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## Conover library branch will expand at new location

By Sharon McBrayer

Conover Station is getting its first tenant even before its dedication.

The Conover branch of the Catawba County Library was closed last week while it moved to its new location at Conover Station. The library, which has had its home in the lower level of city hall on 1st Street, is expected to open again at noon Tuesday in its new location.

Karen Foss, director of Catawba County Library, said staff starting packing two weeks ago at the old location and unpacked last week at the former Warlong building in Conover Station.

The new library will mean more room and new programs, Foss said.

The new location will be 3,200 square feet, which is quite a bit bigger than the old location, Foss said. And the space was needed, she said.

“It’s a very busy, very heavily-used branch,” Foss said. Last year, the library circulated 52,000 items, she said.

Catawba County is now advertising for a librarian at the Conover branch, Foss said, and more children’s programs and technology workshops are planned.

Margaret Sparkman, the National Gourd Lady, will be at the library on Tuesday to offer a free craft session at 4 p.m., Foss said.

The hours for the library will remain the same after the move to its new location. Conover branch library hours are noon to 8 p.m. on Tuesday; 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Wednesday through Friday; 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday; and closed Sunday and Monday.

Conover Station is a redevelopment project for the city of Conover on property that was once home to manufacturing. The property’s main building has been transformed into a multi-modal transit and mixed-use facility that will house the library branch, community space, administrative offices for Greenway Transit and a coffee shop. It also will be a passenger rail service stop in the future, according to information on the website for the project. In addition, city officials are starting work on a park planned for the complex. And Manufacturing Solutions Center plans to move to the complex, according to the information.

Duncan said city officials are shooting for Oct. 24 to hold a dedication of the multi-modal transit and mixed-use building. The library branch will likely hold a grand opening on the same day at the dedication, he said.

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