

Watauga County Public Library
Library Report January, 2023

Advocacy/Library Promotion

Monica went on the radio to promote December programming.

The Western Watauga Branch, in partnership with Project on Aging, the Western Watauga Friends, the Sheriff's Dept. and Revolution Boone, held a Senior Holiday Drive-Thru event. Goody bags were given out and Santa made an appearance. As of this writing, two county commissioners have toured the library and learned about services and the need for expansion. We hope the remaining commissioners will come in January. The Friends of the Watauga County Public Library had a successful book sale and cookies and cocoa event in December.

Displays at the main library near our entrance include Christmas and holiday selections by the staff, High Country Writers book selections, and the Daniel Boone Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution. We also have a display about "Cook the Books" and "Book Bunch" Book Clubs as well as a "Book vs. Movie" display. Youth Services has a "Reading is Magic" dragon display.

Partnerships/Funding

The library received funding for a spring Digital Watauga Intern and a Digital Watauga Coordinator from the Watauga County Historical Society. The library once again is partnering with the IRS and Walker College of Business's Accounting Department to offer the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance service this upcoming tax season. Two certification training sessions will be held here on January 20 and 27 to prepare the volunteers. The IRS will award the NC High Country Free Tax Link funding which will be used to pay the Coordinators in Watauga and Ashe Counties a stipend and to purchase equipment. The library received \$490 from the Downtown Boone Development Association for funding assistance toward two in-person programs titled "How the Grinch Stole Christmas" by Sigmon Theatricals. We also received \$350 from the Town of Boone's Cultural Resources Department to fund half of the local Boone 150 authors for their book talks this year. The Endowment received an anonymous \$5000 donation in Jane's honor.

Programs/Services

The Volunteer Income Tax Assistance service will run February 3 – April 15 on Fridays and Saturdays. In January and every odd numbered month for the year, we'll be partnering with Repair Hub for regular basic repair services. We are partnering with community member Nicole Hiegl in January for a 5- week Tai Chi series and as of December 29, the classes were already full. We are offering a Next Chapter Book Club facilitator training on January 17 and hope to gain more facilitators for this virtual weekly program.

Staff/Volunteer News

Zach LaChance will be coordinating the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance service starting in February. Ellie McCorkle began work in December as the new part-time Digital Watauga Coordinator. Kristin Grau, new spring Digital Watauga Intern, will be starting work in January. We are interviewing to fill an Adult Services Specialist position. Jane Blackburn's last day is January 6. A big thank you goes out to staff members Jackie Cornette, Cheryl Proctor and volunteers Sandi Basel, Cheryl Angel and Patty Swartzbaugh for all of their help with the Holiday Senior Drive-Thru at the Western Watauga Branch. We appreciate all of the December book sale volunteer support from the Friends.

Looking Ahead

We will be closed on January 2 for New Year's Day and January 16 in honor of Martin Luther King Jr.