



HRLS

Director's Report and Highlights

March 2022



A Very Special Celebration

After a long winter, HRLS celebrated the arrival of Spring with a system-wide “**Spring**” into the Library event held on Saturday, March 19th. Patrons at all

three branches were treated to a wide array of programs and activities for both children and adults. On this one day, **1,074** peoples visited the libraries where they had ten programs to choose from. Choices included story times, puppet shows, chess, Paws for Reading, author talks and a behind the scenes tour of the Handley Library building. There was something for everyone.

Managing Materials

The Collection Management Strategic Planning Committee reached the one-year anniversary of its inception in March 2022. The founding purpose of this group was to increase organizational efficiencies and to establish strategies for collection management to meet the individual needs of each branch and its patrons, with the overall goal of increasing circulations and maximizing the use of allocated funds.

Over the last year, this committee has rebranded and expanded Express Picks, created Book (and DVD) Bundles, coordinated the updating of labeling procedures for new materials, paperbacks, and classics, evaluated the return on investment across material types and made suggestions for changes to funding allocations to meet the demands of patrons’ preferred material types. The committee is comprised of the Branch Managers, Material Selectors, Technical Services Manager, and the Deputy Director.

\$500 Grant for Wonderbooks

Thanks to the Clarke County Rotary Club, the Clarke County Library was the recipient of a \$500 grant to increase its collection of Wonderbooks. A Wonderbook is a print book with a ready-to-play audiobook inside. Children can press “play” to read along with their favorite books and then switch to learning mode for literacy learning and fun. It’s a great way to teach parents and caregivers how to enjoy and discuss books with their children.



March Was Bingo Month for Adult Readers

This Spring's ***Push Your Shelf Bingo Challenge*** was a wonderful example of the coordination, cooperation, and mutual support of the various departments within HRLS to develop very special activities for our patrons. From all of the graphic design work created and produced by the Public Relations Department to the selection and display of materials by the Information Services Departments, HRLS staff members "pushed themselves" to provide a unique and rewarding program.

The Bingo themed challenge, held at all three locations brought in 36 completed adult cards, with 5 of those being blackouts covering all 25 squares, meaning that these 5 patrons had completed 25 reading challenges. All patrons submitting a completed Bingo received book bucks for the April Friends' Book Sale. Those with blackouts also received HRLS umbrellas. Loyal library reading program participant Robin Casey was the first patron to complete the Bingo Blackout at Handley. While Bowman patron Makenzie Rose was the winner of the iPad mini, when her name was selected from all of those who had completed a bingo blackout.

Enjoy the Quiet, Respect the Space



The Handley branch is proud to be a bustling place, but sometimes our patrons need an area where they can focus on their work. The two Study Rooms at Handley branch, which have been used over 900 times so far this fiscal year, have been the best option, until now. In March, the West Reading Room was converted into a "Quiet Zone" where patrons can use earphones, can have their phones set to silent, and can whisper. The room has already become a great alternative when the Study Rooms are in use, and is becoming popular with patrons bringing their own laptops, as well as with patrons coming in to read "The Winchester Star". It was an unanticipated result, but in March, the library secured a second subscription to the "Winchester Star" to better meet daily demand.

Busy Month for Friends

Successful book donations and the library weeding efforts filled the book storage unit in preparation for the Friends' Spring used book sale held April 4th. through 16th at the Bowman Library. Meetings and discussions resulted in a proposed FY 22-23 organizational budget. Creating the April Friends Newsletter kept members informed. And author Rita Finch Pettie presented a program on "Birthing, Healing and Dying in Traditional Appalachia" with books for signing, provided for the event by Winchester Book Gallery





Community StoryWalk Displays

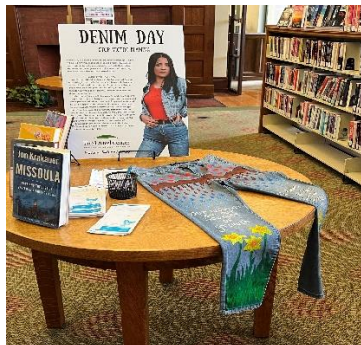
Frederick County Parks and Recreation (P&R) installed new, sturdy, metal holders for the Lake Story Walk at the Bowman Library. The newest featured story is **“Kite Flying” by Grace Lin**. P&R partnered with the Bowman branch and each were able to hand out kite kits to the many children enjoying the walk.

Stories featured at the other HRL StoryWalk sites include:

- **“Saturday” by Oge Mora** at the Mike Forman Rotary Reading Garden at the Handley Library
- **“A Big Bed for Little Snow” by Grace Lin** at The Rooftop at Shenandoah Valley Discovery Museum
- **“If Winter Comes, Tell It I’m Not Here” by Sinoma Ciruolo** at Rose Hill Park.

Irish Dance Party

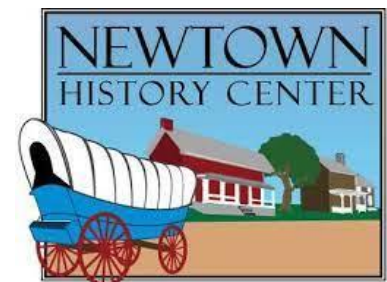
On March 18th the Handley Library Youth Services Department celebrated St. Patrick’s Day by holding an Irish Dance Party with the help of Sarah Armstrong and students from the Armstrong Irish Dance Academy. Dancers of all ages from the Academy showed off their Celtic moves while teaching kids how to do a few steps.



Supporting Community Organizations

Through the leadership of Cheryl McKelvey, Information Services Coordinator at the Bowman Library, both the Bowman and the Handley branches supported the efforts of the Laurel Center to bring attention to the issue of “Blaming” in context to sexual assault through its “Denim Days” display.

Cheryl also coordinated with Rick Kriebel, the Manager of Collections & Programs at the Newtown History Center of the Stone House Foundation, to start a history book club. The first



book to be discussed is “1491: New Revelation of the Americas before Columbus”, by Charles C. Mann.



Patrons Can Continue Learning with HRLS Databases

Universal Class. Universal Class offers over 500 online courses. From academic subjects to career and business courses to creative hobbies. There is something for everyone, ages teen through adult, available from Universal Class where you can learn something new or update your existing skills. All courses are self-paced, so you can finish them at your convenience. Progress is assessed through assignments and exams. Certificates and CEUs can be earned with course completion.

Universal Class is easy to find on the Handley Regional Library System Website. From the Home Page, hover over the “Research and Learn” option on the top banner. Click on the “Lifelong Learning” option under “Discover”. Universal Class is located near the bottom of the page.

Staff Continues Training With Collection HQ

Staff members at all three branches continue to become familiar with the newly acquired collection management system, “Collection HQ”. Designed to save time and money and to improve patron satisfaction, the system will help to streamline collection management activities and make better use of staff time by providing specific material circulation information that will assist in making better selection decisions in the purchase and allocation of materials to meet the needs of our patrons.



Contributors:

Mary Anton, Bowman Branch Manager

Adrienne Davis, Handley Branch Manager

Barbara Dickinson, Exec, Director, Friends of Handley Library

Becky Ebert, Librarian of the Stewart Bell Jr. Archives

Donna Hughes, Youth Services Division Head

Kylie Feiring, Technical Services Manager

Katie Moss, Handley Youth Services Manager

Cheryl Nakagawa, Manager of Public Relations and Outreach

Ann White, Deputy Director