

Library Connections

MARCH 2024



catawba county
library system

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www.catawbacountync.gov/library

- connect
- explore
- grow

PRE-K STEAM

FOR OUR YOUNGEST LEARNERS



The Catawba County Library is launching a new Pre-K STEAM program focused on nurturing critical thinking, problem-solving, and creativity in the minds of our future innovators.

It is important to introduce our youngest learners to the wonders of STEAM education in a tangible, hands-on, and screen-free manner. To facilitate this, the library is assembling two sets of interactive Pre-K STEAM tools to circulate throughout the system, providing librarians with the resources for dynamic play-based learning. Each month Pre-K STEAM programs will be held at conveniently located branches across the county, giving families the opportunity to engage in these enriching activities on a weekly basis.

These tools will also be available for parent-led or independent exploration outside of program time, fostering a passion for learning and deepening parent-child engagement. Each set includes various tools, from light tables and wind tunnels to age-appropriate robots, building blocks, magnifying glasses, and more.

At the core of the library's approach lie the principles of the evidence-based Every Child Ready to Read early literacy initiative. Library locations will deliver engaging and interactive STEAM activities while modeling to caregivers how to nurture their child's critical thinking and problem-solving skills. Library staff will set up a space with centers and serve as knowledgeable guides, providing instructions to caregivers, prompting them to facilitate purposeful interactions that ignite critical thinking and problem-solving in the children.

For children, the objective is to gain foundational skills and cultivate confidence and resilience in the face of challenges in a low-risk play environment. For parents and caregivers, the objective is to empower them with essential strategies and methods to continue kindling their child's curiosity beyond the library's walls.

With the addition of Pre-K STEAM to the library's robust schedule of storytimes and programs for children, the library is elevating our capacity to provide young learners with dynamic and engaging educational experiences that lay the groundwork for lifelong learning.

*Funding for this program has been provided in part by the Kenneth K. and Suzanne G. Millholland Endowment.

THE LIBRARY WILL BE CLOSED FRIDAY, MARCH 29 - SATURDAY, MARCH 30 IN OBSERVANCE OF THE EASTER HOLIDAY.

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.

PAWS to Read

Tuesday, March 12 by appointment

St. Stephens Branch Library

Saturday, March 16 by appointment

Sherrills Ford-Terrell Branch Library

Saturday, March 23 by appointment

Maiden Branch Library

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

Read Across America Day

Saturday, March 2 at 11 am

Conover City Park

In celebration of Read Across America Day, meet us at Conover City Park (beside the library) for a read aloud!

Crafternoon

Monday, March 4 from 4 - 6 pm

Main Library in Newton

Make spring-themed crafts at this drop in program.

Homeschool Hangout

Thursday, March 7 at 11 am

Conover Branch Library

Are you a homeschooling family or group? Meet other homeschoolers while enjoying games and coloring pages!

Nuts for Science

Tuesday, March 12 at 1 pm

Southwest Branch Library

Students in grades 4-6 are invited to our hands-on science workshop highlighting the achievements of George Washington Carver and the incredible uses for the humble peanut! Note: this program will include the use of nuts.

Perler Bead Club

Friday, March 15 at 4 pm

Sherrills Ford-Terrell Branch Library

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

Messy Science

Friday, March 15 at 4 pm

Main Library in Newton

Learning while making a mess? Yes, please! Join us in the garden, weather permitting.

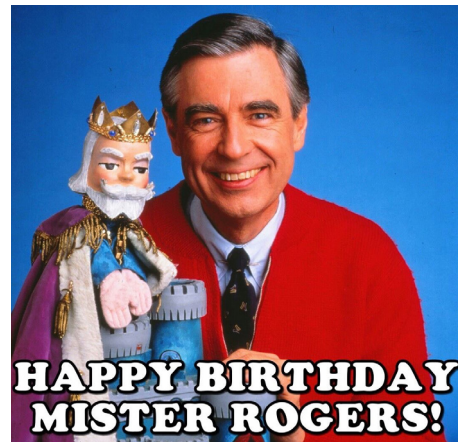
Meet A Neighbor

Wednesday, March 20 from 4 - 6 pm

Main Library in Newton

Maiden Branch Library

Won't you be my neighbor? In honor of Mr. Roger's birthday, we're inviting the community to play games and assemble puzzles together.



Easter Egg Hunt & Craft

Saturday, March 23 at 11 am

Conover Branch Library

Join us to find Easter eggs! This hunt is geared for ages 2-5 and will be followed by a Spring-themed craft.

TEENS

R

Please visit or call the library to register.

Nintendo Switch Night

Thursday, March 7 at 5 pm

Main Library in Newton

Test your Mario Kart and Smash Bros skills featuring our Nintendo Switch consoles.

Teen Night: Switch Game Night

Tuesday, March 12 at 5:30 pm

St. Stephens Branch Library

Grab a snack and play some fun Nintendo switch games with friends!

Teen Mario Madness

Friday, March 15 at 3 pm

Southwest Branch Library

Start your engines and get ready to race to the finish line in our third annual Mario Kart Tournament, Nintendo Switch style!

