

# Library Connections

DECEMBER 2024



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library system

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• connect  
• explore  
• grow

## A HOLIDAY TALE

### THE BOOKS WRITE THEIR OWN STORY

In the library, books watch as the seasons change. Spring starts quietly and brings the library to a full roar by the time summer arrives. Fall stays busy with tutoring sessions and students studying together but now that it's Winter, the books can really shine! Everyone wants to snuggle up with a good book when it gets cold outside.

The library was decorated with twinkling lights, paper snowflakes, and a big tree in the corner. As it gets closer to the holidays, the books start to wonder which of them will get checked out for the long break.

On the mystery shelf, a thick book with a dark cover said with a huff, "I don't like holidays. I'm all about clues and surprises. I don't do candy canes or jolly songs so I hope no one takes me home over break."

The fairy tale book on the next shelf overheard and giggled. "The holidays are magic! It's about spending time with family and wishing on stars," it said. "What could be better than that?"

"You can have your happily ever afters, fairy tale," the mystery book said. "My detectives don't mix with princesses. We see the world very differently after all."

A science book on the other side of the library peeked out and said in a small voice, "but stories can mix, you know. Fairy tales...well, they have a little bit of science in them! Magic could be science, just not the way we usually see it."

"What about food?" asked the holiday cookbook on the shelf above that had been listening carefully to the conversation. "Food is made of magic, surprises, and science. No matter where you come from, you can always share a meal together. Christmas cookies, roasted chestnuts, black-eyed peas and collard greens, latkes, and warm cocoa—they bring everyone together."

The four books—mystery, fairy tale, science, and cookbook—looked across the shelves at each other. They were so different but suddenly, they had an idea!

"We can write our own story!" the fairy tale book suggested. "A story about how all kinds of books can come together, just like people do at the holidays!"

The science book flipped open its cover and said, "We could add stars and sleigh rides, and the science behind snowflakes falling from the sky. We'll show how everything fits together!"

The mystery book's cover brightened. "And someone could solve the mystery of the missing tree star—maybe the star got hidden in a pile of presents or used for a children's program!"

The holiday cookbook added, "We could have a recipe for cookies to share at the end. No story is complete without something sweet!"

So the books worked together through the night. They told the story of a little library that loved winter and the holidays. There was magic in the air, a mystery to solve, and delicious food to share. The books all took part—each adding their own special piece to the tale.

By morning, as the first rays of sunlight peeked through the library windows, the books had finished. They were no longer just individual books—they had become one beautiful story.

And as the library doors opened and the first visitor walked in, the books smiled at each other, knowing they had created something special.

They might be different, but together, they made something that would be loved by everyone who read it. And that, they thought, was the magic of the holidays.



**THE LIBRARY WILL BE CLOSED TUESDAY, DECEMBER 24 THROUGH THURSDAY, DECEMBER 26 FOR THE HOLIDAYS.**

## CHILDREN 0-5

### 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.

#### Pre-K STEAM

Children and their grownups are invited to explore interactive play stations to build confidence in learning.

##### Friday, December 6 at 11 am

##### Saturday, December 28 at 11 am

St. Stephens Branch Library

##### Tuesday, December 10 at 1 pm

Southwest Branch Library

##### Saturday, December 21 at 10 am

Main Library in Newton

### Tales in the Garden: Santa Visit

Tuesday, December 17 at 6 pm

Main Library in Newton

It's the most wonderful time of the year! Join us for a bilingual holiday story, crafts and a special visit with the big man himself! Fun for the whole family. Holiday pjs encouraged.



#### Santa Visit!

Tuesday, December 10

Sherrills Ford-Terrell Branch Library

Celebrate the season with pictures and telling Santa about your wish list. Fun for the whole family. To register for your time slot, please visit [tinyurl.com/SantaSFT](https://tinyurl.com/SantaSFT)



## CHILDREN 6-11

### Music Bingo: Christmas & Disney Edition

Monday, December 2 at 6 pm

St. Stephens Branch Library

Get ready for a musical twist on bingo with a holiday and Disney flair! Sing along, dance, and win fun prizes!

### Homeschool – STEAM Fun

Tuesday, December 3 at 1 pm

Southwest Branch Library

Join us for a hands-on science adventure enhanced with STEAM learning objectives.

### Lego Club

Wednesday, December 4 at 10 am

Maiden Branch Library

Build, make and play as we explore our creativity through Legos.

### North Pole Workshop

Wednesday, December 4 at 4 pm

Main Library in Newton

Make an ornament for a loved one while your grownup gets a little down time (within eyesight).

### Crochet for Kids

Wednesday, December 4 at 4:30 pm

St. Stephens Branch Library

Colorful yarn. Lots of encouragement, this program is perfect for sparking creativity.



### Homeschool Hangout

Thursday, December 5 at 11 am

Conover Branch Library

Are you a homeschooling family or group? Meet other homeschoolers while enjoying an activity and coloring pages.

### Christmas Ornament STEAM

Saturday, December 7 at 10 am

Conover Branch Library

Make a milk plastic ornament with us! Learn how to make casein plastic from milk and turn it into a tree decoration.



