

Library Connections

AUGUST 2026



catawba county
library system

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828.465.8665



www.catawbacountync.gov/library

• connect
• explore
• grow

END OF SUMMER AND BACK TO SCHOOL

Summer is coming to an end and students of all ages are returning to school. Whether you are learning how to read and write, starting your senior year of high school, or need a refresher on how to use NCLive for college papers, Catawba County Library is here to support all of your back to school needs.

The library offers a multitude of learning resources for virtual and in-person learning. The library has study rooms equipped for virtual and in-person meetings or study sessions, WiFi hotspot lending, desktop computers for in-library use, Homework Helpers, Paws to Read, and free access to NC LIVE, NC Kids Digital, NC Kids Level Up, LOTE, Decodeable Books, Northstar Digital Literacy, Transparent Languages, and online tutorials.

LOTE, Decodeable Books, and NC Kids Digital and Level Up are new additions to the library's line up of learning resources.

- **LOTE4Kids** is a digital collection of picture books in a diverse range of World Languages that allows kids to enjoy the magic of books in LOTE (Languages Other Than English). Each book also comes with English translations to help kids learn a new language. LOTE4Kids has 6000+ digital picture books in 85+ languages.
- **Decodable Books** are a powerful tool to help children practice phonics and grow into confident readers. There are over 700 books in the library's collection.
- **NC Kids** is a digital library found on the Libby app and includes thousands of eBooks, eAudiobooks, and Read-Alongs, for youth ages pre-K through 4th grade.
- **NC Kids Level Up** is a digital library found on the Libby app and includes thousands of eBooks and eAudiobooks for children in 4th through 12th grade.

The library will be hosting a Kindergarten readiness program for rising kindergarteners and their caregivers.

Kindergarten Here We Come!

Join us on Monday, August 10 at 2 pm at the Main Library in Newton for a special storytime! We'll read stories, practice kindergarten-ready skills (like conquering those lunch trays!), and even have a special surprise for caregivers to help make that first day a little easier. To register, please call 828-465-8665.

But wait, summer isn't over yet!

Turn in your reading logs to any library and pick up prizes for completing your reading challenges. Kids and teens should have read 600 minutes, with teens and adults completing the BINGO challenge for prizes.

Celebrate the end of summer learning with us at one of our finale parties:

Tuesday, August 4 at 2 pm
Maiden Branch Library

Tuesday, August 4 from 2 - 4 pm
St. Stephens Branch Library

Thursday, August 6 at 2 pm
Claremont Branch Library

Thursday, August 6 at 3 pm
Southwest Branch Library

Friday, August 7 from 3 - 5 pm
Conover Branch Library

Friday, August 7 at 4 pm
Sherrills Ford-Terrell Branch Library

Saturday, August 8 from 10 am - 12 pm
Main Library in Newton



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



Kindergarten Here We Come!

Monday, August 10 at 2 pm

Main Library in Newton

Calling all rising kindergartners and their caregivers! Join us for a special storytime just for you! We'll read stories, practice kindergarten-ready skills (like conquering those lunch trays!), and even have a special surprise for caregivers to help make that first day a little easier. This program is for rising kindergartners and their caregivers.

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Please visit or call the library to register.

CHILDREN 6-11

SUMMER LEARNING FINALE PARTIES

Celebrate the end of summer, turn in your reading logs, and pick up your prizes!

Tuesday, August 4 at 2 pm

Maiden Branch Library

Tuesday, August 4 at 2 pm

St. Stephens Branch Library

Thursday, August 6 at 2 pm

Claremont Branch Library

Thursday, August 6 at 3 pm

Southwest Branch Library

Friday, August 7 from 3 - 5 pm

Conover Branch Library

Friday, August 7 at 4 pm

Sherrills Ford-Terrell Branch Library

Saturday, August 8

from 10 am - 12 pm

Main Library in Newton

Paws to Read

Tuesday, August 4, 11, & 18

by appointment

St. Stephens Branch Library

Read with a certified therapy dog. To schedule an appointment, please call 828-466-6821.

Pokémon Club

Wednesday, August 12 at 4 pm

Main Library in Newton

Join us for the first official meeting of our new Pokémon club! Bring your favorite Pokémon card, toy, or other special goodie for show and tell!



Lego Club

Friday, August 14 at 10 am

Maiden Branch Library

Build, make and play as we explore our creativity through Lego. Enjoy free play and our monthly Lego challenge: building sharks and other sea creatures.

