

Library Connections

SEPTEMBER 2025



catawba county
library system

MAKING. LIVING. BETTER.

828.465.8664



www.catawbacountync.gov/library

• connect
• explore
• grow

SEPTEMBER IS LIBRARY CARD SIGN UP MONTH

A library card is more than just a ticket to books. It connects you to free classes, job resources, homework help, streaming media, cultural events, and so much more. Today's libraries are hubs for learning, creativity, and community connection.

This year's theme, **"One Card, Endless Possibilities,"** reminds us that libraries are for everyone—no matter your age, background, or goals. Whether you're diving into a new hobby, finding your next great read, learning new technology, or helping your child succeed in school, it all starts with a library card.

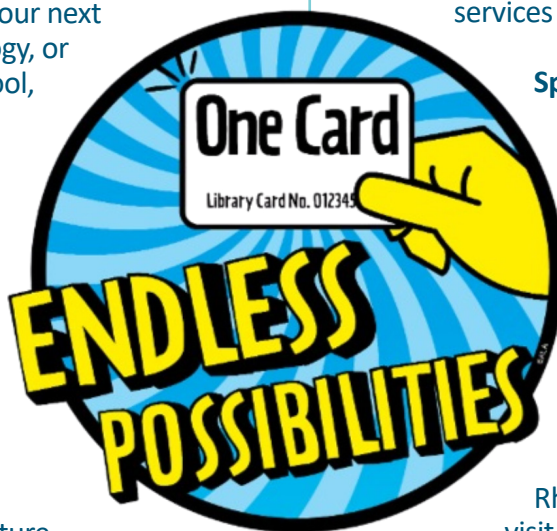
With your Catawba County Library card, you'll have access to:

- FREE online resources including newspapers, movies, music, audiobooks and e-books.
- Local history and genealogy archives, homework help, technology assistance, and small business resources
- LOTE4Kids (foreign language picture books), ecoEXPLORE Backpacks, decodable books, and sensory-friendly spaces
- Programs for all ages, WiFi hotspots, outdoor activity kits, and personalized reading recommendations

Getting a library card is **free, easy, and empowering**. For students, it's a key to academic success. For adults, it's a gateway to lifelong learning. For everyone, it's a smart way to stay connected to your community.

All Month Long: Visit any Catawba County Library location to sign up for a card and snap a celebratory photo with our giant library card for social media.

Did you know? Catawba County has four library systems: Catawba County Library, Hickory Public Library, Lenoir-Rhyne University Library, and Catawba Valley Community College Library. County residents can get a **FREE** card at each library and enjoy those additional services and resources.



Special Library Card Sign-Up Events

In honor of National Library Card Sign-Up Month, we're teaming up with Lenoir-Rhyne University to make it even easier to get multiple cards at once:

**Thursday, September 18
3 - 5:30 pm at St. Stephens Branch**

Visit the St. Stephens Branch Library and sign up for a Catawba County Library card and a Lenoir-Rhyne University Library card in one visit!

**Wednesday, September 24
2 - 4 pm at Main Library in Newton OR
Carl A. Rudisill Library at Lenoir-Rhyne University**

Choose which location is most convenient, visit either the Main Library in Newton or Carl A. Rudisill Library at Lenoir-Rhyne University to sign up for a Catawba County Library card and a Lenoir-Rhyne University Library card in one visit!

THE LIBRARY WILL BE CLOSED MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 1 IN OBSERVANCE OF THE LABOR 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

R

Please visit or call the library to register.

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.

R

Pre-K STEAM

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

Tuesday, September 2 at 1 pm

Tuesday, September 16 at 1 pm

Southwest Branch Library

Tuesday, September 9 at 1 pm

Friday, September 26 at 10 am

Saturday, September 27 at 10 am

St. Stephens Branch Library

Tales in the Garden: Pet Cents

Tuesday, September 23 at 6 pm

Main Library in Newton

Join us in the library garden for a fun, bilingual adventure! Kids will “adopt” a pretend pet and visit playful stations to learn about pet care and money skills—plus meet Sunshine the therapy dog!



CHILDREN 6-11

Lego Club

Wednesday, September 3 at 10 am

Maiden Branch Library

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

Homeschool Hangout

Thursday, September 4 at 11 am

Conover Branch Library

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

DIY Pirate Ships

Friday, September 5 at 4 pm

Main Library in Newton

Think you have what it takes to survive the high seas? See if you can build a pirate ship that actually floats in this hands-on engineering challenge!

