



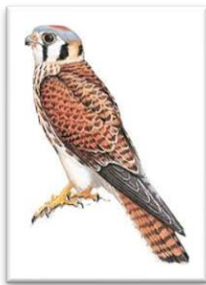
HRLS

Director's Report and Highlights

February 2024

A Busy Month at Bowman!

On February 4th, the Bowman Library hosted the Northern Shenandoah Valley Master Gardener Association for an ***Indoor Plant Clinic***. Information on how to start and nurture plants successfully was shared with over 200 participants. Attendees were also given the opportunity to take new plants home with them.



It was also the site of the second annual ***Celebration of Birds*** in partnership with Northern Shenandoah Valley Audubon Society (NSVAS).

The 53 attendees participated in NSVAS-led morning and afternoon bird walks around the lake, as well as an informative presentation on kestrels.

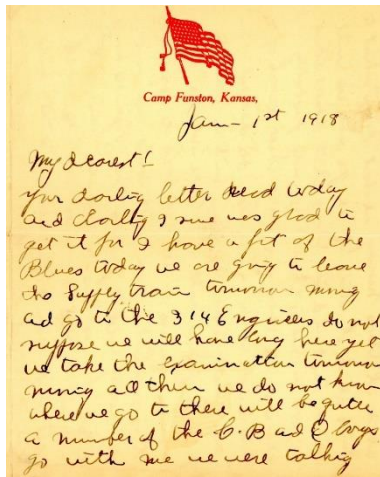
Not to be forgotten, groundhogs were also spotlighted on their special day. Representatives of Valley Wildlife Care, added to the stories, music and puppet activities of the day by providing information and answering questions about groundhogs. They even brought a live groundhog for patrons to view.



February also saw the ***The Spring Scholastic Chess Tournament*** held at the Bowman branch. The local Chess Club members and the participants in the weekly ChessKids classes registered and played round-robin matches. The players were enthusiastic and enjoyed sharing their game-playing strategies and skills.

And finally, on that special, last day of February, ***Leap Day*** was celebrated at the Bowman Library with many different types of leaping activities. There was long jumping, hopscotch, frog hopping, special art activities and music. It had been a very busy and a very good month at the branch.





Across the Many Years

Salvaged from an old house by the new owners and delivered to the Archives for preservation were letters written by James Loy to Rena Keckly during World War I.

In the letter to the left, dated January 1st, 1918, James writes from Camp Funston, Kansas, where he was training for deployment to Europe with an Engineer Regiment. During his training, James was one of many soldiers and civilians who became ill from the “Spanish Flu”. He recovered and was deployed to France. After returning from the War, he and Rena married and had one child while living in Winchester.

In Memory

Donations for the **Jean Wilson Memorial Fund** for the Clarke County Library closed on February 29th. Community donations totaled \$620 to be used for the purchase of children’s books and Launchpads in her memory.



Working to Help Others

The Soaring Arrows, the 4H Club that meets monthly at the Handley Library created a collection bin that was placed in the Handley Rotunda for the **February Footwear Drive** sponsored by FROGGY’S Closet (Families Reaching Out). The aim of the effort was to collect new shoes for children in need. The 4H Club’s bin was full to overflowing by the end of February and became part of the over 1,000 pairs of shoes collected during the drive.

Expanding Horizons

A group of Literacy Volunteers and a few of their students toured the Handley Library to learn about the wealth of resources available through the library system and to sign up for a library card. The Literacy Volunteers offer a wide range of services, a few of which are, English Language tutoring, computer training and even financial literacy. The library is proud to be a partner in their efforts.



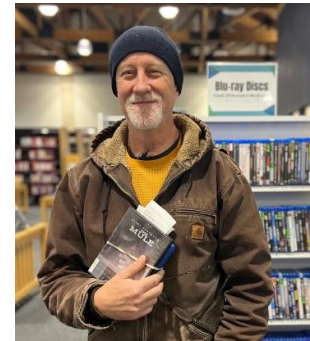
Offering Advice



The Friends presented a program entitled *Reinvention vs: Retirement* with Dr. Brent Kendrick a local author, former professor at Laurel Ridge Community College and past Library of Congress employee. Dr. Kendrick spoke about how retirement doesn't have to mean you stop working. He gave tips on creating another career, finding inspiration, and navigating the world of social media. Kendrick, who has recently published two books and is working on releasing a third, has a blog and post thoughts on various subjects each week.

Two Very Special Kudos

Patron Tom Scott went out of his way to thank Bowman Library for having such a large and diverse Blu-ray selection and for its quick turnaround time for his hold requests. He posted on social media how much he really appreciates the library and especially the Blu-ray collection because his family doesn't have a streaming service at home.



Mike and Judy Gedge sent a very special Valentine to the Handley branch on Valentine's Day. To show their appreciation of library workers Mike and Judy engaged *Winchester A Cappella* to perform a singing valentine at the branch. From the first floor to the third, the singing was enjoyed by staff and patrons alike.

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 Branch Manager
Ann White, Deputy Director

The Handley Regional Library System www.handleyregional.org