



Director's Report of Library Highlights

October 2021

Deputy Director, Ann White

Human Resources

- **Cost of Living adjustments:** Thanks to the additional funding received from Frederick County, in October staff received a second cost of living adjustment for this fiscal year. This second adjustment brings the total COLA for the year to 5% and more closely matches what the localities have given to their employees.

Financial

- **American Recovery Plan Act grant:** Final approval was issued by the state for ARPA grant funds to be distributed through the Library of Virginia to local libraries around the state. Handley Regional Library system was awarded \$56,534. A majority of these funds will be used to complete unfunded projects at Bowman Library. These projects include: six laptop computers and a self-service laptop check out kiosk, upgraded digital exterior security cameras, and network upgrades to accommodate voice over up telephone service. The remaining funds will be used to purchase a one-year subscription to a software suite, Collection HQ that will allow staff to better analyze patron use of our collections and assist in selection and de-selection of materials.

Exec. Director, Friends of Handley Library, Barbara Dickinson

Friends Book Sales and Author Visit



The Friends held four sales this year, totaling almost \$38,000. Over 350 loyal volunteers helped to sort donations, organize the sales room and work at the sales themselves

Author, Ben Hatke gave a program at Bowman Library on the Art of Cartooning and a Book reading at Handley Library on October 23rd. A resident of Front Royal, Hatke is most well known for his series of middle grade graphic novels Zita the Spacegirl. A father of four girls, his novels center on strong female characters. Books for author signing were provided by Christine Patrick of the Winchester Book Gallery.



Handley Branch Manager, Adrienne Davis

Presenting at Virtual Conference: Handley Information Services Coordinator Todd Strader was a presenter during “The Library Company” annual conference TLCU2021 that was held virtually this year. After attending Todd’s March 2021 virtual program series “Exploring Your Library” TLC staff members invited Todd to speak and share the “what, why, how” of his programs plus the results of the series. A total of 215 attendees viewed his presentation



Branch Manager, Bowman Library, Mary Anton

Women’s Suffrage in Virginia: Bowman Library is hosting a fascinating display, on loan from the Library of Virginia, entitled “We Demand”. The display highlights the woman and the events during Virginia’s long struggle for women’s suffrage. One of the first attempts at organizing Virginia women for the vote was in 1870 when the Virginia State Woman Suffrage Association was organized in Richmond. The following year, Anna Whitehead Bodeker attempted to vote in Richmond based on the 14th Amendment which granted citizenship to all persons born or naturalized in the United States, including former enslaved people, and guaranteed all citizens equal protection of the laws. She was not allowed to vote. Even after the 19th Amendment, women were often subjected to poll taxes and had to answer multiple questions to be allowed to vote or kept from voting in Virginia.



Public Relations and Outreach Manager, Cheryl Nakagawa



The Department continued its outreach efforts through the month of October, including to Shenandoah University and the “Newcomers’ Event” at the Winchester Visitor’s Center. Highlighting the many sources available to college students and new residents, the efforts garnered 23 new members.

Additionally, the department helped to promote 109 system-wide events through its publicity efforts and design and redesign of library graphic materials.

Stewart Bell Jr. Archives Librarian, Rebecca Ebert

Staff Members Recognized: Rebecca “Becky” Ebert was recognized and received an award for her over 40 years of service to Handley Library and the growth of the Stewart Bell Jr. Archives. Joan Wood received a 10-year award.

Handley Library Youth Services Manager, Katie Moss

“Franken-Toys”: Hammers + Glue Guns+ Screwdrivers and kids with a lot of imagination broke apart old toys and created new ones using STEAM skills to plan, engineer, and problem solve in order to create new “Frankenstein Creatures”. Valley Makers Association provided hands-on expertise and the necessary tools to help make an imaginary project into a real-life toy for teens and tweens



Clarke County Library Manager, Laurine Kennedy

Finishing Up Projects and Celebrating a New Card Holder: Clarke County continues to increase circulation and new patrons monthly. The new Young Adult area has almost been completed and thoughts are turning toward the public computer area with an eye toward new seating.

Youth Services Division Bowman Library, Donna Hughes

TEENtober: Teen patrons were highlighted during this month known also TEENtober with the launching of a book discussion group, a hot sauce challenge, a Game Night with the theme of Murder Mystery Mafia and an expanded Teen Spooky Halloween party with loads of games, storytelling, pumpkin carving, and worm bobbing. Hispanic Heritage month was celebrated with the Millbrook Spanish Club, providing crafts, bilingual stories and traditional dances.