Paws to Read

Tuesday, September 9 by appointment

St. Stephens Branch Library

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

R



Homeschool - STEAMed Apple Fun

Tuesday, September 9 at 1 pm

Southwest Branch Library

Join us as we explore the science behind this tasty fruit, learn how apples grow, and even do some hands-on experiments. Roll up your sleeves and make a tasty apple recipe.



Paper Airplane Challenge

Tuesday, September 9 at 6 pm

Conover Branch Library

Learn how to fold different airplane designs, experiment with variations to see how they fly, and test your creations in exciting challenges.

Master Chef Jr: Spring Roll

Wednesday, September 10 at 4 pm

Main Library in Newton

Join our Master Chef Jr. cooking experience! Explore the art of spring rolls and then work as a team to create your own unique variations!

R

STEAM Activity: Rubber Band Cars

Saturday, September 13 at 1 pm

St. Stephens Branch Library

Build and test your own rubber band-powered vehicles—learning how potential energy can zoom into action!

Water Cycle Bracelet Making

Friday, September 26 at 10 am

Maiden Branch Library

Make your very own beaded bracelet and play a fun game to learn how water travels around Earth. Kids are invited to see what happens to stormwater after it rains with a hands-on activity from the WPCOG.

Feature Film Friday – Lilo & Stitch

Friday, September 26 at 11 am

Southwest Branch Library

School's out, so bring your friends for a special screening of *Lilo & Stitch*. Popcorn, drinks, and fun for all ages!

STEAMed Apple Fun

Monday, September 29 at 5:30 pm

Southwest Branch Library

Join us as we explore the science behind this tasty fruit, learn how apples grow, and even do some hands-on experiments. Roll up your sleeves and make a tasty apple recipe.



Apple Tasting

Tuesday, September 30 at 4 pm

Main Library in Newton

Hone your observation skills as we taste and compare different apple varieties!



TEENS 12-18

Teen Junk Journaling

Friday, September 12 at 4 pm

Main Library in Newton

Turn trash into treasure with some hands-on junk journaling!



Teen Open Studio

Thursday, September 18

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.

Volunteers: DIY Pet Toys

Tuesday, September 30 at 6 pm

Conover Branch Library

Create fun toys for shelter pets and earn one volunteer hour! All finished toys will be donated to Catawba County Animal Services to help enrich the lives of animals waiting for their forever homes.



ADULTS

Zumba Mondays!

Mondays at 6 pm

(No class on September 1)

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.

Typing Tuesdays

Tuesdays at 11 am

Main Library in Newton

Join us to begin your typing journey or increase your typing speed and skills. To register, please call 828-465-9565.



Gentle Flow Yoga

Fridays at 11 am

Sherrills Ford-Terrell Branch Library

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

Mindful Movement

Fridays at 3 pm

St. Stephens Branch Library

Low impact exercise and gentle stretching for all ages.

Career Center

Wednesday, September 3

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.

Computer Basics

Friday, September 5 at 4 pm

Main Library in Newton

Learn terminology and basic skills for using a computer.



DIY – Fabric Flower Sign

Saturday, September 6 at 2 pm

St. Stephens Branch Library

Make your own DIY fabric flower craft in a cozy, homespun style.

Got Resume Builder

Join us to learn how to create a polished, professional resume using GotResumeBuilder.

Tuesday, September 9 at 3 pm

Sherrills Ford-Terrell Branch Library

Tuesday, September 30 at 6:30 pm

St. Stephens Branch Library

Mystery Mavens

Tuesday, September 9 at 6:30 pm

Sherrills Ford-Terrell Branch Library

Join us for a lively discussion on *The Winemaker's Wife* by Kristen Harmel. New members welcome!

Chair Yoga

Wednesdays, September 10 & 17

at 11:30 am

Sherrills Ford-Terrell Branch Library

A certified yoga instructor will lead us through a beginner-friendly class, using a chair for balance.

Sourdough 101 with True Cut Ranch

Wednesday, September 10 at 6 pm

Claremont Branch Library

Learn the basics of sourdough bread and valuable tips for achieving the perfect loaf. Bring a clean jar so you can take some starter home!

Needle Felting

Thursday, September 11 at 4 pm

Sherrills Ford-Terrell Branch Library

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



Adult Children of Aging Parents:

Creating Balance as a Caregiver

Thursday, September 11 at 5:30 pm

Main Library in Newton

This month's program will expand your perspectives about caregiver guilt and other emotions and the importance of proactively managing your situations and boundaries.

Garden Volunteer Days

Saturdays, September 13 & 27

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. All ages and experience levels are welcome.

Shelf-Care Book Club

Monday, September 15 at 6 pm

St. Stephens Branch Library

Treat yourself to the best kind of self-care: a good book! Join us for a discussion of *Great Big Beautiful Life* by Emily Henry. All are welcome!

