

Library Connections

JULY 2024



catawba county
library system

MAKING. LIVING. BETTER.

828.465.8664



www.catawbacountync.gov/library

• connect
• explore
• grow

PRE-K STEAM

CONNECT. EXPLORE. GROW.

The Catawba County Library is excited to offer a new experience for our youngest learners to connect, explore, and grow!

All Catawba County Library locations will be hosting rotating Pre-K STEAM programs for preschoolers and their caregivers. This is an opportunity for children age 2-5 to explore science, technology, engineering, art and math concepts on a level they can appreciate. Preschoolers are naturally curious and eager to explore their surroundings. The library's STEAM programs are designed around how children learn so parents and caregivers are encouraged to let their children take the lead in learning through discovery. Learning through play will introduce foundational concepts and vocabulary that will support future learning and interest in these fields.

STEAM activities are designed to:

- Stimulate curiosity
- Provoke questions
- Build confidence in abilities
- Encourage observations
- Allow children to investigate the world around them
- Provide hands-on interactive experiences
- Encourage resilience in the face of challenges
- Show that it's okay to make mistakes



Pre-K STEAM programs will be offered at a different location across the county each week. These programs will be facilitated by a librarian who will be present to answer

questions and share resources while preschoolers and their caregivers explore different topics like coding with Bee Bots, experimenting with light panels and wind tunnels, building with blocks and magnetic tiles, using magnifying glasses to investigate insects, and practicing measuring and sorting with preschool level science lab equipment. Each station provides directions and discussion questions to encourage critical thinking and engagement. Questions like "Why?" or "What If?" foster curiosity, expand vocabulary, and strengthen the parent-child bond.

Children's earliest experiences shape how their brains are wired creating a foundation for all future learning. Starting from birth, brain connections are built through a child's everyday experiences – by positive interactions with their parents and caregivers, and by using their senses to interact with the world around them. Engaging in STEAM related activities fosters

curiosity, introduces new vocabulary, and encourages experimentation and exploration.

THE LIBRARY WILL BE CLOSED THURSDAY, JULY 4 IN OBSERVANCE OF THE INDEPENDENCE DAY 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.

Pre-K STEAM

Children and their grownups are invited to explore interactive play stations to encourage curiosity through hands-on learning.

Friday, July 5 at 3 pm

Southwest Branch Library

Saturday, July 6 at 11 am

Conover Branch Library

Friday, July 19 at 10 am

Sherrills Ford-Terrell Branch Library

Friday, July 26 at 10 am

St. Stephens Branch Library

Tuesday, July 30 at 10 am

Main Library in Newton



Lees-McRae May Wildlife Rehabilitation

Meet animal ambassadors, learn about wildlife in this region and how we're all connected.

Tuesday, July 9

Main Library in Newton at 11 am

Maiden Town Hall at 2 pm

Thursday, July 11

St. Stephens Branch Library at 1 pm

Southwest Branch Library at 4 pm

Perler Bead Club

Friday, July 5 at 4 pm

Sherrills Ford-Terrell Branch Library

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

Paws to Read

Tuesday, July 9 by appointment

St. Stephens Branch Library

Encourage your young reader through reading with a certified therapy dog.



Let's Glow Crazy

Wednesday, July 10 at 3 pm

Southwest Branch Library

Glow sticks, glow slime, glow art, & glow games! If it glows, it's at this party! Ages 7+.



The Green Bean Players Present:

Alice's Adventures in Wonderland

Wednesday, July 10 at 3 pm

Sherrills Ford-Terrell Branch Library

Join us for an adventure in wonderland!

Homeschool Hangout

Thursday, July 11 at 11 am

Conover Branch Library

Meet other homeschoolers while enjoying an activity and coloring pages.

Tales in the Garden: Adventure Bus

Thursday, July 11 at 6 pm

Main Library in Newton

Join us in the community garden for bilingual stories and family fun! We'll explore a Greenway bus, take a short trip, and return for an adventure with Stretch and Grow.

Schiele Museum presents Animal Adventures

Friday, July 12

Sherrills Ford-Terrell Branch Library at 10 am

Conover Branch Library at 1 pm

Study the diversity of the animal kingdom and what animals use to survive in varying habitats. Program includes live animals.

