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For Immediate Release:

Library: Learning is job one

Newton, NC, Nov. 10, 2014:

Learning never stops at Catawba County Library, and free adult computer classes are an important part of the mix. Ten months of the year—from August through May—adult classes are offered on such topics as downloading movies to navigating an Excel spreadsheet.

“We offer sessions on topics customers want,” said Regina Reitzel, reference librarian in Newton. She and several other library employees schedule sessions focused on the latest gadgets as well as the basics for those who are new to computers.

“The goal is to make users more comfortable with computer and software so they can enhance their lives and take advantage of technology that’s available,” she said. Classes are developed from staff suggestions, past enrollment figures and customer requests. This month topics range from iPad Basics, mobile apps, Excel, building a resume’, eBooks, foreign language software and Hoopla, the new service that allows customers to download audiobooks, movies and music from the library website.

And there’s also an introductory class to computers tucked into the schedule for the rank newbie who has never used a computer.

Sessions are offered at all library locations: Newton, Conover, Claremont, Maiden, St. Stephens, Sherrills Ford-Terrell and Southwest (Mountain View). Reservations are required because space is limited. To learn more about upcoming classes, visit or call any library location or visit the website at www.catawbacountync.gov/library .

Some other learning opportunities at the library include preschool story times, STEM learning for school-aged children (science, technology, engineering, math), teen programs, adult craft and book discussions and an ongoing speaker series. Main Library in Newton also offers Read to a Dog session for reluctant young readers by appointment on Tuesday evenings.

CAPTION: Librarian Regina Reitzel (center) explains how to download movies using the library’s Hoopla service with Hickory residents Carol Hall (left) and Kathryn Hodges.

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About: *The Catawba County Library System, headquartered in Newton, NC, serves the citizens of Catawba County with seven branches throughout the county and is a year-round, integral provider of early literacy and lifelong learning. In addition to traditional services, the system provides a full complement of computer and digital services, classes and support to bridge the digital divide, empower job seekers, and enhance community quality of life and economic health.*