

Library Connections

FEBRUARY 2026



catawba county
library system

MAKING. LIVING. BETTER.

828.465.8665



www.catawbacountync.gov/library



FALL IN LOVE WITH READING AT YOUR LIBRARY

February is the season of hearts, chocolates, and grand gestures...but there's another kind of love worth celebrating, *the love of reading*.

While the Catawba County Library proudly builds community, supports healthy living, and provides welcoming spaces to gather, reading remains at the very heart of what we do. It's how we explore new ideas, understand different experiences, and keep our minds curious and engaged. Whether you're a devoted page-turner or someone who hasn't picked up a book in a while, this is your invitation to fall back in love with reading.

To make it even more fun, the library kicks off each year with a new **Adult Reading Challenge**, and 2026's challenge is a Bingo-style game filled with creative, playful prompts. Read a book set in Appalachia. Pick a story with a nosy neighbor. Try something recommended by a librarian. Tackle that book at the bottom of your to be read pile. Complete one row of Bingo and you'll earn a prize: a free book from the Friends of the Library book sale. It's low-pressure, high-fun, and designed to help you discover new favorites along the way. You can sign up through Beanstack at catawbacountync.beanstack.org/reader365 or pick up a paper log at any library location.



Speaking of book sales, our **Friends of the Library** groups have expanded in-house book sales to six locations across the county. You can now browse discounted books and DVDs during regular library hours at the Main Library in Newton, and the Claremont, Conover, Sherrills Ford-Terrell, Southwest, and St. Stephens branches. These sales are full of surprises, bargains, and hidden gems. As an added bonus, there will be a clearance sale on Thursday, February 5 from 10 am – 1 pm at the Main Library in Newton. Proceeds go right back into supporting library programs and resources for the community, so every purchase gives twice.

If you enjoy sharing your reading life with others, the library hosts seven adult book clubs across the county. There is a group for every mood and genre. Teens are invited to join the fun as well through our dedicated Teen Book Club Internacional, creating space for high school readers to connect, discuss, and discover together. These clubs are as much about connection as they are about books, offering conversation, laughter, and the shared joy of a great story. Dates and times are available on our online calendar at catawbacountync.gov/library.

Reading strengthens our brains, reduces stress, builds empathy, and keeps curiosity alive. It can be an adventure, a comfort, a challenge, or a spark. ***This February, and all year long, your library is here to help you rediscover the magic of a good book.***

ARE YOU UP FOR THE CHALLENGE?

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, February 7 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



Pre-K STEAM

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

Friday, February 6 at 10 am

Maiden Branch Library

Friday, February 13 at 10 am

Conover Branch Library

Saturday, February 21 at 10 am

Claremont Branch Library



CHILDREN 6-11

Homeschool Hangout

Thursday, February 5 at 11 am

Conover Branch Library

Meet other homeschoolers while enjoying an activity and coloring pages.

PAWS to Read

Encourage your young reader through reading with a certified therapy dog. To schedule an appointment, please call 828-466-6821 for St. Stephens and 828-465-8665 for Newton.

Tuesday, February 3, 10 & 17

St. Stephens Branch Library

Monday, February 9

Tuesday, February 24

Main Library in Newton

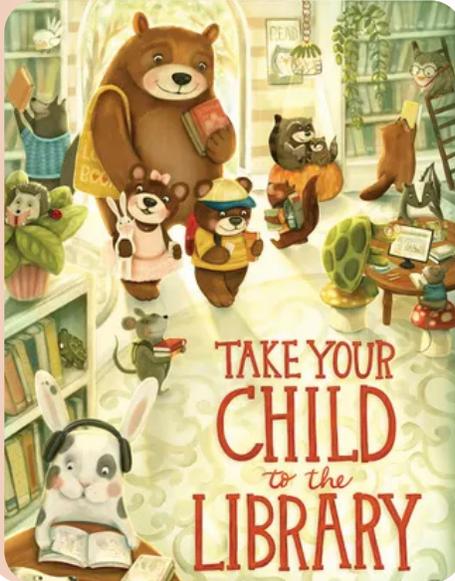


Take Your Child to the Library Day

Saturday, February 7 from 9 am - 5 pm

St. Stephens Branch Library

Join us at the library for crafts, interactive displays, and to even help solve a mystery. These self-guided activities will help families explore the entire library.



