

Watauga County Public Library
Library Report March, 2024

Advocacy/Library Promotion

Monica presented an annual report in February to the County Commissioners and will do the same for the Boone Town Council in March. Jacob gave a brief expansion update to the commissioners at the meeting. Tammy, Jacob and Monica met with County Manager Deron Geouque and Commissioner Braxton Eggers to discuss a quarter cent sales tax referendum for the expansion. Jacob, Monica and Eric Plaag, new Town Council Member, met to discuss town support for Library. Angela and Monica went to the Farmer's Market on Feb. 3 to promote the Library. February 3 was also Take Your Child to the Library Day and we had a whopping 519 door count! Displays at the main library near our entrance include information about Library Book Clubs, the Daughters of the American Revolution and Valentine's Day/keeping your heart healthy, former Youth Services Manager Judith Winecoff's artwork, local High Country Writer author Barbara Arntsen and her works, the Friends' Presidents' Book Sale and puzzles for sale.

Partnerships/Funding

We received funding for a second Digital Watauga Technician position from the Watauga County Historical Society. The Library will be submitting an LSTA federal grant primarily to fund an Adult Literacy Coordinator to manage basic literacy and ESL tutoring in Watauga County. This person would work in partnership with the Watauga Literacy Association and other agencies. Second graders district-wide have begun visiting the Library to learn about resources available to them. Wilkes and Watauga applied for a Digital Champion grant which would fund rural outreach by bringing hotspots and laptops out into the community. We'll be partnering with High Country Writers and the Watauga Arts Council to search for a High Country Poet Laureate and then to promote and encourage poetry in Watauga County. The chosen Poet Laureate will be announced in April during National Poetry Month.

Programs/Services

We will be planning activities for National Library Week, which begins April 7. We will host a shred truck on April 26 from 10-1, thanks to funding from the Friends of the Watauga County Public Library and the Downtown Boone Development Association. Our Volunteer Income Tax Assistance program runs through April 13 and has been very busy.

Staff/Volunteer News

Our volunteers in 2023 contributed 5,218 hours to both libraries. Congratulations to all of them for their huge efforts to support the Library. An additional thank you goes out to our capital campaign volunteers for all their time and dedication toward expansion efforts. Adelia Daly and Gramm Coffman, Digital Watauga Technicians, have installed an exhibit at the Jones House titled "Tourism: Behind the Scenes" using images from the Digital Watauga collection. They will give a gallery talk on March 1.

Looking Ahead

We will be closed on Friday, April 5 and Saturday, April 6 for Easter weekend. The Library expects to get the carpeting cleaned that weekend.