

Library Connections

DECEMBER 2025



catawba county
library system

MAKING. LIVING. BETTER.

828.465.8665



www.catawbacountync.gov/library



SHORTER WAITS! MORE BOOKS!

THE LIBBY APP JUST GOT BETTER!

The Libby App is growing in exciting ways, and the NC Digital Library is offering more benefits than ever to Catawba County Library cardholders. As a founding member of the statewide consortium, we partner with 22 other libraries in sharing a rich collection of eBooks and audiobooks—plus we offer something extra: *an exclusive Advantage collection just for Catawba County patrons.*

This Advantage collection means much shorter wait times. For example, the audiobook *My Friends* by Fredrik Backman has nearly 700 holds across the consortium, but only 11 from Catawba County—and with our Advantage copies, our patrons now go straight to the front of the line.

We are continually adding new titles, purchasing permanent copies when possible, and adding short-term licenses to keep wait times low. With Libby's growing catalog of always-available titles, we can bring our entire digital strategy into one seamless platform.

As part of this shift, we will be sunsetting Hoopla on December 31, 2025, allowing us to reinvest those funds into expanding Libby's offerings.

With Libby, patrons can check out up to six items at a time and enjoy access to many major authors, including favorites that weren't available on Hoopla like Nora Roberts, James Patterson, Fredrik Backman, and more.

Right now, patrons can explore more than 116,900 titles in the NC Digital Library on Libby, including over 66,000 audiobooks and 22,000 eBooks.

Bestsellers like *The Women* by Kristin Hannah and *Onyx Storm* by Rebecca Yarros are just a tap away, along with a rapidly growing collection of Frieda McFadden titles. If you don't see what you want, Libby's "Notify Me" feature makes it easy to request it.

Libby's new "Inspire Me" tool offers personalized reading suggestions, and features like adjustable text settings, offline downloads, Kindle compatibility, and seamless syncing make it a one-stop digital reading experience.



We are thrilled to offer such a vibrant, user-friendly platform and look forward to continuing to grow our digital library for the Catawba County community.

THE LIBRARY WILL BE CLOSED WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 24 THROUGH FRIDAY, DECEMBER 26 FOR THE CHRISTMAS 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

**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.

Pre-K STEAM

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

Tuesday, December 2 at 1 pm

Tuesday, December 16 at 1 pm

Southwest Branch Library

Friday, December 12 at 11 am

Tuesday, December 23 at 12:30 pm

St. Stephens Branch Library



Please visit or call the library to register.

Santa Visit

Monday, December 8
from 5 - 8 pm

Sherrills Ford-Terrell Branch Library
Celebrate the season with pictures and telling Santa about your wish list. Fun for the whole family. To register for your time slot, please visit tinyurl.com/SFTSanta2025.

Sponsored by the Friends of the Sherrills Ford-Terrell Branch Library.



Stories with Santa/Cuentos con Santa

Thursday, December 18 at 5:30 pm
Main Library in Newton

It's the most wonderful time of the year! Join us for a bilingual holiday story, crafts, and a special visit with the big man himself! Fun for the whole family. Holiday pjs encouraged.



Noon Years Eve Toddler Rave

Wednesday, December 31 at 11:30 am
Main Library in Newton

Ring in the New Year twelve hours early with this rave-inspired family friendly dance party for the preschool crowd!

CHILDREN 6-11

Paws to Read

Tuesday, December 2, 9, & 16
by appointment

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



Christmas Cheer! Ozobots Are Here!

Tuesday, December 9 at 4 pm

Main Library in Newton

Screen-free beginner coding meets Christmas fun in this festive robotics challenge!

Stuffed Animal Sleepover

Friday, December 12 at 4:30 pm -

Saturday, December 13 at 10 am

Maiden Branch Library

Your stuffed animal is invited to sleepover at the library! Read books and fill out the permission slip before leaving your stuffed animal for a night of fun. Join your library friends and stuffed animals for snacks and a video of the night's adventures the next morning!

Candy Cane Ornaments

Saturday, December 13

from 9:30 am - 1:30 pm

Conover Branch Library

Join us for a touch of holiday fun as kids create colorful candy cane ornaments with beads! It's a cheerful craft to celebrate the season together.

Festive Films Friday

Friday, December 19

from 10 am - 5 pm

Southwest Branch Library

Cozy up with a cup of cocoa and a couple of cookies while watching a variety of holiday-themed movies.

