

August 2019 Director's Report to the Library Board
Submitted September 17, 2019



***Introducing Handley Library's new logo design on our courier van highlighting our mission to
Connect. Entertain. Inform
with our community at the Handley, Clarke County and Bowman branches.***

HIGHLIGHTS FROM LIBRARY DEPARTMENTS

Notes from the desk of Director, John Huddy

John completed his Yellow Belt Six Sigma training this month and is ready to show off his skills in the library dojo. The class was eye opening, intense and fun. Jim Bowie (an adjunct professor at Shenandoah and a Six Sigma Black Belt) and John highly recommend his training. We're looking to send other staff to this training in the near future. Also of note was a media blitz by the Library where John was on WINC twice, on 95.3 the River and on the City of Winchester's new broadcast/podcast and a podcast for Frederick County.

Archives Librarian, Becky Ebert

On June 19th, current and former Archives staff, volunteers, community supporters and Library Administration held a reception to celebrate the 40th Anniversary of the Stewart Bell, Jr. Archives located in the Handley Library. Rebecca Ebert (pictured along with Director John Huddy) began her position as Archives Librarian in 1981. Since that time the number of original and rare documents of the Archives have quickly grown, along with the digitized photographs of historical and genealogical interest which are available for viewing by local patrons and online researchers around the world.



Bowman Library Operations and Technical Services Manager, Kim Bean

This summer Bowman Library created a new seating area and the bright, quiet area has become very popular with patrons. An exciting new Clear Touch interactive monitor continues to be of great interest to the patrons. Manager Kim Bean attended the ALA conference in June and also delivered 100 children's books to the Kids Club of NSV. The Technical Services Department continues to catalog many new materials, including 231 DVDs, 23 blue-rays and T-Mobile hotspots for use by patrons in Frederick and Clarke Counties.

Public Relations & Technology Coordinator, Matt Swain

During the summer months 143 free library programs were listed in the local papers along with 4 featured articles in the Winchester Star. We continued marketing the adult programming "Later in the Library" which included email newsletters, social media, and several print ads. Public WiFi provided by the 3 branches in the Handley Library System was accessed 5,093 times in just a few weeks. Matt continues to grow the Chamber Partnership with a Reference USA workshop presented by the vendor that drew over 40 attendees and a new sponsor for full page ads.

Circulation Services Department Head & Outreach Coordinator, Mary Anton

An addition of six T-Mobile hotspots was completed for circulation at the Handley location and one additional at Clarke County, so now all three locations have hotspots for check out. The Handley hotspots were all checked out within the first few days. Hotspots are on a first-come, first-served basis, and continue to be checked out almost as soon as they are returned. Staff from several departments staged our first-ever outreach event at the Stephens City Family Drive-in with crafts, games, and library card sign-up. Next, we moved our National Night Out participation to the Snowden Bridge event in Stephenson, where we interacted with hundreds of folks and handed out 49 new library cards during the event.

Adult Services Department Head, Adrienne Davis

We had a record year for the Adult Summer Reading Program with many returning participants excited to register before we even announced the start date. Plus, we had a dramatic increase in new sign ups. **We had 435 registrations, up from 250 last year.** Part of the success of the program is due to our new coordinator, Tory Gallery, who brought fresh ideas and kept the program organized all summer. Department Head, Adrienne, attended the Chamber of Commerce Hispanic Coalition Gathering on 8/22 to promote the new Conversation Partners program and other adult services

Handley Library Operations & Business Manager, Ann White

Provided by the Robinson 2020 funding, the program to replace all scheduled computers was completed in August. A contract was awarded to the firm of Kim Bolan and Associates to begin a space study in November to ensure that the library is using its' spaces as efficiently as possible and will provide a framework for future Robinson projects.

Friends of Handley Regional Library, Director Barbara Dickinson

Summer months brought our ever popular summer book sale, now in our 6th year. Our thanks to our many, many volunteers who make these sales possible. We welcome friends of all ages to attend the book sales and add to their home libraries, starting with the very young!

Programs over the last several months included the Apple Valley Ringers (Hand Bell Choir Concert), 1455 A Place for Writers author series, talk and book signing by author Daniel Morgan, Financial Literacy, John Brown: Monuments and Mythology and the National Book Festival bus trip to Washington.



Clarke County Library Branch Manager, Laurine Kennedy

We wrapped up the Summer Reading Program, another great summer! Clarke had great attendance at all the shows. We have three new children's programs planned for fall, and one Adult writing workshop. Family Game Night is a new program, and the book club and Trivia Night continue.

Youth Services Department Head, Donna Hughes



Rockin' the Library: In partnership with Shenandoah University Children's Literature Conference and Winchester Public Schools, Handley Library hosted the fourth annual "Rockin' the Library". This year's authors included: Kevin Henkes, Kwame Alexander, Bob Shea, and Scott Magoon. These award winning authors joined the Winchester City Mayor John David Smith, Jr in celebrating the love of reading with area students, teachers, parents, and booklovers. The authors delighted the audience with drawing demonstrations. Those who were in attendance received free books and cupcakes.

Bowman Library hosted an anime convention called Natsu Con (summer con) for teens and fans of Japanese anime and comics. The participants enjoyed cos-play events where costuming was enthusiastically embraced along with presentations by local practitioners that demonstrated art, costuming, idol dancing, teaching Japanese, and discussing self-care. Japanese snacks were tried by some fans, and the day ended with a comic drawing class.

The summer offered a unique opportunity for creativity as nationally-known Kid Pan Alley came and presented concerts and led a songwriting workshop for 8-12 year-olds to write a song for our summer of shows and events.

- Mrs. Virginia, Brianna King-Kulik
- Museum of the Shenandoah Valley
- Orchard View Elementary School
- Rock Room of Winchester, Kimmon Waldruff
- Shenandoah County Public Libraries, Erica Hepner & Karen Whetzel
- Shenandoah University, Karen Huff
- Shenandoah Valley Chess Club, David Hubbard
- Shenandoah Valley Discovery Museum
- Sherando High School Intellectual Disabilities, Patti Throckmorton
- Spanish Oak Rabbitry, Lynn Miller
- Stephens City Chess Club, John & Matthew Clark
- Tinkergarten
- Valley Maker's Association
- Virginia Commission of the Arts
- Virginia Cooperative Extension
- Winchester City Sheriff's Office
- Winchester Royals
- Wolf Trap Center of the Performing Arts

Locations library staff presented outreach programs:

- Discovery Museum
- Chet Hobert Park, Berryville
- Bright Futures' Distribution Days (3 separate events): Abundant Life Church, Kernstown United Methodist Church, and Stonewall Ruritan
- Shenandoah University, Mexican Consulate meeting
- Winchester Royals, Library Spirit Night
- Frederick County School Readiness Fair for English Language Learners
- Middletown Elementary School, Orientation/Open House
- Mountain View Christian Academy, Back-to-School Night