

# Library Connections

DECEMBER 2023



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- connect
- explore
- grow

## LIBRARY UPDATES FROM THE DIRECTOR

As we approach this festive season, I'm excited to share the latest updates from your Catawba County Library, where our mission to connect, explore, and grow reflects the spirit of togetherness, learning, and support for all members of our community.

I'd like to begin by expressing my heartfelt gratitude to all who generously contributed to the suitcase drive for Catawba County Social Services. Your kindness allowed us to collect nearly 100 suitcases and bags, extending warmth and care to children in foster care. This month, our library is collaborating with New Jerusalem Baptist Church and Highways and Hedges to help people stay warm this winter by making free winter coats, hats, and gloves available at the Main Library in Newton.

Through our partnership with the Corner Table the library is able to provide access to nourishing foods for those in need. Free food bags are available at the Main Library in Newton, St. Stephens, and Conover libraries. For people that may need assistance getting connected to other resources, our Community Navigator – a dedicated social work intern at the Main Library in Newton – is here to assist most evenings and Saturdays.

December marks a significant milestone for many North Carolinians with the expansion of Medicaid. Those who weren't eligible for Medicaid before might now be eligible for benefits. Go to the Medicaid website: [epass.nc.gov](http://epass.nc.gov) to check eligibility. Our library staff and Community Navigator are ready to assist people in completing the Medicaid application process via the ePASS system, ensuring everyone eligible can access these valuable benefits.

The library is also thrilled to introduce Wonderbooks this month – captivating audio and print picture books designed to make reading enjoyable for young children. Recognizing the importance of reading aloud, we are adding engaging read-along titles to encourage reading and foster literacy. These audiobooks complement our extensive audio collection, available to all age groups with a variety of ways to listen -- on CD, Playaway, or online via the Libby and Hoopla apps.

In this December newsletter, you'll find an array of engaging programs and activities tailored for the whole family, aligning with our vision to empower lives and build community by bringing people, information, and ideas together. We invite you to stop by your local library to check out what's new.

Your Catawba County Library is more than just a place for books; it's a vibrant and community-centered space dedicated to building a strong and supportive community.

As we approach the holiday season, let's collectively celebrate the spirit of giving and community. Your active participation and unwavering support make our library an essential and dynamic part of our community.

*Siobhan Loendorf*  
Library Director



**THE LIBRARY WILL BE CLOSED MONDAY, DECEMBER 25 THROUGH WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 27 FOR THE HOLIDAYS.**

# CHILDREN

## Ready to Learn Storytime: Preschool

Preschool story time with reading readiness. Join us for songs, sensory play, crafts, and stories designed to prepare your preschooler to learn.

### Wednesdays at 10 am

Sherrills Ford-Terrell Branch Library  
St. Stephens Branch Library  
Main Library in Newton

### Wednesdays at 11 am

Southwest Branch Library

### Thursdays at 10 am

Maiden Branch Library  
Sherrills Ford-Terrell Branch Library  
Southwest Branch Library  
St. Stephens Branch Library

### Fridays at 10 am

Main Library in Newton

## Ready to Learn Storytime: Tiny to Two

### Mondays at 10 am

Main Library in Newton

This sweet, simple, 20-minute story time features rhymes, bounces, sensory play, and singing for our youngest learners. Playtime follows.

## Ready to Learn Storytime: Bilingual

Miércoles a la 10 am

Wednesdays at 10 am

St. Stephens Branch Library

Únase a nosotros para hora del cuento bilingüe, canciones, movimiento, aprendizaje y más para preescolares.

Join us for bilingual storytime featuring stories, songs, movement, learning and more for preschoolers.

## Holiday Storytime

Saturday, December 16 at 10:30 am

Conover Branch Library

Join us for a special holiday storytime! This program is ideal for children from 2-5 years old. Immediately followed by Pre-K Play at 11 am!

## North Pole Workshop

Saturday, December 2 at 10 am

Conover Branch Library

We invite 6-12 year old kids to come out and make an ornament for a loved one in their life! Your grown ups will have trivia and other activities to do while they wait.

## PAWS To Read

Saturday, December 2

Maiden Branch Library

Saturday, December 9

Sherrills Ford-Terrell Branch Library

Read with a certified therapy dog.

To schedule an appointment, please call

Maiden : 828-428-2712

Sherrills Ford-Terrell: 828-466-6827

## Perler Bead Club

Friday, December 8 at 4 pm

Sherrills Ford-Terrell Branch Library

Make designs using small beads that are fused together with heat. Materials provided.

## Winter Nights & Festive Lights Celebration

Tuesday, December 12 at 5:30 pm

Southwest Branch Library

All over the world, different cultures have brightened the dark winter nights with holiday celebrations involving light. Learn about some of these traditions, as well as the science behind why winter nights are so long.