STEAM: Secret Codes - America 250

Wednesday, August 19 at 4 pm

Sherrills Ford-Terrell Branch Library

Learn about Washington's Spies and then create your own secret message that we'll decode.

TEENS 12-18

DIY No Sew Plushies

Thursday, August 6 at 3 pm

Main Library in Newton

Learn to make your own custom stuffed animals with no sewing required!



College Cooking on a Budget

Tuesday, August 11 at 6 pm

St. Stephens Branch Library

Heading off to college? Learn how to prepare quick, affordable, and tasty meals using one of the most common dorm-room appliances - a microwave! Learn practical tips, simple recipes, and budget-friendly cooking ideas that can help you save money while eating well. Whether you're a first-year student or returning to campus, this program will help you build confidence in the kitchen without breaking the bank.

R



ADULTS

Zumba Mondays!

Mondays at 6 pm

Main Library in Newton

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

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

Wednesdays & Fridays at 3 pm

St. Stephens Branch Library

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

Repair, Reinvent & Re-wear Session 1 - Basics

Saturday, August 1 at 1 pm

Main Library in Newton

Give your favorite clothes a second life! In the first session of our four-part visible mending series, you'll learn the fundamentals of repairing worn and damaged clothing while turning mends into creative design features. We'll cover basic hand-sewing techniques, simple fixes, and essential tools to help you confidently begin your visible mending journey. Bring a garment in need of repair or practice on provided materials.

Adult Board Game Afternoon

Saturday, August 1 at 3 pm

St. Stephens Branch Library

Learn how to play fun games while meeting new people. This month we will be featuring the classic dice game Yahtzee. Light refreshments provided.

Chair Yoga

*Wednesdays, August 5 & 19
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.

Career Center

Wednesday, August 5 from 1 - 4 pm

Main Library in Newton

A Goodwill career specialist will be available to provide one-on-one assistance with your job-related needs. Want to get your resume on Indeed or LinkedIn? This is your perfect opportunity! Reserve a 30-minute appointment by calling 828-465-8665 or drop in as you are able.

'80s Bingo Trivia

Thursday, August 6 at 6 pm

Main Library in Newton

Bust out your legwarmers and get amped for this tubular trivia Bingo game. Bring your home slice and test your knowledge of 80s pop culture trivia – everything from clutch tunes to the original shark jumper. Teams are encouraged, but super smartypants are welcome to fly solo. Have fun, win prizes, be rad! Denim, bright colors, and shoulder pads not required, BUT encouraged!

Artificial Intelligence August

Fridays, August 7, 14, & 21 at 2 pm

Main Library in Newton

AI is everywhere and is not just an app you chat with. In this three-part series, participants will learn how we use AI every day, the different types of AI systems, and to safely use them.

August 7: Types of AI

Learn how we, knowingly or not, use AI every day and the different types of AI systems.

August 14: AI Prompt Slam

Asking AI for answers is easy, right? If you're not getting the responses you hoped for, it may be your prompt! Gain prompt engineering skills and then test what you've learned in a prompt competition.

August 21: Concerns and Safety

As we wrap up AI August, the final session will cover safety concerns, environmental impacts, and how to potentially turn off AI settings on your devices.

Qi Gong

Saturday, August 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.

Quilling Project Days

Saturday, August 8 at 3 pm

*Wednesdays, August 12 & 26 at 6 pm
Main Library in Newton*

Drop in to work on a holiday-themed quilling project. We'll be making coils, rings, teardrops, and scrolls. By November, we'll assemble our quilled shapes into a Christmas tree or an ornament to create a hand-crafted holiday card so beautiful you'll definitely want to deliver it in person. Beginner friendly!

Garden Volunteer Days

Saturdays, August 8 & 22

from 9 - 11 am

Main Library in Newton

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

AUGUST BOOK CLUBS



Mystery Mavens

Tuesday, August 11 at 6:30 pm

Sherrills Ford-Terrell Branch

The Lake House by Kate Morton

*The Station Book Club
Wednesday, August 12 at 10 am*

Conover Branch

*Turtles All the way Down
by John Green*



Shelf-Care Book Club

Monday, August 17 at 6 pm

St. Stephens Branch

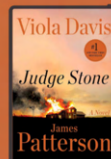
*We Don't Talk About Carol
by Kristen L. Berry*

Mountain View Book Club

Monday, August 17 at 6 pm

Southwest Branch

Judge Stone by Viola Davis



Newton Book Club

Thursday, August 20 at 5 pm

Warehouse Distillery

Heartwood by Amity Gaige

Northstar Digital Literacy Training

Thursday, August 13 at 3 pm

Sherrills Ford-Terrell Branch Library

Explore your computer skills and find areas to improve with the Northstar Digital Literacy Assessment. This tool has fun online tests that help you get better at things like using email, surfing the internet, and using Windows, Google Docs, Microsoft Word, and Excel.

