

Watauga County Public Library
Library Report July/August 2025

Advocacy/Library Promotion

Friends members Phoebe, Karen, Joann, Geri, and Lisa as well as staff members Shana, Abe, Debbie and Monica worked at the Kids Zone and in the meeting room for Boonerang on June 21. The Friends gave out books, popcorn, and lemonade to approximately 300 people while Shana and others promoted the renovation concept plans and our new website. Monica and Abe went on the radio to promote the Summer Reading Program in June; In July, volunteer Donna Breitenstein and Monica will promote the Quilt Unveiling and the Patio Open House scheduled for July 26.

Partnerships/Funding

We were awarded an LSTA grant for the next fiscal year to purchase three mini conference / study room pods. The Library received a large anonymous donation for Christian Fiction.

Watauga County finalized its budget for fiscal year 2026, and we will receive the amount requested for Personnel/Operations. As far as renovation funding is concerned, we requested \$250,000 but were allocated \$50,000 in the Capital Improvement Plan.

We were not awarded any funding from the Town of Boone. The Friends received funding through the America250 grant and the NC Department of Natural and Cultural Resources to celebrate the 250th Anniversary of the beginning of the United States; a commemorative quilt has been sewn to illustrate the history and culture of Watauga County before, during, and after the American Revolution.

Programs/Services

The Summer Reading Program at the main library has over 500 children registered as of Jun 25. The main library will have an end of summer reading celebration on August 1 to close the program. Jackie Cornette has been coordinating brick patio improvements and the last of the furniture has come in. A Quilt Unveiling Ceremony (America250 grant) and Patio Open House is planned for Saturday, July 26 from 12:30 – 4 pm. On August 6, we are excited to host Brett Taubman, author of *Southern Culture on the Fizz: An Effervescent Guide to Fermented Foods and Beverages from the American South*, a new UNC Press published book.

Staff/Volunteer News

In July, we will bid farewell to Katheryn Royall, Circulation Assistant and Kayleigh Briggs, our Shelver. In September, Angela Constantino, our long-time Assistant Circulation Manager and Cook the Books facilitator, will retire. We plan to welcome a new Youth Services Manager, Colleen Pepper, in August. The Friends welcomed Joanne Puliatti, a new book donation sorter and general volunteer. We also have a few volunteers this summer helping us in Youth Services: Vivian Vallecillo, Livvy Kent, Maya Shinnar, Wade Law, Norah Torrie, Kylie Hiner, Isadora McCracken, Catherine Rusch, Daniella Avram-Carmi, Sophia Cecil, and Eric Nystrom. A big thank you goes out to all of the Book Sale volunteers who helped with staffing. The Friends

Looking Ahead

We will be closed on Friday, July 4 for Independence Day and Monday, September 1 for Labor Day.