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For Immediate Release:

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## The “Miracle of Hickory” at Sherrills Ford Library

**November 4, 2016**

**Newton, NC** – On Monday, November 14, at 6:30 pm, the Sherrills Ford-Terrell Friends of the Library, in partnership with the Historical Association of Catawba County, will sponsor a special viewing of the documentary “*Miracle*” by Professor Richard Eller. Professor Eller, Historian in Residence at the Historical Association, and Dr. Amber Clawson, Director of the Historical Association, will present the program and answer your questions after viewing the film.

The documentary “*Miracle*” is the result of an innovative partnership between Catawba Valley Community College and the Historical Association of Catawba County that recounts the remarkable events of the 1944 Polio outbreak and the extraordinary actions taken by the citizens of Catawba County that impacted other parts of the State and country. When hospitals in Charlotte and Gastonia were filled to capacity there were no facilities with space to treat the local patients. The citizens of Hickory decided on a Wednesday to open a hospital, and on Saturday the first patient was admitted. The speed at which this occurred and the tremendous effort involved is the source of the title “*Miracle*”. Viewers are invited to step back in time to learn about the 1944 treatment of Polio and these remarkable events through first account stories told by actual patients and volunteers.

The initial building was a stone structure that was already occupied as a summer camp. Army tents were used and additional frame structures were built. Much of the construction and other work at the hospital was accomplished by a massive local volunteer effort. Patients from across North Carolina and some neighboring states came to the hospital in Hickory. The hospital received national publicity including an article in *Life Magazine*.

Do not miss this presentation at the Sherrills Ford-Terrell Library to learn more about this fascinating episode in Catawba County history.

The Sherrills Ford-Terrell Library is located at 9154 Sherrills Ford Rd., Terrell NC 28682. Call 828-466-6827 for more information.

For the latest in library news, visit [librarynews.catawbacountync.gov](http://librarynews.catawbacountync.gov) or stop by your local branch.

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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.