

Library Connections

OCTOBER 2025



catawba county
library system

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828.465.8665



www.catawbacountync.gov/library



COMMUNITY-DRIVEN DIGITAL FUTURES

In October, the library is joining communities across the country in celebrating Digital Inclusion Week (DIW). Held from October 6-10, DIW is a time to amplify efforts that close the digital divide and expand access to opportunity.

The library is one of our community's best technology resources for learning, as well as accessing state of the art equipment. We offer classes, one-on-one help, public computers, faxing, scanning, and even chromebooks and WiFi hotspots to check out and take home.

This year's theme, "Community-Driven Digital Futures," recognizes the most impactful solutions for bridging the digital divide emerge directly from within communities. Nobody understands a community's lived realities better than its members. When people are empowered to identify and address their own needs, they are more likely to foster innovation, create meaningful programs, encouraging participation and ensuring that no one is left behind in the digital age.

In the past year, the library has expanded our digital literacy resources to include the Digital Navigator outreach program. Digital Navigators provide tailored digital literacy training to individuals throughout Catawba County, meeting people where they are through a mobile computer lab. They guide citizens through computer lessons designed with community needs in mind and focused on essential digital skills like communication, information retrieval, and problem-solving. The team uses free online educational websites

including Northstar Digital Literacy and The Achievery, available in both English and Spanish.

Citizens participating in this program have reported a better understanding of how to operate computers, browse the internet, and use various digital apps. Several participants shared their experiences in their own words:

"I like that the teachers teach with patience. I learned how to organize tasks, make a budget, print documents, cut, copy, paste, move images and more!"

"This helped me so much in understanding more about Canva! I had no idea what all this program can do, and our instructors were so helpful in showing and explaining the different features. It was so much fun designing my first website page!"

"[This class] is a good opportunity to learn and keep bettering and educating oneself in order to help our children."

"I didn't know how to use the computer in my classes at CVCC but with this course I can use the computer more now. Thank you very much!"

In celebration of the program's success and in honor of Digital Inclusion Week, the Digital Navigators will be hosting an afternoon of technology fun to highlight services offered by the library. The community is invited to join our celebration Tuesday, October 7 at the Main Library in Newton from 2 - 6 pm.



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



Please visit or call the library to register.

Ready to Learn Storytime:

Tiny to Two

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

Mondays at 10 am

Main Library in Newton

Fridays at 10 am

Sherrills Ford-Terrell Branch Library

Ready to Learn Storytime:

Sensory-Friendly

Tuesdays at 10 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.

Wednesday, October 8 at 11 am

Thursday, October 23 at 11 am

Sherrills Ford-Terrell Branch Library

Saturday, October 4 at 10 am

Thursday, October 30 at 10 am

Main Library in Newton

Little Artists: Art with the HMA

Friday, October 17 at 10 am

Conover Branch Library

Parents & caregivers, join your little one to create something special with the Hickory Museum of Art!



Tales in the Garden: Harvest Hayride

Monday, October 20 at 6 pm

Main Library in Newton

Bilingual learning fun featuring Hmong gardening practices and a hayride!

CHILDREN 6-11

Homeschool Hangout

Thursday, October 2 at 11 am

Conover Branch Library

Meet other homeschoolers while enjoying an activity & coloring pages.

Homeschool STEAM: Chopped Jr.

Tuesday, October 7 at 1 pm

Southwest Branch Library

Aspiring chefs! Create, title, & present a table of terror dish made from select ingredients.



Lego Club

Wednesday, October 8 at 10 am

Maiden Branch Library

Explore your creativity through Lego, including free play & a fall-themed brick building challenge.

Ghostly Egg Drop Challenge

Wednesday, October 8 at 4 pm

Main Library in Newton

Keep your ghosts safe in this spooky twist on the classic egg drop challenge!

Create-a-Creature

Friday, October 10 at 4 pm

St. Stephens Branch Library

Turn everyday tissue boxes into wild, wacky monsters!



Paws to Read

Tuesday, October 14 by appointment

St. Stephens Branch Library

Read with a certified therapy dog.



STEAM: 'Trick or Treat' with Ozobots

Thursday, October 16 at 4 pm

Sherrills Ford-Terrell Branch Library

Learn to use color-codes to program Ozobots to 'trick or treat' in this Halloween-themed activity. Ages 9-11.



Feature Film Friday: Elio

Friday, October 17 at 11 am

Southwest Branch Library

Join us for a sci-fi film about Earth's accidental ambassador to the galaxy. Popcorn and drinks will be served.

Family Friendly Halloween Trivia

Saturday, October 25 at 11 am

Conover Branch Library

From costumes to candy, gather the family and join us for a spook-tacular round of trivia!



Trunk or Treat

Saturday, October 25 from 4 - 7 pm

Claremont Branch Library

Enjoy games, activities, and candy while we are open special hours for the city's Trunk or Treat event.