FAFSA Help

Tuesday, March 19 at 5:30 pm

Conover Branch Library

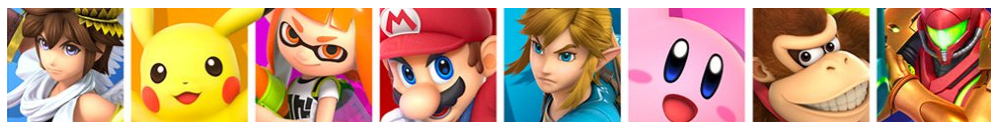
Skip Watts from College Foundation of North Carolina (CFNC.org) will be on hand to assist with the 2024-25 Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), Residency Determination Service (RDS), and answer all questions related to the process of paying for college. If possible, bring your own device (laptop, tablet, or smartphone).

Flower Art

Tuesday, March 26 at 5 pm

Main Library in Newton

Use real flowers to make art projects!



ADULTS

Zumba Mondays!

Mondays at 6 pm

First United Methodist Fellowship Hall
(March 4)

Main Library in Newton

(March 11, 18 & 25)

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.

Mindful Movement

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.

Bullet Journal Club

Monday, March 4 at 6 pm

St. Stephens Branch Library

Join us for laid-back hangouts where we swap doodle ideas, chat about organizing tips, and share our favorite spreads. Some supplies provided, but feel free to bring your own.

Resume Workshop

Tuesday, March 5 at 1 pm

St. Stephens Branch Library

Learn expert tips to craft a standout resume that gets noticed by employers with the help of Katie Wohlman, Director of Career and Professional Development at Lenoir-Rhyne University.

Career Center

Wednesday, March 6 from 1 - 4 pm

Main Library in Newton

Wednesday, March 20 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.

Needle Felting

Thursday, March 7 at 4:30 pm

Sherrills Ford-Terrell Branch Library

Explore the textile art of needle felting as we create a wool landscape painting.

Gentle Flow Yoga

Fridays, March 8, 15, & 29 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/towel as well as a small blanket.

Sound Bath Meditation

Friday, March 8 at 5 pm

Main Library in Newton

If you're ready to find a measure of stillness and peace within, we are pleased to offer a Sound Bath Meditation with Pradnya Gopalan, E-RYT, Yoga Therapy Practitioner and Sound Healer. No prior experience is necessary – bring a towel or mat to lie down on. Try to arrive 5 to 10 minutes before the session starts to allow everyone to settle in.



Garden Volunteer Days

Saturdays, March 9 & 23 from 9 - 11 am

Main Library in Newton

We're seeking enthusiastic volunteers to assist with tasks such as weeding, mulching, and planting at the Main Library's community garden. All ages and experience levels are welcome. If you love being outdoors and getting your hands in the soil, we'd be delighted to have you on board.

NC Author Visit: Katherine Snow Smith

Saturday, March 9 at 2 pm

Main Library in Newton

North Carolina native Katherine Snow Smith, author of *Stepping on the Blender & Other Times Life Gets Messy*, will join us to share her wit and wisdom on the many ways we encounter the unexpected in life, counting our blessings, and finding the courage to carry on with head held high.

Clean Wave Laundry Suds & Stories

Sunday, March 10 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 Friends of the Library

Monday, March 11 at 11 am

Main Library in Newton

Claremont Friends of the Library

Tuesday, March 26 at 6 pm

Claremont Branch Library

The Friends support and advocate for library services throughout the county. Help plan and share library information.

Oscar Trivia Night

Monday, March 11 at 6 pm

Southwest Branch Library

We're rolling out the red carpet for a night of movie trivia and Hollywood glamour! Light refreshments will be served. Bonus points awarded to those who arrive dressed to impress.

Joara: Conquistadors in NC

Tuesday, March 12 at 5 pm

Sherrills Ford-Terrell Branch Library

We've all heard of Roanoke, Jamestown, and Plymouth Rock. But did you know that years before Europeans landed in any of those places, there was a Spanish fort right down the road from here? This engaging talk by Joara docent Mike Carpenter will reveal the discoveries and stories being unearthed at this active archeological site, as well as the opportunities available to the public.



Needle Felt & A Film

Tuesday, March 12 at 5:30 pm

Maiden Branch Library

Were you born in the 90s? Get in the "spirit" of St. Patrick's Day as we watch the Disney Channel Original Movie, *The Luck of the Irish*, and needle felt the ghost of St. Patrick. Finger protectors and supplies will be provided.

Houseplant Exchange

Tuesday, March 12 at 6 pm

Conover Branch Library

Bring your pest-free, potted or bare root houseplants for trade. Don't worry if you don't have any houseplants to trade, all are welcome!

Mystery Mavens Book Club

Tuesday, March 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 *Maltese Falcon* by Dashiell Hammett.

Chair Yoga

Wednesdays, March 13 & 20 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 and a small blanket.



