

Library Connections

JANUARY 2025



catawba county
library system

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828.465.8664



www.catawbacountync.gov/library

- connect
- explore
- grow

YOU'RE INVITED

TO A NEW LIBRARY EXPERIENCE

The Main Library in Newton is excited to announce the completion of our newly redesigned children's area, now featuring a sensory-friendly space designed to support all children, with a special focus on those with autism and sensory sensitivities. To celebrate this project, the library will host an opening event for the community on Wednesday, January 8th from 10 am to 12 noon.

This new learning environment features a pretend play kiosk, an interactive floor projector and other multi-sensory equipment such as textured mats, fidget toys, seating and calming items like weighted blankets and bubble tubes. These additions are designed to help neurodivergent children engage more fully with their surroundings while promoting calm and reducing anxiety.

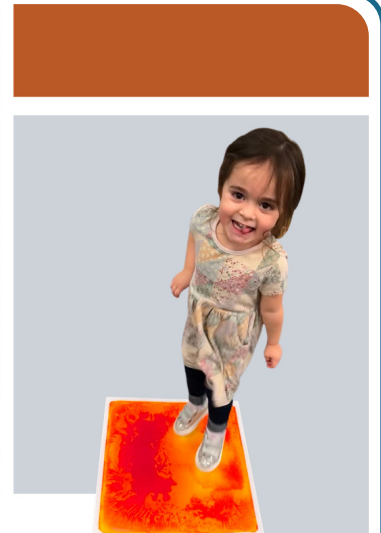
In addition to the sensory-friendly space, starting in February, the library will add a new Sensory Storytime program on Tuesdays at 11 am. This specially designed storytime will be limited to 10 children per session to maintain a calm, quiet environment perfect for allowing autistic children and their families to enjoy the library experience.

To make the library more accessible, sensory kits containing sound dampening headphones, sunglasses, and fidget toys are now available at all branches. Additionally, library personnel have participated in customer service training to ensure all library visitors feel supported and included.

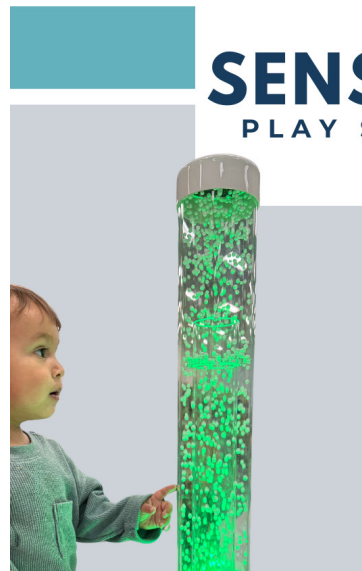
**Please join us on Wednesday, January 8th
from 10 am to 12 noon as we celebrate this new space!**

This event will begin with a storytime program followed by time for families to explore the interactive features, enjoy sensory-friendly activities, and learn more about the library's commitment to serving the neurodivergent community.

"This project was supported by grant funds from the Institute of Museum and Library Services under the provisions of the Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) as administered by the State Library of North Carolina, a division of the NC Department of Natural and Cultural Resources (IMLS grant number LS-253645-OLS-23)."



SENSORY PLAY SPACES



THE LIBRARY WILL BE CLOSED JANUARY 1 AND JANUARY 20 IN OBSERVANCE OF THE NEW YEAR AND MLK JR.

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.

Opening Celebration:

Sensory Play Space

Wednesday, January 8

from 10 am - 12 noon

Main Library in Newton

The library is excited to announce a new sensory-friendly play space, equipped with sensory toys, furnishings, and interactive components, making the environment accessible for all children. Come experience this innovative new space for yourself and learn more about how it serves our community.

New Year, New Literacy Play Space

Thursday, January 30 at 11 am

Sherrills Ford-Terrell Branch Library

Join us to celebrate the launch of our new Main Street Kiosk! Made possible by the FOSFTL, this learning space is designed to foster pre-literacy skills.

Pre-K STEAM

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

Friday, January 3 at 10 am

Southwest Branch Library

Monday, January 6 at 1 pm

Sherrills Ford-Terrell Branch Library

Saturday, January 18 at 11 am

Conover Branch Library

Friday, January 24 at 11 am

St. Stephens Branch Library

Tuesday, January 28 at 10 am

Main Library in Newton

CHILDREN 6-11

Stormwater STEAM

Friday, January 3 at 1 pm

Maiden Branch Library

See what happens to stormwater after it rains with a hands-on activity from the Western Piedmont COG. We will discuss watersheds, pollution, and how to be good stewards of our rivers and lakes!

Homeschool – STEAM Fun

Tuesday, January 7 at 1 pm

Southwest Branch Library

Students are invited to a hands-on science adventure where they'll discover a program enhanced with STEAM learning objectives.

Lego Club

Wednesday, January 8 at 10 am

Maiden Branch Library

Build, make and play as we explore our creativity through Legos. We will have free play and a zipline challenge.