STEAM: Adventure with Acids and Bases

Saturday, July 13 at 11 am

Maiden Branch Library

Learn about acids and bases by testing everyday items with indicator strips.

Reptiles with Catawba County Parks

Tuesday, July 16 at 2 pm

Claremont Branch Library

Join Catawba County Parks staff to learn more about reptiles you might encounter in the parks or in your own backyard.

Soap Bubble Circus

See bubbles float, spin, rise up and perform daring feats during this exciting show!

Wednesday, July 17

Maiden Town Hall at 11 am

Sherrills Ford-Terrell Branch Library at 2 pm

Thursday, July 18

Southwest Branch Library at 1 pm

Conover Branch Library at 4 pm

Main Library in Newton at 6:30 pm

Friday, July 19

St. Stephens Branch Library at 4 pm



Stretch N Grow – Active Adventures

Wednesday, July 17 at 3 pm

Southwest Branch Library

Join us for an energetic and fun movement class that promises to be! For grades K-5.

Fabric Collage Art with the HMA

Wednesday, July 17 at 4 pm

Conover Branch Library

Inspired by the Michael C. Thorpe exhibit at the HMA, join us to make a fabric collage!



Adventures in Crime Scene Investigation

Monday, July 22 at 3:30 pm

Main Library in Newton

Learn about some of the science involved in crime investigation with hands-on activities.

Catawba Valley Astronomy Club

Tuesday, July 23 at 1 pm

Maiden Town Hall

Join us for an engaging and educational space adventure with our friends at CVAC!

Simple Survival Skills

Gain simple survival skills at this program led by rangers with Catawba County Parks.

Tuesday, July 23

St. Stephens Branch Library at 1 pm

Conover Branch Library at 3 pm

Tuesday, July 30

Southwest Branch Library at 1 pm

StarLab

Enter the portable planetarium for an immersive exploration of space.

Tuesday, July 23 at 5 pm

Sherrills Ford-Terrell Branch Library

Thursday, July 25 at 5 pm

Main Library in Newton

Tuesday, July 30 at 5 pm

St. Stephens Branch Library

Geode Geologist

Wednesday, July 24 at 11 am

Maiden Branch Library

What's inside a geode? How do they form? How do you split them open? We'll find out with special guests from the Catawba Valley Gem & Mineral Club.



STEAM: Build a Boat – Stay Afloat

Wednesday, July 24

Sherrills Ford-Terrell Branch Library at 2 pm

Southwest Branch Library at 3 pm

Construct a raft out of household materials and then test your design.



DIY Bookmarks

Saturday, July 27 at 11 am

Conover Branch Library

Pom-pom, 3-D, and inspirational bookmarks created by you! For kids of all ages!

Kids Book Club:

Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban

Tuesday, July 30 at 5 pm

Main Library in Newton

Gather to discuss the 3rd book in the Harry Potter series & participate in related activities.

Summer Learning Finale: Ice Cream Party

Congratulations on a summer full of reading, learning, and adventure! Celebrate all you have accomplished with ice cream, games, crafts, and fun! Turn in your completed reading log for prizes and to be entered into the grand prize drawing!

Wednesday, July 31 at 10 am

Maiden Branch Library

Wednesday, July 31 at 3 pm

Southwest Branch Library

TEENS

Teen Cupcake Decorating Contest

Tuesday, July 9 at 4 pm

Southwest Branch Library

Creativity. Competition. CUPCAKES! Need we say more? No baking experience required!



Teen Advisory Board

Tuesday, July 9 at 5 pm

St. Stephens Branch Library

Join forces with fellow bookworms, gamers, and creatives by becoming a part of our Teen Advisory Board! Dive into discussions about the latest reads, share gaming strategies, and brainstorm exciting events to bring to the library. Make your voice heard and help shape the future of teen programming in our community!

Shrinky Dinks

Tuesday, July 9 at 6 pm

Conover Branch Library

Make shrinky dinks with us! They can be your own original artwork, inspired by a favorite fandom, a motivational quote, or whatever you like!

Bubble Tea Tasting Adventure

Join us as we learn about the cultural phenomenon of bubble tea and find out what the hype is all about while we try different flavors. To register, please visit or call the library.

