

Library Connections

MAY 2026



catawba county
library system

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828.465.8665



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SUMMER LEARNING

UNEARTH A STORY

The Catawba County Library is gearing up for its annual Summer Learning program with activities and challenges for kids, teens, and adults! Boasting a double focus on reading and hands-on learning opportunities, the library ramps up its programs and activities to keep learning fresh throughout the summer.

This year's theme is **UNEARTH A STORY**. We are celebrating digging into a good book, uncovering hidden histories, and exploring the past. The theme underscores the joy of discovery that reading brings! Join us at any of the seven Catawba County Library locations for a vibrant mix of programs including storytimes, STEAM programs, performances and educational programs by the **Green Bean Players**, **Critter Keeper**, **Catawba County Parks**, **Square Dancing with Hart Square**, **208th Army Band**, and the **Catawba County Museum of History!**

Children, teens, AND adults are encouraged to participate in our reading challenges by completing at least 600 minutes of reading. Prizes will be awarded for folks who register to participate and for those who complete 600 minutes of reading.

To help keep children and teens motivated, there will also be milestone prizes awarded as they reach key reading benchmarks along the way. Everyone is encouraged to register at your local library or online beginning May 26.



Summer programs and activities take place from June through early August. Join us at your library this summer for learning and fun as we

UNEARTH A STORY

THE LIBRARY WILL BE CLOSED MONDAY, MAY 25 FOR THE MEMORIAL DAY HOLIDAY.

CHILDREN 0-5

Ready to Learn Storytime: Preschool
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

Join us for 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

Saturday, May 16 at 1 pm

St. Stephens Branch Library



Please visit or call the library to register.

Pre-K STEAM

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

Friday, May 8 at 10 am

Maiden Branch Library

Saturday, May 9 at 10 am

Claremont Branch Library

Thursday, May 14 at 2 pm

Conover Branch Library



CHILDREN 6-11

American Sign Language for Beginners

Mondays, May 4, 11, 18 & June 1 at 6:30 pm

St. Stephens Branch Library

This interactive class for children and their grownups will cover basic signs and simple communication in a welcoming, supportive environment.

PAWS to Read

Encourage your young reader through reading with a certified therapy dog. To schedule an appointment, please call the location of your choice.

Tuesday, May 5, 12 & 19

St. Stephens Branch Library

Monday, May 11

Main Library in Newton

Tuesday, May 19

Conover Branch Library

Homeschool Hangout

Thursday, May 7 at 11 am

Conover Branch Library

Meet other homeschoolers, and enjoy an activity and coloring!

Mother's Day Craft: Glass Magnet

Thursday, May 7 at 4:30 pm

St. Stephens Branch Library

Design and assemble decorative magnets using colorful images & glass gems, perfect for gifting or keeping as a reminder of someone you love.

Pokémon 30th Anniversary Celebration

Tuesday, May 12 at 4 pm

Main Library in Newton

Watch Detective Pikachu, make your own Pokéball squishies, and play some Pokémon bingo! Enjoy goodies from Mini Tokyo!

Tales in the Garden: Dig & Discover

Wednesday, May 13 at 6 pm

Main Library in Newton

Join us in the community garden as we dig & discover with special guest, Gaston Gem & Mineral Club. Enjoy a bilingual story, crafts, and interactive fun. All ages are welcome!



Lego Club

Friday, May 29 at 10 am

Maiden Branch Library

Build, make and play as we explore creativity through Lego. Enjoy freeplay & a creating secret codes challenge.

TEENS 12-18

Citizen Science: Frass Fall

Wednesdays, May 6 & 13 at 4:30 pm

St. Stephens Branch Library

Help the University of North Carolina collect information about arthropods by building and setting Frass Fall Traps. This program has two sessions (building traps and collecting data).



Book Club Internacional

Monday, May 11 at 5 pm

St. Stephens Branch Library

This month, teens are invited to read a book of their choice written by an author born outside the United States of America.

Teen Open Studio

Thursday, May 21 from 3:30 - 5:30 pm

Main Library in Newton

Whatever your creative outlet, enjoy this opportunity to create in a laid-back, welcoming studio atmosphere.

The Ultimate Mini-Maker Mash-Up

Tuesday, May 26 at 2 pm

Southwest Branch Library

Your phone needs a glow-up, and your stomach needs a snack. We're solving both at once. While you craft a custom pop socket, you'll be assembling tiny snack boards and custom drinks that are small in size but huge on flavor.



ADULTS

Zumba Mondays!

Mondays at 6 pm

No class on May 25

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

Get individualized help finding work and connecting to resources.

Mindful Movement

Wednesdays & Fridays at 3 pm

St. Stephens Branch Library

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

A Matter of Balance

Fridays at 8:30 am

Catawba County Council on Aging

400 17th St SW, Hickory

Worries about falling often restrict activities for older adults. This award-winning, eight-week program is designed to help older adults manage and address concerns to increase their activity level, which leads to feeling better! For adults aged 60+ or have an increased risk of falls. Please call 828-328-2269 to register.

Gentle Flow Yoga

Friday, May 1, 15, 22 & 29 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.

Adult Board Game Afternoon

Saturday, May 2 at 2 pm

St. Stephens Branch Library

Learn how to play fun games while meeting new people! Games include Rummikub, The Uzzle, Settlers of Catan, and more. Light refreshments provided.

The Career Blueprint

Monday, May 4 at 6 pm

Southwest Branch Library

This program analyzes your unique interests to match your personality with high-growth careers that actually fit your "vibe". Transition from "just a job" to a plan for your professional future with O-net Interest Profiler.

Business Basics:

Admin & Bookkeeping Essentials

Tuesday, May 5 at 12 noon

Main Library in Newton

The last of our six-part series is for anyone who is contemplating starting an arts-related business, or who has already started one and realized you don't quite have the business-side covered.