Winter Shrinky Dinks

Friday, January 10 at 11 am

Conover Branch Library

Make your very own winter themed shrinky dink! All supplies are provided.

Paws to Read

Tuesday, January 14

by appointment

St. Stephens Branch Library

Encourage your young reader through reading with a certified therapy dog. To schedule an appointment, please call 828-466-6821.

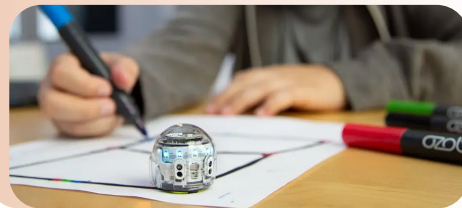


STEAM: Ozobots

Thursday, January 16 at 4:30 pm

Sherrills Ford-Terrell Branch Library

Learn basic screen-free coding concepts like cause and effect, critical thinking, and debugging using Ozobots.



Make Your Own Bath Bombs

Thursday, January 16 at 4:30 pm

St. Stephens Branch Library

Join us for a fun, hands-on STEAM program! Kids will learn the science behind fizzing bath bombs and get to make their very own bath bombs to take home. Perfect for young scientists and crafters alike.



Master Chef Jr.: Chili Edition

Thursday, January 23 at 5 pm

Main Library in Newton

Compete for the title of Library Master Chef while learning to make your own unique version of the classic soup: chili! Open to youth ages 6 and up.



Dog Man Celebration

Saturday, January 25

from 10 am - 12 noon

Main Library in Newton

Celebrate the upcoming release of the Dog Man movie with games and crafts at this drop-in program.

Owl Pellet Dissection

Tuesday, January 28 at 6 pm

Conover Branch Library

Join us in discovering what owls eat by dissecting an actual owl pellet! Activity will be followed by a night walk to listen for owls!

Lunar New Year

Wednesday, January 29 at 5 pm

Main Library in Newton

Learn about Lunar New Year traditions throughout the world.

TEENS 12-18

Intro to Crochet for Teens

Wednesday, January 8 at 4:30 pm

St. Stephens Branch Library

Learn the basics of crochet, including how to hold your hook and make simple stitches. Materials are provided - bring yourself and get started!



DIY Mini Charms

Tuesday, January 14 at 4 pm

Sherrills Ford-Terrell Branch Library

Are you also obsessed with mini things? Join us as we create mini charms using air dry clay.



Tea Tasting

Tuesday, January 14 at 5 pm

Main Library in Newton

Learn and share tips for making a great cup of tea. Taste different varieties – discover a new favorite!

Pixel Art Shrinky Dinks

Tuesday, January 28 at 5 pm

Southwest Branch Library

Make your favorite pixelated game sprites come to life with this fun, easy craft!



ADULTS

Zumba Mondays!

Mondays at 6 pm

(No class on January 20)

Main Library in Newton

Grab your glitter and get ready for a new year of Zumba! Bust a Move to music of the 1980s through today. Appropriate for every skill and ability level.

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. A new crochet stitch will be featured each week. Don't miss out on the fun!

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.

Pen to Paper

Monday, January 6 at 6 pm

St. Stephens Branch Library

Connect with other writers. For the first half hour, we'll discuss our challenges and triumphs. The remainder of our time will be used to work on individual projects. All writing levels are welcome.

Chair Yoga

Wednesday, January 8 & 22

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.

Resume Renovation

Wednesday, January 8

from 1 - 4 pm

Main Library in Newton

Drop off a resume for editing or schedule an appointment to create a new resume.



Needle Felting

Thursday, January 9 at 4 pm

Sherrills Ford-Terrell Branch Library

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



Adult Children of Aging Parents: Understanding Eligibility & Managing Paperwork

Thursday, January 9 at 5:30 pm

Main Library in Newton

This month's presentation by one of Catawba County Public Health's certified Community Health Workers will help you navigate the often-confusing array of documents and requirements to qualify for various services and programs.

2025 Nature Walk

Saturday, January 11 at 10 am

Conover Branch Library

Start the New Year with a walk that will set you up to a good year! Decorate your own hiking stick while enjoying nature. Fun for the whole family.



Qi Gong

Saturday, January 11 at 9:30 am

Main Library in Newton

Involving gentle movements, controlled breath patterns, and focused attention, Qi Gong is a great practice for those new to movement.

Catawba County Friends of the Library

Monday, January 13 at 11 am

Main Library in Newton

Join us to help plan events and advocate for library services throughout the county.

Digital Navigator Drop-In Sessions

Bring in your devices and questions for individual technology help! The Digital Navigators will also be available to assist with basic computer skills, job search skills, and more.

Tuesday, January 14 from 12 - 2 pm

Maiden Branch Library

Tuesday, January 14 from 1 - 3 pm

Southwest Branch Library

Wednesday, January 15 from 12 - 2 pm

Claremont Branch Library

Friday, January 17 from 12 - 2 pm

St. Stephens Branch Library



Please visit or call the library to register.

