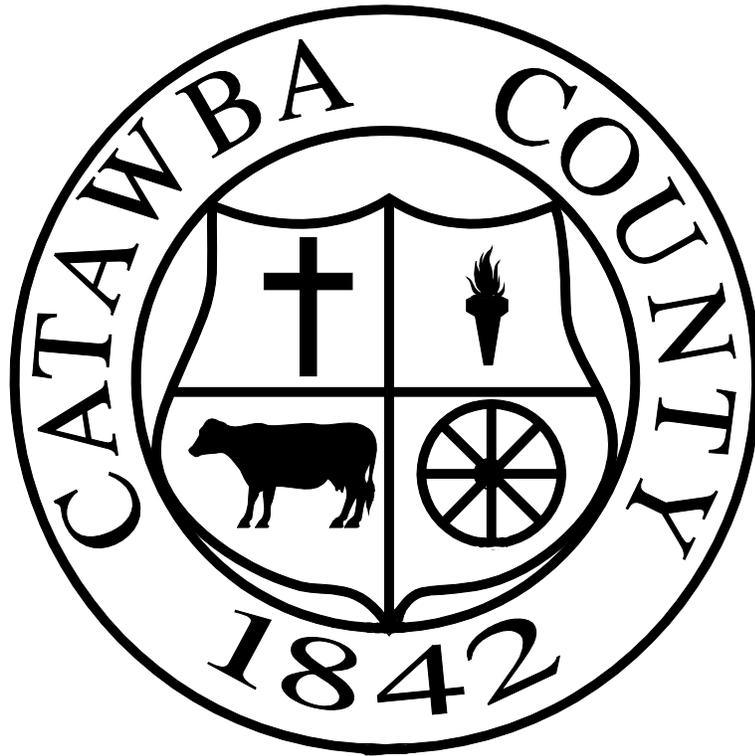
The Trojan Band of Bandys High School, one of seven high schools in Catawba County, represented North Carolina in the January 20, 1993, Presidential Inaugural Parade in Washington, DC.

Catawba County's scenic beauty has been used on three occasions for major motion pictures.

**Significant events in our history:** At the turn of the century, gold mining was a successful industry in Catawba County. Catawba County was part of one of the largest gold producing areas in the entire country. North Carolina maintained its leadership in gold production until 1848 when it was eclipsed in importance by the great rush to California.

In the 1940s Catawba County was recognized nationally for the courage of its people in conquering a polio epidemic. In 55 working hours, people joined together to turn a youth camp into a hospital.

After the Civil War, Catawba County began an annual event to honor its military. It has evolved into a large festival held the third week of August in Newton, the County Seat. The Soldiers Reunion is the oldest continuing patriotic celebration in the United States.



The Catawba County Seal was designed by Pearl (Mrs. Paul) Setzer Deal of Hickory, and officially adopted by the Board of Commissioners on September 7, 1925.

The seal is divided into four parts, representing the national colors of red, white, and blue, with the fourth color of royal purple representing the blending of the national red and blue into royal purple. The county, through the royal purple, stands by the national colors.

The four emblems are the cross in the field of red to represent religion, which was established with the earliest settlers; the torch in the field of white representing education, which was established along with the church in the earliest days; the cow in the royal purple, representing the farming upon which the county has always depended and the dairying which made the county famous far and wide; and the wheel in the field of blue to represent the manufacturing here in the county.

### **Catawba County, NC...Keeping the Spirit Alive Since 1842!**

In 1992 Catawba County celebrated its Sesquicentennial Anniversary. The Sesquicentennial Planning Committee adopted the County's theme, "Keeping the Spirit Alive Since 1842!"

Catawba County's history is a history of spirited people. With a spirit of rebellion Catawbans split with Lincoln County; a spirited people united and fought a major polio epidemic in the 1940s; an entrepreneurial spirit built a thriving economy; a patriotic spirit resulted in the oldest continuing patriotic celebration in the US--the annual Soldier's Reunion in Newton; an artistic spirit is reflected in our furniture artisans, music, quilting, pottery, etc.

## **Board of Commissioners**

***Katherine W. “Kitty” Barnes, Chair***

*(828-478-2240, Republican, term expires 12-1-2014)*

***C. Randall Isenhower, Vice-Chair***

*(465-2143, Republican, through 12-1-2014)*

***Barbara G. Beatty,***

*(320-0370, Republican, term expires 12-5-2016)*

***Lynn M. Lail***

*(459-1268, Republican, term expires 12-1-2014)*

***Dan A. Hunsucker***

*(465-2802, Republican, term expires 12-5-2016)*

# DIRECTORY OF CATAWBA COUNTY OFFICES

**Government Center**  
**100-A Southwest Boulevard**  
**PO Box 389**  
**Newton, NC 28658-0389**  
**Telephone and TDD (828) 465-8200**  
**FAX (828) 465-8392**  
**Internet: <http://www.catawbacountync.gov>**

