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Bridgewater Plaza Has A New Attraction Smith Mountain Arts Council Installs A Free Library Kiosk

The Smith Mountain Arts Council, with the assistance of the Smith Mountain Lake Regional Chamber of Commerce, has set up a unique kiosk that contains free books related to all subjects of the Arts. A sample of the current book contents of the kiosk are biographies of famous actors and musicians, histories of creative trends and instructive handbooks for developing skills in woodcarving and painting. There are books for all reading levels; from preschool to adult.

The Ribbon Cutting Ceremony was held on Friday, August 21, 2026 on the upper level of Bridgewater Plaza. Those in attendance were SMAC Board members Sherry Brown (President), Lisa Jo Dunham (Art Show Organizer), Diane Wallace (Scholarships Chairperson), Rob Dunham (Member at Large), John Crawford (Treasurer) and Ann Tavino (Member At Large). Also in attendance were Andy Bruns, Executive Director of the Chamber of Commerce, two of our local artists, Anne Holic and Leslie Mitchell, and SMAC members Tom Tavino and Dan Holic.

The concept of the Free Library Kiosk was presented by Ann Tavino during a SMAC Board Meeting earlier this year. The Board was very supportive and encouraged the construction of the Kiosk. Sherry Brown requested Arts-related book donations from Board members.

After researching kiosk designs, Tom Tavino built the Kiosk frame and support structure. Once the Kiosk was built, Lisa Jo Dunham enlisted the assistance of fellow artists, Leslie Mitchell and Anne Holic to paint a decorative scene that would capture the curiosity of those strolling through Bridgewater Plaza. The upper part of the Kiosk is painted to resemble an inviting cottage with lovely floral highlights as the background.

The SMAC Free Library Kiosk is located outside of the Smith Mountain Chamber of Commerce office and all local residents and visitors to the area are welcome to take a book, read and enjoy learning about the Arts. New titles will be added on a regular schedule. SMAC would like to thank Andy Bruns from the Chamber of Commerce for his assistance with the Kiosk's location and accessibility.

If you would like to donate books to the Free Library, please contact Ann Tavino at (703)727-1467. For more information about the Smith Mountain Arts Council and all their events and activities, please go to www.SMAC-ARTS.com or email info@SMAC-ARTS.com.

