

Library Connections

DECEMBER 2022



catawba county
library system

MAKING. LIVING. BETTER.

828.465.8664



www.catawbacountync.gov/library

- connect
- explore
- grow

YOU'RE INVITED

HELP US CELEBRATE

In 2019, the library embarked on a Strategic Planning project where we gathered the opinions of over 700 Catawba County residents through focus groups, community forums, surveys, and interviews. The resulting strategic plan with goals to Connect, Explore and Grow aims to respond to our community's diverse needs as we work to enhance the quality of library facilities, spaces, technologies, and resources to entice exploration, spark curiosity, foster lifelong learning, and enhance quality of life.

With a focus on libraries as destinations, we have recently renovated the St. Stephens Branch Library with new interactive experiences for our youngest learners, new user friendly shelving, meeting and gathering spaces, and new computer work stations. The result is a vibrant, welcoming library space for all ages to enjoy. Community members can stop by the St. Stephens Branch anytime during normal operating hours to check out all the changes.

Everyone is invited to a special ribbon cutting celebration on Wednesday, December 8th at 9 am where we will showcase the updated St. Stephens Branch. We hope you will join us to see the space, learn about library services, try out a new technology, and enjoy light refreshments!

With help from grant funding administered by the State Library of North Carolina, the library has been able to address another strategic initiative to provide our community access to the latest technologies for education, business and personal goals.

The library has also modernized our meeting rooms and study spaces with private and safe video-conferencing technology. This access allows the community to have a space for virtual meetings, interviews, doctor visits, and more without the burden of purchasing equipment, establishing internet access, or worrying about security and privacy. These spaces are available for reservation now and trained library employees are available to help people get started.

A separate grant from the State allowed the library system to purchase gaming systems to enhance teen programming while providing access to the latest technologies. Teens should be on the lookout for Teen Game Night programs at their local branch where they will be able to connect with their friends in a safe environment while they play on a Nintendo Switch or with a Meta Quest 2 VR headset. Teens can enjoy games like Mario Kart 8, Mario Party, Sing 2021, and Sports on the Nintendo Switches and Beat Saber, Job Simulator, and Cooking Simulator on the Meta Quest 2 VR headsets. These systems are only available for use during supervised teen programs.

This month the library is excited to announce the launch of a new software program called Interplay Learning that will provide free, web-based training for trade skills including plumbing, electrician, HVAC repair, solar installation, and more. While all of the training can be completed online with a regular computer, laptop, or tablet, it also has simulations and virtual reality (VR) lessons that allow for virtual on-the-job experience and skills evaluations. Interplay Learning participants will be able to visit the library and use Meta Quest 2 VR headsets to complete simulation lessons and evaluations. Stay

tuned for details on how to register for classes using the Interplay Learning software.

The Catawba County Library is your place to Connect, Explore and Grow and we will continue to work to enhance the quality of library facilities, spaces, technologies, and resources to entice exploration, spark curiosity, foster lifelong learning, and enhance quality of life. We would love to hear from you, our community members, to share with us what you want or need from your public library.

Please feel free to tell us "How we are doing" on our website at www.catawbacountync.gov/library



THE LIBRARY WILL BE CLOSED FROM THURSDAY, DECEMBER 22 THROUGH MONDAY, DECEMBER 26 TO OBSERVE THE HOLIDAYS.

CHILDREN

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

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

Ready to Learn Storytime: Bilingual

Miércoles a la 10 am

Wednesdays at 10 am

St. Stephens Branch Library

Únase a nosotros para hora del cuento bilingüe, canciones, movimiento, aprendizaje y más para preescolares. Join us for bilingual storytime featuring stories, songs, movement, learning and more for preschoolers.

Saturday Storytime

Saturday, December 3 at 10 am

Conover Branch Library

Enjoy a special storytime, where we'll have stories, songs, and sensory play! This program is designed for preschoolers.