### Southwest Branch Cat Cafe

Saturday, December 7

from 10 am – 1 pm

Southwest Branch Library

Yes, you read that right – it's a cat café right here at your library! Feline fans are invited to a 30 minute all you can pet Cat Session! Kitten and cat sessions courtesy of the Catawba County Humane Society!



### PAWS to Read

Tuesday, December 10

St. Stephens Branch Library

Encourage your young reader through reading with a therapy dog. To register, please call 828-466-6821.



### Festive Film Friday – Noelle

Friday, December 13 at 3 pm

Maiden Branch Library

What better way to gear up for the holidays than with a great festive movie? Join us to watch Noelle while we make a craft and sip hot cocoa. Fun for the whole family! Rated G.

### Make a Holiday Card

Saturday, December 14

from 10 am - 1 pm

Conover Branch Library

Make a holiday card with us using natural elements from our friends at Catawba County Parks. Fun for the whole family.

### STEAM: Frozen Fortress

Wednesday, December 18 at 4 pm

Sherrills Ford-Terrell Branch Library

Design a defensive fortress to withstand a "snowball" attack.

## TEENS 12-18

### Rizz Up Your Holiday

Tuesday, December 10 at 5 pm

Main Library in Newton

Chill out this winter, flex your rizz, and level up your crafting skills! Join us for a hands-on needle felting workshop that is neither demure nor mindful and create some frosty art—no stabbing experience needed, just bring your vibe to earn aura points!

### Needle Felt & Film: Home Alone

Tuesday, December 17 at 5 pm

Maiden Branch Library

Instead of staying home alone, hang out at the library for the afternoon and watch Home Alone! We will be needle-felting Buzz's pet tarantula, eating Kevin's mac n' cheese, & sipping on hot cocoa. Rated PG.



### Macrame Gnomes

Tuesday, December 17 at 6 pm

Sherrills Ford-Terrell Branch Library

Celebrate winter with us by creating your very own macrame gnome.

### 2025 Vision Boards

Tuesday, December 31 at 11 am

Southwest Branch Library

Celebrate the new year by creating a vision board representing your goals, dreams, and aspirations for 2025! With a beautiful handmade collage of all you want to achieve, you'll be starting the year off right!



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. It's appropriate for every skill and ability level and open to anyone 14+ (parental signature required for teens under 18).

## Purl and Chain

*Tuesdays at 6 pm  
St. Stephens Branch Library*

Make new friends and enjoy the company of others while you knit and crochet. This month we are focusing on different methods of casting. Don't miss out on the fun—grab your needles and join us!

## 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*

Low impact exercise and gentle stretching for all ages.

## Author Visit: Carla Vergot

*Tuesday, December 3 at 6 pm  
Sherrills Ford-Terrell Branch Library*  
Join us as we welcome author Carla Vergot for a lively discussion and book signing. Copies of her books will be available to purchase.



## Mystery Mavens Book Club

*Tuesday, December 3 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 *Christmas Presents* by Lisa Unger.

## Avoiding Scams and Frauds with NCDJ

*Tuesday, December 3 at 6 pm  
St. Stephens Branch Library*



Join us for a presentation from the North Carolina Department of Justice. Learn more about identifying prevalent scams and frauds, how to respond if you think you've been scammed, and keeping yourself and your information safe.

## Winter Wool Felting Workshop

*Tuesday, December 3 at 6:30 pm  
Main Library in Newton*

Learn the fun craft of needle felting and create an ornament for your winter decoration or just all year round! This is a beginner friendly workshop and all supplies are provided.

## The Station Book Club

*Wednesday, December 4 at 10 am  
Conover Branch Library*

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

## Chair Yoga

*Wednesday, December 4 & 18  
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.

## Career Center

*Wednesday, December 4 from 1 - 4 pm  
Main Library in Newton*

*Wednesday, December 18 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. 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.

## DIY Paper Ornaments

*Thursday, December 5 at 3 pm  
Southwest Branch Library*



Gear up for the holidays with our hands-on DIY paper ornaments. Join local crafter Jeannie Kokochak as she shares a unique way to turn old books into beautiful ornaments.

## Friends of the Library

*Coffee Shop & Booksale  
Saturday, December 7 from 10 am - 1 pm  
Southwest Branch Library*

Join the Friends of the Library for a book sale and coffee shop. Build your own personal library while helping fund future library programs. Relax with your finds while enjoying a cozy drink.

## Holiday Memory Cafe

*Saturday, December 7 at 10:30 am  
Main Library in Newton*

To bring enjoyment and social engagement to those experiencing memory loss, as well as their caregivers, friends and family members, we invite you to join us for a Holiday Tea and Craft. We'll be enjoying holiday music, including some sing-alongs, hot cocoa, tea and coffee and creating an ornament to take home afterward. Note: please bring a picture to use for your ornament—measuring under 2 ¾ inches in diameter.

## Shelf-Care Book Club

*Monday, December 9 at 6 pm  
St. Stephens Branch Library*

Treat yourself to the best kind of self-care: a good book! Our December book is *Listen for the Lie* by Amy Tintera.

