

Watauga County Public Library
Library Report May, 2022

Advocacy/Library Promotion

Monica went on the radio to promote the Five Year Plan, National Library Week and the 25th anniversary of the building. The expansion and five-year plan are being promoted in the coming months.

Displays at the main library near our entrance include the title “Remembering Boone” by Dr. Eric Plaag and Read and Share copies, the DAR and their genealogical records, High Country Writers author J.L. Huffman’s books, Book Bunch Book Club titles, quilts by High Country Modern Quilt Guild, and an Earth Science/Ecosystem display by the Department of Environmental and Geological Sciences at Appalachian State University. Monica, Oprah, and volunteer Marsha Hoffman will attend a Latino Fair at Watauga High School on April 29.

Partnerships/Funding

The library received funding from the Watauga County Historical Society to fund salaries for the two Digital Watauga Interns throughout the summer. 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 next talk is with Dr. Eric Plaag, author of “Remembering Boone” and it will be on Thursday, May 12 at 6 pm. The Downtown Boone Development Association has helped us acquire more copies of books. Thanks to a Friends anonymous donor, the Library participated in the April Boone Area Chamber of Commerce Business After Hours in partnership with LaQuinta Inn & Suites; staff will be getting new T-shirts and we’ll be looking into hiring someone to build new sneeze guards. Monica and the Friends submitted an Outside Agency Funding application for Youth and Adult Books to the Town of Boone. Thanks to the Local Government Federal Credit Union for funding Twist, the Balloon Man at the 25th anniversary party and financial literacy books for the Western Watauga Branch.

Programs/Services

The theme for this year’s Summer Learning Program is “An Ocean of Possibilities”. An ice cream social and kickoff is being planned for May 26 in the afternoon; we will have face painting, Twist the Balloon Man, and music. Our newest employee Oprah Whitfield is offering Saturday bilingual story times. The Library will host a blood drive on May 6 in the meeting room. Thanks to funding from the Western Watauga Friends Group, we will soon have 10 Memory kits available for checkout that can be used for those with dementia and Alzheimer’s; each memory kit will have music, memorabilia, and other items reminiscent of a time, place, or theme.

Staff/Volunteer News

Thank you to all of our Friends and volunteers who are coordinating and staffing the Friends Book Sale. We said farewell to our two Social Work Interns Grace Frazier and Miranda Boone; it was wonderful having them with us. We appreciate the following volunteers for helping with our building’s 25th anniversary party: Marsha Hoffman, Pat and Mary Sue Morgan, Joan Hearn, Phoebe Pollitt, Terry Alexander, Jack James and Melony Winkelmann. Thank you to staff members who helped to make the anniversary party a huge success. A special thank you goes out to Troy Brooks for being Arly, our mascot at the Business After Hours event on April 7; thanks also to all of our volunteers and staff who came as well.

Looking Ahead

The Library will close on Monday, May 30 for Memorial Day and on Monday, July 4 for Independence Day.