El club de español para niños:

Celebrando la Navidad

Sábado, 3 de diciembre a las 2 pm

Biblioteca de Newton

Programa presentado en español. Este club será para niños que ya hablan español o están en un programa de doble inmersión; disfrutaremos de juegos culturales, haremos manualidades y aprenderemos sobre la cultura de los países hispanohablantes. Programa para niños de 3° a 5° grado. Para obtener más información o registrarse, llame al: 828-465-8664.

The Case of the Missing Gingerbread

Tuesday, December 6 at 5:30 pm

Southwest Branch Library

Our plate of gingerbread cookies has gone missing, and we need your help finding the culprit! Learn about the science of crime scene investigation in this fun, kid-friendly STEAM program!

Science with Sweets

Wednesday December 7 at 4:30 pm

Main Library in Newton

Will the sweets sink or float? Will they dissolve or fizz? We'll make our guesses and then run tests.

Tales in the Garden: Worlds Enough

Thursday, December 8 at 5:30 pm

Main Library in Newton

Join us for a bilingual storytime, art project with Missy Cleveland, and a free copy of *Worlds Enough* while supplies last.

Winter Wonderland Painting

Saturday, December 10 at 11 am

Conover Branch Library

Create your own unique winter scene using pointillism techniques! We'll use acrylic paint and ceramic tiles to make art.

PAWS To Read

Saturday, December 10 beginning at 11 am

St. Stephens Branch Library

Schedule a 20-minute appointment to read with a certified therapy dog. To schedule an appointment, please call 828-466-6821.

Fairy Hair for Kids

Tuesday, December 13 at 4 pm

Sherrills Ford-Terrell Branch Library

Sparkle like tinsel on the tree for the upcoming holiday season. Learn how to add fairy hair tinsel to your child's hair. To register, please visit the library or call 828-466-6827.

Animals in Winter

Tuesday December 13 at 4:30 pm

Main Library in Newton

Learn about hibernation at this fun session with Catawba County Parks Rangers.

Bilingual Holiday Storytime & Santa Visit

Thursday, December 15 at 5:30 pm

Main Library in Newton

Wear your pjs and join us for a special holiday bilingual storytime including photo opportunities with the big man himself!



Elf Appreciation Afternoon

Saturday, December 17 from 2 - 5 pm

St. Stephens Branch Library

"Have your ELF a happy holiday!" Join us for a viewing of the movie *Elf*, hot cocoa, and ELF trivia! All ages are welcome. To register, please call 828-466-6821.

TEENS

Teen Tuesdays

Tuesdays at 5 pm

Main Library in Newton

December 6: Basic First Aid (non-certified) with Catawba County EMS

December 13: Macramé snowflakes

December 20: Holiday Trivia

December 27: Board Games and Drawing

Teen Advisory Board (TAB) Meeting

Monday, December 5 at 6 pm

St. Stephens Branch Library

Help plan future teen programs. Teen led with support provided by library staff as needed. Tell us what you want to learn, make, and do at your library.

Perler Bead Club

Thursday, December 8 at 4 pm

Sherrills Ford-Terrell Branch Library

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

Teens Finals Café

Saturday, December 10 from 12 - 5 pm

St. Stephens Branch Library

Drop in to study quietly with soft music, time with therapy dogs, and limited distractions. Bring your comfortable clothes, study materials, maybe a soft cushion or blanket.



DIY Wrapping Paper

Monday, December 12 at 5:30 pm

Southwest Branch Library

Let's get crafty as we make creative, unique wrapping paper out of common art supplies! Feel free to bring gifts to wrap, or take your paper to go!

Dungeons and Dragons Club

Saturday, December 17 at 1 pm

Sherrills Ford-Terrell Branch Library

Discover your inner warrior and join us in this epic adventure.

Teen Game Night

Tuesday, December 29 at 3 pm

Southwest Branch Library

Enjoy some friendly competition and a whole lot of fun at our Nintendo Switch game night! Consoles will be provided. Get ready to level up!

*EVENTS HIGHLIGHTED IN BLUE ARE BEING OFFERED AS ONLINE PROGRAMS.