Tuesday, July 9 at 5:30 pm

St. Stephens Branch Library

Wednesday, July 10 at 12 noon

Maiden Branch Library

Thursday, July 11 at 12 noon

Claremont Branch Library

Bead Buddies

Wednesday, July 10 at 2 pm

Sherrills Ford-Terrell Branch Library

Make a beaded friend to hang out on your keyring or backpack using pony beads and plastic cord.

K-Pop Party

Monday, July 15 at 6 pm

Sherrills Ford-Terrell Branch Library

Join us for an evening of K-pop fun! Enjoy a mix of crafts, music, and Korean snacks as we celebrate our favorite groups. Wear K-pop merch or an outfit inspired by your favorite idol.



VR Adventure

Wednesday, July 17 at 4 pm

Main Library in Newton

Go on an adventure without leaving the library. Must be 13+ and have a signed waiver to use VR Goggles.



Adventures in Gaming

Tuesday, July 23 at 4:30 pm

Main Library in Newton

Join us for Nintendo Switch or board games.

Paracord Bracelets

Tuesday, July 30 at 2 pm

Sherrills Ford-Terrell Branch Library

Learn how to make a colorful paracord bracelet.



Please visit or call the library to register.

ADULTS

Zumba Mondays!

Mondays at 6 pm

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.



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, July 1 at 6 pm

St. Stephens Branch Library

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

Qi Gong

Tuesdays, July 2 & 9 at 6:15 pm

Saturday, July 27 at 9:30 am

Main Library in Newton

Involving gentle movements, controlled breath patterns, and focused attention, Qi Gong can be practiced seated or otherwise – a great practice for those new to movement. Open to anyone 14+ (parental signature required for teens under 18).

Resume Renovation

Wednesday, July 3 from 1 – 4 pm

Main Library in Newton

Reserve a 30-minute appointment to start a resume from scratch or update your old one. Simple revisions will be completed during your appointment. Complete overhauls or new resumes will be completed within 24 hours.



Gentle Flow Yoga

Fridays, July 5 & 26 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.

Mystery Mavens Book Club

Tuesday, July 9 at 6:30 pm

Sherrills Ford-Terrell Branch Library

Join us for a lively discussion on *Widows of Malabar Hill* by Sunjata Massey.

Adventures in Retro Gaming

Wednesday, July 10 at 6:30 pm

Mr. Game & Lounge, Downtown Newton

Get your game on and party like it 1989 as we play retro games on Atari systems all the way up to WiiU. Not interested in consoles? Try an arcade game!

To register, please call 828-465-8665.



Adult Caregivers of Aging Parents: Responding to Dementia Behaviors

Thursday, July 11 at 5:30 pm

Main Library in Newton

This month's program is focused on helping families who are caring for a loved one with Alzheimer's or other types of dementia, helping you interpret confusing behaviors, and learning some productive ways to respond.

Garden Volunteer Days

Saturdays, July 13 & 27 from 9 - 11 am

Main Library in Newton

We're seeking enthusiastic volunteers to assist with tasks such as weeding, mulching, and planting in the community garden. Whether you're a gardening expert or just starting out, all ages and experience levels are welcome.

Macramé Plant Hanger

Saturday, July 13 at 3 pm

Main Library in Newton

Make a bright macramé plant hanger and maybe meet a new friend! No prior skills required and all supplies provided.



Mountain View Book Club

Monday, July 15 at 6 pm

Southwest Branch Library

Join us as we discuss *And There He Kept Her* by Joshua Moehling. All are welcome for lively conversation and lots of fun!

Shelf-Care Book Club

Monday, July 15 at 6 pm

St. Stephens Branch Library

Treat yourself to the best kind of self-care: a good book! Our July book is *Funny Story* by Emily Henry.



DIY Map Coasters

Tuesday, July 16 at 6 pm
St. Stephens Branch Library



Explore the world one coaster at a time as you craft personalized coasters featuring maps of your favorite places. Whether it's hometown pride or a nod to your dream destinations, create functional pieces of art that bring a touch of wanderlust to your coffee table!

Road Trip Music Bingo

Join us for a road trip themed music bingo night. Singing along is encouraged. Fun prizes will be awarded for each round.

Tuesday, July 16 at 6 pm
Sherrills Ford-Terrell Branch Library

Monday, July 22 at 6 pm
St. Stephens Branch Library

Thursday, July 25 at 6 pm
Main Library in Newton

Adventures in Quilting

Tuesday, July 16 at 6:30 pm
Main Library in Newton



In collaboration with the Hickory Museum of Art, we're celebrating their new exhibit of the uniquely beautiful creations of quilt artist Michael C. Thorpe. Learn about his craft and try your hand at making a self-portrait in fabric. No sewing experience is necessary, all supplies provided.

