

***January Director's Report to the Library Board
Submitted February 18, 2020***



Meet Book Bot!

Highlights from Library Departments

RFID at Handley Library

Our young patrons chose the name Book Bot for the machine in the Handley Library Children's Room that makes checking out materials even easier for them to use! All you do is place items on the base and in a second the Book Bot identifies the materials and you are ready to go!

Bowman Library Operations and Technical Services Manager, Kim Bean

New signage at Bowman Library leads patrons to the new return area. Materials to be returned are placed in the slot, and the automated system moves each item along on a conveyor belt to the designated sorting station ready for library staff to gather and return to the shelves ready for the next patron!



Adult Services Department Head, Adrienne Davis

- Training began in earnest in preparation for the new services that became available to our patrons in January, such as the ClearTouch screens that look like a very large TV monitor but are in fact amazing computers presently at Bowman and in the Benham Gallery at Handley Library.
- Help for Job Seekers is a new workshop held in the evening on scheduled Thursdays in the Benham Gallery. This program is in collaboration with staff from NW Works who will also be present to help job seekers one on one. Workshop topics include: writing resumes, interviewing skills, using a computer, and networking.

Circulation Services Department Head & Outreach Coordinator, Mary Anton

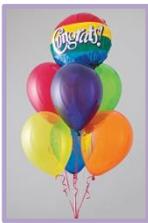
- RFID is going well at all three locations. Additional staff training and instruction for patrons have brought self-checkouts in January to 74.25% of total checkouts!
- Five staff helped with two outreach events this month: Newcomer's Evening at the Visitor's Center and Project Connect, a United Way sponsored event at the Moose Lodge on Cork Street, which had results of 85 contacts and 9 new cards were issued.

Public Relations & Technology Coordinator, Matt Swain

Public Relations: • We had several key articles in the Winchester Star – Groundhog Day Celebration, Helping Hand Puppet Show and a program feature on Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and Mrs. Coretta Scott King. We also launched a series of radio ads on WINC FM promoting the annual Groundhog Day Celebration, and Come out of Hibernation Day, which is on Feb 1. Cheryl Nakagawa designed a new brochure for the Stewart Bell Jr. Archives, promotional collateral for Come Out of Hibernation Day, and a draft brochure for Taking Care of Business (a suite of our business/professional services). Public relations continues to pay off with increased awareness, program attendance, and borrowing of materials. • We continue our partnership to reach additional patrons with the Alamo Drafthouse and are a confirmed sponsor of the VERY popular Lost Weekend Film Festival. We created a co-branded flyer for Black History Month listing books, movies, eBooks, and DVDs featuring African American authors and producers, along with a list of movies featured at the Alamo. All branches and the Alamo are distributing the co-branded flyer.

Technology: • Novelist is now integrated in our online catalog. When patrons search for materials, they'll be able to see recommended materials, databases, services, and authors relating to their book search. This will increase circulation and usage of library services.

Youth Services Department Head, Donna Hughes



• January's Winter Reading Challenge had a total of 320 young patrons who read **3,218** books and logged in **1,782** hours of reading! Congratulations to all who participated! • Special family events at Bowman Library included Winnie the Pooh Day on January 18 and the National Multicultural Book Day held January 31. • We have good news! Storytime for toddlers at Handley Library has become so popular another toddler storytime has been added to each week. • Two new, unique program series began in Handley Youth Services: Storybook Yoga encourages all ages and families to move, stretch and read together in this combination storytime/yoga class each month. The class is taught by certified yoga instructor, Gina Byrd, who also works as a Youth Services Assistant at Handley Library. For elementary age children we now have the program Kids Café to learn about the importance of preparing healthy foods. Each month the participants learn how to make an easy, no-bake recipe, while their caregivers learn from the Virginia Cooperative Extension at-home nutrition tips.

Friends of Handley Regional Library, Director Barbara Dickinson



Handley Library presented a program honoring the lives of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and Mrs. Coretta Scott King through readings, stories, quotes, and songs.

Community members, the local NAACP, Minister Barbara Davis, Robin Packard, Gwen Walker, and Vice Mayor John Hill met together to share in this special event. The program showcased the legacies of Dr. and Mrs. King and the profound effect their lives and mission

have had on countless people around the world. Some of Dr. King's favorite songs, *Balm of Gilead* and *Precious Lord Take My Hand*, were sung by Mrs. Davis.



Handley Library Operations & Business Manager, Ann White

The Handley Regional Library System is in the planning stages of partnering with the US Census. The finalized plans include: A Census "Badge" is to be put added to our home page. The webpage is to include: some informational pieces from the census, census representative visit information, Census Day (April 1st) promotion, as well as anything else we are doing to support the census effort. Other Ways we can support the Census effort: 1. Representative visits: regular visits to help people fill out the form and/or to provide information. 2. Census day promotion 3. Information added to the Community library bulletin board. 4. Distribution of physical material handouts. 5. Availability of internet station to fill out the census.

Archives Librarian, Becky Ebert

•The talk “Winchester in the 1700’s” was presented at Westminster Canterbury on January 9th by one of Archives’ volunteers, Tom McCubbin, which was well received by all 85 in attendance. The next Westminster Canterbury program was held January 16th with a talk by Becky Ebert, “Winchester, 1800-1859” with 125 in attendance. • Matt Swain produced a podcast of Becky talking about the Stewart Bell Jr. Archives and its importance in preserving the history of Winchester through its original documents and oral histories.

Clarke County Library Branch Manager, Laurine Kennedy

• January programs were well attended such as the popular Community Conversation meeting. • All branches including Clarke are partnering with the U.S. Census, and Clarke County library had two events with tables set up by the Census representatives. • New upgrades are continuing to take place at Clarke Library. A new large decal at the circulation desk with the new Handley Library logo welcomes visitors and a new rug has brightened the children’s area.

Community Partnerships:

- Blue Ridge Dog Training Club, Alice Seabright
- Characters by Chelsea
- Chick Fil-A, Keri Mounts & Pam Whitt
- Four-Color Fantasies
- Friends of Handley Regional Library
- JustBirth, Gretchen Smith
- La Leche League, Natasha Ossinova
- Martin’s Grocery
- Master Gardeners from the Virginia Cooperative Extension Service, Lynn Hoffman
- Museum of the Shenandoah Valley
- Repeatable DJ Services
- Shenandoah Valley Chess Club, David Hubbard
- Sherando High School Intellectual Disabilities, Wilma Jennings
- Spanish Oak Rabbitry, Lynn Miller
- Stephens City Chess Club, John & Matthew Clark
- TAC (The Traveling Art Club), Julia Young & Cheryl Abbott
- Virginia Cooperative Extension

Locations of Library Staff Outreach Programs in the Community:

- Boyce Elementary School
- Westminster Canterbury
- Winchester Visitor’s Center
- Moose Lodge, Winchester