



## SOCIAL SERVICES NEWS

P.O. BOX 669 Newton, North Carolina 28658-0669 (828) 695-5600 [www.catawbacountync.gov/dss](http://www.catawbacountync.gov/dss)

### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**CONTACT:** Margaret Allen, Catawba County Social Services Public Information Officer, [mallen@catawbacountync.gov](mailto:mallen@catawbacountync.gov), 828-695-6583

### **SENIORS MORNING OUT TO SEE DRAMATIC PERFORMANCE ABOUT BLIND HYMN WRITER FANNY CROSBY**

HICKORY -- Participants in the Seniors Morning Out Program in Maiden will enjoy two historical programs in May.

On May 9, Dr. Melinda Ratchford, Road Scholar, will give a presentation on the Titanic. This project is made possible by funding from the North Carolina Humanities Council, a statewide nonprofit and affiliate of the National Endowment for the Humanities. Dr. Ratchford has had a 53-year interest in the study of the R.M.S. Titanic. She has given presentations to more than 200 groups on the topic.

On May 16, Bobbie Curtis, an actress from Lenoir, will give a dramatic performance about the life of Fanny Crosby, a blind American hymn writer who lived from 1820 to 1915. Despite losing her sight as an infant, Crosby received an education at the New York Institute for the Blind and spoke to Congress, encouraging them to establish similar schools for blind students in every state. She wrote more than 8,000 hymns, including many that are popular today. Her most famous hymn is "Blessed Assurance." She also was actively involved in mission work.

Seniors Morning Out is a free half-day program that is held Monday through Thursday for anyone living in Catawba County who is 60 or older. In addition to entertaining and informative activities, the program provides a hot balanced lunch. This program is offered in five different locations throughout the county. Bus transportation may be available in some locations. Each site schedules its own activities. If you would like to attend any of these programs, please contact the site supervisor at least 48 hours in advance to reserve your place. All SMO locations will be closed May 30 in observance of Memorial Day. Some highlights from the month of May are as follows.

At the Maiden SMO, located at the Maiden Community Center, at the corner of East Second Street and Klutz Street in Maiden: May 10: Program on Medicare Fraud with Diane Trainer and Dangers of Over the Counter Medications; May 18: Group Exercise and Bingo; May 26: Senior Games. Fun Walk, Cookout in Maiden Park with a performance by Sentimental Journey band. To reserve your spot, contact Loretta Hefner at 828-320-5966.

At the West Hickory SMO, located at the West Hickory Senior Center at 400 17th St. SW in Hickory: May 9, travel to Maiden SMO for Dr. Melinda Ratchford program on Titanic: Ship of Dreams; May 12, Play Family Feud and music by Sentimental Journey; May 17: Senior Games at East Hickory SMO and music by Rev It Up!; May 26, Family Feud and Entertainment by Charles Ballard. To reserve your spot, contact Lisa Adams at 828-323-8746.

At the Newton SMO, located at First Presbyterian Church-Newton, 701 N. Main St., Newton: May 3, Walk and Stretch and Family Feud; May 5: Celebrate Cinco de Mayo! Learn to Make a Taco Salad; May 11, Travel to Newton Library to watch the movie Woodlawn; May 17: Senior Games and Cookout at East Hickory SMO; May 18, Music by Sentimental Journey; May 26, Diane Trainer presentation on Medicare Fraud, Abuse and Scams; May 31, Bowling at Pin Station. To reserve your place, contact Robyn Curtis at 828-455-4133.

At the Catawba SMO, located at Center United Methodist Church, 4945 Sherrills Ford Road, Catawba: May 5, Travel to Sherrills Ford Library to watch the movie Woodlawn; May 10, Bowling at Pin Station and Shopping at Honey's IGA; May 11, Stroke Awareness by Peggy Messick; May 12, Craft Day with Tonya Jarnac; May 17: Senior Games and Cookout at East Hickory SMO; May 19, What You Need to Know About Shingles by Jackie Saunders of Bayada Home Health; May 26: Cooking Mini Pineapple Upside Down Cakes. To reserve your place, contact Wendy Thomas at 828-320-0434.

At the East Hickory SMO, located at Huntington Hills Church of God, 2123 Fifth St. NE, Hickory: May 2, music by Sentimental Journey and dancing; May 5, Mother's Day Makeovers; May 12; Travel to Herman Fish Lake for Fishing; May 16, Travel to Maiden SMO for Program by Bobbie Curtis on The Life Story of Fanny Crosby; May 19: Superfoods from the Garden by Ann Simmons of the Cooperative Extension Service; May 31: Learn to Make Strawberry Delight, Nutritional Facts about Strawberries by Gary Beach of Fresh Air Galaxy. To reserve your place, call Rita Pritchard at 828-320-5963.

Senior Nutrition Services operates Seniors Morning Out, Meals on Wheels and related programs in the county. Volunteers are urgently needed to deliver Meals on Wheels. For more information, contact Senior Nutrition Services at 828-695-5610 during regular business hours, or visit the website at <http://www.MealsonWheelsofCatawbaCounty.org>. For the latest updates, like the program on Facebook at [facebook.com/MealsonWheelsofCatawbaCounty](https://www.facebook.com/MealsonWheelsofCatawbaCounty).

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