ADULTS

Zumba Mondays!

Mondays at 6 pm

Main Library at 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).

Community Navigator

Thursdays & Fridays from 9 am - 5 pm

Main Library in Newton

Stop in to visit with a Community Navigator for a one-on-one session to get connected with services, resources, and local assistance available in Catawba County. For more information, please call 828-465-9553.

Just Walk!

Fridays at 4 pm

St. Stephens Branch Library

Join us for a fun indoor walk. Enjoy music, moves and smiles—this is more fun than anyone should have on a fitness walk! To register, please visit the library or call 828-466-6821. Fitness waiver required.

Community Recipe Book

Through December 20

Conover Branch Library

With the holidays approaching, so is some yummy food! We are putting together a Conover Community Recipe Book and are asking for 1-2 of your favorite recipes that we can copy and insert into our book. During this time, the book will be out for viewing and we encourage everyone to find a new recipe to try!

Christmas Crafternoon

Thursday, December 1 at 12:30 pm

St. Stephens Branch Library

Join us to make and take your very own simple holiday ornaments. We'll also have holiday-themed coloring sheets

Gentle Flow Yoga

Friday, December 2, 9, & 16 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. To register, please visit the library or call 828-466-6827.

Yoga Vinyasa

Monday, December 5 at 9:30 am

Main Library at Newton

This class features smooth transitions between poses, linked to breath. This class is for all levels of practitioners, from beginner to advanced, open to anyone 14+ (parental signature required for teens under 18). Bring a mat or towel.

Adult STEAM: Basic Holiday Mosaic Art

Monday, December 5 at 6 pm

Southwest Branch Library

Are you interested in learning how to create mosaic tile art? Registrants will participate in a hands-on mosaic tile program for beginners. To register, please call 828-466-6818 or visit the library.

Embroidery 101

Tuesday, December 6 at 5 pm

Conover Branch Library

This workshop will focus on teaching easy to master basic stitches including outlines, textured stitches, and stitches for filling in spaces. Supplies will be provided. To register, please call 828-466-5108 or visit the library.

DIY Holiday Garland

Tuesday, December 6 at 6 pm

Sherrills Ford-Terrell Branch Library

Create your own festive garland this holiday season. To register, please visit the library or call 828-466-6827.

The Mind-Body Connection: Brain Health is Physical Health

Tuesday, December 6 at 6 pm

Main Library in Newton

Navigating life with a mental health condition can be tough. Stigma can create huge challenges to reaching out, getting needed support and living well. Join us to learn how to correct misinformation and beliefs around brain health. This program is sponsored by LiveWell Catawba.

The Station Book Club

Wednesday, December 7 at 10 am

Conover Branch Library

All are welcome to join as we discuss *Beartown* by Fredrik Backman. Come for coffee and great conversation, ending with book recommendations!

Resumes & Job Applications Workshop

Wednesday, December 7 at 10 am

Online via WebEx

Learn tips for creating a resume and completing a job application. To register, please visit tinyurl.com/catawbajobs

Chair Yoga

Wednesday, Dec 7 & 14 at 11:30 am

Sherrills Ford-Terrell Branch Library

A certified yoga instructor will lead us through a class friendly for all body types and levels. This class is perfect for anyone looking for accessible ways to stretch, relax, and gain the benefits of doing yoga with the added security of using a chair.

Career Center

Wednesday, December 7 from 1 - 4 pm

Main Library at Newton

A Goodwill career specialist will be available to provide one-on-one assistance with resumes, interview practice and other soft skills, online applications, and job search strategies. Reserve a 30-minute appointment by calling 828-465-8665 or drop in as you are able.

A Colorful Holiday Plate

Wednesday, December 7 at 5:30 pm

Main Library in Newton

It's easy to 'eat the rainbow' in the warmer months, but with a little planning you can work the rainbow into a delicious plate for the holidays too. Julie Lehman of the Hickory Farmers Market is going to let us taste some prepared dishes and provide recipes we can share. Register by calling the library at 828-465-8665.

