



April 2021 Director's Report to the Library Board Submitted May 13, 2021

Highlight of the Month ... Friends of the Handley Library, Barbara Dickinson

"Expect the Unexpected"

The April 12-17 week-long book sale held in the meeting room at Bowman raised \$9482 to support HRLS. The sale closely followed safety standards: there was a limit of 20 masked shoppers in the sale room at one time, and reservations were recommended. Items of adult fiction, history, biography, religion, cookery, gardening as well as the classics and books for children were available and restocked throughout the day with the generous help of volunteers.

Deputy Director, Ann White

Branch Administration

- **Branch Admin Coordination:** The administrative staff began discussing possible changes that could be implemented upon the loosening of Virginia State COVID restrictions. All changes will be dependent on the Governor's orders, community spread of COVID, and the Library Board's approval. Items discussed included reopening meeting rooms for public use, reinstating our Interlibrary Loan services, and returning previously stored furniture to former locations throughout the library.
- **Collection Development Strategic Planning:** May 17th will mark the launch of a new "**Express Picks**" collection that will feature multiple copies of bestseller books and blockbuster movies. The purpose of this collection is to ensure that high demand items are in-stock and readily available for our patrons. While patrons will not be able to place holds on items in this collection, they will be able to place holds on identical titles in the regular collection.

Human Resources

- **Minimum Wage:** As of April 24th, all hourly rates were adjusted to a minimum of \$9.71 per hour. This change will necessitate the reclassification of some staff positions and duties.

Facilities

- Sidewalk lighting repairs continue at Bowman along with the installation of a new security alarm. Façade repairs have been completed at Handley and plaster/wall repairs at various locations are now underway.

Public Relations & Technology Coordinator, Matt Swain

Public Relations

- April was “**National Library Week**” and Handley Regional Library System found itself in the spotlight with a signed proclamation from Mayor Smith of Winchester and a “Letter to the Editor” published by the Winchester Star and TV coverage by WDVM.

Outreach

- For the first time ever, HRLS began sending out “WELCOME EMAILS” to our new card holders, 200-400 per month. For 90 days, and approximately every two weeks new members will receive an email about library services to help them connect with their local library.
- Additionally, the department is partnering with the Dr. Dave Leadership Group in sponsoring the Virtual Career Fair for the community. It will present information about “Learning Express” and other career services in our Digital Library.

Fundraising / Development

- The Department is investigating new donor management technology tools to help communicate with donors throughout the year to enhance relationships and to promote on-going giving.

Branch Manager, Bowman Library, Mary Anton

Seeds of Growth

- Bowman is partnering with the Northern Shenandoah Valley Master Gardeners Association to create a “Seed Lending Library” at Bowman. It will allow people to “borrow” up to three packets of various vegetable, herb, or flower seeds each week, and check them out online through Master Gardeners. The growers are then asked to harvest seeds at the end of the season to return to the Seed Lending Library.

Youth Services Department Head, Donna Hughes

Homeschool Hub

The Handley Youth Services Department survived a year of Virtual Homeschool Hub on Zoom that ended this month. One of the many topics on the Hub was about Animal Adaptations in the wild. From mimicry in moths to beak structures in birds. For centuries, animals have adapted to their habitats and environments in order to survive. After pretending to respond to their own animal adaptation scenarios over Zoom, homeschoolers met a scientist from the American Museum of Natural History who talked specifically about how adaptive and resilient spiders are. We talked about how spiders can teach us about the world of coding with their webs and how spiders need us more than we might think.

Community Partnerships Support StoryWalk Displays

- ***Bowman Lake Trail: “The Earth book” by Todd Parr***
- ***Mike Foreman Rotary Reading garden at Handley Library: “This Love” by Isabel Otter***
- ***The Rooftop at Shenandoah Valley Discovery Museum: “Taking a Walk: Spring in the woods” by Sue Tarshy***
- ***Rose Hill Park “Curious George Plants a Tree” by Monic Perez***

Clarke County Library Branch Manager, Laurine Kennedy

- ***The Library has your back to keep your reading up to date.***

Just in case you somehow missed reading that book everyone was talking about during the past year, the Clark County Library has created a super popular display titled “What You May Have Missed”

Calling all Dads

Plans are in the works for an outdoor Storytime this summer with readings by DADS!

Handley Branch Manager, Adrienne Davis

Highlights

- May 21st. was the inauguration date of the first Handley Library Team Leaders Meetings. Youth Services Manager Katie Moss, Circulation Services Coordinator Rachael Hirsch, and Information Services Coordinator Todd Strader joined Branch Manager Adrienne Davis will continue to meet monthly to discuss and coordinate department activities, training takeaways, branch initiative, and system plans. The group started by answering “What does the perfect day at work look like to you?” The answers (bellow) highlighted how each person is well suited to their role and brings something different to the patron experience:
 - Todd “Interacting with people”
 - Rachael “Being busy with constant high energy activity”
 - Katie “Meeting someone where they are to take them to the next step”
 - Adrienne “providing correct/helpful/useful answer to questions”

Archives Librarian, Becky Ebert

Honoring History

Staff members have been meeting with local community representatives to begin planning for 3 historic markers for African Americans in Winchester, over the next three years. An application has been completed for the first historic marker in honor of Dr. Madison Briscoe, a scientist from Winchester.

Apple Blossom from past to present.

The **Archives Room** of the Handley Library helped to celebrate the Apple Blossom Festival with a popular series of Facebook posts including historic images from the Stewart Bell Jr. Archives. More images are easily accessible through the library’s “Past Perfect” data base:

<https://handley.pastperfectonline.com/>.

Tech and Technology Services, Kylie Feiring

Behind the Scenes

More and more libraries depend on their Technical Services departments to support their day to day operations and the services they provide to their patrons. HRLS is no exceptions. Using initials and acronyms foreign to most of us they keep information in the catalog up to date. They insure that check out times for materials work accurately and efficiently. They look for new technologies to improve the patron experience and to make staff efforts more efficient and productive. And once again, for the month of April, they have done this, and done it well.