

Watauga County Public Library
Library Report January, 2024

Advocacy/Library Promotion

Displays near our entrance include an informational display about the Library's book clubs, a display put up by DAR (Daughters of the American Revolution), High Country Writers book promotion by author Birgitta Gottlieb McGalliard, memory kits, puzzles, sorters' picks, poetry, classics and specially priced children's books all for sale. Press releases went out about our parade day activities in Youth Services, Repair Hub, and Wreath and Watercolor workshops. The new outreach vehicle will travel to the Farmer's market monthly as well as after school programs this spring. The Expansion Capital Campaign Committee is in the process of choosing a donor software program and branding for publicity.

Partnerships/Funding

The NC High Country Tax Link will receive \$19,000 for the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance program; both Ashe and Watauga Libraries receive funding for equipment and supplies. Our Youth Services Department will be a recipient of the *Thinking Money for Kids Program Kit*, an initiative of the American Library Association (ALA) and the FINRA Investor Education Foundation, thanks to Jenna Kissel, Youth Services Specialist. In partnership with the Health and Hunger Coalition, we will have the annual Food for Fines week on January 22. The mid-year LSTA van grant report will be submitted this month. The Endowment Council funded two multifunction printers: one for the Western Watauga Branch and the other for the Youth Services Department.

Programs/Services

We are planning a chair Tai Chi series from January 22 – May with a grant-funded community instructor. Wilkes and Ashe County Libraries have been invited to promote the series and participants can zoom or come in person. The Volunteer Income Tax Assistance service will begin in Watauga on Friday, February 2 with service offered Friday afternoons and Saturday mornings. Appointments can be taken with Adult Services starting in late January.

Staff/Volunteer News

In November, we welcomed a new Shelver, Jessica Rodier. Staff had in-depth training on NC Live's Novelist; a recording was sent to regional staff. The Friends had a very successful book sale in early December. Approximately 35 volunteers came to our annual Volunteer breakfast drop-in on November 10. A big thank you to the Friends of WCPL and the Friends of WW Branch for the generous gift cards given to staff. Thanks to the following sponsors of the Western Watauga Holiday Drive-Through: Friends of Western Watauga Branch; Revolution Boone; Watauga County Sheriff's Department; Caldwell Community College's Student Government Association; Glenbridge Health and Rehabilitation; Sherry Hayes and Debbie Main

Looking Ahead

We will be closed on Monday, January 1 for New Year's Day as well as Monday, January 15 in honor of Martin Luther King Jr.