

Watauga County Public Library
Library Report March, 2022

Advocacy/Library Promotion

Monica went on the radio to promote the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance Program and the Endowment's successful fundraising campaign as well as the recent Youth Services grants from Blue Ridge Energy and Leap into Science. Monica presented an annual report to the County Commissioners on February 15 and will present the report to the Boone Town Council on March 9. We are partnering with La Quinta Inn to promote the Library at a Boone Area Chamber of Commerce Business After Hours on Thursday, April 7 at 5:30 pm at La Quinta Inn. All of our volunteers are invited to attend.

Displays at the main library near our entrance include "Boone before Boone" by Dr. Thomas Whyte and Read and Share copies, the DAR on heart health, "Don't Flake Out on Reading" featuring fiction with a winter setting, High Country Writers book selections, Book Bunch Book Club titles, a Tasha Tudor book collection, and Costume Dolls from Around the World.

Partnerships/Funding

The library received partial funding from the Watauga County Historical Society to fund a server upgrade. We will be partnering with Vaya Health's Geriatric and Adult Mental Health Specialty Team in March and April to co-sponsor in-person programs dealing with mental health. 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 first is with Dr. Tom Whyte, author of "*Boone before Boone*" and it will be on Saturday, March 26 at 10 am. We will continue to partner with local resident and native Spanish speaker, Iris Straube for bilingual story times in the coming months. The Endowment Council raised \$21,490 after a fall fundraising campaign with assistance from an anonymous donor who matched 100% of contributions made by December 31.

Programs/Services

We are planning a number of programs and activities for National Library Week, beginning April 4. A panel discussion themed "Educating the Community: Queer in the High Country" will take place on Wednesday, April 6 at 5:30 pm. Panelists will talk about services provided by their agencies and/or share personal experiences. Resource literature will be out on tables in the back of the library during and after the program. Other programs that week include a second Libby training, guests for story time, and tours of the library. We will host a shred truck on April 20 from 10-1, thanks to funding from both Friends groups.

Staff/Volunteer News

We welcome new Youth Services Specialist Oprah Whitfield who will start work in early March. Monica calculated that there were 117 volunteers in 2021 and they contributed 2,883 hours to the Library. Congratulations to all of our fantastic volunteers. A big thank you to Cheryl Angel, President of the Western Watauga Branch Friends for writing a beautiful letter to the editor praising the Holiday Drive-Through event and branch staff members Jackie and Cheryl for all of their hard work. This semester we are fortunate to have two Social Work Interns: Grace Frazier and Miranda Boone.

Looking Ahead

The Library will open at 10 am on March 11 due to a fire safety staff training. We will be closed on Friday, April 15 and Saturday, April 16 for Easter weekend.