

Watauga County Public Library
Library Report March/April, 2025

Advocacy/Library Promotion

Monica presented an annual report in February to the County Commissioners and will do the same for the Boone Town Council in March. Watauga County's budget retreat will be two days in late February and Monica has added a request letter to their agenda for renovation support. The design concepts that came from local architect, John Arnaud have been included in their packet. She also appeared at the Boone Town Council budget retreat in late February to request support for renovation. Monica will promote the seed library in March with Monica Gowan on the radio. Last month, the Volunteer Income Tax Program and Friends' basket raffle were promoted. Hardin Park, Mabel, and Green Valley 2nd graders will be visiting the library in March and April.

Partnerships/Funding

We received funding for a second Digital Watauga Technician position from the Watauga County Historical Society. The Library will be submitting an LSTA federal grant for three small conference rooms that can accommodate 1-2 people; these would be placed in Adult and Youth Services as well as the back of the library near the windows. Second graders from four schools will begin visiting the Library in March and April to learn about resources available to them. We are partnering with the Watauga Arts Council to nominate a High Country Poet Laureate, who would promote and encourage poetry in Watauga County. The Western Watauga Friends group provided matching funds for a second grassroots grant through the Watauga Arts Council titled *Reviving Appalachian Heritage Through Music*. It will begin March 19th at Mabel Elementary with the 4th graders and is a 7-week program. The Library will be awarded \$125,000 through the NC Department of Commerce for renovations, which includes a 5% match from the county.

Programs/Services

We will be planning activities for National Library Week, which begins April 6. We will host a shred truck on April 25 from 10-1, thanks to funding from the Friends of the Watauga County Public Library and the Downtown Boone Development Association. Our Volunteer Income Tax Assistance program runs through April 12 and has been very busy. Some of the upcoming youth programs this month include a Chess Club, Oreo tasting, STEM activities, Play and Learn with the Children's Council, Legos, and Penny Pinchers Party. Library staff continue to bring books twice a month for lending to K-5 student at Valle Crucis Conference Center and middle schoolers at Caldwell Community College.

Staff/Volunteer News

A warm welcome goes out to Debbie Davis, who just started as our new Youth Services Specialist. Abraham Williams is now the Interim Youth Services Manager until the Youth Services Manager position is filled. Welcome to new book donation volunteers Susan Younker and Nancy Smith. The Friends book sale room has received a makeover: the bulletin board has been relocated to the foyer and they have received 5 new bookshelves. Thanks to Doris, Martha and Melony and Wink Winkelmann for all of their efforts to enhance the room.

Looking Ahead

We will be closed on Friday and Saturday, April 18 and 19 for Easter weekend.