## **EMERGENCY** **FIRE, AMBULANCE, LAW ENFORCEMENT** **Dial 911**

<b>Animal Control/Shelter</b>	<b>464-7686</b>
<b>Building Inspection</b>	<b>465-8399</b>
<b>Cooperative Extension Service (CES)</b>	<b>465-8240</b>
<b>4-H Programs</b>	<b>465-8242</b>
<b>Home Economics</b>	<b>465-8246</b>
<b>County Manager</b>	<b>465-8201</b>
<b>Budget Management</b>	<b>465-8208</b>
<b>Staff Attorneys</b>	<b>465-8483</b>
<b>Clerk to the Board of Commissioners</b>	<b>465-8990</b>
<b>Court, Office of</b>	
<b>Clerk of Court</b>	<b>695-6100</b>
<b>District Attorney</b>	<b>695-6110</b>
<b>Magistrates</b>	<b>695-6116</b>
<b>Probation, Adult</b>	<b>695-5653</b>
<b>Probation, Juvenile</b>	<b>695-6111</b>
<b>Education, Administrative Offices</b>	
<b>Catawba County Schools</b>	<b>464-8333</b>
<b>Hickory City Schools</b>	<b>322-2855</b>
<b>Newton-Conover City Schools</b>	<b>464-3191</b>
<b>Catawba Valley Community College</b>	<b>327-7000</b>
<b>Appalachian State University Center</b>	<b>324-6966</b>
<b>Economic Development Corporation</b>	<b>267-1564</b>
<b>Elections, Board of</b>	<b>464-2424</b>
<b>Emergency Services</b>	<b>465-8230</b>

<b>Facility/Fleet Maintenance</b>	<b>465-8985</b>
<b>Finance</b>	<b>465-8210</b>
<b>Accounts Payable</b>	<b>465-8357</b>
<b>Ambulance Billing</b>	<b>(800) 814-5339</b>
<b>Landfill Billing</b>	<b>465-8212</b>
<b>Fire Marshal</b>	<b>465-8238</b>
<b>Forestry</b>	<b>465-8443</b>
<b>Public Health</b>	<b>695-5800</b>
<b>Environmental Health Services</b>	<b>465-8270</b>
<b>Historical Museum</b>	<b>466-2471, 465-0383</b>
<b>Hospital, Catawba Valley Medical Center</b>	<b>326-3000</b>
<b>Human Resources</b>	<b>465-8383</b>
<b>Information, General</b>	
<b>Public Information Officer</b>	<b>465-8464</b>

<p>Infotalk, information on County Government on your touch-tone at 465-8468</p>
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<b>Information Technology</b>	
<b>Technology Administration</b>	<b>465-8280</b>
<b>Geographical Info. System.</b>	<b>465-8387 or 8356</b>
<b>Information Technology Center</b>	<b>465-8280</b>
<b>Landfill, Blackburn</b>	
<b>Scale House</b>	<b>704-462-2750</b>
<b>Superintendent's Office</b>	<b>704-462-1348</b>
<b>Law Enforcement</b>	
<b>Alcoholic Beverage Control (ABC)</b>	<b>464-7192</b>
<b>Sheriff's Office</b>	<b>465-8301 or 464-5241</b>
<b>Crime Prevention</b>	<b>465-8337</b>
<b>Detectives</b>	<b>465-8341</b>
<b>Jail</b>	<b>465-8999</b>
<b>Narcotics</b>	<b>464-6392 or 465-8313</b>
<b>Sheriff's Office Records</b>	<b>464-4639 or 465-8300</b>
<b>Library, Main</b>	<b>465-8664</b>
<b>Claremont Branch</b>	<b>466-6817</b>

<b>Conover Branch</b>	<b>466-5108</b>
<b>Maiden Branch</b>	<b>428-2712</b>
<b>Sherrills Ford Branch</b>	<b>478-2729</b>
<b>St. Stephens Branch</b>	<b>256-3030</b>
<b>Southwest Branch</b>	<b>294-2343</b>

<b>Mental Health Partners</b>	<b>877-327-2593</b>
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<b>Planning and Zoning</b>	
<b>County Planner</b>	<b>465-8264</b>
<b>E-911 Numbers</b>	<b>465-8390</b>
<b>Zoning</b>	<b>465-8382 or 465-8380</b>

<b>Register of Deeds</b>	<b>465-1573</b>
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<b>Sheriff's Office</b>	<b>465-8301 or 464-5241</b>
<b>Social Services</b>	<b>695-5600</b>

**See "Social Services" for  
specific programs**

<b>Soil and Water Conservation District</b>	<b>465-8950</b>
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<b>Tax Assessor</b>	<b>465-8408</b>
<b>Tax Collector</b>	<b>465-8414</b>

<b>Utilities and Engineering</b>	<b>465-8261</b>
<b>Building Inspections</b>	<b>465-8399</b>

<b>Veterans Service</b>	<b>465-8255</b>
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# NOTES