## Stories with Santa!

Thursday, December 14 at 6 pm

Main Library in Newton

Wear your pjs and join us for a special holiday bilingual storytime including photo opportunities with the big man himself!

## Meet Santa at the Library

Friday, December 15 from 5 - 8 pm

Sherrills Ford-Terrell Branch Library

Santa will be stopping by to help us celebrate the season. Get your picture taken and tell him your wish list. For children up to 12 years old. To register, please visit [tinyurl.com/SFTSanta](http://tinyurl.com/SFTSanta)

## Taylor Swift Party

Saturday, December 16

from 10 am to 1 pm

Main Library in Newton

Drop in to make crafts, snap some photos at the photo booth and test your Taylor Swift knowledge. Ideal for kids under 13.

## Pre-K Play

Saturday, December 16 at 11 am

Conover Branch Library

Tuesday, December 19 at 1 pm

Sherrills Ford-Terrell Branch Library

Join us for fun, fitness-focused play with music, games, and an obstacle course! Kids will have a blast as they explore, exercise, and develop motor skills. Ideal for children from 2-5 years old.

## "Drive-In" Movie

Tuesday, December 19 at 4 pm

St. Stephens Branch Library

We will spend the first part of this event transforming cardboard boxes into cars. Then, park your car and join us for a short movie.

## Festive Film Friday – Elf (Rated PG)

Friday, December 22 at 3 pm

Southwest Branch Library

Celebrate the 20th anniversary of the fan-favorite, *Elf*, with us! Popcorn and cocoa will be served!

## Do Re Me and You Dance Party

Friday, December 29 at 10 am

St. Stephens Branch Library

Join us for 30 minutes of music and movement! For children 5 and under.



Please visit or call the library to register.

# TEENS



## Teen Nintendo Switch Night

Tuesday, December 5 at 5 pm

Main Library in Newton

Join us for an evening of gaming and snacks!

## DIY Nintendo Mugs

Tuesday, December 5 at 5:30 pm

Southwest Branch Library

Let's-a go get crafty by making our own easy & fun Nintendo themed mugs! Give them as a gift or keep them for yourself.

## Teen Holiday Craft

Saturday, December 9 at 11 am

Conover Branch Library

Create a lovely gift for yourself or others by painting your own canvas bag!



## Teen Advisory Board

Tuesday, December 12 at 5 pm

St. Stephens Branch Library

Teen Advisory Board Meeting: Help plan future teen programs. Tell us what you want to learn, make, and do at your library. Bring a friend and have some snacks.

## Teen Night: Cookie Decorating

Tuesday, December 12 at 5:30 pm

St. Stephens Branch Library

Indulge your sweet tooth and unleash your artistic talents through cookie decorating! Unwind, connect with friends, and explore your inner pastry chef.

## Dungeons and Dragons Club

Saturday, December 16 at 1 pm

Sherrills Ford-Terrell Branch Library

Are you curious about Dungeons and Dragons but never had an opportunity to try? Discover your inner warrior and join us on this epic adventure.

## Winter Solstice Traditions Around the World

Tuesday, December 19 at 5 pm

Main Library in Newton

Learn about Winter Solstice traditions around the world and make a luminary for the longest night.

# ADULTS

## Medicaid Expansion Enrollment

*By appointment*

*All Library Locations*

Medicaid Expansion will be active December 1. Schedule an appointment with your library to learn more and for application assistance.

## Medicare Open Enrollment

*By Appointment*

*Main Library in Newton*

*Sherrills Ford-Terrell Branch Library*

Do an annual review to make sure the coverage you have is the best one for you! SHIP-trained counselors will be available for free consultations. To schedule your appointment, please call 828-328-2269.

## Zumba Mondays!

*Mondays at 6 pm (No class December 25)*

*Main Library in Newton*

Kick off your week with a burst of Zumba, a dance and movement class that's too much fun to call exercise. It's appropriate for every skill and ability level and open to anyone 14+ (parental signature required for teens under 18).

## Purl and Chain: Knit and Crochet Club

*Tuesdays at 6 pm*

*St. Stephens Branch Library*

Make new friends and enjoy the company of others while you knit and crochet. Bring your own materials.

## Gentle Flow Yoga

*Fridays at 11 am*

*Sherrills Ford-Terrell Branch Library*

A certified yoga instructor will lead us through a beginner-friendly, gentle flow yoga class. You are encouraged to bring a yoga mat or towel as well as a small blanket.

## Stretch for Health & Meditate for Mindfulness

*Fridays at 3 pm*

*St. Stephens Branch Library*

Combining stretching with meditation may benefit both your emotional well-being and your overall health. While this class is geared to 50+, adults of all ages are invited to join.