Mountain View Book Club

Monday, September 15 at 6 pm

Southwest Branch Library

Join our discussion on *First Lie Wins* by Ashley Elston. All are welcome.

Get Vote Ready

Tuesday, September 16

from 9 am to 6 pm

Main Library in Newton

Take advantage of National Voter Registration Day to register for the first time, update your existing registration, check your registration for correctness, and find out your precinct location.

Introduction to Candid-Foundation Directory Online

Tuesday, September 16 at 10 am

Catawba County United Way

The library offers access to the Candid-FDO grants database, but it's helpful to know a few tips and tricks so that you can make the most of your time searching for possible funders. This workshop is open to employees or volunteers of any nonprofit. To register, please call 828-465-8665.



Learn About Using ChatGPT

Tuesday, September 16 at 2 pm
Sherrills Ford-Terrell Branch Library
Explore creative and professional uses and discover what to watch out for when using Artificial Intelligence (AI).

First Time Homebuyer Workshop

Tuesday, September 16 at 6 pm
Conover Branch Library
Learn about the home buying process, down payment assistance, credit repair, and more!

Keeping Kids Safe Online

Tuesday, September 16 at 6:30 pm
St. Stephens Branch Library
Learn how to protect your children in today's digital world through online safety, parental controls and how to guide your child's safe use of the internet and social media.

Kitchen Creations for the Golden Years

Wednesday, September 17 at 2 pm
Sherrills Ford-Terrell Branch Library
Learn practical, accessible strategies for healthy eating. To register, please call 828-328-2269 by September 10th.

Smartphone Photos: Print With Princh

Thursday, September 18 at 3 pm
Southwest Branch Library
Learn how to use Princh, our easy printing app, and learn how to save your pictures to digital storage.

Library Card Sign Ups with LRU

Thursday, September 18 from 3 - 5:30 pm
St. Stephens Branch Library
Learn more about and sign up for a library card to the Carl A. Rudisill Library at Lenoir-Rhyne University.

Newton Book Club

Thursday, September 18 at 5 pm
Carpe Crustum in Downtown Newton
Join us to talk about *Becoming Madame Secretary* by Stephanie Dray.

Home Maintenance 101

Saturday, September 20 at 10 am
St. Stephens Branch Library
Main Library in Newton
For homeowners wanting to get a handle on home maintenance, this class will cover plumbing, electrical, appliance, water heater/HVAC, and exterior maintenance.

Pantry Prep: Dry Soup Mix

Saturday, September 20 at 1 pm
Main Library in Newton
Get prepped for those cozy fall evenings with dry soup mixes and create your own mix to take home for when you need a warm pick me up.

Trivia Night

Monday, September 22 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!

Books Between Friends Book Club

Tuesday, September 23 at 6 pm
Claremont Branch Library
Join our discussion of *The Last Letter* by Rebecca Yarros. All are welcome.

Catawba County Genealogical Society

Tuesday, September 23 at 6:30 pm
Main Library in Newton, Rhodes Room
Check out new materials available for research during this month's meeting. All are welcome.

Creative Outlet: Fall Bouquets

Wednesday, September 24 at 6 pm
Main Library in Newton
Join us to create beautiful paper flowers out of cupcake liners!

DIY Paper Mâché Pumpkins

Friday, September 26 at 11 am
Conover Branch Library
Join us to make decorative paper mâché pumpkins, perfect for autumn.

Qi Gong

Saturday, September 27 at 9:30 am
Main Library in Newton
Harness the power of breath and movement to create balance within the body.

Making Mochi

Tuesday, September 30 at 5 pm
Sherrills Ford-Terrell Branch Library
Join us in making mochi as we explore different ways to enjoy this traditional Japanese snack.

LIBRARY TO GO

Music on Main

Thursday, September 11 from 6 - 9 pm
Downtown Newton
Library to Go will be providing children's activities during this fun downtown event.

Valley Hills Mall

Friday, September 12 at 10 am
1960 US Hwy 70 SE, Hickory
Join us in the Community Room on the lower level across from the Children's Place for storytime at 10 am and outside by the van until 1 pm for checking out books!

Catawba Valley Pride Festival

Saturday, September 13
from 10 am - 3 pm
1670 Southwest Blvd Newton
Join us at Catawba Farms to participate in library activities for all ages.

Carolina Makers Market

Saturday, September 27
from 10 am - 4 pm
Downtown Newton
Join us for a community art project and crafts for children to make!



catawba county
library system
MAKING. LIVING. BETTER.

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
828.428.2712
828.466.6827
828.466.6818
828.466.6821