



Director's Report of Library Highlights

September 2021


Deputy Director, Anne White

Branch Administration

- **Branch Visits Foster Organizational Relations:** Although the Deputy Director visits the Bowman and Clarke County Branches regularly, most of her time is spent at the Handley Branch in management meetings and job application interviews. In an effort to garner a feel for the flow of operations at the Bowman Library, and to reacquaint herself with branch staff, the Deputy Director took the opportunity to work two afternoons at the Circulation desk there. It provided a chance to catch up with staff, and to revisit circulation policies and procedures. It also allowed her to learn about Bowman's RFID materials handler that automatically sorts returning materials.

Technical Services Manager, Kylie Feiring

New Resources for Patrons

- **Netspot Laptop Kiosk:** The Handley branch now has 6 laptops available for in-house use with 2-hour checkout periods. The laptops can be used anywhere in the library that fits the needs of the patron, whether it's at a desk or in a comfortable chair, independently or in a work group. From installation on the 14th, until the end of September, patron used Netspot laptops for a total of 15.6 hours.
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- A photograph of a Netspot Laptop Kiosk in a library. The kiosk is a white, rectangular machine with a screen and several laptop compartments. It is placed on a wooden table in a library setting with bookshelves in the background.
- **Brainfuse HelpNow:** September saw the addition of "Brainfuse HelpNow" to the digital library. This resource is paid for by the Library of Virginia with ARPA, (American Rescue Plan Act) funds. It provides live, certified educator assistance for homework, research and writing in all subjects for grades K-college, seven day a week from 2 pm to 11pm.
 - **Accel 5:** Also paid for with ARPA funds through the Library of Virginia, Accel 5 Business Library features short videos on topics including business competencies, leadership and management, and personal effectiveness; summaries from business and leadership books; and articles by industry leaders on current working world issues.

Exec. Director, Friends of Handley Library, Barbara Dickinson

- **Finally, In-Person Programing:** After 17 months of virtual programing, the Friends held their first in-person program, “Judge Richard Parker, A man of His Times”. The presentation was of particular interest to the active local historical community not only because the Judge was a resident of Winchester, but because of the role he played in the critical period surrounding the Civil War. Judge Richard Parker, a graduate of University of Virginia, had been elected judge of the thirteenth judicial circuit in Virginia in 1851. He was living in Winchester when he served as the judge in the trial of John Brown and his men after the raid on Harpers Ferry in 1859. Parker lived in Winchester until his death in 1893.



Public Relations and Outreach Manager, Cheryl Nakagawa

- **Tech Tuesdays are Back:** Handley Regional Library System is pleased to announce the return of its Tech Tuesday Series, free, in-person workshops held at both Bowman and Handley Library locations over the next couple of months for anyone in the community. This series will concentrate on a particular technology topic at each program event and will be run by local technology experts from Experimax and Tech Team Solutions. Dates and topics are listed on the library’s webpage. This series is sponsored by our partner



Branch Manager, Bowman Library, Mary Anton

- **Lunch and Learn:** Bill Carlson, of Reference Solutions introduced area businesses, entrepreneurs, and staff to the capabilities of this service. One of the many reference resources available through the library, Reference Solutions enables access to accurate and complete business and consumer data for job seekers, small business owners, marketing professionals, and researchers. From finding business opportunities, researching executives and companies, reading news articles, conducting job searches, to locating addresses and phone numbers, References Solutions can help with planning, marketing and more for both emerging and growing companies.
- **Books by the Bag:** Book Bundles were launched at Bowman this month, first in Youth Services followed by bundles for adults. These contain about five items centered on a specific theme, and packaged in a bag with other library promotional materials. Using the self-check out system, patrons are able to checkout an entire bag without removing the items. The bags had agricultural themed tags under the overall theme of “Picked Fresh for You”.

Handley Branch Manager, Adrienne Davis

- **Welcome Packets:** Handley has developed a literal “Cornucopia of Library Resources” with the new informational packets created to help our newest members discover the Library. Assembled by Information Services staff, the packets include all the handouts and flyers that promote Library programs and services, from the monthly calendar to the Digital Library brochure, plus bookmarks, book suggestion and a couple of small gifts.
- **Hispanic Heritage Month:** A “mixed format and genres display took center stage during the month of September, with works by such authors as a Jorge Luis Borges, Gabriel García Márquez, Gabriela Mistral, and Octavio Paz.
- **New Newsletter:** The Handley Youth Services Department kicked off a brand, new newsletter subscription for the parents and teachers in kids’ lives. The “Parent-Teacher Hacks” Newsletter is another LibraryAware newsletter that helps grown-ups find new book recommendations for parent/caregiving skills and the latest teacher tools to build resilient and kind kids in and out of the classroom



Stuart Bell Jr. Archives, Rebecca Ebert

- **Historic Marker for Dr. Madison Briscoe Approved:** The Archives has been involved with many projects to collect and share information about African Americans in our community. To this end, a Black History Task Force was developed to assist with a variety of projects. Members included: Judy Humbert, Sharon Dixon, and Ann Grogg. and Becky Ebert. The Task Force proposed a goal of applying to the Virginia Historic Landmark Commission to install historic highway markers commemorating notable African Americans of the community. Brenda Nelson joined the group and efforts were begun to recognize Dr. Madison Briscoe (1904-1955), The Brown Family and Robert Orrick. An unveiling of the Dr. Madison Briscoe marker is being planned for the Spring.

Overheard at the Library: “It is nice to come to a place that always makes you happy.” – Robin 9/20/21

This Year's Staff Development Day would have honored the following:

Service Award Recipients

2020

Kimberly Stanley, 40 yrs. Technical Services Assistant, Bowman

Donna Hughes, 30 yrs. Youth Services Division Head, Bowman

Karen Basque, 15 yrs. Circulation Aide, Handley

Rachelle Long, 15 yrs. Circulation Services Coordinator, Bowman

Joan Wood, 10 yrs. Archives Assistant, Handley

Laura Beavers, 5 yrs. Circulation Aide, Handley

Katie Horn, 5 yrs. Office Assistant, Bowman

Kathryn Crosby, 5 yrs. Circulation Aide, Handley

Jacob Baker, 5 yrs. Cleaning Crew, Bowman

Kendel Lynn, 1 yr. Circulation Aide, Bowman

Gina Byrd, 1 yr. Public Relations & Marketing Associate, Handley

Gregory Rowe, 1 yr. Circulation Aide, Bowman

Erica Willems, 1 yr. Circulation Aide, Bowman

Elyse Dequoy, 1 yr. Youth Services Assistant, Bowman

Mindy Williams, 1 yr. Circulation Aide, Handley

2021

Rebecca Ebert, 40 yrs. Archives Librarian, Handley

Barbara Dickinson, 20 yrs. Ex. Director Friends of HRL, Handley

Amanda Henry, 10 yrs. Youth Services Assistant, Handley

Kathryn Moss, 5 yrs. Youth Services Manager, Handley

Kathryn Fernandez, 5 yrs, Circulation Aide, Bowman

Cheryl Costello, 5 yrs. Youth Services Assistant, Bowman

Mackenzie Collins, 1 yr. Library Branch assistant, Clarke

Katy Eckstein, 1 yr. Youth Services Assistant, Bowman

John Romano, 1 yr. Delivery Driver, Bowman