

Library Connections

JANUARY 2026



catawba county
library system

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• connect
• explore
• grow

STRONGER BY DESIGN

HELP SHAPE THE FUTURE OF YOUR LIBRARY

The Catawba County Library is starting the new year with **Stronger by Design**, a strategic planning project guided by consultants from Library Strategies and supported by a community steering committee. Our current plan ends in 2026, and this new process will help us make sure our services continue to meet the changing needs of our residents.

A lot has changed since our last plan, and we want to hear directly from you as we plan for the future. Throughout January, our consultants will be gathering feedback from people across Catawba County through surveys, focus groups, one-on-one interviews, and simple on-site activities like feedback boards and wish trees. Library staff will also complete a survey to help strengthen our programs, services, and communication. All of this information will guide the creation of a five-year strategic plan including clear, realistic goals.

Our county-wide community survey is now open through the end of January, and we hope you'll take a few minutes to share your ideas and hopes for your library. Everyone who completes the survey may enter a drawing for a \$25 Walmart gift card. Your input is an essential part of this work.

Together, we're building a shared vision for a more responsive library, designed with and for our community.



SCAN ME TO TAKE THE SURVEY



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library system

This project is supported by grant funds from the Institute of Museum and Library Services under the provisions of the Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) as administered by the State Library of North Carolina, a division of the NC Department of Natural and Cultural Resources (IMLS grant number LS-259195-OLS-25).

THE LIBRARY WILL BE CLOSED JANUARY 1 AND 19 IN OBSERVANCE OF THE NEW YEAR AND MLK JR. DAY.

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

Saturday, January 17 at 10 am

St. Stephens Branch Library



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.

Thursday, January 8 at 10 am

Saturday, January 24 at 10 am

Main Library in Newton

Wednesday, January 14 at 10:30 am

Thursday, January 29 at 10:30 am

Sherrills Ford-Terrell Branch Library

Mindful Musical Storytime

Wednesday, January 14 at 10 am

St. Stephens Branch Library

Preschool Storytime with reading readiness. Join us for songs, yoga, and stories designed to prepare your preschooler to learn.



CHILDREN 6-11

PAWS to Read

Tuesday, January 6, 13, & 20

St. Stephens Branch Library

Tuesday, January 20

Conover Branch Library

Encourage your young reader through reading with a certified therapy dog. To schedule an appointment, please call 828-466-6821 for St. Stephens or 828-466-5108 for Conover.

**Family Literacy Night:
Decodable Books**

Tuesday, January 6 at 6 pm

Conover Branch Library

Tuesday, January 13 at 4:30 pm

Sherrills Ford-Terrell Branch Library

Learn about decodable books, carefully crafted stories that match the phonics skills your child is learning in school or at home, acting as a bridge between learning the alphabet and reading real stories.

Lego Club

Wednesday, January 7 at 10 am

Maiden Branch Library

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

Master Chef Jr: Gnocchi

Thursday, January 22 at 4 pm

Main Library in Newton

Join our Master Chef Jr. cooking experience! Learn how to make your own gnocchi and then work as a team to create a finished dish!



Magic Fizzy Art

Saturday, January 24 at 1 pm

St. Stephens Branch Library

Unleash your child's creativity with a magical, messy art potion that blends chemistry and imagination.



Solving Secret Codes

Wednesday, January 28 at 4 pm

Main Library in Newton

Become a cryptographer, a person who creates and solves secret codes, and create your own coded messages!

TEENS 12-18

Tribute Treats & Cocoa

Monday, January 5 at 2 pm

Southwest Branch Library

Step into the arena (from the comfort of the library) and join us for a screening of The Hunger Games (PG-13). Build your own ultimate creation at our Hot Cocoa Bar, perfect for teens who love adventure, chocolate, and cozy hangouts. May the cocoa be ever in your flavor!

Teen Game Night

Friday, January 9 at 4 pm

Main Library in Newton

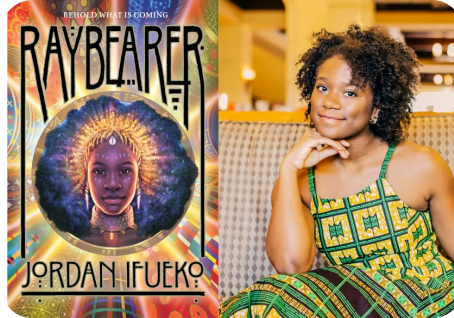
It's game on for an awesome afternoon with our Nintendo Switch consoles and tabletop board games!

NEW Book Club Internacional

Monday, January 12 at 5 pm

St. Stephens Branch Library

Explore the world with other teens through authors born outside of the US. January's book is *Raybearer* by Jordan Ifueko. Light refreshments provided.



Teen Open Studio

Thursday, January 15

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.

Print Making with The Hickory Museum of Art



Monday, January 26 at 5 pm

Sherrills Ford-Terrell Branch Library

Learn the art of print making with The Hickory Museum of Art.

ADULTS

Zumba Mondays!

Mondays at 6 pm

(No class on January 19)

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 individualized help 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.

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.

Digital Resolutions

Fridays at 11 am

Main Library in Newton

Explore new ways to stay organized, efficient, and confident online.

