

Library Connections

FEBRUARY 2024



catawba county
library system

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828.465.8664



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CELEBRATING BLACK HISTORY

Celebrate Black History Month at your library with displays, programs, art, and resources.

Black History Month is observed in February each year. It's a time for education, reflection, and celebration of the diverse and impactful experiences of the African American community throughout history. The 2024 theme is "African Americans and the Arts" spanning the many impacts Black Americans have had on visual arts, music, cultural movements, and more.

Keeping with this year's theme, the Main Library in Newton will be hosting a month-long art exhibit, *Francis Simeni: Examining Self-Image and Identity*, from February 15 through March 15. The exhibit opening will be Thursday, February 15 and the community is invited to join us from 5:30 - 7 pm. This will include a meet and greet with the artist, and time for him to share his process and inspiration for his work. Born in Nigeria, raised in Poland, and settling in America, Francis Simeni has had to examine who he was in relation to his environment and culture. His works are about finding truth, beauty, self-love, defiance, complexity, and all the things that make us human, through the lens of portraiture.

Different library locations will offer book displays and reading lists including Black Authors from Around the World, Black Technology Inventors, and African Americans in Science and the Arts. Libby and Hoopla will also offer Black History Month reading (and listening) lists, available with your library card.

The library is excited to offer two author visits with New York Times best selling author Kwame Mbali, one for students and one for the community. Join us on Thursday, February 29 from 4 - 6 pm at the Central Recreation Center located at 301 South Ervin Avenue in Newton. Families will enjoy a light dinner, followed by a conversation with Mr. Mbali highlighting his life as an author and his books, including *Black Boy Joy* and the *Tristan Strong* series.

These events have been made possible by the Catawba County Friends of the Library, and a cultural grant from the Corning Incorporated Foundation, and in partnership with the City of Newton and Catawba County Schools.

Juneteenth planning is also underway, and the library is excited to be involved in the countywide celebration again this year. Juneteenth (short for "June Nineteenth") is our country's second independence day and honors the end to slavery in the United States. From May 19 - June 19, Catawba County agencies and organizations will commemorate Juneteenth with celebrations, performances, parades, guest speakers, revivals, resource fairs, informative programming, and family gatherings. It is a time for reflection and rejoicing. It is a time for empowerment and excellence. It is a time for community and togetherness.



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.

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Please visit or call the library to register.

PAWS to Read

Saturday, February 3 by appointment

Maiden Branch Library

Tuesday, February 6 by appointment

St. Stephens Branch Library

Saturday, February 24 by appointment

Sherrills Ford-Terrell Branch Library

Encourage your young reader through reading with a certified therapy dog. To schedule an appointment, please call 828-428-2712 for Maiden, 828-466-6821 for St. Stephens, or 828-466-6827 for Sherrills Ford-Terrell.



Take Your Child to the Library Day

Saturday, February 3 from 10 am - 2 pm

All Library Locations

Celebrate Take Your Child to the Library Day with *The Lightning Thief* themed activities and crafts. Enter for a chance to win a book or tickets to The Green Room Theatre's production of *The Lightning Thief: The Percy Jackson Musical*.

The elementary school with the most students to visit the library will win a set of the first 5 books in the Percy Jackson series for their school. Make sure to register.



Valentine Crafternoon

Thursday, February 8 from 4 - 6 pm

Main Library in Newton

Kids are invited to make valentines at this drop-in program.

Pre-K Stations

Friday, February 9 at 10 am

Conover Branch Library

Explore STEAM stations, play with instructional toys and get activity ideas to do at home that tie into Read, Write, Talk, Sing, Play! This program is ideal for children from 2-5 years old.

Perler Bead Club

Friday, February 9 at 4 pm

Sherrills Ford-Terrell Branch Library

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

Fairy Tale Friday: Wolf Stories

Friday, February 9 at 4 pm

Main Library in Newton

The misunderstood wolf could use some help with three pigs and a girl in a red cloak.

Make Your Own Valentines

Saturday, February 10 from 10 am - 1 pm

Conover Branch Library

As part of the Downtown Conover Days: Valentine's Shop and Stroll Series, stop by the library and make valentines for the loved ones in your life!

Make a Valentine

Monday, February 12 at 6 pm

St. Stephens Branch Library

Drop in to make a valentine for someone special!

Chocolate-ology 101

Tuesday, February 13 at 5 pm

Southwest Branch Library

Join us for an evening of sweet science, a confectionary craft, and a famous film about a chocolate factory!

Pre-K Play!

Saturday, February 17 at 11 am

Conover 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. This program is ideal for children from 2-5 years old.

Fairy & Gnome Golf:

The Mini-est Mini Golf

Monday, February 19 at 4 pm

Main Library in Newton

Use materials provided to design and build a mini miniature golf hole complete with obstacles. Add your masterpiece to the course and play a round.

