

Library Connections

MAY 2025



catawba county
library system

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SUMMER LEARNING

COLOR OUR WORLD

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 **COLOR OUR WORLD**, celebrating how reading brings excitement, meaning, and imagination to our lives! 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 **May Wildlife Rehabilitation Center**, **Critter Keeper**, **Green Bean Players**, **Catawba County Parks**, **South Mountains State Park**, and **Color Circus with Sigmon Theatricals**!

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 12.



Summer programs and activities take place from late May through early August. Join us at your library this summer for learning and fun as we **COLOR OUR WORLD**!

THE LIBRARY WILL BE CLOSED MONDAY, MAY 26 IN OBSERVANCE OF THE MEMORIAL DAY 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

Ready to Learn Storytime:

Tiny to Two

Mondays at 10 am

Main Library in Newton

Fridays at 10 am

Sherrills Ford-Terrell Branch Library

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

Ready to Learn Storytime: Sensory-Friendly

Wednesdays at 11 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, May 7 at 10 am

Maiden Branch Library

Tuesday, May 13 at 10 am

Main Library in Newton

Thursday, May 22 at 11 am

Sherrills Ford-Terrell Branch Library

Friday, May 30 at 12 noon

Claremont Branch Library



Please visit or call the library to register.



Cinco De Mayo – A Bilingual Celebration

Monday, May 5 at 5 pm

Southwest Branch Library

Learn about a vibrant Mexican tradition during this fun-filled celebration! Bring your family for stories, games, music, crafts, & more.

Paws to Read

Tuesday, May 13 by appointment

St. Stephens Branch Library

Encourage your young reader by reading with a certified therapy dog.



Pre-K Bingo

Thursday, May 8 at 10 am

Conover Branch Library

A fun way to identify colors, shapes, numbers & letters as you play your bingo card. Winners will be able to pick a prize while supplies last.

Tales in the Garden:

Galloping Garden Fun

Tuesday, May 20 at 6 pm

Main Library in Newton

Join us in the community garden for bilingual stories, crafts, games & fun as we explore all things horses and learn about Rising Hope Farms.

CHILDREN 6-11

Homeschool Hangout

Thursday, May 1 at 11 am

Conover Branch Library

Are you a homeschooling family or group? Meet other homeschoolers, enjoy an activity and coloring pages.

Free Comic Book Day

Saturday, May 3 from 1 - 4 pm

Main Library in Newton

Join us for this annual celebration of everything comics, manga, and graphic novels! Featuring Nintendo games, crafts, and more, this party is sure to delight comic book fans of every kind!



Blooming Buddies – Homeschool STEAM

Tuesday, May 6 at 1 pm

Southwest Branch Library

Celebrate National Wildflower Week with us! Learn about the importance of pollinators and wildflowers in this hands-on STEAM program.

Movie & Craft: Wicked

Tuesday, May 13 at 4:30 pm

Main Library in Newton

Take a break from stressing over tests to watch *Wicked*, make a craft and enjoy some snacks.

Lego Club

Wednesday, May 21 at 10 am

Maiden Branch Library

Build, make and play as we explore our creativity through Lego. Enjoy this month's lego challenge, creating lego portraits, along with free play!

SUMMER LEARNING KICKOFF CELEBRATIONS



TUESDAY
MAY 27
4 PM

**ST. STEPHENS
BRANCH LIBRARY**



WEDNESDAY
MAY 28
3-5 PM

**SOUTHWEST
BRANCH LIBRARY**



FRIDAY
MAY 30
3-5 PM

**MAIN LIBRARY
IN NEWTON**



SATURDAY
MAY 31
11 AM - 2 PM

**SHERRILLS FORD-TERRELL
BRANCH LIBRARY**



TUESDAY
JUNE 3
6 PM

**CONOVER BRANCH
LIBRARY**



THURSDAY
JUNE 5
2 PM

**CLAREMONT
BRANCH LIBRARY**



SATURDAY
JUNE 7
11 AM

**MAIDEN BRANCH
LIBRARY**

TEENS 12-18

D&D Trivia Night

Tuesday, May 13 at 6 pm
Conover Branch Library

Bring your best adventuring crew and show off your D&D lore mastery!



Pokemon Origami

Wednesday, May 21 at 5 pm
Main Library in Newton

Gotta fold 'em all! Learn how to make origami bookmarks of some of your favorite Pokemon!

ADULTS

Zumba Mondays!

Mondays at 6 pm
Main Library in 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 needed for 14-17).

Purl and Chain

Tuesdays at 6 pm

St. Stephens Branch Library

Make new friends and enjoy the company of others while you knit and crochet. A new crochet stitch will be featured each week. Don't miss out on the fun!

Intro to Computers for Spanish Speakers

Fridays at 11 am

St. Stephens Branch Library

Learn how to turn a computer off and on, how to use the mouse and keyboard, and how to save and delete a file. This 6-week course will help you feel more confident using computers as well as help you develop the necessary skills to learn more advanced topics in the future.

Mindful Movement

Fridays at 3 pm

St. Stephens Branch Library

Low impact exercise and gentle stretching for all ages.

Hiring Event

Thursday, May 1 from 1 - 5 pm
Main Library in Newton

Are you ready for an exciting new chapter of your life? In partnership with Goodwill Career Center, we are offering a career fair and hiring event to connect area jobseekers with local employers seeking new hires.

Gentle Flow Yoga

Fridays, May 2 & 30 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.

Chair Yoga

Wednesday, May 7 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. Enjoy the benefits of yoga while seated or using a chair for balance.

Computer Basics: Microsoft Word

Thursdays, May 8, 15, 22, & 29 at 11 am

Main Library in Newton

Join us as we learn how to create, edit, and format documents using Microsoft Word. Laptops provided.



