

## **Director's Report to the Library Board**

**For January 2019**

**Submitted February 19, 2019**

***History's Next Chapter: Building the Beloved Community  
In Celebration of  
the Life of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.***



### ***HIGHLIGHTS FROM LIBRARY DEPARTMENTS:***

#### ***Friends of Handley Regional Library, Barbara Dickinson***

The program "History's Next Chapter: Building a Better Community" was held in the Handley Auditorium in celebration of the life of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. John Copenhaver, Professor Emeritus of Religion from Shenandoah University, and Dr. James Coates, retired college professor, lead the discussion. Co-sponsors were the NAACP, Winchester Chapter and the Valley Interfaith Council and the Friends of Handley Regional Library.

Another event featured in January was the Little Noon Music program featuring musician Andy Cohen, 125 attended.

#### ***Adult Services, Adrienne Davis***

The public was invited to bring their tablets and smartphones to a free eBook Workshop held on January 17<sup>th</sup> to learn more about accessing the library's downloadable books and audiobooks. Highlighted was how to access the library's digital collection using our Overdrive program and its new app (Libby) as well as using Amazon's Kindle.



"Come Out of Hibernation" Day included an Indoor Plant Clinic held at Bowman Library in partnership with the Shenandoah Valley Master Gardeners, with 235 attending. There was a repotting station for growing healthy plants and a Diagnostic Station for ailing plants in need of a cure. The colorful orchids and greenery was a welcome reprieve from the gray skies and recent snow. The garden programs saw an increase of 100% over the numbers from last year!

#### ***Youth Services, Donna Hughes***

3,205 young people of all ages and their parents enjoyed programs this month including the new BreakerSpace program in partnership with the Valley Makers Association. Donated broken toys and technology equipment were used to break and take apart. This STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, the Arts and Mathematics) program allowed ages 6-11 and their grown-ups the opportunity to see how things are made and what makes them work by using basic hand tools, such as this father and daughter talking through their predictions of what the wires and buttons do on each toy.





The Yule Ball celebrating Harry Potter welcomed 82 wizards gathering in their best attire on January 18. Snow blanketed the ground outside perfectly for this after-hours program. Participants enjoyed butterbeer, made floating candles and watched "Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire" and participated in other interactive stations and dancing.

Exciting news for the annual Winter Reading Program: this winter there was a 400% increase in participation! It's true, there is nothing like curling up with a good book on a cold day!



#### ***Circulation/ Outreach Services, Mary Anton***

Games galore! 124 new video games are now available to be checked out for a 3-week period of time (1 game per library card) and are able to be renewed once.

#### ***Public Relations & Technology Coordinator, Matt Swain***



WDVM, Valley Today 95.3, 92.5 WINC FM, Winchester Star, Facebook and the library's Newsletter were valuable resources in spreading the exciting news of the new Handley Regional Library System logo.

The Director of the library system, John Huddy, noted how the mission and goals of the Handley, Bowman and Clarke County libraries are reflected in the new logo design: "We needed to ensure that we let the public know that we are a system of three libraries. The addition of the geographical locations showcases our reach within our communities. The circle in the middle represents the communities we serve as a central focus in everything that we do. Each color represents a library location surrounding the communities we serve. The hexagon shape represents a continuous link to our patrons and our mission as we continue to create connections to learning and entertainment."

The online statistics for the last 28 Days overview shows how many patrons are enjoying our online services: We received 93 new followers and pageviews went up 67% over last month. Patrons commented, "liked" and shared 7,030 times which is a 143% increase. Our top events were: BreakerSpace news which reached 2.4K patrons online and received 93 responses and news of "Unheard Voices Civil War Winchester" reached 1,700 patrons.

#### ***Handley Library Operations & Business Manager, Ann White***



We very much appreciate our many patrons, and this year have started off with new seating in Handley Library's Large Print Reading Room, with two comfortable chairs alongside tables for study and laptop use.

Valuable assistance was given to the Youth Services Department by Shenandoah University students who worked on the project of integrating audio books and fiction books, which was part of the University's Martin Luther King, Jr. Day of Service.

***Bowman Library Operations & Business Manager, Kim Bean***

New furniture also awaits visitors in the Bowman Library outer lobby; two café-height tables and four chairs. The outer lobby area is a favorite sunny space for many activities, including working on a laptop or meeting up with friends.



***Clarke County Library Branch Manager, Laurine Kennedy***

January was a good month for Clarke County Library. Circulation continues to rise, as it has been steadily doing. Weeding has continued, especially in the children's area, and the shelves look great. Clarke's STORYART program is steadily increasing attendance, and the kids always enjoy it. January had the best attendance yet! We received a large, excellent donation of children's books, which was put aside for the Summer Reading program

***Thank you to our many Partners in the Community:***

- Barefoot Puppets, Heidi Rugg
- Blue Ridge Dog Training Club
- Four-Color Fantasies
- Friends of Handley Regional Library
- Great Big Faces, Paul Merklein
- Imagine Create Explore Collaborative Arts, Emilie Bachmann
- Impressions Theater, Chris Markham
- JustBirth, Gretchen Smith
- John Kennedy
- Kid Pan Alley, Donna Burkweitz
- La Leche League, Natasha Ossinova
- Master Gardeners from the Virginia Cooperative Extension service
- Museum of the Shenandoah Valley, Curry Schiavone
- One-Man Band, Peter McCorry
- Pint-Size Polkas, Mike Schneider
- Rock Room of Winchester
- Shenandoah Music
- Shenandoah University, Karen Schulz
- Shenandoah University, Karen Huff
- Shenandoah Valley Chess Club, David Hubbard
- Shenandoah Valley Discovery Museum
- Shine Yoga
- Spanish Oak Rabbitry, Lynn Miller
- Stephens City Chess Club, John & Matthew Clark
- Society of American Musicians, Phil Milstead
- Spring Arbor of Winchester
- Tampa Taiko Drums, Ron Collins
- Tricky Person Productions, Johnny-O
- Valley Makers Association, Ryan Hall
- Valley Wildlife, Lynn Oliver
- Virginia Commission of the Arts
- Virginia Cooperative Extension
- Wildlife Ambassadors, Becky Shore
- Winchester City Sheriff's Office
- Winchester Little Theater, Vicky Ryles
- Phil Zuckerman