Homeschool STEAM: NUTS for Science

Tuesday, February 10 at 1 pm

Southwest Branch Library

Join us for this hands-on science workshop highlighting the achievements of George Washington Carver and the incredible uses for the humble peanut!

Winter Shrinky Dinks

Monday, February 16 at 1 pm

St. Stephens Branch Library

Design your own charms or keepsakes, then watch them shrink into adorable creations.

Lego Club

Friday, February 20 at 10 am

Maiden Branch Library

Build, create, and play as we explore with Lego. Enjoy free play and take on our Lego challenge: become arctic explorers building igloos and vehicles to help us navigate snowy terrain.

Space STEAM

Thursday, February 26 at 4 pm

Main Library in Newton

Combine art and science in this hands-on exploration of our solar system!



Family Literacy Day: Decodable Books

Saturday, February 28 at 11 am

Southwest Branch Library

Learn about decodable books, stories that match the phonics skills your child is learning in school or at home.



TEENS 12-18

Teen DIY Heart Pillows

Thursday, February 5 at 4 pm
Main Library in Newton



No sewing required in this fun DIY project perfect for the month of February!

NEW Book Club Internacional

Monday, February 9 at 5 pm
St. Stephens Branch Library

Explore the world with other teens through authors born outside of the US. February's book is *Diary of a Young Girl* by Anne Frank. Light refreshments provided.

Glow Up: K-Beauty Skincare for Teens

Friday, February 13 at 3 pm
Southwest Branch Library



Learn the secrets of Korean skincare and how to get glowing, healthy skin! This hands-on class is designed for teens, and covers tips, routines, and fun K-Beauty techniques.



Teen Open Studio

Thursday, February 19
from 3:30 – 5:30 pm

Main Library in Newton

Whatever your creative outlet, enjoy this opportunity to create in a laid-back, welcoming studio atmosphere.

VolunTEENS:

Library Love Letters

Tuesday, February 24 at 6 pm
Conover Branch Library

Earn volunteer hours while brightening someone's day by writing encouraging messages for library patrons.



ADULTS

Zumba Mondays!

Mondays at 6 pm

February 2 at Main Library in Newton
February 9, 16 & 23 at FUMC Newton Fellowship Hall

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.

Yoga at the Park

Fridays at 11 am

Mountain Creek Park

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

Coffee and Tech for Vets

Monday, February 2 at 9 am

Main Library in Newton

Veterans are welcome to drop in for free coffee and friendly tech help.

Stick around to connect with fellow vets - no appointment needed.

Bullet Journaling 101

Monday, February 2 at 6 pm

St. Stephens Branch Library

Get organized your way! Learn the basics of bullet journaling. This month's focus will be meal planning.

Beaded House Plant

Tuesday, February 3 at 5:30 pm

Sherrills Ford-Terrell Branch Library

No green thumb required to keep this plant alive! Join us to create your very own beaded houseplant.



Please visit or call the library to register.

FEBRUARY BOOK CLUBS



The Station Book Club

Wednesday, February 4 at 10 am
Conover Branch

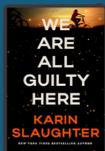
First Lie Wins by Ashley Elston

Mystery Mavens

Tuesday, February 10 at 6:30 pm

Sherrills Ford-Terrell Branch

Heartwood by Amity Gaige



Shelf-Care Book Club

Monday, February 16 at 6 pm

St. Stephens Branch

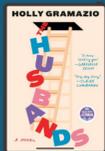
We Are All Guilty Here by Karin Slaughter

Mountain View Book Club

Monday, February 16 at 6 pm

Southwest Branch

My Friends by Fredrick Backman



Newton Book Club

Thursday, February 19 at 5 pm

Carpe Crustum

The Husbands by Holly Gramazio

Book Speed Dating

Tuesday, February 3 at 6 pm

St. Stephens Branch Library

This fast-paced program will help patrons get to know over a dozen different books in a single hour. Take your new book crush home after the event. Light refreshments served.



Speak Computer to Me

Tuesday, February 3 at 6 pm

Main Library in Newton

Learn a little about Binary, the language of computers, and make a fun binary language Valentine card.



