

Watauga County Public Library
Library Report July, 2024

Advocacy/Library Promotion

A press release went out to promote the Summer Reading Program and the many fantastic programs that will happen this summer. As of this writing, more than 400 have registered for summer reading.

The Friends book sale was also promoted by staff and the Friends.

Displays at the main library near our entrance include sorters' picks, children's specially priced books, puzzles and recently published books...all for sale. Other displays include an Independence Day display by the Daughters of the American Revolution celebrating Women Veterans Day, library book club selections, High Country Writers author Hilda Downer's works and Circulation Assistant Jenny Brunner's art work. A September 21 Friends 50th anniversary party is being planned; the Library will close to allow for parking and ample room for the festivities.

Partnerships/Funding

The Library will receive an LSTA federal grant next fiscal year to hire a new adult literacy coordinator to manage adult literacy services in Watauga and Ashe counties.

The Library will receive a Digital Champion grant through the NC Department of Information Technology to purchase hotspots, laptops, and e-readers for offsite populations and staff use to address access to technology and digital literacy education for seniors and rural communities. On behalf of the Friends, Donna Breitenstein has been awarded funding for a Quilt Project through America250. Through this project, a quilt reflecting our region will be created and shared within our community.

The Friends will receive \$2500 through the Town of Boone Outside Agency Funding Program for Youth books in the fiscal year 2025. The county has fully funded our regular allocation request for fiscal year 2025 and has put aside in the Capital Improvement Plan \$30,336 for future library needs. Ingrid plans to apply for a Growing Our Communities grant through Ag South to fund seed library efforts.

Programs/Services

Reading & Rolling began its 21st year with volunteers delivering books to 55 rural children throughout the county. The Summer Reading Program has over 400 children registered as of June 25. The Library will host a blood drive on August 16 in the meeting room.

Staff/Volunteer News

We said goodbye to Kristian Brown, Youth Services Specialist as she is heading back to her coastal hometown, Wanchese. Jessica Rodier, Shelver, will leave us for Raleigh effective July 27. A warm welcome goes out to Victoria Doan, new Youth Services Specialist who begins work on July 10 and to Brianna Ancil, Summer Digital Watauga Intern who began work in May. We are grateful to all of our Friends and volunteers who coordinated and staffed the Friends Book Sale last month. We appreciate the following Friends volunteers for giving away popcorn and lemonade at Boonerang: Maggie Christenbury, Geri Purpur, Phoebe Pollitt, Mary Daly and

Karen Hodges. Thanks to staff members who worked at Boonerang: Jennifer Earp Johnson, Kristian Brown, Lisa Flanigan, and Jenna Kissel. A big thank you to Candice Hall for helping us with outreach at Valle Crucis and Green Valley Park. We appreciate our newest young adult volunteers this summer: Isadora McCracken, Ria Titus, Xitlali Luna, Isabella Critcher, Riley Tippet, Chessy Martin, Merritt Powell, Kaija Shanely, Maya Shinnar-Weinberg, Defne Acikgoz, Kiran Dhungana, Zoe Thaxton, Natalie Kershaw and Hadley Woods.

Looking Ahead

The Library will close on Thursday, July 4 for Independence Day and Monday, September 2 for Labor Day. We will also close on Saturday, September 21 for the Friends anniversary gala. We plan to close at 4:30 pm on Wednesday, August 7, to allow our staff to attend the Ron Rash visit at the Appalachian Theatre.

June/July updates regarding the Library's expansion

- The Capital Campaign Committee met in June.
- The new expansion webpage is now linked to the library's homepage.
- John Arnaud, local Blowing Rock architect has summarized our renovation needs with a "Program for Future Improvements" draft for the existing facility.
- A Naming, Honor and Memorial Opportunities document with amounts needed has been created for different areas of the library under the category of renovation or expansion.
- S.M.A.R.T objectives were updated with goals and dates
- The quiet phase for fundraising is slated to begin Sept. 1