Spooky STEAM: Haunted House Build

Monday, October 27 at 6 pm

St. Stephens Branch Library

Get in the Halloween spirit as we construct graham cracker Haunted Houses. Build and decorate your creations with candy and icing.



HallowSTEAM: Bloody Science

Tuesday, October 28 at 6 pm

Conover Branch Library

Explore what's inside our blood, and make an edible blood model using tasty ingredients.



STEAM: Bubbling Brew

Wednesday, October 29 at 4 pm

Sherrills Ford-Terrell Branch Library

Discover the scientific method and then mix ingredients to formulate their own bubbling brew.



Library Trick-or-Treat

Friday, October 31 at 4 pm

Main Library in Newton

From the computer lab to the director's office, Trick-or-Treat as you explore the library!



Wear your Halloween costume for extra fun!

TEENS 12-18

Teen Sanrio Halloween Pompoms

Friday, October 3 at 4 pm

Main Library in Newton

Half-spooky, half-cute, these DIY pompoms featuring Hello Kitty & friends will bring the Halloween spirit!



Teen Open Studio

Thursday, October 16

from 3:30 - 5:30 pm

Main Library in Newton

Writing, art, or drama – create in a laid-back, welcoming studio atmosphere.

Ghost in a Jar

Thursday, October 23 at 4 pm

Sherrills Ford-Terrell Branch Library

Join us as we create a ghost in a jar that's a perfect way to celebrate spooky season.



Cross-stitch for Beginners

Tuesday, October 7 at 5 pm

Sherrills Ford-Terrell Branch Library

Learn the basics of cross-stitch and create a Halloween-themed design.



Painted Pumpkin Party

Saturday, October 18 at 2 pm

St. Stephens Branch Library

Join us for spook-tacular fun as we decorate our very own mini pumpkins.



Teen Craft Night: Air Dry Clay

Tuesday, October 28 at 5:30 pm

Maiden Branch Library

Create fall clay projects perfect for seasonal decor.



ADULTS

Zumba Mondays!

Mondays at 6 pm

October 6 at Main Library in Newton

October 13, 20, & 27 at FUMC Newton

300 N Main Ave, Fellowship Hall

Enjoy a dance and movement class that's too much fun to call exercise.

NC Works

Wednesdays from 1:30 - 4:30 pm

Sherrills Ford-Terrell Branch Library

Get individual help in finding work and connecting to resources.

Gentle Flow Yoga

Fridays at 11 am

Sherrills Ford-Terrell Branch Library

A certified yoga instructor will lead us through a beginner-friendly class.

Smartphone Basics for Seniors

Fridays at 1:30 pm

Main Library in Newton

Learn about and ask all of your smartphone questions in this weekly series!

Mindful Movement

Fridays at 3 pm

St. Stephens Branch Library

Low impact exercise and gentle stretching for adults of all ages.

Job Searching Boot Camp

Southwest Branch Library

Learn about finding, applying, and interviewing for employment.

Tuesday, October 7 at 6 pm

Online Job Searching & Applications

Tuesday, October 14 at 6 pm

Resume Writing

Tuesday, October 28 at 6 pm

Interviewing Skills

Chair Yoga

Wednesdays, October 1 & 22

at 11:30 am

Sherrills Ford-Terrell Branch Library

Join us for this beginner-friendly class focused on balance.

Career Center

Wednesday, October 1 from 1 - 4 pm

Main Library in Newton

Receive one-on-one job assistance from a Goodwill career specialist.

Swiftie Showgirl Party

Saturday, October 4 at 11 am

Main Library in Newton

Celebrate Taylor's latest album with super-fun activity stations! Ages 18+.

Bullet Journaling 101

Monday, October 6 at 6 pm

St. Stephens Branch Library

Learn the basics of bullet journaling: a fun system for tasks, goals, and more.

Digital Inclusion Celebration

Tuesday, October 7 from 2 - 6 pm

Main Library in Newton

Join us for a special day highlighting the library's digital resources with workshops, games, and prizes!

Family Literacy Night: Decodable Books

Tuesday, October 7 at 6 pm

Maiden Branch Library

Learn about decodable books, stories that match the phonics skills your child is learning in school or at home.

Creative Outlet: Night-Time Pumpkins

Wednesday, October 8 at 6 pm

Main Library in Newton

Choose a bat, a moon, or a star to create a pumpkin decoration.



Needle Felting

Thursday, October 9 at 4 pm

Sherrills Ford-Terrell Branch Library

Explore the textile art of needle felting as we create a ghost "painting."



Adult Children of Aging Parents: Medicare and SHIP

Thursday, October 9 at 5:30 pm

Main Library in Newton

Understand the differences between Medicare and SHIP programs.