Gale Legal Forms

Thursday, December 8 at 4 pm

Online via Zoom

Join us to learn about what is available through Gale Legal Forms, a resource that provides official, state, Federal, business, personal, real estate, and general forms covering hundreds of legal subjects and issues. To register, please visit tinyurl.com/CCLSGale

ACAP-Family Dynamics in Caregiving

Thursday, December 8 at 5:30 pm

Main Library in Newton

Caregivers for an aging parent are invited to join other caregivers at this ACAP-Hickory/Foothills meeting. An Occupational Therapist from Frye Regional Medical Center will explain the warning signs of driving impairment in aging adults, suggest evaluation strategies, share transportation alternatives, and present scenarios for discussing this topic with your aging parents.

Adult Book Club (virtual)

Monday, December 12 at 6:30 pm

Online via Facebook

December's theme is to read a Young Adult book. Follow along here (including reading suggestions for the month's theme): www.facebook.com/groups/St.StephensBookClub

Fairy Hair for Adults

Tuesday, December 13 at 6 pm

Sherrills Ford-Terrell Branch Library

Sparkle like tinsel on the tree for the upcoming holiday season. Learn how to add fairy hair tinsel to your hair with our library fairies. To register, visit the library or call 828-466-6827.

Postres saludables

Martes, 13 de diciembre a las 6 pm

Biblioteca de Newton

Programa presentado en español e inglés
Comparta estas fiestas con postres saludables.

Healthy Desserts

Tuesday, December 13 at 6 pm

Main Library in Newton

Program presented in English and Spanish
Share a Happy Holiday with healthy yummy desserts.

Mystery Mavens Book Club

Tuesday, December 13 at 6:30 pm

Sherrills Ford-Terrell Branch Library

The Mystery Mavens book club welcomes new members to join us for a lively discussion on *Midnight at the Bright Ideas Bookstore* by Matthew J. Sullivan.

Christmas Traditions Trivia

Tuesday, December 13 at 6 pm

Online via Zoom

Think you're Catawba County's jolliest "smartypants" when it comes to Christmas traditions and pop culture? This is your chance to prove it! Dress up in your most festive holiday attire, get your snacks and beverages ready, and join us via Zoom. Send an email to share@catawbacountync.gov to receive the Zoom invitation.

Introduction to Hoopla and Libby

Wednesday, December 14 at 4 pm
Sherrills Ford-Terrell Branch Library
Libby and Hoopla are free, user-friendly ways to find thousands of eBooks and Audiobooks. We will teach you how to download the app, sign in, and download a book or two. Bring your own tablet or phone to set up your gateway to the world of eReading.

Interviewing Tips Workshop

Thursday, December 15 at 10 am
Online via WebEx

Learn tips on how to ACE a job interview! To register, please visit tinyurl.com/catawbajobs

Health Insurance & Legal Aid Navigator

Thursday, December 15 from 2 - 7 pm
Main Library at Newton
Stop in to visit with federally qualified health insurance navigators who provide information about Legal Aid of North Carolina FREE legal services and unbiased help finding quality affordable health insurance. The navigators offer experienced counsel when applying for medical and mental health insurance through the marketplace.gov official government website. They can explain options and assist consumers with estimating their income for the year ahead to see if they qualify for tax credits and/or cost sharing reductions.

Needle Felting

Thursday, December 15 at 4 pm
Sherrills Ford-Terrell Branch Library
Explore the textile art of needle felting as we create a penguin. Finger protectors will be available for participants to use. To register, please visit the library or call 828-466-6827.

Piece of Cake Book Club

Thursday, December 15 at 5 pm
Narrow Coffee & Nosh in Newton
Selecting a diverse range of works and authors, join us to chat about December's pick, *Groundskeeping* by Lee Cole. Get ahead by checking out January's selection, *The Final Revival of Opal and Nev* by Dawnie Walton. Readers are welcome to suggest titles for upcoming meetings at tinyurl.com/ccls-pieceofcake

Winter Wonderland Painting

Friday, December 16 at 10 am
Conover Branch Library
Create your own unique winter scene using pointillism techniques! We'll use acrylic paint and ceramic tiles to make small, original pieces of art.

