

Library Connections

AUGUST 2024

- connect
- explore
- grow



catawba county
library system

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www.catawbacountync.gov/library

NEW GRANT AWARDS

NEW LIBRARY SERVICES

The Catawba County Library is thrilled to share new services that will soon be available to the community thanks to grant funding. The library will be expanding its services in digital literacy, meeting room spaces, and sensory-learning experiences.

The library has provided our community with free and equal access to computers, Wi-Fi, digital literacy training, and support for over 20 years. The library is the original digital navigator in our community, helping people learn how to use computers and the internet. Committed to staying at the forefront of digital equity practices, the next step is implementing a Digital Navigator outreach program¹. This grant program will provide two bilingual digital navigators, a mobile computer lab, and digital literacy workshops in the community. The navigators will provide free workshops across Catawba County through partnerships with local agencies and organizations. Working together, the bilingual team can host workshops in multiple languages, eliminating the language barrier. When not working at an outreach site, the digital navigators will work at various library locations to provide digital literacy support through one-on-one technology assistance and technology reference questions.

The library is committed to upgrading its meeting and study room spaces² across the system to meet the needs of residents and bridge the digital divide. In past years, the library has been able to keep pace with developing technologies by outfitting its meeting room spaces with private and safe video-conferencing software and technology.

This allows the community to have a space to go for virtual meetings without the burden of purchasing equipment, establishing internet access, or worrying about security and privacy, for convenient and safe spaces where they can meet with their doctor, teacher, lawyer, or prospective new boss. In continuation of that effort, the library will outfit meeting and study room spaces at the Sherrills Ford-Terrell and St. Stephens Branch Libraries with the same technology, ensuring a consistent and seamless user experience for both patrons and staff at all library locations.



The Main Library in Newton will introduce a sensory-friendly story time and play space² equipped with adaptive toys, furnishings, and interactive components suitable for children with different needs. Sensory-friendly spaces build upon universal design by making the environment accessible for all children from a sensory standpoint, empowering neurodivergent visitors to fully participate, engage with the physical space, and optimize their visit. Each library location will have sensory kits for families and staff will participate in customer service training to deliver supportive experiences for neurodivergent individuals. This project will provide an inviting space where all children can connect, grow, and explore together as they enjoy the library and hone their social skills.

1. NCDIT Digital Champion Grant - American Rescue Plan Act State Fiscal Recovery Funds as appropriated by N.C. Session Law 2021-180

2. This project was supported by grant funds from the Institute of Museum and Library Services under the provisions of the federal Library Services and Technology Act as administered by the State Library of North Carolina, a division of the Department of Natural and Cultural Resources

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.

Tuesday, August 6 at 1 pm

Southwest Branch Library

Friday, August 16 at 10 am

Maiden Branch Library

PAWS to Read

Mondays, August 5 & 19

Main Library in Newton

Tuesday, August 13

St. Stephens Branch Library

Wednesday, August 21

Conover Branch Library

Encourage your young reader through reading with a therapy dog. Please schedule your visit by calling: 828-465-8665 for Newton, 828-466-6821 for St. Stephens, or 828-466-5108 for Conover.



Summer Learning Finale:

Sweet Treat Drop-In

Friday, August 2 from 9 am - 6 pm

St. Stephens Branch Library

Turn in your completed Summer Learning log for a sweet treat and chance to win prizes!

Summer Learning Finale:

Adventures in Stories

Friday, August 2 from 3 - 5 pm

Conover Branch Library

Celebrate the end of Summer Learning with music, activities, and snacks - don't forget to bring your reading log!

Summer Learning Finale:

Ice Cream Celebration

Friday, August 2 at 4 pm

Sherrills Ford-Terrell Branch Library

Bring your completed reading log and celebrate the end of the Summer Learning Program with ice cream, crafts, and prizes.

Summer Learning Finale:

Library Olympics Style

Saturday, August 3 from 11 am - 1 pm

Main Library in Newton

How fast can you navigate an obstacle course while holding books or put things in alphabetical order? Test those skills and more with games and crafts. Enjoy a cool treat - don't forget to bring your reading log!

Crafternoon

Wednesday, August 7 from 4 to 6 pm

Main Library in Newton

Join us for projects inspired by the Summer Olympics and the host country, France.

Homeschool Hangout

Thursday, August 8 at 11 am

Conover Branch Library

Are you a homeschooling family or group? Come out and meet other homeschoolers! We'll have a passive activity and coloring pages. For school-aged kids.