Do Re Me and You Dance Party

Friday, February 23 at 10 am

St. Stephens Branch Library

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

Candy Science

Tuesday, February 27 at 6 pm

St. Stephens Branch Library

Join us at the library to do some candy themed STEAM experiments and activities! For kids in grades K-5.

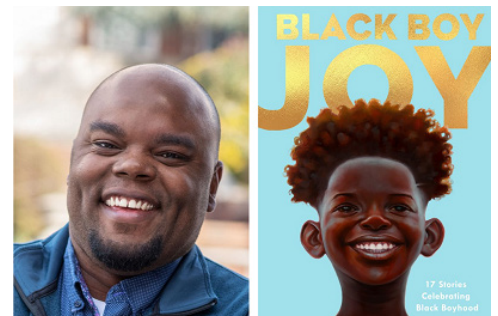
Author Visit: Kwame Mbalia

Thursday, February 29 from 4 - 6 pm

Central Recreation Center

301 South Ervin Avenue, Newton

Hear from New York Times bestselling author Kwame Mbalia about his Tristan Strong series, *Black Boy Joy*, and his life as an author. While he writes for middle grades, this event is for all ages! A simple dinner will be served.



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TEENS

Dungeons and Dragons Club

Saturday, February 3 at 1 pm
Sherrills Ford-Terrell Branch Library

Discover your inner warrior and join us in this epic adventure.

Crochet Bookmark

Tuesday, February 13 at 5 pm
Main Library in Newton

Make a simple crochet heart bookmark. No prior crochet experience needed. Bring a friend and enjoy some refreshments.

Teen Night: Blackout Poetry

Tuesday, February 13 at 5:30 pm
St. Stephens Branch Library

Unleash your creativity by transforming existing text into unique poetic expressions. Turn words into art! Snacks and drinks provided.

Needle Felting

Tuesday, February 20 at 5 pm
Main Library in Newton

Create your very own cat or dog! Snacks and drinks provided.

Teen Poké-gami

Tuesday, February 27 at 5:30 pm
Southwest Branch Library

Celebrate International Pokémon day by creating origami bookmarks of your favorite Pokémon!



ADULTS

Zumba Mondays!

Mondays at 6 pm
Main Library at Newton (February 5)
First United Methodist in Newton
Fellowship Hall (February 12, 19 & 26)

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 current project.

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. You can do these exercises while sitting in a chair or bring a mat/towel for floor routines. While this class is geared to 50+, adults of all ages are invited to join.

Gentle Flow Yoga

Friday, February 2 & 9 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.

Blood Drive

Friday, February 2 from 11 am - 3 pm
Main Library in Newton

Help address the blood shortage in our area by donating blood. Call the American Red Cross to make an appointment at (800) 733-2767.

Bone Broth 101

Saturday, February 3 at 3 pm
Main Library in Newton

Savor the goodness of homemade bone broth with Melissa Falcone from True Cut Ranch. You'll learn the secrets to crafting this warming nourishment – plus explore ways to make it your own!

Pressed Flower Bookmarks

Monday, February 5 at 6 pm
St. Stephens Branch Library

Unwind, get creative, and add a touch of nature to your reading experience with these unique and beautiful bookmark keepsakes.

Bullet Journal Club

Tuesday, February 6 at 6:30 pm
St. Stephens Branch Library

Whether you're new to bullet journaling or a pro, join us at the beginning of each month as we create our monthly spreads. Get organized while making new friends! Feel free to bring your own supplies or borrow some of ours. Make sure to bring your own journal.

The Station Book Club

Wednesday, February 7 at 10 am
Conover Branch Library

All are welcome to join as we discuss *Killers of a Certain Age* by Deanna Raybourn. We will also do a book-share at the end with other recommended reads.

Career Center

Wednesday, February 7 from 1 - 4 pm
Main Library in Newton

Wednesday, February 21 from 1 - 4 pm
St. Stephens Branch Library

A Goodwill career specialist will be available to provide one-on-one assistance with your job-related needs. Reserve a 30-minute appointment by calling your preferred library or drop in.

Adult Caregivers of Aging Parents (ACAP): Medicaid Programs and Benefits

Thursday, February 8 at 5:30 pm
Main Library in Newton

To provide education, support and community, this month we'll learn about the eligibility requirements and benefits of Medicaid. Become more knowledgeable about the differences between Medicare and Medicaid, so you can better advocate for your loved one.

Valentine Fortune Cookies

Friday, February 9 from 3 - 5 pm
Main Library in Newton

Make a super-cute Valentine fortune cookie out of felt for your special person this year. Create a custom message to go inside your cookie. No sewing experience is necessary.