Friends of the Library Book Sale

Thursday, February 5

from 10 am – 1 pm

Main Library in Newton

Build your personal library and help support library programs at the same time by shopping the FOL Book Sale!



Needle Felting

Thursday, February 5 at 4 pm

Sherrills Ford-Terrell Branch Library

Explore the textile art of needle felting as we create a Valentine sugar cookie.



The Art of Paper Lace Making

Thursday, February 5 at 5:30 pm

Main Library in Newton

Join us for a hands-on exploration of paper lace making, and create your own intricate lace patterns to put on a card, bookmark, or hang on a wall.

Pride & Prejudice Galentine's Event

Saturday, February 7 at 11 am

Main Library in Newton



Join friends old and new for a cozy Pride & Prejudice watch party. Make crafts, sip on mocktails, and enjoy snacks and tea.

Adult Board Game Afternoon

Saturday, February 7 at 2 pm

St. Stephens Branch Library

Learn how to play fun games while meeting new people! Games include Settlers of Catan, Scout, So Clover, Cascadia, Sequence, and Phase 10. Light refreshments provided.

Roll Into Heart Health: DIY Eggrolls

Monday, February 9 at 6 pm

Southwest Branch Library



Join us for a fun and informative cooking program featuring heart-healthy egg rolls. Enjoy a brief demo, followed by hands-on practice.

Tango 101

Tuesday, February 10 at 6 pm

Conover Branch Library



Discover the elegance and romance of tango as Ballroom Instructor Nathan Ahlgrim leads us through its timeless steps - perfect for couples & adventurous solo dancers.



Creative Outlet: Image Transfer Votives

Wednesday, February 11 at 6 pm

Main Library in Newton



Create a simple image transfer to a glass votive. All supplies provided (your photos are welcome, they won't be destroyed by the transfer process).

Adult Children of Aging Parents : Movement for Older Bodies

Thursday, February 12 at 5:30 pm

Main Library in Newton

This program is designed to inform participants about the importance of appropriate, healthy movement for older adults.

Qi Gong

Saturday, February 14 at 9:30 am

Main Library in Newton

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

Stranger Things Fandom Day

Saturday, February 14 from 1 - 4 pm

St. Stephens Branch Library

Test your knowledge with trivia, create your own fandom buttons, and fuel up at our waffle station! Break out your best 80s-inspired outfit and join fellow fans for a fun, nostalgic afternoon full of Hawkins vibes, geeky challenges, and photo-worthy moments.

A Soldier's Love Story: A WWII Romance Buried in Time

Saturday, February 14 at 3 pm

Main Library in Newton



What romances shaped our ancestors in ways we never knew? How might discovering these lost chapters of love help us understand ourselves and our families more deeply? Hear about one such love story and learn how you can find those stories in your own family.

Lincoln-Catawba Songwriters Alliance

Tuesday, February 17 at 6 pm

Southwest Branch Library

Grab your instrument & bring a song to share. A great way for musicians to connect, create, and enjoy music.

Got Resume Builder

Wednesday, February 18 at 2 pm

Long View Town Hall

Looking to create a new resume or refresh an old one? This free online resource can help you build just the resume you need. Laptops will be provided to create your own resume.

Introduction to Candid - Foundation Directory Online

Friday, February 20 at 10 am

Main Library in Newton

Learn tips & tricks to make the most of your time searching for funding in this extensive grants database.



Loving Libby & Learning the Basics

Bring your phone or tablet and join us for a hands-on class exploring Libby, the library's app for borrowing eBooks and audiobooks. Learn how to browse, borrow, and enjoy digital titles with confidence!

Monday, February 23 at 6 pm

St. Stephens Branch Library

Thursday, February 26 at 3 pm

Southwest Branch Library



Business Basics for Artists and Crafters

Tuesday, February 24 at 12 noon

Main Library in Newton

This six-part series (every other Tuesday through May 5) is for anyone contemplating starting or learning more about operating their own arts-related business, including topics on writing a business plan, financing and marketing your business, finding your customers, and bookkeeping in relation to arts and crafts businesses. To register for an in-person or virtual spot, please visit the library or call 828-465-8665.



Catawba County Genealogical Society

Tuesday, February 24 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, February 16 from 2 - 5 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