Galaxy Jars

Wednesday, August 14 at 1 pm

St. Stephens Branch Library

Create your own mini galaxies in a jar using glitter, paint, and imagination! For kids in grade K-5.



Visit with Hickory Aviation Museum & DIY Aircraft

Saturday, August 17 at 11 am

Conover Branch Library

Celebrate Aviation Week with us and the Hickory Aviation Museum! All school-aged children are welcome to come learn about our local pilots and their experiences. You'll also get to make your own popsicle aircraft!



Kindergarten-Here We Come!

Thursday, August 22 at 10 am

Main Library in Newton

Calling all rising kindergartners & their caregivers: Join us for a special storytime tailored just for you! We'll read stories, practice readiness skills (like mastering those lunch trays), and provide caregivers with a sweet treat bag to help you through that first day.



Do Re Me and You Dance Party

Friday, August 23 at 10 am

St. Stephens Branch Library

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

Kids Book Club

Wednesday, August 28 at 5 pm

Main Library in Newton

Discuss the book *Blue* by Joyce Moyer Hostetter. Free copies of the book are available at Newton Youth Services while supplies last.



Please visit or call the library to register.

TEENS

Art Studio

Wednesday, August 14 at 5 pm

Main Library in Newton

Join us for a chance to make some art before school starts back. We'll provide the supplies and space to work, you provide the creativity.

Needle Felt & A Film

Tuesday, August 20 at 5:30 pm

Maiden Branch Library

Enjoy time at the library during your last few days of summer vacation by "mer-making" a needle felted starfish and watching the 2005 film, *Aquamarine!*



Teen Back to School Pajama Party

Friday, August 23 at 4 pm

Southwest Branch Library

Celebrate the last Friday before the start of school with Nintendo Switch games, crafts, music, and SNACKS! Pajamas, stuffed animals, and fuzzy blankets encouraged!

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.

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.

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, August 5 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. Supplies provided but feel free to bring your own.

The Fungus Among Us: Growing Shiitake Mushrooms at Home

Tuesday, August 6 at 5 pm

Maiden Branch Library

Did you know you can grow shiitake mushrooms in your home garden? Special guest, Lara L. Worden, MSc., Agriculture Agent from Gaston Cooperative Extension will cover everything you need, including information on varieties, growing medium, equipment, inoculation, managing logs, and harvesting.

DIY Labneh Cheese Making Class

Tuesday, August 6 at 5:30 pm

Sherrills Ford-Terrell Branch Library

If you're not already making labneh, now's the time to start! We will explore the process of making this creamy, tangy yogurt cheese that comes together with just 2 simple ingredients - also enjoy samples.



The Station Book Club

Wednesday, August 7 at 10 am

Conover Branch Library

All are welcome to join as we discuss *The Hotel Nantucket* by Elin Hilderbrand. We will also do a book-share at the end with other recommended reads. This book club meets every other month.

Chair Yoga

Wednesdays, August 7 & 14

at 11:30 am

Sherrills Ford-Terrell Branch Library

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

Career Center

Wednesday, August 7 from 1 - 4 pm

Main Library in Newton

A Goodwill career specialist will be available to provide one-on-one assistance with your job-related needs. Want to get your resume on Indeed or LinkedIn? This is your perfect opportunity! Reserve a 30-minute appointment by calling your preferred library or drop in as you are able.

Adult Caregivers of Aging Parents:

Senior Services, Eligibility, Paperwork

Thursday, August 8 at 5:30 pm

Main Library in Newton

This month's program will help attendees learn about various documents required by agencies and organizations to apply and qualify for services. Find out what's available and where you can get assistance with access or submitting required forms.

Google Suites

Friday, August 9 at 11 am

Main Library in Newton

Google Suites is a free set of programs available to anyone with a Google email. Learn more about Docs, Sheets, and Slides in this introductory overview. Participants are welcome to bring their own laptop.



Garden Volunteer Days

Saturdays, August 10 & 24

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. All ages and experience levels are welcome.

Fall Gardening

Saturday, August 10 at 12 noon

Main Library in Newton

Are you ready to extend your gardening season and make the most of the cooler months? Our Fall Gardening Workshop is the perfect opportunity for gardeners of all skill levels to learn how to prepare, plant, and care for a thriving fall garden. We will provide seeds and seed starting kits for all participants.