January 9: Calendar & Reminders

Plan Your Year

January 16: Digital Declutter

Clean Up Your Devices for a Fresh Start

January 23: Mastering your Inbox

Organizing Your E-mail

January 30: Budgeting Apps 101

Managing Finances Digitally



Please visit or call the library to register.

JANUARY BOOK CLUBS



Mystery Mavens

Tuesday, January 13 at 6:30 pm

Sherrills Ford-Terrell Branch

Nightshade by Michael Connelly



Shelf-Care Book Club

Monday, January 26 at 6 pm

St. Stephens Branch

Atmosphere by Taylor Jenkins Reid



Books Between Friends

Tuesday, January 27 at 6 pm

Claremont Branch

In Order to Live by Yeonmi Park

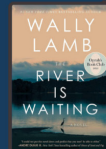


Newton Book Club

Thursday, January 15 at 5 pm

Carpe Crustum

Parents Weekend by Alex Finlay



Mountain View Book Club

Monday, January 26 at 6 pm

Southwest Branch

The River is Waiting by Wally Lamb

Adult Board Game Afternoon

Saturday, January 3 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.

Coffee and Tech for Vets

Monday, January 5 at 9 am

Main Library in Newton

Veterans are welcome to drop in for free coffee and friendly tech help. Bring any device, meet the team, and connect with fellow vets. No appointment needed.

Bullet Journaling 101

Monday, January 5 at 6 pm

St. Stephens Branch Library

Get organized your way! Learn the basics of bullet journaling—a flexible, creative system for tracking tasks, goals, and more. Perfect for beginners. This month's focus will be on yearly goals and reading journals! Bring your own journal or use one of ours. All other supplies provided.

Scam Proof Your New Year

Tuesday, January 6 at 2 pm

Long View Town Hall

2404 1st Ave SW, Hickory

Stay connected, stay safe. Scam Proof Your New Year will show you how to spot scams, stop spam, and protect your identity in today's digital world.

Techs-pert Help

Tuesday, January 6 at 2 pm

Southwest Branch Library

Did you get a new gadget this holiday season? Whether it's a tablet, computer, phone, or something else, we've got you covered! Our library tech experts (techs-perts!) are here to help! We'll provide one-on-one help to get you up and running.

Bob Ross Art Night

Tuesday, January 6 at 5:30pm

Sherrills Ford-Terrell Branch Library

Embodying the spirit of the late and great Bob Ross, join us as we have fun making art.



Goal Setting for 2026

Tuesday, January 6 at 6 pm

St. Stephens Branch Library

Considering a New Year's resolution? Learn the skills, tools, and mindsets that work to win in 2026.

Chair Yoga

Wednesdays, January 7 & 21

at 11:30 am

Sherrills Ford-Terrell Branch Library

A certified yoga instructor will lead us through a beginner-friendly, gentle chair yoga class. Chair yoga allows you to perform yoga poses while seated or using a chair for balance.

Career Center

Wednesday, January 7 from 1 - 4 pm

St. Stephens Branch Library

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 the library or drop in as you are able.

Adult Children of Aging Parents:

VA Programs and Benefits

Thursday, January 8 at 5:30 pm

Main Library in Newton

This ACAP-Hickory/Foothills program is designed to inform participants about the federally funded Veterans Affairs programs and services to which their family members may have earned with their service in the Armed Forces. Such services may be associated with medical insurance coverage, financial assistance, or accessibility assistance. With their own eligibility criteria, distinct from other programs, this information is essential for caregivers to be informed advocates for their aging parents' care.

Tie Dye Flannel

Saturday, January 10 at 1 pm

Main Library in Newton

Who says Tie Dye is only for T-shirts? Bring in the flannel item of your choice and we'll show you the easiest way to do Tie Dye you've ever seen. Choose up to seven colors, team colors, or an ombre of a single color.

Needle Felting

Thursday, January 15 at 4:30

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.

Get Organized in the New Year

Thursday, January 15 at 6 pm

Main Library in Newton

Are you looking for the right tools to help you make and keep those New Year resolutions? Look no further! Your digital navigators are here to share some of their favorite online resources for planning and organization.

Lincoln-Catawba Songwriters Alliance

Tuesday, January 20 at 6 pm

Southwest Branch Library

New Year, new groove! Grab your instrument and bring a song to share (old or new). A great way for musicians to connect, create, share, and enjoy music.

Meet Libby

Wednesday, January 21 at 2 pm

Sherrills Ford-Terrell Branch Library

The Libby App is growing in exciting ways. Learn about NC Digital Library's new benefits available for Catawba County Library cardholders.

Supercharge Your Interview!

Thursday, January 22 at 2 pm

St. Stephens Branch Library

Learn tips on how to ace a job interview during this live workshop, presented virtually by NC Works.

Artificial Intelligence: Tips and Tricks

Tuesday, January 27 at 6 pm

Online via Zoom

In person at Main Library in Newton

Sherrills Ford-Terrell Branch Library

St. Stephens Branch Library

Southwest Branch Library

AI is in the news almost every day.

If you've been curious about AI but haven't used it yet, join us in person or online to learn some tips and tricks for using AI. We will also compare ChatGPT, Lumo, and Gemini.

To register for the Zoom link, please visit tinyurl.com/CCLSAITIPS

Catawba County Genealogical Society

Tuesday, January 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.

LIBRARY TO GO

Long View Visit

Monday, January 26

from 9 am - 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

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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