The Great Outdoors

Wednesdays, March 13, 20, & 27 at 6 pm
Main Library in Newton

Find out everything you need to know to stay safe when you venture into the Great Outdoors! Eileen Conway, experienced hiker, certified Wilderness First Aid and Single Pitch instructor with the American Mountain Guides Association, will share all of her best advice for returning safe after enjoying hours, days or weeks on happy trails.

Wednesday, March 13: Packing Your Day Pack

What equipment do you need for your day hike? Learn tips to help make your day hikes more fun and comfortable!

Wednesday, March 20: Trail & Hiking First Aid

Learn about trail safety for the season! This class will cover topics like tick bites, poisonous plants, and dehydration.

Wednesday, March 27: Intro to Rock Climbing

Learn about the basics of indoor and outdoor climbing, the gear you'll need, rock climbing lingo, and where to climb locally.

Virus and Malware Basics

Thursday, March 14 at 2 pm
Online via Zoom

In person at Main Library in Newton

Join us to learn how to recognize viruses and malware on your computer, and ways to protect yourself. To register, please visit tinyurl.com/ccls-virus

Adult Caregivers of Aging Parents (ACAP): Nutritional Needs & Healthy Eating

Thursday, March 14 at 5:30 pm
Main Library in Newton

This month we'll learn about the increasing importance of adequate nutrition as we age. Issues of health conditions, medications, dental issues, reduced mobility, impaired vision or cognitive function can make choosing and preparing meals more challenging. Learn to assess if your loved one is getting adequate nutrition.

Shelf-Care Book Club

Monday, March 18 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! For March, we will be reading *Remarkably Bright Creatures* by Shelby Van Pelt. Readers participating on Zoom can register at the library to receive the meeting link.

Mountain View Book Buzz

Monday, March 18 at 6 pm
Southwest Branch Library

Join us as we discuss *The Mermaid Chair* by Sue Monk Kidd. All are welcome for lively conversations and lots of fun!

Adult STEAM

Tuesday, March 19 at 2 pm
Southwest Branch Library

Discover the magic of glass gems and join us for a hands on session where we will create stunningly inexpensive art!

Getting Past Genealogy Roadblocks

Tuesday, March 19 at 5:30 pm
Main Library in Newton

Family history research is full of mysteries that we hope to solve. Rhonda Roederer will share her expertise in piecing together clues from German documents, while speaking no German!

Backyard Chickens for Beginners

Tuesday, March 19 at 6 pm
St. Stephens Branch Library

Melissa Falcone from True Cut Ranch returns to guide us through the basics of having your own backyard chickens. From setting up your coop to understanding chicken behavior and basic care, Melissa will walk you through everything you need to know to start your own flock.

Health Insurance Navigator Assistance

Wednesday, March 20 from 10 am - 4 pm
Main Library in Newton

Get help signing up for health insurance from a federally qualified health insurance navigator from Legal Aid of North Carolina who can provide unbiased and experienced help in selecting the Medicaid or marketplace.gov plan that is best for you. Bring proof of income if possible, as well as the social security numbers of any dependents. To register, please call 1-855-733-3711 or drop in.

New to Medicare

Thursday, March 21 at 1:30 pm
Sherrills Ford-Terrell Branch Library

It is important to get accurate, unbiased information about Medicare coverage options as you approach age 65. Seniors' Health Insurance Information Program (SHIIP) counselors, trained by the NC Department of Insurance, will lead the information session to answer your questions. To register, please call the Council on Aging at 828-328-2269.

Piece of Cake Book Club

Thursday, March 21 at 5 pm
Novel Taproom in Downtown Newton

Selecting a diverse range of works and authors, join to talk about March's pick, *Tom Lake* by Ann Patchett. Get ready for April's meeting with *The Heiress* by Rachel Hawkins.

Family Builders of Catawba Valley Foster/Adoption Information Meeting

Saturday, March 23 at 10 am
Maiden Branch Library

With over 180 children experiencing foster care in Catawba County, there is an urgent need for foster and adoptive families. Attend this informational meeting and learn more about foster care and adoption in Catawba County.

Richard Eller presents

Prohibition in Catawba County and WNC

Tuesday, March 26 at 5 pm
Sherrills Ford-Terrell Branch Library
Richard Eller, Historian in Residence for the Catawba County Museum of History, will speak about his latest book on prohibition focusing on Catawba County and Western North Carolina.

Byte-Sized Tech: Libby and Hoopla

Tuesday, March 26 at 5:30 pm
St. Stephens Branch Library

Learn how you can dive into the world of ebooks and audiobooks with ease! Libby and Hoopla are your go-to apps for a library at your fingertips. Get ready to access and enjoy a world of reading and listening, all from the comfort of your device! Bring your smartphone or tablet.

Books Between Friends Book Club

Tuesday, March 26 at 6 pm
Claremont Branch Library

Join us as we discuss Ron Rash's new novel *The Caretaker*. The New York Times calls Rash, a teacher at Western Carolina University, "one of the great American authors at work today". Newcomers are welcome.

Catawba County Genealogical Society

Tuesday, March 26 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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