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Organization: Catawba County Library System, Newton, NC

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For Immediate Release:

Library card: Best things in life *are* free

Newton, NC, Sept. 1, 2014:

This month the Catawba County Library System joins libraries across the nation to promote literacy through the Smartest Card campaign.

Your library card, the “Smartest Card,” allows you to check out books and audio/visual materials, but also allows access to a wealth of information without leaving your home or office. With a library card, you can access free books, magazines, journals, videos, recorded music available through your local library. Indeed that one card can help you become a, well-rounded citizen.

Catawba County Library cardholders may place holds on materials through the library website www.catawbacountync.gov/library. You can download books directly from the site for use on an eReader or other device. You can also access special tools such as NC LIVE, the state-funded data base that’s an information goldmine for students and other North Carolinians. The library’s subscription to this service gives you free access to Heritage Quest, Healthlink Plus, Learning Express Library and more.

The library website also offers free access to Hoopla, a service that streams music, audio books and TV programs and movies to your smartphone, tablet, computer or other mobile device.

Can’t find the materials you need? Local librarians can help you find out-of-print books, journals and other rare materials from lending libraries around the country. For the cost of postage, you can borrow those key resources for an important report or research project.

Catawba County Library offers free computer workshops, too. These adult sessions are held 10 months of the year across the library system that operates facilities Newton, Conover, Claremont, Maiden, Sherrills Ford, Southwest and St. Stephens.

Another facet of library service is free programs. Among this month’s offerings are a visit by author Janisse Ray on Sept. 4 in Newton, a talk by Dr. Summer Carrol of Lenoir-Rhyne College on Sept. 16 and a reading by author Jean Moore on Sept.23 at St. Stephens.

For more information about library cards, services or programs, call your local branch or Siobhan Loendorf, assistant library director, at 828 465-8692.

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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.*

