



HRLS

Director's Report and Highlights

March 2024



Receiving Recognition

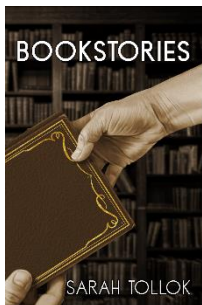
Winchester Star reporter Tabitha Reeves visited the Handley Librry branch on March 27th and captured Youth Services Manager Katie Moss receiving her Virginia Public Library Directors Association “Outstanding Staff Member” award from Handley Director John Huddy. Katie was recognized for her work with the Campaign for Grade Level Reading Coalition, especially her work with the City of Winchester’s Preschool Initiative Program. This photo and Tabitha’s story about Katie ran in the March 31st edition of the Winchester Star.

Starting New Programs

Archives launched its first “After Hours” program in March. The new programs are intended to offer the public an opportunity for an up-close introduction to its many collections. The first program led by Toby focused on Sanborn maps which were designed to assist fire insurance agents in determining the degree of hazard associated with a particular property. Started in 1866 by Daniel Alfred Sanborn, the maps show the size, shape, and construction of dwellings, commercial buildings, and factories, and can help in understanding the history and development of a community.



Showcasing Local Artists



For over 40 years the Friends of Handley Library have been hosting a unique program entitled “A little Noon Music”. In March the event was held at The Barnes of Rose Hill, next to the Clarke County branch, and featured The Jon Rose Trio, a classic jazz combo from the Nothern Shenandoah Valley. The Friends also hosted local author Sarah Tollok at the Handley branch to celebrate the release of “Bookstories” her novel that is a love letter to the world of books, publishers, and libraries.

Expanding Programing



Today's libraries are moving beyond traditional programming and becoming "Community Destinations" for learning and fun. A perfect example is the Bowman branch with its puzzle tournaments, trivia nights, Scrabble club, and musical concerts in partnership with Frederick County Parks and Recreation. Patrons of all ages can enjoy working together to solve a puzzle or tapping their feet to a musical rhythm. Team "Livin' on the Edge" (pictured on the left) won Bowman's first evening puzzle tournament. *Congratulations!*

Sharing Culture

On March 16th local fiddle player and music teacher, Laura Cullinane came to the Clarke County branch to provide a special Irish Heritage program. Laura read stories, taught the group some fun songs, gave a musical performance, and even allowed participants to try out her traditional instruments.



Leyendo Juntos

Working Together and Making Connections

An offshoot group of the Campaign for Grade Level Reading, "Leyendo Juntos" or "Reading Together" met last month to formulate strategies to make connections with the English Language Learner (ELL) community. As a result of this meeting the group contacted First Presbyterian Church where library cards were given out to all the students of its night ELL class.

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The Handley Regional Library System www.handleyregional.org