



HRLS

Director's Report and Highlights

August 2025

A Very Productive Month At Clarke County

Once again, members of the Clarke County Library “Sit and Stitch” program flooded the talent pool at the **Clarke County Fair** and came home with 15 first place blue ribbons and 10 second place red ribbons for their handmade creations seen in the photo on the right.



Adding a new, part time staff member allowed the branch to add three new programs with more to come in the following months.

- “Baby Blocks”, a new Lego Club but with bigger blocks for smaller toddler hands
- “Pokémon Card Game”, a social event for the 6-11 age range
- “Magic: The Gathering” the newest offering for teens

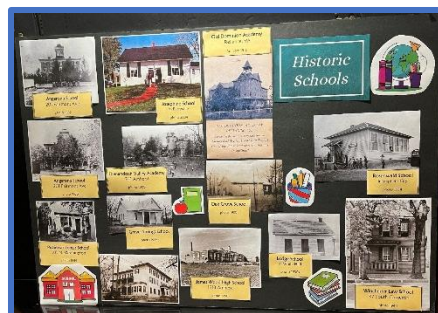
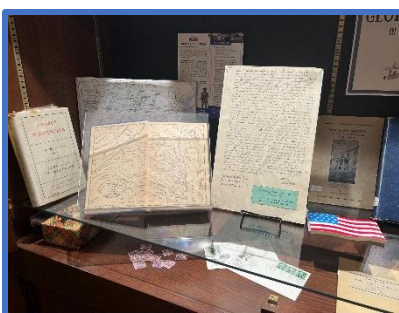
In collaboration with the **Clarke County Public Schools New Teacher Academy**, the Clarke County branch welcomed 26 new teachers to the library for a tour and information about all the products and services offered by the library. The successful visit even resulted in nine new library cards for the new teachers.



The CCL branch also provided an information table at the **Clarke County National Night Out** on August 5th, handing out free books to kids and offering library card signups. Then with assistance from 2 volunteer members of the Library’s Advisory Council hosted an information table at “**Back to School Night**” at **Johnson Williams Middle School** where their efforts garnered twenty-four new patrons who signed up for library cards.

And last but not least, a new charging station was installed at the branch for patrons to use while at the library, conveniently located next to some bright and comfy chairs.





Intriguing Items and Images

One of the delights of visiting the Handley Library branch is the opportunity to see the displays situated on either side of the entrance to the Archives located on the lower level of the building. The displays, created by Archives staff, contain photos, documents, and items of historic interest that focus on particular topics. Currently the display on the right deals with a young George Wahington and his ties to Winchester in anticipation of the September **Author Talk with Peter Stark**. The display on the left has a timely “back to school” theme with photos and information about historic schools and students of “yesteryear”.



A Most Successful Collaboration

On June 3, 2023, a ribbon cutting ceremony was held for the new amphitheater at the Bowman Library. A collaborative effort between the library and the **Frederick County Parks and Recreation Department**, the amphitheater has proven to be a great success in helping to make Bowman Library a special destination in Frederick County. The Sunset Series has grown from its initial three concerts held in 2023 to nine in 2024 and this year the bill grew to twelve performances. Ending in August, this year’s series had an attendance of over 2,000: individuals, friends, and families who enjoyed this special entertainment venue.

Contributors:

Mary Anton, Bowman Library Branch Manager
Matthew Bernstein, Technical Services Manager
Gina Byrd, Executive Director, Friends of Handley Regional Library
Adrienne Davis, Handley Library Branch Manager
Donna Hughes, Youth Services Division Head
Lorna Loring, Manager of the Stewart Bell Jr. Archives
Katie Moss, Handley Youth Services Manager
Cheryl Nakagawa, Manager of Public Relations and Outreach
Alison Waddell, Clarke County Library Branch Manager

The Handley Regional Library ... handleyregional.org