## Taylor Swift-Tea Party for Adults

*Saturday, December 2 at 10 am*

*Main Library in Newton*

We can't let the teens have all the fun! Enjoy a cup of tea, make a friendship bracelet, sing karaoke, snap a few pics at our selfie station, and create an Eras-themed ornament.

## Morse Code Bracelet

*Tuesday, December 5 from 2 - 7 pm*

*Main Library in Newton*

Learn how to use Morse Code to create a coded message in a beautiful, beaded bracelet. Take-home kits prepared to create one of three festive messages. Start your work here and finish at home.

## Sourdough Starter & DIY Butter

*Tuesday, December 5 at 5 pm*

*Sherrills Ford-Terrell Branch Library*

Explore the science of a sourdough bread starter! We'll learn how to feed a sourdough starter, keep it alive, recipes using the discard, and take home a starter to continue future breadmaking endeavors. Added bonus, learn DIY butter for your bread!



## The Station Book Club

*Wednesday, December 6 at 10 am*

*Conover Branch Library*

All are welcome to join as we discuss *Verity* by Colleen Hoover. Come for great conversation and a book-share at the end with other recommended reads. This book club meets every other month.

## Chair Yoga

*Wednesdays, December 6 & 20*

*at 11:30 am*

*Sherrills Ford-Terrell Branch Library*

A certified yoga instructor will lead us through a class friendly for all body types and levels. This class is perfect for anyone looking for accessible ways to stretch, relax, and gain the benefits of doing yoga with the added security of using a chair.

## St. Stephens Branch Library Recruitment Event (Job Fair)

*Wednesday, December 6*

*from 12 noon - 4 pm*

*St. Stephens Branch Library*

Bring your resume and interview with local companies and agencies. For more information about this event, please contact Gina Ortiz at 828-676-7632 or [gortiz@goodwillnc.org](mailto:gortiz@goodwillnc.org)

## Canva for Small Businesses

*Wednesday, December 6*

*at 12 noon*

*Online via Microsoft Teams*

Canva is a graphic design platform, used to create social media graphics, presentations, and more which you can use for your small business. Canva can help professionalize your marketing.

To register, please visit

[tinyurl.com/cclscanvabiz](https://tinyurl.com/cclscanvabiz)

## Resume Renovation

*Wednesday, December 6 from 1 - 4 pm*

*Main Library in Newton*

Bring in your existing resume and/or fill out our resume building form and we'll turn your resume into a calling card that will make you proud. Customize your resume for specific job categories. Your finished resume(s) will be e-mailed to you, or be available for pick up, within 24 hours.

## Resumes & Job Applications

*Wednesday, December 6 at 2 pm*

*Online via WebEx*

Learn tips to create a resume and complete an application that will get you the interview! To register, please visit [tinyurl.com/catawbajobs](https://tinyurl.com/catawbajobs)

## Holiday Needle Felting

*Thursday, December 7 at 4 pm*

*Sherrills Ford-Terrell Branch Library*

Explore the textile art of needle felting as we create an ornament. Finger protectors will be available for participants to use.

## Cross Stitch and a Movie

*Saturday, December 9 at 2 pm*

*Main Library in Newton*

By popular vote on social media, we'll be watching *Elf* and making a matching cross stitch! Start your work here and finish at home. Popcorn and refreshments served.

## Catawba County Friends of the Library

*No meeting in December*

*Main Library in Newton*

The Friends will next meet on Monday, January 8 at 11 am. Christmas baskets will be available in December.

## Holiday Spritzers, Festive Beverages & Healthy Eating Habits

*Tuesday, December 12 at 2 pm*

*Southwest Branch Library*

Holiday style spritzers and easy festive beverages are on the menu. Mix and match ingredients to make the perfect combination that will quench your thirst and garnish your table for the holidays! In addition to the refreshing and festive beverages, CVMC Wellness Dietitian, Lindsie Miles (MS, RDN, LDN) will share healthy approaches to holiday eating habits while not breaking the bank.

## Free Coats and Hats December 1-31

If you or someone you know needs a little extra warmth, come by the Main Library in Newton to grab a free coat and/or hat. The self-serve rack is located near the computer lab (right side of the building coming in from the front doors).



# R

Please visit or call the library to register.

### Needle Felt & A Film:

#### *How the Grinch Stole Christmas*

Tuesday, December 12 at 5 pm

Maiden Branch Library

Explore the textile art of needle felting and make your own Grinch ornament while we watch the (2000) movie. All supplies provided and finger protectors will be available for participants to use.



