

Watauga County Public Library
Library Report July, 2023

Advocacy/Library Promotion

Monica went on the radio with Jennifer Earp-Johnson, the new Youth Services Manager, to promote the Summer Reading Program. The book sale was also promoted. Displays at the main library near our entrance include sorters' picks, children's specially priced books, puzzles and gardening books...all for sale. An Independence Day display has been put up by the Daughters of the American Revolution, library book club selections, and Lego creations round up the front entrance displays. A September 23 Tea Party fundraiser at the Appalachian Theater is being planned by the Friends. A climate change exhibit press release went out in June; a scavenger hunt has been created to be used at the exhibit for families. After completing the hunt, families can come to Youth Services for a prize.

Partnerships/Funding

The Library will receive an LSTA federal grant next fiscal year to purchase a new outreach van and attend some events at four rural elementary schools. We hope to have at least two staff members attend events throughout the school year. Monica and the Friends submitted an Outside Agency Funding application for Youth and Adult books and audiobooks to the Town of Boone and the Friends will receive \$4,000 in fiscal year 2024. The county has fully funded our regular allocation request for fiscal year 2024 and has put aside in the Capital Improvement Plan \$50,000 for future library needs. Ingrid plans to apply for an Adult Services Coalition mini-grant to fund future yoga programming.

Programs/Services

Reading & Rolling began its 20th year with volunteers delivering books to rural children throughout the county. The Summer Reading Program has approximately 550 children registered.

The Library will host a blood drive on August 4 in the meeting room.

Staff/Volunteer News

A warm welcome goes out to Jennifer Earp Johnson, new Youth Services Manager and Sarah Mize, new Adult Services Specialist. Anna Keber has resigned. Adelia Daly began Digital Watauga work as a Summer Intern for the Watauga County Historical Society. 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, Lisa Reynolds and Karen Hodges. Staff members who worked at Boonerang include Jennifer Earp Johnson, Kristian Brown, and Jenna Kissel. We appreciate our newest young adult volunteers this summer: Hadley Woods, Maya Johnston, Defne Acikgoz, Maya Shinnar-Weinberg, Breana Martin, and Eleanor Connell. Judith Winecoff is helping to pack books for the Reading & Rolling program and has helped planting in our butterfly garden.

Looking Ahead

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

June/July updates regarding the Library's expansion

- The Fundraising Committee met in June.
- Monica has investigated a technical assistance/fundraising grant opportunity with the US Department of Agriculture's Rural Development Programs. It appears that Watauga County was not eligible
- We will have a couple of people with experience in Interior Design/Retailing come to do a walk-through of the library to advise regarding reconfiguring space for the least cost.