

Watauga County Public Library
Library Report March, 2023

Advocacy/Library Promotion

Monica went on the radio to promote the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance Program and Youth programming. Monica presented an annual report in February to the County Commissioners and the Boone Town Council. Tammy, Monica and Architect Bill Dixon attended the County Commissioner's and the Town Council's budget retreats in February. A big thank you goes out to volunteers Susan Poorman and Donna Breitenstein for speaking in support of expansion on February 7. We also appreciate Ken and Barbara Sheldon's letter of support to the commissioners. We are still asking for community members to speak and write letters.

Displays at the main library near our entrance include information about National Teen Dating Violence Awareness and Prevention Month, Book Bunch Book Club, the Daughters of the American Revolution and National Wear Red Day, Winter Reading, children's Lego creations, local High Country Writer author Peter Morris and his works, the Friends' Presidents' Book Sale and puzzles for sale.

Partnerships/Funding

The Western Watauga Branch and their Friends group are working in partnership with the Watauga Arts Council to bring a six-week program to Bethel Elementary 5th graders titled "Reviving Appalachian Heritage Through Music". The programming will involve learning about the local history, putting together dulcimers using kits, lessons, and finally a performance at the Bethel Extravaganza. We received funding from the Watauga County Historical Society to fund a new Digital Watauga Coordinator as well as a technician and spring intern. The Library will be submitting an LSTA federal grant to purchase a new outreach van which will allow us to continue Friday outreach to the home bound and eldercare facilities. As part of this grant, we would like to expand our outreach to rural communities through the Cove Creek, Bethel, Mabel, and Green Valley Elementary schools by visiting their Pre-K classes and attending events. On the first four Thursdays in March, we will have a bilingual homeownership series in partnership with the State Employees Credit Union and Allen Tate Realtors. As of this writing we have six people signed up. Sixth graders district-wide will begin visiting the Library soon to learn about resources available to them.

Programs/Services

We will be planning a number of programs and activities for National Library Week, beginning April 23. We will host a shred truck on April 18 from 10-1, thanks to funding from the Friends of the Watauga County Public Library.

Staff/Volunteer News

We welcomed new Adult Services Specialist Justin Daly who started work in January. Kristin Grau, Spring Digital Watauga Intern, began work on January 17. Jennifer Woods, Senior Digital Watauga Technician, resigned as of February 12. Ellie McCorkle has been promoted to the new part-time position of Digital Watauga Coordinator. Monica calculated that there were 116 volunteers in 2022 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 her assistance with the writing of an LSTA grant for a new van. We welcomed two three book donation sorters: Deborah Pace, Taylor Marraro and Cheryl Keller. The Friends also have two new book storage transporters: Kara Brooks and Michael Wade.

Looking Ahead

We will be closed on Friday, April 7 and Saturday, April 8 for Easter weekend.