

Watauga County Public Library
Library Report November, 2021

Advocacy/Library Promotion

Monica went on the radio to promote the National Friends of Libraries Week, the need for VITA (Volunteers for Income Tax Assistance) and the library's job search services. The library promoted National Friends of Libraries Week in October with a table near the entrance and a press release. Patrons were asked to write love letters to the Friends and they will be used in a display soon. Displays near our entrance include an informational display about our two book clubs, a breast cancer awareness display put up by DAR (Daughters of the American Revolution), "Black Friday Deals All Month Long" on books with black covers, High Country Writers book promotion of "Wild Flowers of the Southern Appalachians", Goodwill Industries of NW NC job search resources, displays promoting our Friends groups and celebrating our volunteers and an invite to "Get Caught Up in a Good Book".

Partnerships/Funding

The Watauga County Historical Society has contributed funding for a desktop PC to support Digital Watauga work. We are partnering with local resident Iris Straube for monthly bilingual story times starting in December and continuing through the Spring. We are working with Watauga County Schools Family Resource Coordinator Yolanda Adams to present a series of digital literacy workshops for Spanish-speaking families to begin in late October and finish November 16. Monica has submitted an application to host a Boone Area Chamber of Commerce Business After Hours event next year here at the main library. We are in the process of hosting two orientations to recruit volunteers for our VITA (Volunteer for Income Tax Assistance) program.

Programs/Services

The Friends of the Watauga County Public Library will host a holiday book sale November 4 -6 in the meeting room. The library will host an interactive art installation on the lawn by local artist Andi Gelsthorpe titled "The Crooked Path of Grief" during the month of November. Story times will continue weekly in the meeting room beginning in November. Caleb Sigmon as "The Grinch" will return for two in-person shows on December 3.

The library will host a blood drive in partnership with the Red Cross on Friday, December 3 in the meeting room.

Staff/Volunteer News

Candy Abney started in September as our new part-time Circulation Assistant. Justen Williams, new Digital Watauga Intern, has resigned; a new intern will be hired in the spring. Martha Gray, Lory Whitehead, Becky Shippy, and Mal Tanigawa began recently as new Friends book donation sorters. We welcomed new library board member Max Ruthless. A half day staff training is scheduled for Friday, November 19 from 8:30 am – 1 pm.

Looking Ahead

We will be closed for Veteran's Day on November 11 and for Thanksgiving Holiday on November 25, 26 and 27. We will open the library at 1 pm on Friday, November 19 to allow for staff training in the morning. The library will be closed for the holidays on December 24 and 25 as well as January 1.