Perler Bead Club

Friday, December 19 at 4 pm

Sherrills Ford-Terrell Branch Library
Make designs using small beads that are fused together with heat.

Polar Express Day

Saturday, December 20 at 10 am

St. Stephens Branch Library

Join us for a magical journey as we read the book, watch the movie, and enjoy a special snack. Pjs encouraged!

Winter Break Movie Bash

Saturday, December 27 at 10 am

St. Stephens Branch Library

Take a break from the cold and join us for a double feature of *Elio* and *Freakier Friday*! Popcorn and cozy vibes included.

Lego Club

Wednesday, December 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 holiday lego building challenge.

Homeschool Hangout

Thursday, December 4 at 11 am

Conover Branch Library

Meet other homeschoolers while enjoying an activity & coloring pages.

Homeschool Holiday DIY

Tuesday, December 9 at 1 pm

Southwest Branch Library

School-age participants are invited to craft festive, seasonal projects that are perfect to keep or give as gifts.

TEENS 12-18

Santa's Workshop: Teen DIY Edition

Monday, December 8 at 5:30 pm
Southwest Branch Library

Get creative at our DIY night. From crafting with epoxy & molds to making your own painted glass ornaments using fun techniques, it's the perfect way to chill, create, and have fun.

R

Teen Open Studio

Thursday, December 11
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.

Mochi Making Class

Tuesday, December 16 at 6 pm
St. Stephens Branch Library

Learn how to make this delicious Japanese treat from scratch! Mix, shape, and taste your own mochi creations.

R

Teen Holiday Movie Hangout

Tuesday, December 23 at 4 pm
Main Library in Newton

Get in the holiday spirit with hot chocolate and a craft during our festive movie day just for teens!



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.

NC Works

Wednesdays from 1:30 - 4:30 pm
Sherrills Ford-Terrell Branch Library
Get individual help in 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.

Print Making with the Hickory Museum of Art

Monday, December 1 at 5 pm
Sherrills Ford-Terrell Branch Library
Learn the art of print making with The Hickory Museum of Art.

R

Bullet Journaling 101

Monday, December 1 at 6 pm
St. Stephens Branch Library
Learn the basics of bullet journaling - a flexible, creative system for tracking tasks, goals, and more.

Happy 250th Birthday, Jane Austen!

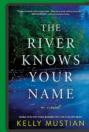
Main Library in Newton
All Janeites are cordially invited to celebrate the birthday of one of the world's most beloved authors (period costumes welcome):

Saturday, December 13 at 2 pm
Afternoon Whist: a Regency Game

Wednesday, December 17 at 11 am
Make an Austen-Era Reticule (Purse)

R

DECEMBER BOOK CLUBS



The Station Book Club
Wednesday, December 3 at 10 am
Conover Branch
The River Knows Your Name
by Kelly Mustian

Mystery Mavens
Tuesday, December 9 at 6:30 pm
Sherrills Ford-Terrell Branch
The Hunter by Tana French



Shelf-Care Book Club
Monday, December 15 at 6 pm
St. Stephens Branch
The Most Wonderful Crime of the Year by Ally Carter



Mountain View Book Club
Monday, December 15 at 6 pm
Southwest Branch
Winter Garden by Kristin Hannah



Newton Book Club
Thursday, December 18 at 5 pm
Carpe Crustum
Margo's got Money Troubles
by Rufi Thorpe

Silent Book Club
Tuesday, December 16 at 6 pm
Conover Branch
Enjoy a book, hot cocoa, and live music.

Guided Hike at Mountain Creek Park

Friday, December 5 at 10:30 am
Mountain Creek Park

Explore the beauty of winter as we take a guided hike through the park. Wear comfortable shoes and warm layers, and don't forget to bring water.

Ornament Extravaganza

Saturday, December 6 at 10 am
St. Stephens Branch Library
Get in the holiday spirit by dropping in to create your own festive ornaments to decorate your tree or give as gifts.

Adult Board Game Afternoon

Saturday, December 6 at 2 pm
St. Stephens Branch Library
Play fun games and meet new people! Games include Settlers of Catan, Scout, So Clover, and Cascadia. Light refreshments provided.

SkillMill

Monday, December 8 at 6 pm
St. Stephens Branch Library
Calling all future tradespeople, apprentices, and home DIY'ers! Learn about SkillMill, the free online platform that offers comprehensive lessons on skilled trades.

Blood Drive: Give the Gift of Life

Tuesday, December 9 from 12 - 5 pm
St. Stephens Branch Library
Donors will receive a free sweatshirt and a gift card as a thank you for helping save lives. Help make a difference this holiday season!

