

# Library Connections

FEBRUARY 2025



**catawba county**  
library system

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828.465.8664



[www.catawbacountync.gov/library](http://www.catawbacountync.gov/library)



## DYNAMIC DUO

### TACKLES DIGITAL LITERACY

In November, the Catawba County Library launched an exciting new program designed to help **bridge the digital divide** and ensure everyone in our community has the skills they need to thrive in today's technology-driven world.

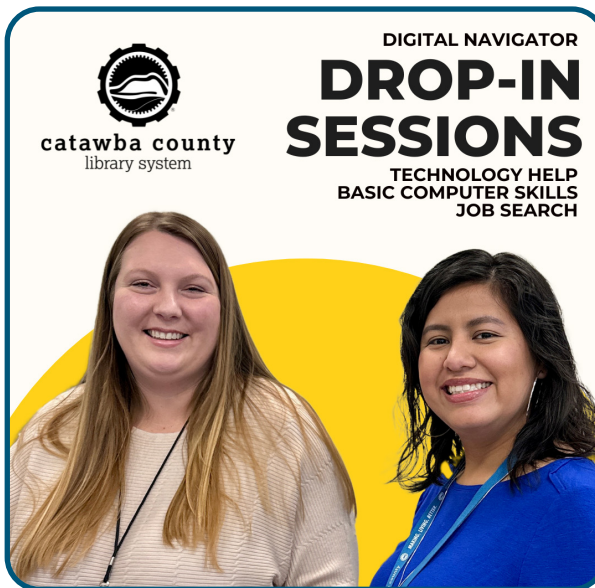
Ashley and Brenda, our bilingual digital navigators, are bringing digital literacy training directly to the community. They travel around the county, partnering with local organizations like Centro Latino, Seniors Morning Out, Neighbors Network in Conover, and Foothills Veterans Helping Veterans. Equipped with a mobile computer lab and projector, they can set up a fully functional teaching space anywhere. Using resources like NorthStar Digital Literacy and The Achievery, available in both English and Spanish, they create customized lesson plans to meet the unique needs of each participant.

#### What Are Digital Navigators and How Can They Help?

Ashley and Brenda aren't just tech experts—they're community champions. Both grew up with a love for libraries and want to share that passion by helping others navigate the world of technology. Their goal? To help people feel confident using digital tools, without any pressure or judgment. As they put it, "Technology and change can be intimidating, especially when it occurs so quickly, but we are here to help you at your own pace. Whether you're just starting out or looking to build on existing skills, we want to give you the support you need to feel confident using technology."

Here's a sneak peek at what you can expect from the Digital Navigator program:

Workshops & Community Partnerships: Ashley and Brenda are already **hosting workshops with local agencies**, covering essential topics like basic computer skills for Spanish-speaking residents and smart phone skills for seniors. There's something for everyone!



Support at Your Own Pace: We know technology can be overwhelming, but Ashley and Brenda are here to make it **fun and accessible**. Whether it's learning how to use computers or the internet, troubleshooting common problems, or getting your resume ready for a job search, they've got your back.

Ashley and Brenda are doing great work out in the community, but they're not the only ones here to help! All library locations have trained **library staff available to help with your technology needs**.

#### Ready to Get Started?

If you're ready to gain new skills or feel more confident in using technology, don't miss the upcoming Drop-In Technology Help Sessions at several library locations in February! Ashley and Brenda will be there to guide you through everything from basic computer skills to job search tools and beyond. The best part? It's all free—just bring your curiosity and willingness to learn!

# 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

#### Fridays, February 14 & 28 at 10 am

Sherrills Ford-Terrell Branch Library

This sweet, simple, 20-minute story time features rhymes, bounces, sensory play, and singing for our youngest learners.

## Ready to Learn Storytime:

### Sensory-Friendly

Wednesdays at 11 am

Main Library in Newton

Join us for a fun, sensory-friendly storytime for neurodivergent children and their siblings! Enjoy songs, sensory play, crafts, and stories designed for a small group of 10, creating a calm, welcoming space. Afterward, stay for free play to encourage socialization & motor skills.



## Pre-K STEAM

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

### Monday, February 3 at 1 pm

Southwest Branch Library

### Friday, February 14 at 10 am

Maiden Branch Library

### Friday, February 21 at 4 pm

Sherrills Ford-Terrell Branch Library

## Paws to Read

Tuesday, February 11 by appointment

St. Stephens Branch Library

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



## Pinecone Love Bug

Saturday, February 15 at 10 am

Conover Branch Library

A nature craft for kids! Make your own love bug friend for Valentine's Day!