Spring Cleaning: The Big Shred-Down

Wednesday, May 6 from 9 - 11 am

Southwest Branch Library

Join the community for The Great Paper Purge, where we're helping you lose the "paper weight" this spring. Whether it's an old tax return or a love letter from an ex you'd rather forget, bring your limit of 2 boxes of paper and watch your clutter vanish into thin air (well, thin strips). It's fast, it's secure, and it's arguably more therapeutic than a spa day.

Chair Yoga

Wednesdays, May 6 & 20 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 seated or using a chair for balance.

Library Catalog Tips and Tricks

Thursday, May 7 at 4 pm

Main Library in Newton

Did you know you can renew your library books from the comfort of home? How about placing books on hold to pick up at any location? Learn all about the library's catalog and your account during this session.

K-POP Catawba!

Thursday, May 7 at 6 pm

Main Library in Newton

Catawba County's only continuing K-pop fan gathering. Share your favorite songs, videos, artist biases, and play K-pop trivia. Explore the world's most exciting musical genre!

Trivia Night

Monday, May 11 at 6 pm

Southwest Branch Library

Dust off those brain cells and prepare for a battle of wits where the stakes are low but the bragging rights are massive! Get ready to prove that you're the biggest nerd in the neighborhood!

The Chill-ympics

Tuesday, May 12 at 2 pm

Southwest Branch Library

Trade the high-intensity sprints for high-fives as you compete in a series of hilariously low-impact challenges designed to encourage movement and blood flow. It's the perfect blend of lighthearted competition and social vibes - grab a drink, find your team, and let the games begin!

Intro to AI

Wednesday, May 13 at 2 pm

Long View Town Hall

Curious about AI? Worried you won't be able to tell if something you see online is real? Learn about Artificial Intelligence and how to recognize it in everyday life with the library's digital navigators.



MAY BOOK CLUBS



Mystery Mavens

Tuesday, May 12 at 6:30 pm

Sherrills Ford-Terrell Branch

The Ex-Girlfriend Murder Club

by Gloria Chao



Mountain View Book Club

Monday, May 18 at 6 pm

Southwest Branch

Before We Were Innocent

by Ell Berman



Books Between Friends

Tuesday, May 26 at 6 pm

Claremont Branch

Buckeye

by Patrick Ryan



Shelf-Care Book Club

Monday, May 18 at 6 pm

St. Stephens Branch

The Burning Library

by Gilly MacMillan



Newton Book Club

Thursday, May 21 at 5 pm

Carpe Crustum

Three Days in June

by Anne Tyler

Needle Felting

Thursday, May 14 at 4 pm

Sherrills Ford-Terrell Branch Library

Explore the textile art of needle felting as we create a nature-inspired figurine.



Garden Volunteer Days

Saturdays, May 16 & 30

from 9 - 11 am

Main Library in Newton

We're seeking enthusiastic volunteers to assist with tasks such as weeding, mulching, and planting in the community garden. Whether you're an expert or just starting out, all ages and experience levels are welcome.

Qi Gong

Saturday, May 16 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.

Compound Butter Making

Tuesday, May 19 at 5:30 pm

Sherrills Ford-Terrell Branch Library

Learn how to make homemade butter from scratch in this hands-on class, then elevate it with creative flavor additions. Exploring both sweet and savory compound butters to create delicious, customized spreads.



Lincoln-Catawba Songwriters Alliance

Tuesday, May 19 at 6 pm

Southwest Branch Library

Jump into this music social gathering, a lively musical playground where you can belt out a chorus, shred on your favorite guitar, or just kick back and soak up the vibes.

All You Ever Wanted to Know About Zumba But Were Afraid to Attend!

Thursday, May 21 at 5:30 pm

Main Library in Newton

Join Zumba instructor Honey as she talks through ways to be your most active. Be prepared to challenge yourself, open your mind, and learn a few Zumba moves in the process!

NC Reads Book Club

Tuesday, May 26 at 6 pm

St. Stephens Branch Library

NC Humanities is hosting free, virtual monthly book club discussion events where participants will hear from guest speakers including book authors and topic experts. The May book is *The Devil's Done Come Back* by Ed Southern. Books will be provided.

Catawba County Genealogical Society

Tuesday, May 26 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.

Creative Outlet:

Botanical Color Study

Wednesday, May 27 at 6 pm

Main Library in Newton

Inspired by collections of natural elements like flowers, leaves, and shells, we will pick up our watercolor brushes, see color more clearly, and create a nature-inspired color grid.



Setting up LogIn.gov

Friday, May 15 at 11 am

Main Library in Newton

VA and Social Security require creating a LogIn.gov account to access information. Let us help with the process! Bring your smart phone and a valid picture ID to set up your account.



Please visit or call the library to register.

LIBRARY TO GO

Spring into Summer: Taft Broome Park

Thursday, May 7 from 5 - 7 pm

115 7th Avenue SW, Hickory

Learn about and connect to activities and services families may need during the summer months.

Long View Town Hall Visit

Monday, May 18 from 2 - 5 pm

2404 1st Ave SW, Hickory

Join us each month for library card sign-ups, checking-out materials, craft programs for adults, and storytimes for families.

Conover Farmers Market

Saturday, May 23 from 8 am - 12 pm

202 1st Ave S, Conover

Stop by to check out materials and participate in library activities.

Foothills Folk Art Festival

Saturday, May 9 from 10 am - 4 pm

Downtown Newton

Find us during this fun, family event to create a community art project!



Claremont Night in the Park

Saturday, May 30 from 4 - 7 pm

3430 E. Main St, Claremont

Find us during this fun community event for activities for the kids.



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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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