Creative Outlet: Nature Sun Catchers

Thursday, August 13 at 6 pm

Main Library in Newton

Create your own unique sun catcher using dried flowers, tea bags, and sticks. In this relaxing, hands-on workshop, you will transform simple natural and recycled materials into a colorful piece of art that catches the light beautifully. No experience needed, all materials provided.

Lincoln-Catawba Songwriters Alliance

Tuesday, August 18 at 6 pm

Southwest Branch Library

Jump into the 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.

DIY Adult Beaded Bookmarks

Tuesday, August 18 at 6:30 pm

Conover Branch Library

Create a metal beaded bookmark while chatting about your latest book obsession and enjoying light refreshments.

Libby for e-books and audiobooks

Wednesday, August 19 at 2 pm

Long View Recreation Center

Curious how to check out e-books and audiobooks from your local library? Come learn all about the Libby App!

Fossil Fascination:

A Hands-On Experience

Thursday, August 20 at 6 pm

Claremont Branch Library

Journey through billions of years of natural history, from primitive marine organisms and massive dinosaurs to the mighty mammals of the Ice Age. Bring the earth's past to life with this fascinating hands-on experience.

Book Edge Painting

Monday, August 24 at 6 pm

St. Stephens Branch Library

Add a sophisticated touch of color to your beloved book collection by learning how to safely paint the page edges of a book. All supplies provided but feel free to bring your own.



Trivia Night

Monday, August 24 at 6 pm

Southwest Branch Library

Join us for an evening of art trivia and fun guaranteed to test your knowledge. Trivia night will be full of facts, fun and festive prizes!

Bob Ross Paint Night

Tuesday, August 25 at 5:30 pm

Sherrills Ford-Terrell Branch Library

Channelling our inner Bob Ross to celebrate creating art with playful exploration of different mediums.



Catawba County Genealogical Society

Tuesday, August 25 at 6:30 pm

Main Library in Newton, Rhodes Room

Learn about new local history and genealogy materials available for research during this month's meeting.

Canva for Beginners

Thursday, August 27 at 3 pm

Sherrills Ford-Terrell Branch Library

Learn how to create professional looking flyers, announcements, or graphics using Canva, a free online graphic design platform. Participants will get hands-on experience creating a design. No experience necessary, just bring your creativity.

Needle Felting

Thursday, August 27 at 4 pm

Sherrills Ford-Terrell Branch Library

Explore the textile art of needle felting as we create a small figurine.



Please visit or call the library to register.

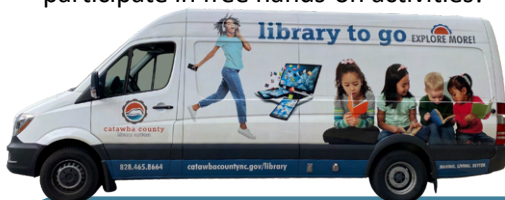
LIBRARY TO GO

Herman Sipe Lunch & Library

Wednesdays, August 5, 12, & 19

from 11:30 am - 1 pm

Enjoy a meal provided by The Corner Table Community Kitchen, check out some books, listen to a story, and participate in free hands-on activities!



Back To School Bash

Saturday, August 1

from 9 am - 12 noon

Hickory American Legion Fairgrounds

1 American Legion Ave, Newton

Launch into the new school year with the library - discover cool homework resources, boost your reading skills, and try hands-on activities for all ages! Free backpacks provided by local churches and organizations!

Long View Visit

Wednesday, August 19 from 2 - 5 pm

Long View Recreation Center

3107 2nd Ave NW, Hickory

Gear up for the new school year with a hands-on STEM celebration! Try out paper airplane challenges, make your own bookmark, and pick up free food bags provided by The Corner Table Community Kitchen and the Backpack Program. Get tech help and explore library services for all ages.



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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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828.466.5108
828.428.2712
828.466.6827
828.466.6818
828.466.6821