Health Insurance Navigator Assistance

Wednesday, July 17 from 10 am to 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. Bring proof of income if possible, as well as the social security numbers of any dependents.

Chair Yoga

Wednesdays, July 17 & 31 and at 11:30 am
Sherrills Ford-Terrell Branch Library

A certified yoga instructor will lead us through a beginner-friendly, gentle flow chair yoga class. Chair yoga allows you to perform yoga poses while seated or using a chair for balance.

Piece of Cake Book Club

Thursday, July 18 at 5 pm
Novel Taproom in Downtown Newton

Selecting a diverse range of works and authors, join us to talk about July's selection *Sylvia's Second Act* by Hillary Yablon. Get ahead with August's pick, *The Women* by Kristin Hannah.

Needle Felting Adventures & A Film

Friday, July 19 at 12 pm
Maiden Branch Library

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

Dinner & Danger – Dare to Escape!

Tuesday, July 23 at 5 pm
Southwest Branch Library

Enjoy a delicious dinner surrounded by library friends...IF you can escape the danger with your lives, that is! This escape room and dinner extravaganza promises to be both exciting and delicious!

Books Between Friends Book Club

Tuesday, July 23 at 6 pm
Claremont Branch Library

You're invited to join us as we discuss Percival Everett's new novel, *James*, a brilliant, action-packed reimagining of Adventures of Huckleberry Finn.

Catawba County Genealogical Society

Tuesday, July 23 at 7 pm
Main Library in Newton

Join the Catawba County 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.

Boost Your Brain & Battle Boredom

Thursday, July 25 at 3 pm
Southwest Branch Library

Join us for an afternoon of Battling Boredom! Come learn and/or play a new board or card game.

Needle Felting

Thursday, July 25 at 4 pm
Sherrills Ford-Terrell Branch Library



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

Fall Homesteading Workshop

Monday, July 29 at 6 pm
St. Stephens Branch Library
Melissa Falcone from True Cut Ranch joins us again to share her homesteading knowledge! Learn the basics of preserving produce, defrosting and prepping freezers to store meat for winter, and how to make sure you have enough firewood.



Music Bingo Trivia Night

Monday, July 29 at 6 pm
Southwest Branch Library

Join us for an evening of Music Bingo filled with fun, facts, and festive prizes hosted by Valerie Carpenter!

DIY Lip Balm

Tuesday, July 30 at 6 pm
Conover Branch Library

Join us as we make our own lip balm by creating your own unique mix! All supplies are provided.



LIBRARY TO GO

Herman Sipe Lunch & Library

Wednesdays, July 10, 17, 24, & 31
from 11:30 am - 1 pm

111 Herman Sipe Rd, Conover, 28613

Enjoy a meal provided by The Corner Table, check out some books and activities.

Clean Wave Laundry Suds & Stories

Sunday, July 14 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 3pm.

Maiden Lunch and Library

Tuesday, July 16 from 11:30 am - 12:30 pm
101 Old Tavern Lane Maiden, NC 28650

Receive a bagged lunch provided by The Corner Table Community Kitchen and participate in a storytime and craft.



Public Health Farmers Market

Thursday, July 18 from 10 am - 1 pm
3070 11th Ave. Dr. SE, Hickory, NC 28602

The Library To Go will be bringing the party to the Farmers' Market with music, games, and books for all ages.

Conover Farmers Market

Saturday, July 20 from 8 am - 12 noon
109 1st St E, Conover, 28613

Stop by to check out materials and participate in library activities.



catawba county
library system
MAKING. LIVING. BETTER.

MAIN LIBRARY IN NEWTON

828.465.8664

CLAREMONT BRANCH LIBRARY
CONOVER BRANCH LIBRARY
MAIDEN BRANCH LIBRARY
SHERRILLS FORD-TERRELL BRANCH LIBRARY
SOUTHWEST BRANCH LIBRARY
ST. STEPHENS BRANCH LIBRARY

828.466.6817
828.466.5108
828.428.2712
828.466.6827
828.466.6818
828.466.6821