Your Wellness Toolkit

Saturday, February 10 at 3 pm
Main Library in Newton

The general advice to take care of ourselves is familiar and time-worn, but each person has a unique genetic inheritance and set of personal experiences that make the practicalities of taking good care a little different for each of us. If you'd like to be more organized about addressing your wellness needs, this workshop will let you begin to create and customize a wellness toolkit specifically for your needs.

Free Coats and Hats

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).



Clean Wave Laundry Suds & Stories

Sunday, February 11 from 2 - 5 pm
2720 2nd Ave NW, Hickory, NC 28601
Check out books, use our wi-fi hotspot, or get some one-on-one help with your device. Our family storytime which incorporates stories, songs, and sensory play starts at 3 pm.

Catawba County FOL Meeting

Monday, February 12 at 11 am
Main Library in Newton
The Friends support and advocate for library services throughout the county. Join us to help plan and share library information.

Needle Felt & Friends

Tuesday, February 13 at 5:30 pm
Maiden Branch Library
"Come on, you guys. It's a known fact that lobsters fall in love and mate for life." Whether you're celebrating Palentine's Day with friends, or Valentine's Day with your Ross or Rachel, join us to create your own needle-felted lobster! Finger protectors and all supplies will be available for participants to use.



Mystery Mavens Book Club

Tuesday, February 13 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 *Unsheltered* by Barbara Kingsolver.

Piece of Cake Book Club

Thursday, February 15 at 5 pm
Novel Taproom in Downtown Newton
Selecting a diverse range of works and authors, join to talk about February's selection, *The Kudzu Queen* by Mimi Herman. Get ready for the March meeting with *Tom Lake* by Ann Patchett.



Please visit or call the library to register.

Arts @ the Library - Exhibit Opening

Francis Simeni:
Examining Self-Image and Identity
Thursday, February 15 from 5:30 - 7 pm
Main Library in Newton
Born in Nigeria, raised in Poland, and settling in America, Francis Simeni has had to examine who he was in relation to his environment and culture. His works are about finding truth, beauty, self-love, defiance, complexity, and all the things that make us human, through the lens of portraiture. Join us for the opening night of a month-long exhibit showcasing his illustrations and paintings. This will include a meet and greet with the artist, and time for him to share his process and inspiration for his work.
The exhibit will be available during the library's normal operating hours from February 15-March 15.

Yoga at the Park

Friday, February 16 & 23 at 11 am
Mountain Creek Park
A certified yoga instructor will lead us through a beginner-friendly, gentle flow yoga class inside at the MCP information center. You are encouraged to bring a yoga mat or towel as well as a small blanket.

Hickory Con

Saturday, February 17 at 10 am
Hickory Metro Convention Center
If you're headed to the comic con in Hickory, be sure to stop by the library's table and say hello. We'll be celebrating the intersection of pop culture and literacy all day long!

Resume Class

Saturday, February 17 at 2 pm
Main Library in Newton
Learn about Resume Builder, a new program available to the public through the library. Create a resume and print up to 3 copies to take home. For more info, please call 828-465-9494.

Habitat for Humanity AIM Meeting

Monday, February 19 at 9 am
Main Library in Newton
It's open application time for Habitat for Humanity of Catawba Valley's homeownership program. Prospective homeowners are invited to learn about the program and its requirements. Library computers will be available for anyone who would like to fill out the online form during or after the meeting. Interested applicants should bring their ID and proof of income.

Shelf-Care Book Club

Monday, February 19 at 6 pm
Online via Zoom
In person at St. Stephens Branch Library
Treat yourself to the best kind of self-care: a good book! Our book for February will be revealed at our January meeting and on our club Facebook page. Readers participating on Zoom can register at the library to receive the meeting link.



Mountain View Book Buzz

Monday, February 19 at 6 pm
Southwest Branch Library
Join us as we discuss *Tom Lake* by Ann Patchett. All are welcome to join us for discussions and conversations based on this novel.

Health Insurance Navigator Assistance

Wednesday, February 21
from 10 am - 4 pm
Main Library in Newton
Signing up for health insurance can be a daunting task, but the federally qualified health insurance navigators from Legal Aid of North Carolina can provide unbiased and experienced help in selecting the Medicaid or marketplace. gov plan that is best for you. Bring proof of income and the social security numbers of any dependents. Call 1-855-733-3711 for an appointment or drop in.

National Recreational Sports & Fitness Day

Thursday, February 22 from 2 - 5 pm
Conover Branch Library
Did you know that the library has Zumba, Bocce Ball, Croquet, Pickleball, and Cornhole kits for check out? Drop by to play cornhole and check out a recreation set!



Catawba County Genealogical Society

Tuesday, February 27 at 7 pm
Main Library in Newton
Join the genealogical society for their monthly meeting, followed by an introduction to new local history and genealogy materials available for research in Catawba County. All are welcome to attend.



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MAIN LIBRARY IN NEWTON

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CONOVER BRANCH LIBRARY
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