

# Library Connections

NOVEMBER 2025



catawba county  
library system

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

- connect
- explore
- grow

## BUILDING STRONG READERS WITH DECODABLE BOOKS

The Library is excited to announce the launch of a new collection\* of over 700 decodable books—a powerful tool to help children practice phonics and grow into confident readers. **Decodable books** are an important accessory for children to practice and strengthen their reading skills. They are like training wheels for young readers—when a child learns a new letter sound, these books give them a way to practice that sound in words and stories they can read. Each success gives children a sense of achievement and the motivation to keep going, helping them build fluency, confidence, and a love of reading.

The library's new collection includes nine different series of decodable books, giving children more choices while they strengthen their reading skills. Research has shown that a structured, phonics-based approach helps every child become a successful reader, even those with learning differences such as dyslexia.

This new print collection is available now at all seven Catawba County Library locations. Decodable books are meant to be read alongside other children's literature so each child can experience new vocabulary and sentence structures. Library staff at each location are excited to share how the collection works and help pick out your child's next great read!



Families are invited to attend a **Family Literacy Night** at the St. Stephens Branch Library on **Tuesday, November 18 at 6 pm**, where they can learn about the **Science of Reading** and discover how to use decodable books and other early literacy resources to support their child's reading journey.

*\*This new collection was made possible in part through grant funding from the Kenneth K. and Suzanna G. Millholland Endowment, whose support helps the library bring high-quality resources to children and families in our community.*

THE LIBRARY WILL BE CLOSED FROM 5 PM ON NOVEMBER 26 THROUGH NOVEMBER 28 FOR THE THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY.

# 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

**Saturdays, November 18 & 22 at 10 am**

St. Stephens Branch Library



**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.

**Friday, November 7 at 10 am**

Conover Branch Library

**Friday, November 14 at 10 am**

Maiden Branch Library



Please visit or call the library to register.

# CHILDREN 6-11

**Homeschool STEAM: Bread & Butter**

Monday, November 3 at 1 pm

Southwest Branch Library

Explore the science behind cream and discover how to turn cream into butter in this tasty, hands-on program just in time for Thanksgiving.

**Paws to Read**

Tuesday, November 4 & 11

by appointment

St. Stephens Branch Library

Practice reading with a certified therapy dog. To schedule your appointment, please call 828-466-6821.



**Limitless Theatre Present: Pinnocio**

Tuesday, November 4 at 4:30 pm

Conover Branch Library

Join us for an exciting retelling of Pinocchio from our friends in Limitless Theatre!

**Homeschool Hangout**

Thursday, November 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.

**STEAMed: Bread & Butter**

Monday, November 10 at 5:30 pm

Southwest Branch Library

Get ready to shake things up!

Explore the science behind cream and discover how to turn cream into butter in this tasty, hands-on program just in time for Thanksgiving.

**Exploring the Night Sky with**

**Catawba Valley Astronomy Club**

Tuesday, November 11

from 6:30 - 8:30 pm

Norman B. Coley Amphitheater at  
Conover City Park

Gather outdoors for a guided look at the night sky as we explore the cosmos together. Whether you're a seasoned skywatcher or just curious about what shines overhead, this event is perfect for all ages. Everyone is encouraged to bring a smart phone for taking digital astrophotos with smart telescopes.



**Perler Bead Club**

Thursday, November 13 at 4 pm

Sherrills Ford-Terrell Branch Library

Make designs using small beads that are fused together with heat. Materials provided.

**The Ultimate LEGO Showdown**

Tuesday, November 18

at 4:30 pm

Main Library in Newton

Show off your LEGO building skills in this fast-paced and unpredictable competition!



**Family Literacy Night**

Tuesday, November 18 at 6 pm

St. Stephens Branch Library

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

**Lego Club**

Wednesday, November 19 at 10 am

Maiden Branch Library

Build, make, and play as we explore our creativity through Lego. We will have free play and a Dinovember lego building challenge.



# TEENS 12-18

## Teen Painted Mugs

Monday, November 10 at 3:30 pm

Main Library in Newton

Spruce up a plain mug with this foolproof painting method guaranteed to look great!