# CHILDREN 6-11

## Dog Man Day!

Saturday, February 1

from 9 am to 2 pm

Conover Branch Library

Enjoy Dog Man themed activities - you'll even get the chance to enter to win AMC Theater tickets to see the Dog Man movie!

## Homeschool - STEAM Fun

Tuesday, February 4 at 1 pm

Southwest Branch Library

We all scream for Ice Cream!! Students are invited to a hands-on science adventure where they'll discover a program enhanced with STEAM learning objectives.

## Lego Club

Wednesday, February 5 at 10 am

Maiden Branch Library

Build, make and play as we explore our creativity through Legos. We will have free play and our monthly Lego challenge will be to create a heart, bouquet of flowers, or box of chocolate to celebrate Valentine's Day.

## Homeschool Hangout

Thursday, February 6 at 11 am

Conover Branch Library

Are you a homeschooling family or group? Come out and meet other homeschoolers! We'll have an activity and coloring pages.

## Valentine's Day Shrinky Dinks

Thursday, February 6 at 4:30 pm

Sherrills Ford-Terrell Branch Library

Who needs flowers and candy for Valentine's Day when there are Shrinky Dinks? Make some for yourself or for a friend.



## Tech Take Apart

Thursday, February 6 at 5 pm

Main Library in Newton

Do you enjoy taking things apart and trying to figure out how they work? You'll like this hands-on experience where you have permission to dismantle things without worrying about breaking them.

## Water Wonders: Tracking Stormwater and Protecting Our Lakes

Thursday, February 13 at 2 pm

Main Library in Newton

Join us for a fun, hands-on adventure to see what happens to stormwater after it rains! The Western Piedmont Council on Governments will show you how water travels through our communities, and we'll explore how pollution can affect our rivers and lakes. Discover ways to protect the environment and be a water hero!

## Make a Valentine

Friday, February 14 from 12 - 4 pm

St. Stephens Branch Library

Stop by the library anytime between 12 and 4 to make a card for someone special! All supplies provided.



Please visit or call the library to register.

# TEENS 12-18

## Teen DIY Spa: Create, Relax, Refresh

Tuesday, February 11 at 5 pm  
Main Library in Newton

Treat yourself to a DIY Spa day at the library! Teens will get creative by making their own beauty products, including a soothing hair mask and sugar scrub. It's a fun, hands-on way to relax, and you'll get to share your tips and tricks with other teens.



## Valentine Teen Night

Wednesday, February 12 at 4:30 pm  
St. Stephens Branch Library

Crafts and good vibes! Whether you're celebrating love or friendship, this is the perfect place to be.

## Altoids Wallets

Monday, February 17 at 4 pm  
Southwest Branch Library

Customize and decorate your own tiny, portable container to store your essentials in this DIY program!

## FAFSA Help

Tuesday, February 25 at 6 pm  
Conover Branch Library

Skip Watts and Dr. JuanEs Ramirez from College Foundation of North Carolina will be on hand to assist with the 2025-26 FAFSA and RDS. If possible, bring your own device (laptop, tablet, or smartphone).

2025-26 FAFSA Form Now Available!



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

## NC Works

Wednesdays from 1:30 - 4:30 pm  
Sherrills Ford-Terrell Branch Library  
Work one-on-one with an NC Works representative who can help you find work, improve your skills, and connect you to other resources to make a good impression on employers.

## 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.

## The Station Book Club

Wednesday, February 5 at 10 am  
Conover Branch Library

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

## Resume Renovation

Wednesday, February 5 from 1 - 4 pm  
Main Library in Newton

Whether you need to write a resume from scratch, showcase new skills or experience, or show how your return to the workforce after an absence is actually an asset, you can reserve a 30-minute appointment or drop in as you are able. For more information, or to schedule an appointment, please call 828-465-8665.

## Basics of Backyard Birding

Wednesday, February 5 at 3:30 pm  
St. Stephens Branch Library

Jean McAnulty, a Certified Catawba County Extension Master Gardener, will share her interest in bird watching. Ms. McAnulty will teach us about the Great Backyard Bird Count and share about different bird species, how to identify birds, and why birds are important for our ecosystem.