OCTOBER BOOK CLUBS



The Station Book Club

Wednesday, October 1 at 10 am

Conover Branch

The Great Gatsby

by F. Scott Fitzgerald

Mystery Mavens

Tuesday, October 14 at 6:30 pm

Sherrills Ford-Terrell Branch

Missing White Woman

by Kellye Garrett



Newton Book Club

Thursday, October 16 at 5 pm

Carpe Crustum

The Love of My Afterlife

by Kirsty Greenwood

Shelf-Care Book Club

Monday, October 20 at 6 pm

St. Stephens Branch

Sunrise on the Reaping

by Suzanne Collins



Mountain View Book Club

Monday, October 20 at 6 pm

Southwest Branch

Nineteen Minutes

by Jodi Picoult

Maiden Book Club

Tuesday, October 21 at 6 pm

Maiden Branch

The Pumpkin Spice Cafe

by Gilmore Lauriet



Become a Tombstone Tourist

Thursday, October 9 at 6 pm

Claremont Branch Library

Step beyond headstones to uncover stories and rich ancestral clues.

Website Building 101

Thursday, October 9 at 6 pm

Online via Zoom

Learn options for hosting a website and the basics of getting started. To register, please call 828-465-9565.

Internet Basics

Friday, October 10 at 4 pm

Main Library in Newton

Learn tips and tricks for surfing the internet, uploading and downloading files, and how to avoid clickbait.

DIY – Needle Felting Pumpkins

Saturday, October 11 at 2 pm

St. Stephens Branch Library

Learn the basics of needle felting while creating a fuzzy pumpkin!

Halloween Trivia Night

Join us for a spooktacular evening of trivia! Bonus points for dressing up!

Monday, October 13 at 6 pm

St. Stephens Branch Library

Monday, October 27 at 6 pm

Southwest Branch Library

Discover the Benefits of Acupuncture

Tuesday, October 14 at 2 pm

Southwest Branch Library

Join licensed acupuncturist Callie Pierce, L.Ac. to learn how this traditional practice can support wellness and manage stress.

Introduction to Hoopla and Libby

Tuesday, October 14 at 2 pm

Sherrills Ford-Terrell Branch Library

Learn how to download e-reader apps, and download a book or two.

Homegrown National Park

Tuesday, October 14 at 6 pm

Maiden Branch Library

Learn how to transform your yard, balcony, and community spaces into wildlife-friendly habitats.

Ghost Paintings

Tuesday, October 14 at 6 pm

Main Library in Newton

Get spooky with these super easy “gaggle of ghosts” paintings using spackle.

Grave Tales: Victorian Death Customs

Main Library in Newton

Join us for a three-part series with Genealogist Rhonda Roederer to learn about the Victorians' ideas and customs surrounding death and the dearly departed.

Wednesday, October 15 at 6 pm

The Art of Mourning

Wednesday, October 22 at 6 pm

Tombstone's Hidden Messages

Wednesday, October 29 at 6 pm

Burial Betrayal



Spooky Bat Keychains

Thursday, October 16 at 5:30 pm

Main Library in Newton

Sew a cute bat keychain, maybe even a vampire bat! Hand sewing skills will be taught and used, but not necessary to complete project.

Krazy for K-pop!

Saturday, October 18 at 11 am

Main Library in Newton

Share favorite songs, videos and artist biases, play K-pop trivia, & explore the world's most exciting musical genre.

Murder Mystery

Tuesday, October 21 at 6 pm

Conover Branch Library

Gather clues, talk to suspects, and deduce the murderer during this character-based murder mystery!

Catawba Musicians & Songwriters

Tuesday, October 21 at 6 pm

Southwest Branch Library

Connect with fellow musicians and songwriters to share your work, get feedback, and collaborate. Bring your instrument and a song.

Qi Gong

Saturday, October 25 at 9:30 am

Main Library in Newton

Harness the power of breath and movement to create balance.

Ghostly Paint Night

Tuesday, October 28 at 5:30 pm

Sherrills Ford-Terrell Branch Library

Explore the boo-tiful world of gouache painting and make your very own mini spooky scene!

LIBRARY TO GO

Claremont Daze

Saturday, October 4

from 10 am – 4 pm

3288 E. Main Street, Claremont

Kid activities and books for all ages!

Conover National Night Out

Tuesday, October 7

from 5:30 - 8:30 pm

361 5th Ave SE, Conover

Visit with Police, Fire, EMS, & Military.

Music on Main

Thursday, October 9 from 6 - 9 pm

Downtown Newton

Kid activities and live music!

Valley Hills Mall Storytime

Friday, October 10 from 10 am - 1 pm

1960 US Hwy 70 SE, Hickory

Storytime at 10 am in the Community Room across from Children's Place.

Check out books after storytime.

Town of Catawba Treat in the Streets

Saturday, October 25 from 6 – 8 pm

110 S Main St, Catawba

Safe trick-or-treating in town.



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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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