



HRLS

Director's Report and Highlights

December 2024

Staff Development Day 2024

Each year the Library brings together its 60 plus staff members from its three locations to provide them with an opportunity to meet one and other and to enhance their professional skills through training and collaboration. The event is held at the Bowman Library which offers a large meeting room that can host the entire group, smaller unique spaces for breakout sessions, and up to date technology that can be used in presentations.

This year, after a motivational welcome by Keith Buzby, newly elected Library Board Chair, the group heard a presentation by keynote speaker Pat Ritchie, pictured on the left with Deputy Director Ann White. Pat is a former staff member, a historian and the author of “Handley Regional Library System, *The First One Hundred Years*”. With images and insightful commentary, she shared her extensive knowledge of the history and development of the library system, strengthening the group’s understanding of its organizational history.

The day is also a time to recognize members of staff for their dedication and special years of service. Pictured below are images of Director John Huddy congratulating three staff members for their twenty years with the Library: Mary Anton, Manager of the Bowman Library (left), Carolyn Bly, Facilities Manager (center), and Judy Labecque, Handley Circulation Services (right). Deputy Director Ann White, (pictured above with Pat Ritchie) was also recognized for her thirty years with HRLS.





All Kinds of Holiday Events

This year the staff at Clarke County Library expanded their outreach efforts by taking part in the Berryville Main Street Christmas Parade that hundreds of Clarke County residents come out to watch each year. With the support of the Friends of HRLS and staff volunteers, the library handed out over 300 informational brochures and bookmarks.

The Friends of HRLS provided patrons and area residents with music for the Holidays. The group sponsored **The Trombone Collective** from Shenandoah University that played a selection of seasonal favorites for the “*A Little Noon Music*” series at the Handley Library and **The Apple Valley Ringers**, a handbell choir, that provided two holiday concerts at the Bowman Library.



Bowman Library also welcomed an enthusiastic crowd of nearly 130 at its Winter Wonderland event. Puppets, story sharing, indoor skating and even an indoor snowball fight had everyone joining into the spirit of the season.

New Rotunda Installation

A new informational display has been installed on the third floor of the Rotunda at the Handley Library. The display offers information about the stained-glass dome that forms the ceiling of the Rotunda and about the history and symbolism of the images and printer's marks depicted in its stained-glass.



Electronic Resources Continue to Expand

Over a period of two months, the final stats count for the Hoopla BingePass was 897 circulations. This effort gave patrons access to Hallmark+ with unlimited viewing of Hallmark movies for 7 days. Additionally, the Kanopy collection was expanded with 30,00 new titles.

Efforts For Even Better Service



The Handley Youth Services Department enjoyed a brief Storytime break this month and used the time to finish phase two of the 2nd floor Youth Services “rezoning” plan. After moving the Young Adult materials earlier this fall to the new Teen and Tutor Room on the 1st floor, the Juvenile Fiction collections were moved to their new Tween Space. As a result, smaller collections were able to move to better shelving locations, making them easier to identify and access by our patrons.

The question mark table which formerly held pride of place at the entrance to the Youth Services Department has also begun its transformation. This wonderful piece of furniture is temporarily located in a work zone waiting to be remodeled and to be reused. When it’s finished, it will have a writing center on the outside and a seating area on the inside. Taking its place at the entrance is a new and welcoming shelving arrangement that greets patrons with displays of the department’s newest materials.



Clarke County Library has begun successfully sharing its event and programming information with all county households and businesses, each month, at no cost, through the “Clarke Monthly” publication. Many thanks to “Clarke Monthly” for supporting the Library and the people of Clarke.

Contributors:

Mary Anton, Bowman Branch Manager
Matthew Bernstein, Technical Services Manager
Gina Byrd, Executive Director, Friends of Handley Regional Library
Adrienne Davis, Handley 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 Branch Manager

The Handley Regional Library ... handleyregional.org