## Pantry Preparedness with True Cut Ranch

*Tuesday, December 10 at 2 pm  
Southwest Branch Library*

Melissa Falcone from True Cut Ranch will host a pantry preparedness program just in time for the coldest part of the year.

## Taller de artesanías: vinilos festivos Craft Workshop: Holiday Vinyl Decals

*Tuesday, December 10 at 6 pm  
Main Library in Newton*

Looking for a quick and easy holiday gift? Join the library for a vinyl workshop and learn to use our vinyl cutter to customize holiday gifts for friends and family. Program is in Spanish and English.



## Mindfulness Yoga

*Tuesday, December 10 at 6 pm  
Conover Branch Library*



Unwind and reconnect during the busy holiday season! Alicia Blackburn will guide a discussion of mindfulness, followed by gentle, guided movement that leads into an extended meditation.

**R**

Please visit or call the library to register.

**Candle Making**

Tuesday, December 10 at 6 pm  
Maiden Branch Library

Explore the art and science of candle making. Enjoy blending fragrance and additives using a soy wax base for a take home treat, just in time for the holidays.

**R****Needle Felting**

Thursday, December 12 at 4 pm  
Sherrills Ford-Terrell Branch Library

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

**R****Adult Children of Aging Parents: Technology - Shielding Loved Ones from Scams & Frauds**

Thursday, December 12 at 5:30 pm  
Main Library in Newton

This month's program will offer participants information about how to avoid becoming a victim of the many varieties of scams, including safeguards to employ and practices to ensure safety.

**Squeaky Wheel Writing Group**

Friday, December 13 at 3 pm  
Main Library in Newton

Whether you've just recently discovered a passion for writing, or you're a veteran with published titles under your belt, all writers are welcome to attend. We will focus on encouraging each other, sharing tips and resources, and creating accountability goals for ourselves.

**Holiday Cookie Decorating Contest**

Saturday, December 14 at 10 am  
Main Library in Newton

We've got the cookies and the goodies! You've got the creative inspiration to make them festive! Decorated cookies\* will be judged in one of four age divisions: 2-5; 6-11; 12-17; and 18+ during the Holiday Book & Cookie Fair that follows. To register for a Cookie Kit, please call 828-465-8665.

**R****Holiday Book & Cookie Fair: Local Arts & Authors Celebration**

Saturday, December 14  
from 11 am to 2 pm  
Main Library in Newton

Come out to meet our slate of 12+ local authors! Delight in storytimes, author talks and readings! Browse the pottery creations from Connections Clubhouse. Enjoy a cup of hot cocoa as we experience performances by area groups and entertainers.

\*Winners of the Cookie Decorating Contest will be announced at the conclusion of the event.

**Cutting the Cord**

Monday, December 16 at 2 pm  
Sherrills Ford-Terrell Branch Library  
Learn about various streaming options and how streaming can be a more budget-friendly option to watch your favorite shows. Learn about available services and devices to help you navigate the resources that will suit you best.

**DIY Barn Quilt**

Monday, December 16 at 6 pm  
Sherrills Ford-Terrell Branch Library

Explore the art and history of American Barn Quilts as we create our very own barn quilt.

**R****Mountain View Book Club**

Monday, December 16 at 6 pm  
Southwest Branch Library

Dive into the intriguing world of Kristin Hannah's *Comfort and Joy* with our Mountain View Book Club!

**Embroidery Christmas Cards**

Tuesday, December 17 at 6 pm  
Conover Branch Library

Get ready for the holidays by creating your own embroidery Christmas cards with us! Different patterns will be provided as well as cards and envelopes.

**Creative Outlet:**

**Garlands & Gift Embellishments**

Wednesday, December 18 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 – as well as paper crafts practiced by cultures across the world. This month's project: Gift Embellishments.

**R****ACOTAR Paint Night**

Thursday, December 19 at 4:30 pm  
Sherrills Ford-Terrell Branch Library

Join us for a magical ACOTAR Paint Night, inspired by the enchanting world of Sarah J. Maas' *A Court of Thorns and Roses* series!

**R****Piece of Cake Book Club**

Thursday, December 19 at 5 pm  
Carpe Crustum in Downtown Newton

Join us to talk about December's selection *This Other Eden* by Paul Harding. Get ahead with January's selection *The Sentence* by Louise Erdrich.

**LIBRARY TO GO****City of Conover Christmas in the Park**

Tuesday, December 3 from 6 - 8 pm  
Conover Downtown Park

112 2nd Ave NE, Conover

Start the holiday season in Conover with us by doing a special craft.

**Newton Light Up the Town**

Friday, December 6 from 5:30 - 9 pm  
Downtown Newton

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

**Annual Holiday Pottery Fundraiser**

Saturday, December 7  
from 9 am - 2 pm

1679 Southwest Blvd., Newton

Come to this annual pottery fundraiser and be sure to bring the kids for a holiday craft they can give as a gift.

**Merry Maiden**

Thursday, December 12 from 5 - 8 pm  
19 N Main Ave., Maiden

Celebrate the holidays with us at this Maiden Festival with crafts and storytime.



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MAIN LIBRARY IN NEWTON

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