## Job Fair & Hiring Event

Thursday, February 6 from 1 - 4 pm  
St. Stephens Branch Library

If you're ready for a new career, don't miss this opportunity! The library is partnering with Goodwill Industries to bring local businesses to meet potential employees from the Hickory area.

## Qi Gong

Saturday, February 8 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).

## Self-Defense for Women

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.

Monday, February 10 at 6 pm  
Southwest Branch Library

Tuesday, February 18 at 6 pm  
Conover Branch Library

Tuesday, February 25 at 6 pm  
St. Stephens Branch Library

## Crochet for Beginners

Tuesday, February 11 at 5:30 pm  
Sherrills Ford-Terrell Branch Library  
Want to learn how to crochet? Join us as we learn the basics and crochet a bookmark.

VISIT WITH THE LIBRARY AT

HICKORY  
COMIC CON

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 8  
10AM-5PM

FREEBIES, FUN, AND MORE!

### Resume Writing Workshop

Tuesday, February 11 at 6 pm

Southwest Branch Library

Learn some tips and tricks for writing an engaging resume that best shows off your strengths and experience!

### Mystery Mavens Book Club

Tuesday, February 11 at 6:30 pm

Sherrills Ford-Terrell Branch Library

Join us for a lively discussion on *The God of the Woods* by Liz Moore.

### Chair Yoga

Wednesdays, February 12 & 26 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.

### Friends of the Library Book Store

Thursday, February 13

from 12 - 3 pm

Main Library in Newton

Build your own personal library and help support library programs at the same time by shopping the FOL Book Store! Friends of the Library membership forms and information will also be available for anyone interested in joining.

### Needle Felting

Thursday, February 13 at 4 pm

Sherrills Ford-Terrell Branch Library

Explore the textile art of needle felting as we create a heart to celebrate Valentine's Day.

### Adult Children of Aging Parents:

#### Advance Planning: Legal & Financial Documents

Thursday, February 13 at 5:30 pm

Main Library in Newton

This month, an eldercare expert will share the critical information you need to know about the legal and financial documents you need to keep handy, and how to obtain those you don't already have.

### K-Pop Photo Card Swap

Saturday, February 15 at 2 pm

Main Library in Newton

Do you have duplicate photo cards? Are you looking for more cards featuring your bias? Come to the photo card swap, meet other fans, and work out some card swaps.

### Shelf-Care Book Club

Monday, February 17 at 6 pm

St. Stephens Branch Library

Treat yourself to the best kind of self-care: a good book! Our February book is *We Used to Live Here* by Marcus Kliewer.

### One-on-One Technology Help

Bring in your new (or old) 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, February 18

Maiden Branch Library from 12 - 2 pm

Southwest Branch Library

from 1 - 3 pm

#### Wednesday, February 19

Claremont Branch Library

from 12 - 2 pm

#### Thursday, February 20

St. Stephens Branch Library

from 12 - 2 pm

### Digital Privacy and Security

Tuesday, February 18 at 6 pm

Online via Zoom & in-person at

Sherrills Ford-Terrell Branch Library

Join us to gain a basic understanding of how data collection works and tools you can use to minimize your digital footprint. This class also covers how to change basic settings on your devices to protect privacy and increase security. To register for the online program, please visit [tinyurl.com/CCLS-privacy](https://tinyurl.com/CCLS-privacy). No registration needed for the in-person program.

### Creative Outlet: Origami Hearts

Wednesday, February 19 at 6 pm

Main Library in Newton

We're exploring the Japanese art of paper folding to make origami hearts for our sweethearts. Take home kits with instructions available to pick up starting February 8. To register for a kit, please visit the library or call 828-465-8665.

### Piece of Cake Book Club

Thursday, February 20 at 5 pm

Carpe Crustum in Downtown Newton

Join us to talk about February's selection *One of Our Kind* by Nicola Yoon. Get ahead with March's pick *Lula Dean's Little Library of Banned Books* by Kirsten Miller.

### Squeaky Wheel Writing Group

Friday, February 21 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, exercises and resources, and creating accountability goals for ourselves.

### Mountain View Book Club

Monday, February 24 at 6 pm

Southwest Branch Library

Join us for a lively discussion about *Becoming Madam Secretary* by Stephanie Dray.

### Catawba County Genealogical Society

Tuesday, February 25 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.

### Technology Trivia

Wednesday, February 26 at 6 pm

Main Library in Newton

Use your 'techknowledge' in three rounds of technology themed trivia. All skill levels are welcome!

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Please visit or call the library to register.



catawba county

library system  
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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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