Houseplant Swap

Friday, December 16 at 4 pm
Sherrills Ford-Terrell Branch Library
If you love houseplants as much as we do, join us for our houseplant swap. You're invited to bring in healthy plants, rooted in dirt or loose cuttings, and be ready to trade. We will also learn how to propagate houseplants and the different methods to ensure its success.

Macramé Snowflakes

Saturday, December 17 at 2 pm
Main Library in Newton
Need a little winter décor to brighten your space? Learn to make an easy, hangable macramé snowflake. All supplies provided. To register, please call 828-465-8665.



Club de lectura: Un corazón lector

Domingo, 18 de diciembre a las 5 pm
Se reunirá para discutir y conversar acerca de la primera parte del libro *El maestro* por Mario Escobar. La ubicación de las reuniones cambia. Por favor, llame al 828.465.5664 para más información.

Sound Bath Meditation

Monday, December 19 at 9:30 am
Main Library at Newton
Experience the incredibly soothing effects of a Sound Bath meditation using crystal singing bowls attuned to each of the 7 main chakras. This is the perfect class for anyone interested in starting a meditation practice. Bring a mat or towel.

Mountain View Book Buzz

Monday, December 19 at 6 pm
Southwest Branch Library
Join us as we discuss *The Book of Lost Names* by Kristin Harmel. All are welcome for lively conversations and lots of fun!

Veterans Services Workshop

Tuesday, December 20 at 10 am
Online via WebEx
This workshop is designed to inform Veteran job seekers in North Carolina of the various resources available to them through their local NCWorks Career Centers. To register, please visit tinyurl.com/catawbajobs

Catawba Songwriters

Tuesday, December 20 at 6 pm
Southwest Branch Library
Share your talents while you learn from others. Bring a finished written song or one that's in progress to share with the group. Teens and tweens with musical talents are invited to join.

Trivia Night

Tuesday, December 20 at 6 pm
Southwest Branch Library
Join us for an evening of Holiday trivia! Valerie Carpenter will host this program guaranteed to test your knowledge. Trivia night will be full of facts, fun and festive prizes. To register, please call 828-466-6818 or visit the library.

Winter Solstice Celebration

Wednesday, Dec 21 from 4:30 - 6 pm
Maiden Branch Library
The winter solstice is the shortest day and longest night of the year. Celebrate with us to let go, set our intentions for the new year, and create a winter solstice lantern to keep us company during the long winter nights. To register, please visit tinyurl.com/ccls-winter

LIBRARY TO GO

Claremont Festival

Saturday, December 3 from 2 - 3 pm
3288 E Main St, Claremont, NC 28610
Join us in front of the Claremont library for crafts before the 38th Annual Christmas Parade starts at 4 pm.

A Small Town Tree Lighting

Sunday, December 6 from 6 - 8 pm
200 S Main St, Catawba, NC 28609
Stop by the Library to Go for kids activities and storytime!

Annual Pottery Fundraiser

Saturday, December 10 from 8 am - 12 pm
1679 Southwest Blvd, Newton, NC 28658
Check out this annual pottery fundraiser at Connections Clubhouse, and be sure to bring the kids for some hands-on crafts of their own.



Clean Wave Laundry Suds & Stories

Sunday, December 11 from 2 - 5 pm
2720 2nd Ave NW, Hickory, NC 28601
Check out books, use our wi-fi hotspot, and enjoy our family storytime which incorporates stories, songs, and sensory play - starts at 3 pm.

Merry Maiden Festival

Thursday, December 15 at 5:30 pm
19 N Main Ave, Maiden, NC 28650
Come share in the holiday spirit with activities and a storytime 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

828.466.6817
828.466.5108
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