### Holiday Decoration Swap

Wednesday, December 13

from 3 - 5 pm

St. Stephens Branch Library

'Tis the season for spreading holiday cheer! Bring your gently used holiday décor to exchange with other members of the community, ensuring everyone can deck their halls with something new and exciting. This is an open house event, so feel free to drop off unwanted decorations or stop by to browse.

### Mini Holiday Terrariums

Thursday, December 14 at 4 pm

Sherrills Ford-Terrell Branch Library

Create a small terrarium perfect for the holiday season.

### ACAP-Running on Empty:

#### Practice Tips for Hands-On Care

Thursday, December 14 at 5:30 pm

Main Library in Newton

All caregivers for an aging parent are invited to join others at this Adult Caregivers of Aging Parents-Hickory/Foothills Meeting. This month's meeting will provide tips and tools for gathering information, holding conversations about needs and services, and how to know when to get additional help.

### Sourdough Workshop

Saturday, December 16

from 2 - 4 pm

St. Stephens Branch Library

Whether you're a seasoned baker or a kitchen novice, join us for a fun and educational experience. Melissa from True Cut Ranch will teach the basics of sourdough during this two-hour workshop, guiding you through the steps and providing valuable tips for achieving the perfect loaf.

### Mountain View Book Buzz

Monday, December 18 at 6 pm

Southwest Branch Library

Join us as we discuss the holiday title, *The Noel Diaries* by Richard Paul Evans. All are welcome to join us for a festive time filled with jolly conversations and holiday fun.

### Expungement Workshop

Tuesday, December 19 at 2 pm

Online via WebEx

Do you or someone you know qualify for expungement? Learn what you need to know about having charges removed from criminal records. To register, please visit [tinyurl.com/catawbajobs](http://tinyurl.com/catawbajobs)

### Catawba Songwriters

Tuesday, December 19 at 6 pm

Southwest Branch Library

Share your talents while you learn from others. Bring a finished written song or one that's in progress to share with the group. Teens and tweens with musical talents are invited to join.

### Gift Wrap Pro

Friday, December 22 from 1 - 5 pm

Main Library in Newton

Are you all thumbs when it comes to scotch tape? Let us help! Bring up to 5 boxed gifts to the library and our Gift Wrap Pro will help wrap and embellish them. Learn tips to take your gift wrapping to the next level. This program is for everyone but seniors are encouraged to attend.

### How To: Digital Holiday Cards

Tuesday, December 12 at 6 pm

Online via Zoom

Are you ready to go paperless for your holiday greetings? Did you procrastinate until the last second to send out all those glad tidings? Either way, join us to learn about and compare Greetings Island, Canva, and Adobe Express for your digital holiday card needs. To register, please visit [tinyurl.com/cclscards](http://tinyurl.com/cclscards)



### Mystery Mavens Book Club

Tuesday, December 12 at 6:30 pm

Sherrills Ford-Terrell Branch Library

The Mystery Mavens book club welcomes new members and is open to the public, even if you haven't read the book. Join us for a lively discussion on *The White Lady* by Jacqueline Winspear.



### Holiday Bingo

Wednesday, December 13 at 10 am

Conover Branch Library

Join us for holiday Bingo and win books!

### Interviewing Tips

Wednesday, December 13 at 10 am

Online via WebEx

Learn tips on how to ACE a job interview! To register, please visit [tinyurl.com/catawbajobs](http://tinyurl.com/catawbajobs)



## LIBRARY TO GO

### Newton Light Up the Town

Friday, December 1 from 5 - 8 pm

Downtown Newton

Start off the holiday season in Downtown Newton and create an ornament you can take home.

### Claremont Christmas Parade

Saturday, December 2 from 2 - 3:30 pm

3288 E. Main St, Claremont, NC 28610

Join us in front of Claremont Library for crafts before the 39th Annual Christmas Parade.

### A Small Town Tree Lighting

Saturday, December 2 from 4 - 8 pm

100 S Main St, Catawba, NC 28609

Come share in the Town of Catawba's holiday spirit with activities & storytime.



### Connections Clubhouse

#### Pottery Fundraiser

Saturday, December 9 from 10 am - 2 pm

327 1st Ave NW, Hickory, NC 28601

Check out this annual pottery fundraiser, and bring the kids for a holiday craft.

### Clean Wave Laundry Suds & Stories

Sunday, December 10 from 2 - 5 pm

2720 2nd Ave NW, Hickory, NC 28601

Drop in to view our selection of books to borrow and create a holiday ornament. Storytime at 3pm!

### Merry Maiden Downtown Christmas

Thursday, December 14 from 5:30 - 8 pm

19 N Main Ave Maiden, NC 28650

Celebrate the holidays with us at this merry festival with crafts and storytime.



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