## STEAM: Microscope Art

Monday, November 10 at 5:30 pm

St. Stephens Branch Library

Ready to turn science into art? Dive into the microscopic world to discover astonishing patterns and textures invisible to the naked eye. Then use these magnified images as the tiny subjects for a unique still-life session.

## Macramé Gnomes

Wednesday, November 12 at 4 pm

Sherrills Ford-Terrell Branch Library

Celebrate fall with us by creating your very own macramé gnome.

## Teen Open Studio

Thursday, November 20

from 3:30 - 5:30 pm

Main Library in Newton

Whatever your creative outlet – writing, art, or something else entirely – we know you'll enjoy this opportunity to create in a laid-back, welcoming studio atmosphere.



## Teen Trivia: Holiday Edition!

Monday, November 24 at 5:30 pm

Southwest Branch Library

We're decking the halls with brain-busting questions and holiday hilarity! From reindeer facts to weird winter traditions, we're turning up the cheer with a holly jolly trivia night just for teens! Ugly sweaters are optional.

## Volunteers: Motivational Bookmarks

Tuesday, November 25 at 6 pm

Conover Branch Library

Join us for a creative volunteer project! Teens will design and craft motivational bookmarks to share with our community. Participants will earn one volunteer hour.

# ADULTS

## Zumba Mondays!

Mondays at 6 pm

November 3 at FUMC Fellowship Hall

November 10, 17 & 24

at Main Library in Newton

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

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.

## Mindful Movement

Wednesdays & Fridays at 3 pm

St. Stephens Branch Library

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

## Gentle Flow Yoga

Fridays at 11 am

Sherrills Ford-Terrell Branch Library

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

## Bullet Journaling 101

Monday, November 3 at 6 pm

St. Stephens Branch Library

Get organized your way! Learn the basics of bullet journaling - a flexible, creative system for tracking tasks, goals, and more. Perfect for beginners. Bring your own journal or use one of ours.

## Sourdough 101

Tuesday, November 4 & 18 at 5:30 pm

Sherrills Ford-Terrell Branch Library

**Part 1:** In this session we'll discover tips and tricks to keeping your starter happy and alive plus easy recipes.

**Part 2:** In this session, we'll be talking more in depth on the process of creating a beautiful, tasty loaf at home. Samples included.

## Chair Yoga

Wednesdays, November 5 & 19

at 11:30 am

Sherrills Ford-Terrell Branch Library

A certified yoga instructor will lead us through a beginner-friendly, gentle flow yoga class, performing yoga poses while seated or using a chair for balance.

## Career Center

Wednesday, November 5 from 1 - 4 pm

Main Library in Newton

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

## NOVEMBER BOOK CLUBS



### Mystery Mavens

Tuesday, November 11 at 6:30 pm

Sherrills Ford-Terrell Branch

Where They Last Saw Her

by Marcie R. Rendon

**Mountain View Book Club**  
Monday, November 17 at 6 pm  
Southwest Branch  
Broken Country  
by Clair Leslie Hall



### Shelf-Care Book Club

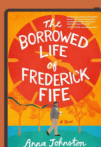
Monday, November 17 at 6 pm

St. Stephens Branch

My Friends

by Fredrik Backman

**Books Between Friends**  
Tuesday, November 18 at 6 pm  
Claremont Branch  
Broken Country  
by Clair Leslie Hall



### Newton Book Club

Thursday, November 20 at 5 pm

Carpe Crustum

The Borrowed Life of Frederick Fife by Anna Johnston

## Adult Children of Aging Parents:

## Caregiving Connections Conference

Thursday, November 6

from 8 am - 3 pm

CVCC West Wing

All caregivers are invited to attend the ACAP-Hickory/Foothills Annual Conference. The morning sessions are offered especially for caregivers, while the afternoon breakout sessions will be geared toward students. Everyone is welcome to attend all sessions. Entry is free but please register at [tinyurl.com/ACAPConf2025](https://tinyurl.com/ACAPConf2025)

## Needle Felting

Thursday, November 6 at 4 pm

Sherrills Ford-Terrell Branch Library

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



### Resume Builder

Saturday, November 8 at 11 am

Main Library in Newton

Get your resume ready for seasonal jobs or applying for your next career by using the library's free resume builder.

