

Watauga County Public Library
Library Report May/June, 2025

Advocacy/Library Promotion

Monica and John Arnaud presented the library's renovation concept plans to the county, while asking for \$250,000 to be put into the Capital Improvement Plan for fiscal year 2026. Shana Lewis and John Arnaud presented the same plans to the Boone Town Council and requested funding for patio glass doors and a picture window, overlooking the brick patio. The budget proposals for both the town and county will be publicized in late April or early May. Monica will promote the design concepts in May on the radio.

Partnerships/Funding

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 began March 19th at Mabel Elementary with the 4th graders and is a 7-week program; the series will end with a performance at Mabel the 2nd week of May. The Library will be awarded \$125,000 through the NC Department of Commerce for renovations, and the county will provide a 5% match. Monica submitted a grant to the Town of Boone on behalf of the Friends for \$10,000 to be contributed toward glass double doors and a picture window overlooking the brick patio. A budgetary wish list is being prepared for the Watauga Friends for fiscal year 2026.

Programs/Services

The Summer Reading Program will begin at the main library on June 9 and at the Western Watauga Branch on June 16. The main library will have an end of summer reading celebration on August 1 to close the program. Reading & Rolling will begin on June 16 and Parkway Elementary has been added to participate. Library staff continue until May to bring books twice a month to lend to K-5 students at Valle Crucis Conference Center and middle schoolers at Caldwell Community College. Thanks to volunteer Donna Breitenstein's awarded grant on behalf of Watauga Friends, we now have diapers and feminine hygiene products in public bathrooms. New diaper changing tables were added as well. Jackie Cornette has been coordinating brick patio improvements, and we now have solar lighting. Furniture will be next.

Staff/Volunteer News

Welcome to new garden volunteer Taylor Gay. The Friends renovated book sale room will be named soon at their annual meeting on May 17. Congratulations to Doris Isaacs, the Friends' In-House Book Sales/ Book Donations/Sorters Coordinator; on May 17, she will receive the Hugh Hagaman Volunteer Service Award for exemplary service, dedication and extraordinary contributions to the Friends. On a sad note, we lost two long time book donation sorters: Bob Soeder and Mal Tanigawa. May they rest in peace.

Looking Ahead

We will be closed on Monday, May 26 for Memorial Day and Saturday, June 21, for the Boonerang Music and Arts Festival. During Boonerang on June 21, our meeting room and bathrooms will be open and there will be activities on the library lawn for children.