Homeschool Panel

Tuesday, August 13 at 6 pm

Conover Branch Library

Join us for a Q&A panel for all things homeschooling! Get answers from experienced homeschool parents/guardians and from other community resources.

Lunch Meal Prep with True Cut Ranch

Tuesday, August 13 at 6 pm

Main Library in Newton

When you've gotten tired of the same ole' sandwich & chips, but eating out has gotten too expensive, sign up for this workshop to learn how to do easy lunch meal prep for a tasty and money-saving change of pace. Melissa Falcone of True Cut Ranch will be sharing some of her tried and true strategies for delicious dishes that make economic sense.



Mystery Mavens Book Club

Tuesday, August 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 *Homecoming* by Kate Morton.

Piece of Cake Book Club

Thursday, August 15 at 5 pm

Novel Taproom in Downtown Newton

Selecting a diverse range of works and authors, join us to talk about August's pick, *The Women* by Kristen Hannah. Get ahead with September's selection *James* by Percival Everett.

Mountain View Book Club

Monday, August 19 at 6 pm
Southwest Branch Library

Come join us for a lively discussion on Kristen Hannah's novel, *The Women*. Everyone is invited to participate in engaging conversation and lots of fun!

Shelf-Care Book Club

Monday, August 19 at 6 pm
St. Stephens Branch Library

Treat yourself to the best kind of self-care: a good book! Our August book is *Divine Rivals* by Rebecca Ross.

Qi Gong

Tuesday, August 20 at 6:15 pm
Saturday, August 24 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 ages 14+ (parental signature required for teens under 18).

Paper Crafting Club

Wednesday, August 21 at 6 pm
Main Library in Newton

Join us to explore the many types of arts and crafts using card or paper as a primary medium - from journaling, drawing, coloring, stenciling, painting, folding, decoupage, scrapbooking, card making as well as paper crafts practiced by cultures across the world.



Introduction to Hoopla and Libby

Thursday, August 22 at 1 pm
Sherrills Ford-Terrell Branch Library

Libby and Hoopla are free and user-friendly ways to find thousands of eBooks and eAudiobooks. We will teach you how to download the app, sign in, and download a book or two. Bring your own tablet or phone to set up your gateway to the world of eReading.

Boost Your Brain & Battle Boredom

Thursday, August 22 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.

80s & 90s Trivia Night

Thursday, August 22 at 6 pm
Main Library in Newton

Whether you were there to witness it or you've just watched every John Hughes film along with every episode of *In Living Color*, or you always sing Love Shack at Karaoke Night, this trivia challenge is going to be totally tubular! Fun prizes will be awarded for each round!

Customer Service Skills

Thursday, August 22 at 6 pm
Online via Zoom

What are customer service skills and how do they help you at work or in professional situations? Join us to learn more about these skills and ways to implement them into the work day. To register, please visit tinyurl.com/customer-ccls

Trivia Night

Monday, August 26 at 6 pm
Southwest Branch Library

Join us for an evening of Trivia! Get ready for a fantastic time filled with fun facts and exciting prizes, hosted by Valerie Carpenter!

Adult Candle Decorating

Tuesday, August 27 at 6 pm
Conover Branch Library

Join us for a relaxing evening where you get to show your creativity by decorating your own candle!



Catawba County Genealogical Society

Tuesday, August 27 at 7 pm
Main Library in Newton

Join our monthly meeting, followed by an introduction to new local history and genealogy materials available for research in Catawba County.

Tech Coffee Chat

Wednesday, August 28 at 11 am
St. Stephens Branch Library

Whether you need assistance setting up your new device, troubleshooting issues, learning how to use specific apps, or a cup of coffee, we are here to help. Bring your gadgets and questions, and let's tackle them together.

LIBRARY TO GO

Public Health Farmers Market

Thursdays, August 1, 15, & 29
from 10 am - 1 pm

3070 11th Ave. Dr. SE, Hickory

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

Herman Sipe Lunch & Library

Wednesdays, August 7 & 14
from 11:30 am - 1 pm

111 Herman Sipe Rd, Conover

Enjoy a meal provided by The Corner Table Community Kitchen, check out some books and participate in free hands-on activities.

Maiden Lunch and Library

Tuesday, August 13
from 11:30 am - 12:30 pm

101 Old Tavern Lane, Maiden

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

Conover Farmers Market

Saturday, August 17
from 8 am - 12 pm

109 1st St E, Conover

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



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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

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