Needle Felting

Thursday, May 8 at 4 pm

Sherrills Ford-Terrell Branch Library

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



Adult Children of Aging Parents: When Staying at Home No Longer Works

Thursday, May 8 at 5:30 pm

Main Library in Newton

This month an eldercare expert will provide an overview of residential options and resources available, along with issues to consider, best practices for assessing a home's suitability for an aging person's needs, and questions to ask.

Guided Hike

Friday, May 9 at 10 am
Mountain Creek Park

Join us for a guided hike through Mountain Creek Park, located just 10 minutes from the Sherrills Ford-Terrell Branch. Wear comfortable clothing, bring water, and learn how to navigate the trails at our local park while enjoying nature.

Garden Volunteer Days

Saturdays, May 10 & 31 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 garden. Whether you're a gardening expert or just starting out, all ages and experience levels are welcome.

Qi Gong

Saturday, May 10 at 9:30 am

Main Library in Newton

Involving gentle movements, controlled breath patterns, and focused attention, Qi Gong can be practiced seated – a great practice for those new to movement.

Trivia Night

Monday, May 12 at 6 pm
Southwest Branch Library

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

Veterans Burial Benefits Seminar

Tuesday, May 13 from 1 - 3 pm
Sherrills Ford-Terrell Branch Library
Many veterans and their families are unaware of the numerous burial benefits available to them. This seminar provided by Bennett Funeral Service aims to inform attendees about the honors and benefits they are entitled to receive.

Mystery Mavens Book Club

Tuesday, May 13 at 6:30

Sherrills Ford-Terrell Branch Library

Join us for a lively discussion on *First Lie Wins* by Ashley Elston. New members welcome!

What's all the Hoopla & Libby 101

Thursday, May 15 at 3 pm

Southwest Branch Library

Explore the world of digital books – no experience needed! Join us for a hands-on beginner's class where we'll introduce you to Hoopla and Libby. Learn how to borrow eBooks and audiobooks, and discover how easy it is to enjoy them on your computer or mobile device.

Newton Book Club

Thursday, May 15 at 5 pm

Carpe Crustum in Downtown Newton

Join us to talk about May's pick, *Maybe Next Time* by Cesca Major. Get ahead with June's selection, *The Wedding People* by Alison Espach.

Shelf-Care Book Club

Monday, May 19 at 6 pm

St. Stephens Branch Library

Treat yourself to the best kind of self-care: a good book! Our May book is *Husbands and Lovers* by Beatriz Williams. Get ahead with June's selection, *The Spellshop* by Sarah Beth Durst.

Mountain View Book Club

Monday, May 19 at 6 pm

Southwest Branch Library

Join us for our book discussion of *The God of the Woods* by Liz Moore. This captivating novel weaves a tale of mystery, nature, and human connection. All are welcome to join the conversation.

Introduction to Beekeeping

Tuesday, May 20 at 6 pm

Conover Branch Library

Celebrate World Bee Day with Members of Catawba Valley Beekeeping Association!

Shred-A-Thon Event with the Catawba County Council on Aging

Wednesday, May 21

from 9 am - 12 pm

Sherrills Ford-Terrell Branch Library

At this free, drive-thru shredding event, individuals will have the opportunity to shred up to two boxes of personal documents. For more information, please call the Council on Aging at 828-328-2269.

Creative Outlet: Neurographic Art

Wednesday, May 21 at 6 pm

Main Library in Newton

Enjoy the therapeutic benefits of creating a work of abstract art by rounding out the intersections of drawn lines before coloring them in.

Streaming Service Test Drive

Thursday, May 22 at 4 pm

Main Library in Newton

Come by to get answers to your streaming questions and learn what's streaming on which platforms.

Trail Ride Line Dance

Throw down in the library's first ever Trail Ride Line Dance class to get warmed up for upcoming area events celebrating Juneteenth. Though not required, cowboy boots, hats and clacking fans are welcome.

Tuesday, May 27 at 6:30 pm

Conover Branch Library

Thursday, May 29 at 6 pm

Main Library in Newton

Catawba County Genealogical Society

Tuesday, May 27 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. All are welcome to attend.

Sewing Machine 101

Saturday, May 31 from 1 - 5 pm

Main Library in Newton

Learn sewing machine basics during one-on-one sessions and leave with your own handmade bowl cozy! Use the library's sewing machine or bring your own.

LIBRARY TO GO

Spring into Summer at Taft Broome Park

Thursday, May 1 from 5 - 7 pm

115 7th Avenue SW, Hickory

Join us for this summer kick-off event sponsored by the City of Hickory and Catawba County Partnership for Children. Learn about activities and services available during the summer.

Connections Clubhouse Market on the Lawn

Saturday, May 3 from 9 am - 2 pm

1679 Southwest Blvd, Newton

Check out this pottery fundraiser and be sure to bring the kids for library activities.

Foothills Folk Art Festival

Saturday, May 10 from 10 am - 4 pm

Downtown Newton

Join us for this fun art festival, enjoy crafts for kids and a community art project for all to work on together. We'll also be signing up all ages for our summer learning program!

Conover Farmers Market

Saturday, May 17 from 8 am - 12 pm

109 1st St E, Conover

Stop by the market to grab some fresh veggies, check out library materials, and participate in library activities.

Claremont Night in the Park

Saturday, May 24 from 4 - 7 pm

3430 E. Main Street, Claremont

Join us at Claremont City Park for a fun night with activities for the kids!



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MAIN LIBRARY IN NEWTON

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CONOVER BRANCH LIBRARY
MAIDEN BRANCH LIBRARY
SHERRILLS FORD-TERRELL BRANCH LIBRARY
SOUTHWEST BRANCH LIBRARY
ST. STEPHENS BRANCH LIBRARY

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