



## Director's Report of Library Highlights

### June, July, & August 2021

**Deputy Director, Anne White**

#### *Branch Administration*

- ***Libraries return to normal operating hours:*** After thirteen months of reduced hours, on August 1<sup>st</sup> 2021, all branches returned to normal operating hours, (Mon-Thurs 10am to 8 pm, Fri-Sat 10am to 5 pm). This addition of eleven hours per week resulted in approximately 1,200 patron visits during the extended hours.
- ***Collection Development Strategic Planning:*** The committee continues to address ways to improve HRLS collection offerings to the public. In July the committee re-evaluated and reallocated funding amounts for each type of collection, taking into account use by patrons, available space allocation, and available funds for the year. The reallocation allowed for the launch of "Hoopla Flex", a new service offered to provide supplemental e-book and e-audio titles to the base collections of Hoopla. the committee also discussed how to better manage the materials that "float" between library location, in order to increase use by patrons.

#### *Human Resources*

- ***Staff receive 2%cost of living adjustment:*** Effective July 1<sup>st</sup> 2021, staff received a 2% cost-of-living (COLA) and the base salary scales were adjusted by 1%. The board and the library administration are still pursuing additional funding from Frederick County to support increasing the COLA for FY2022 to 5%.

#### *Financial*

- ***Annual Audit:*** Auditors were on site July 9<sup>th</sup> and August 4-6 for field audit work. It is anticipated the final audit report will be completed in time for the October 2021 HRL Board Meeting.

**Stuart Bell Jr. Archives, Rebecca Ebert**

***Noted Acquisition:*** The archives successfully bid on an original deed signed by James Wood II, Governor of Virginia and son of Winchester's founder, Col. James Wood.

## Branch Manager, Bowman Library, Mary Anton

### *20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration*

- ***\$100,000 Donation tops celebration:*** Beverly Shoemaker, the daughter of Mary Jane and James L. Bowman surprised the staff and guests with a check for \$100,000 to be used at the library that bears her parents' names.
- ***Two major events were the highlights of the event:*** On July 14<sup>th</sup>, a ceremonial ribbon cutting was led by the Top of Virginia Chamber of Commerce. On July 17<sup>th</sup>, a community festival with an old-time music jam, soft serve ice cream, cupcakes, a photobooth, and animals from Wildlife Care entertained patrons and guests.
- ***Bowman's history was celebrated:*** Multiple displays and videos detailing the library's history were up throughout the month. Donna Hughes and Mandy Foote wrote and signed "The Story of Bowman" Story Walk for the trail around the lake.

***Youth Services Active Summer:*** Library programs like Nature Surprises, Paws for Reading and Storytime and Puppets changed on July 19<sup>th</sup> to in-person options for those wishing to attend in person.



Natsu Con (the summer conference) for teens returned to Bowman with carefully designed meetings, cosplay and artist celebrations of Japanese anime, manga, comics, and video games.

## Clarke County Branch Manager, Laurine Kennedy

- ***Clarke continues to grow and thrive:*** New patrons are driving increases in circulation while the return of programs like "Live Trivia Night" are being met with enthusiasm by long-time patrons. Plans are underway for a new StoryTime and to bring back the Lego program.
- ***Revamping Clarke:*** Teens are enjoying the new look at Clarke in the Young Adult area with fun new furniture and new artwork that will be coming soon. Meanwhile colorful displays in all the departments are enticing children and adults alike to read.

## Technical Services Manager, Kylie Feiring

- ***New Self-guided Tours in the Future?*** Technical Services is considering the purchase of a subscription to “STQRY”, a self-guided tour app for the Handley Library. STQRY app allows the library to create its own tour experience with as much or as little complexity as it chooses. It can include text, audio, and /or video commentary, and even GPS-enabled mapping which will allow the visitor to see where they are in the building. Visitors will be able to pick and choose what to look for, so they control the time they spend attend the tour. Patrons will use their own devices, (phones or tablets) to use the app. No new equipment will be required and there will be no need to share equipment between individuals furthering efforts to be more health conscious.

## Public Relations and Outreach Manager, Cheryl Nakagawa

- ***New System-wide Calendar:*** We now have a new system-wide calendar of adult and children’s activities that provides a snapshot visual calendar for patrons to quickly see all of the programs available to them. Even better it’s being printed in house to save costs to provide updating flexibility.

## Handley Branch Manager, Adrienne Davis

- ***The Story of Emigrants and Refugees.*** The Handley branch hosted **The New Virginians 1619 -2019 & Beyond** exhibit, on loan from the library of Virginia, and on display in July and August on the lower level. The focus of the exhibit was to explore the historical and continuous journey toward the ideals of America, and to seek to foster an honest discussion about the immigrant and refugee experience in Virginia’s increasing diversity.
- ***A Warm and Informative Welcome.*** The “greeter’s” desk that had its humble beginnings during the height of Covid 19 has proved its usefulness and has become a mainstay in the entrance of the library. Handley is wonderful building, but it can seem a little daunting to a first-time visitor. Branch members from all the departments staff the greeter’s desk and assist patrons in navigating the building, directing them to programs or services and answering basic questions about obtaining a library card and using library resources.
- ***Summer of Youth Services Special Programs:***



***Backyard Wilderness:*** This family-friendly, interactive exhibit featured a scavenger hunt for 15 hidden plants, and animals, with “telescopes” that provided more information about the creatures they were pointed at, and tips on how to become an outdoor explorer.

***Kindercard Extravaganza:*** A back-to-school event where cool Kindergartners got their first library card with many of the adults in attendance also getting a card or renewing an old one. The children all received a special Grab-and-Go kit to help with their first year in school.

