

Watauga County Public Library
Library Report July, 2022

Advocacy/Library Promotion

Monica went on the radio with Susan Polanka, the Dean of Belk Libraries, to promote the July 18 Wiley Cash visit. The book sale and family stories program were also promoted as well as the plans for expansion. As of this writing, Town Council member Dalton George and Interim Town Manager Amy Davis came to tour the Library and learn about the need for expansion. All Town Council members and County Commissioners have been invited.

Displays at the main library near our entrance include the title “The Cratis Williams Chronicles: I Come to Boone” by Cratis Williams and Dr. Patricia Beaver and Read and Share copies, the DAR and Happy Flag Day, High Country Writers author Carole Coates’s books, Book Bunch and Cook the Books Book Club titles, Summer Reads, NAMI grant books on Gender Fluidity and LGBTQIA+, a Sharon McCrumb visit on July 9, and a Wiley Cash visit at Appalachian State University’s Rosen Center on July 18. Monica, Lisa, Judith and Ingrid met in early June with the Watauga County School librarians to discuss ways we can partner.

Partnerships/Funding

The Town of Boone turns 150 this year and a large committee is planning numerous events; we are organizing a series of book talks with local authors who have written about Boone and the region. The next talk is with Dr. David Williams, son of author Cratis Williams and Dr. Patricia Beaver, both authors of “I Come to Boone” and it will be on Saturday, July 9 at 10 am. The Downtown Boone Development Association has helped us acquire more copies of books. Monica and the Friends submitted an Outside Agency Funding application for Youth and Adult Books to the Town of Boone and the Friends will receive \$5,000 in fiscal year 2023. The county has fully funded our request for fiscal year 2023.

Programs/Services

The Library is partnering with Appalachian State University’s Belk Library to bring Wiley Cash, NYT bestselling author, to the Rosen Center on Monday, July 18 at 3 pm. We have promoted the event and purchased extra copies of his books. Local storyteller John Ashburn will be hosting storytelling sessions on the 3rd Monday of each month at 6:30 pm starting in July. Folks can RSVP with John if they want to share a story. Billie Lister, Director of the Lois Harrill Senior Center, will be presenting an active shooter/community safety program on Friday, July 22 at 3 pm. Our newest employee Oprah Whitfield is offering 4 teen craft programs in June and July. The Library will host a blood drive on August 5 in the meeting room.

Staff/Volunteer News

We are grateful to all of our Friends and volunteers who are coordinating and staffing the Friends Book Sale this month. Judith Winecoff, Youth Services Manager, is retiring effective October 2. Oprah Whitfield, Youth Services Specialist, is leaving us effective July 20. Ella Riddick is working with us this summer as an Appalachian State University Intern. A big thank you goes out to Wink Winkelmann for building our new wood-trimmed sneeze guards.

We appreciate the following volunteers for helping with our ice cream social kick off, Heritage Day, and Boonerang events: Ella Riddick, Marsha Hoffman, Joan Hearn, Troy Brooks, Natalie Kershaw, John Doherty, Bettie Bond, and Juan Jaramillo. Kudos to Judith Winecoff, Lisa Flanigan, Sai Estep, Oprah Whitfield, Lindsay Shumate and other staff members who helped make our ice cream social kick off, Heritage Day, and Boonerang events such a success!

Looking Ahead

The Library will close on Monday, July 4 for Independence Day and Monday, September 5 for Labor Day.

June/July updates regarding the Library's expansion – Phase I

The Library signed the following proposals with:

- Whitney Jones, Inc. to conduct a campaign survey (feasibility survey) to gauge support and leadership for a potential capital campaign to raise funds for renovation and expansion. (July, August, September)
- Appalachian Architecture's proposal to provide a site plan, review of zoning/permitting requirements, base drawings, conceptual interior layout, and exterior design
- Municipal Engineering's proposal to help develop a base map and site plan
- Local soils engineer and drilling team to determine if the soils in the proposed area are suitable to excavate for a basement
- Ramsay Burgin Smith Architects to evaluate the existing and proposed space, help determine needs/goals of the community and library, and develop a building program for use by the project's final architect