### Holiday Mocktails

Saturday, November 8 at 1 pm

St. Stephens Branch Library

Learn how to make three festive, flavor-packed Holiday Mocktails that are sure to be the hit of your next gathering. No alcohol needed - just creative fun and delicious results!

### Weathering the Holidays:

#### A Crash Course

Tuesday, November 11 at 5:30 pm

Main Library in Newton

Holidays, the most wonderful time and often the most stressful! Find out about easy and practical strategies for making a measurable improvement to your sense of well-being as you enter the holiday season.

### Piano Recital by Joyce O'Neal

Tuesday, November 11 at 6:30 pm

Sherrills Ford-Terrell Branch Library

Joyce O'Neal will present "Famous and Forgotten," including pieces by composers who have remained famous, and by composers who were famous but are now largely forgotten. Sponsored by the Friends of the Sherrills Ford-Terrell Library.

### Social Media for Job Search

Thursday, November 13 at 2 pm

Main Library in Newton

Learn tips on using social media to increase job search. This program is presented by NCWorks.

### Conquistadors in Western NC

Thursday, November 13 at 6 pm

Claremont Branch Library

Years before the English settlements of Roanoke, Jamestown, and Plymouth Rock, Spanish conquistadors explored the western part of the state and built Fort San Juan in the native village of Joara, in what is now Burke County. Mike Carpenter will bring history to life as he speaks about the occupation, the demise of the soldiers, and the fascinating discoveries being unearthed at the present-day archeological site.



### Needle-Felted Fall Sheep

Saturday, November 15 at 1 pm

Main Library in Newton

Get your creativity on and learn to needle-felt a beginner friendly sheep decked out in a scarf for the fall!

### K Beauty: Intro to Korean Skincare

Tuesday, November 18 at 2 pm

Southwest Branch Library

Dive into the world of K Beauty and get ready for a full, luxurious facial experience. Our special guest, Elizabeth Thao with Atomy, will walk you through the famous multi-step facial routine, share the secrets of glass skin, and leave you feeling radiant and totally obsessed.

### Author Visit with Kelly Mustian

Tuesday, November 18 at 6 pm

Conover Branch Library

Kelly Mustian, USA Today bestselling author of *The Girls in the Stilt House* and *The River Knows Your Name*, will be joining us to talk about her two books and her journey as a writer.

### Lincoln-Catawba Songwriters Alliance

Tuesday, November 18 at 6 pm

Southwest Branch Library

Connect with fellow musicians and songwriters in a welcoming space to share work, feedback, & collaborate.

### Creative Outlet: Custom Napkin Rings

Wednesday, November 19 at 6 pm

Main Library in Newton

Using simple supplies and a button maker, we'll create custom napkin rings that can be purely decorative or double as place cards.

### Thanksgiving Décor: Flowering Fun

Friday, November 21 at 11 am

Southwest Branch Library

Learn how to create a stunning, unique centerpiece that will wow your guests. Arrange beautiful harvest themed flowers and greenery in your own mini pumpkin to take home.

### Qi Gong

Saturday, November 22 at 9:30 am

Main Library in Newton

Harness the power of breath and movement to create balance within the body.

### Catawba County Genealogical Society

Tuesday, November 25 at 6:30 pm

Main Library in Newton, Rhodes Room

Check out new local history and genealogy materials available.

## LIBRARY TO GO

### Catawba Veteran's Parade

Saturday, November 8

from 10 am - 2 pm

Downtown Catawba

### Valley Hills Mall Visit

Friday, November 14

from 10 am - 1 pm

1960 US Hwy 70 SE, Hickory

### Choo Choo & Snowman, Too

Saturday, November 15

from 11 am - 3 pm

Newton Depot

### Conover Holiday Farmers Market

Saturday, November 22

from 10 am - 2 pm

109 1st St E, Conover

### Catawba Small Town Tree Lighting

Saturday, November 29

from 4 - 6:30 pm

Downtown Catawba



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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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828.428.2712  
828.466.6827  
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