Adult DIY Wooden Ornaments

Tuesday, December 9 at 6 pm
Conover Branch Library
Paint, decorate, and take home as an unique piece for your tree or to give as a gift.

R

Chair Yoga

Wednesday, December 10 at 11:30 am
Sherrills Ford-Terrell Branch Library
A certified yoga instructor will lead us through a beginner-friendly, chair yoga class, while seated or using a chair for balance.

R

Please visit or call the library to register.

Hiring Event

Thursday, December 11 from 1 - 4 pm
Main Library in Newton
In partnership with the Goodwill Career Center, we are pleased to offer a career fair and hiring event to connect area jobseekers with local employers seeking new hires. Use our computers to apply on the spot.

Holly Jolly Crafternoon

Thursday, December 11 at 3 pm
Southwest Branch Library
Join us for a fun and festive afternoon of crafting! DIY holiday ornaments and crafts to keep or gift, all while enjoying light refreshments and a cozy, creative atmosphere.

Needle Felting

Thursday, December 11 at 4 pm
Sherrills Ford-Terrell Branch Library
Explore the textile art of needle felting as we create a holiday wreath.

Adult Children of Aging Parents: Advanced Planning Forms

Thursday, December 11 at 5:30 pm
Main Library in Newton
Learn about advance care planning, preparing documents, and Living Wills & Health Care Power of Attorney.

Gentle Flow Yoga

Friday, December 12 at 11 am
Sherrills Ford-Terrell Branch Library
A certified yoga instructor will lead us through a beginner-friendly, gentle flow yoga class.

Holiday Cards with Canva

Friday, December 12 at 11:30 am
Main Library in Newton
Learn how to design your holiday cards using Canva! To register please call 828-465-9565.

DIY Keychains

Saturday, December 13 at 11 am
St. Stephens Branch Library
Create a personalized keychain that fits your style: cute, colorful, minimal, or bold. Led by Tabitha Price of Beyond Creations.

Coffee & Technology for Veterans

Monday, December 15 at 9 am
Main Library in Newton
Veterans are welcome to drop in for free coffee & donuts, connecting with fellow vets, and friendly tech help.

Holiday Cards with Canva

Tuesday, December 16 at 10:30 am
Long View Town Hall
2404 1st Ave SW, Hickory
Join our Digital Navigators in Long View to learn how to design your holiday cards using Canva!

Kwanzaa Celebration

Tuesday, December 16 from 2 - 6 pm
Main Library in Newton
All are welcome to a fun and educational Kwanzaa event featuring storyteller Julian Gooding!
2 pm: Community Arts & Crafts
3 pm: Food Way Lecture and Demo
4 pm: Kwanzaa History Segment
5 pm: Kwanzaa Storytelling

Bookish Brick Art

Tuesday, December 16 at 5:30 pm
Sherrills Ford-Terrell Branch Library
Our gardens are slumbering for the season, but bookish art never sleeps! Join us as we transform a brick into your very favorite book.



Deck the Cupcakes DIY

Thursday, December 18 at 3 pm
Southwest Branch Library
Festive cupcake decorating is in session! Create festive designs using two types of frosting.

Steeped in Mindfulness

Friday, December 19 at 11 am
Mountain Creek Park
Join us for a cozy tea tasting to slow down and connect with others before heading out on a mindfulness nature walk.

Holiday Trivia & Music Bingo

Monday, December 22 at 6 pm
St. Stephens Branch Library
Join us for an evening of holiday fun, laughter, and friendly competition!

LIBRARY TO GO

City of Conover Christmas in the Park

Tuesday, December 2 from 6 - 8 pm
Conover Downtown Park

Newton Light Up the Town

Friday, December 5 from 5:30 - 9 pm
Downtown Newton



Catawba Valley Christmas Show

Saturday, December 6
from 9 am - 2 pm
Catawba Farms

Merry Maiden

Thursday, December 11 from 5 - 8 pm
Maiden Town Hall

Valley Hills Mall Visit & Storytime

Friday, December 12
from 10 am - 1 pm
Valley Hills Mall

Long View Visit

Monday, December 15
from 9 am to 12:30 pm
Long View Town Hall
2404 1st Ave SW, Hickory
Join us for library card sign-ups, check-out materials, programs for adults, and storytimes for families.



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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
828.428.2712
828.466.6827
828.466.6818
828.466.6821