Soup 101 With True Cut Ranch **R**
Tuesday, January 14 at 2 pm
Southwest Branch Library
Discover simple, healthy, & budget friendly soups. Enjoy tasty samples & take home a small jar of ingredients for a homemade soup mix.

Mystery Mavens Book Club
Tuesday, January 14 at 6:30
Sherrills Ford-Terrell Branch Library
Join us for a lively discussion on *Frozen River* by Ariel Lawhon. New members welcome.

Goodwill Career Center
Wednesday, January 15 from 1 - 4 pm
St. Stephens Branch Library
A Goodwill career specialist will be available to provide assistance with your job-related needs. Reserve a 30-minute appointment by calling 828-466-6821 or drop in.

Social Media for Job Search
Wednesday, January 15 at 2 pm
Main Library in Newton
Learn tips on how to utilize social media to enhance your job seeking searches.

Creative Outlet: Vision Boards **R**
Wednesday, January 15 at 6 pm
Main Library in Newton
We're getting out our cork boards and glue this month to create a Vision Board for 2025. Explore the crafts of collage & decoupage by using images, words or other visuals to represent your goals, dreams and aspirations.

So, You Got a ___ for Christmas?
Thursday, January 16 from 9 - 11 am
Conover Branch Library
Drop in to learn how to use the new technology you received over the holidays! Digital Navigators will be on hand to provide individual assistance.

Piece of Cake Book Club
Thursday, January 16 at 5 pm
Carpe Crustum in Downtown Newton
Join us to talk about January's book *The Sentence* by Louise Erdrich. Get ahead with February's book *One of Our Kind* by Nicola Yoon.

Self-Defense for Women **R**
Join us for this Catawba County Sheriff-led workshop to learn about the common profiles and tactics of attackers, blocking and striking techniques, defenses against grabs and holds, and the legalities of self-defense. Comfortable clothing is recommended. To register, please visit or call your library.

Thursday, January 16 at 6 pm
Claremont Branch Library

Tuesday, January 21 at 6 pm
Maiden Branch Library

Thursday, January 30 at 5:30 pm
Main Library in Newton

How To: Facebook Marketplace
Saturday, January 18 at 11 am
Main Library in Newton
Have you spent some time cleaning out the clutter and want to sell your items online? Try Facebook Marketplace! The class will teach the basics of listing an item, taking a great photo, and ways to stay safe when meeting a potential buyer.

Pantry Preparedness with True Cut Ranch
Tuesday, January 21 at 6 pm
Conover Branch Library
Join us to make a plan for a working pantry and long-term food storage. Learn how to get started stockpiling foods, stay organized on a budget, and properly store different kinds of foods.

Author Visit with Austin Allran
Tuesday, January 21 at 7 pm
Sherrills Ford-Terrell Branch Library
Join Catawba County Commissioner Austin Allran for an author discussion and book signing for his debut novel, *The Legend of the Isle of Cats*. Books will be available for purchase at the event.

Supercharge Your Interview
Thursday, January 23 at 2 pm
Main Library in Newton
Gain valuable interview skills during this workshop. After the presentation, practice your new skills in mock interviews.

Fourth Wing Embroidery Tote **R**
Thursday, January 23 at 4:30 pm
Sherrills Ford-Terrell Branch Library
You want a dragon? In honor of the newest installment in Rebecca Yarros's *Fourth Wing* series, create your very own embroidered dragon tote.

Squeaky Wheel Writing Group
Friday, January 24 at 3 pm
Main Library in Newton
All writers are welcome to attend. We will focus on encouraging each other, sharing tips & resources, and creating accountability goals for ourselves.

Shelf-Care Book Club
Monday, January 27 at 6 pm
St. Stephens Branch Library
Treat yourself to the best kind of self-care: a good book! Our January book is *The Briar Club* by Kate Quinn. Newcomers welcome.

Mountain View Book Club
Monday, January 27 at 6 pm
Southwest Branch Library
Join us for an engaging discussion of *The Demon of Unrest* by Erik Larson. All are welcome!

Books Between Friends Book Club
Tuesday, January 28 at 6 pm
Claremont Branch Library
Join our discussion of *The God of the Woods* by Liz Moore, a novel Publishers Weekly calls "gripping and revelatory."

Fermentation 101 with True Cut Ranch **R**
Tuesday, January 28 at 6 pm
Sherrills Ford-Terrell Branch Library
Learn the basics of fermenting vegetables with simple equipment and minimal ingredients! Discover the benefits of fermented foods and how to experiment at home!

Catawba County Genealogical Society
Tuesday, January 28 at 6:30 pm
Main Library in Newton, Rhodes Room
Check out new local history and genealogy materials available for research during this month's meeting. All are welcome to attend.



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

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