



HRLS

Director's Report and Highlights

January 2023

Supporting Leadership

In January Handley Library hosted upcoming community leaders who were participating in the Chamber of Commerce Community Leadership Program. As part of the Nonprofit Day Session, they learned about the programs and services offered by the Handley Regional Library System.



The library also welcomed Frederick County Public School students from the PRISMS (Problem-Solving Research and Independent Study for Middle School) program. The research field trip to the library included instructions on how to conduct research and find materials in the stacks. Additionally, the students were provided with a behind-the-scenes tour of the building as well as an e-library card.



Bringing People Together

January also saw the Bowman Library's first Jigsaw Puzzle Tournament. Patrons formed teams of between two to four members, created a team name and tackled a 750- piece puzzles to see which team could complete their puzzle in the shortest amount of time. Ten teams participated, and team "Connecting the Pieces" was the winner. Another tournament is scheduled for March 4th.

At Clarke County Library it was "Sip and Stitch" welcoming patrons to gather and enjoy a warm beverage while working on a stitching project, sharing a common interest, and connecting with friends and neighbors.



Expanding Horizons

A new partnership was established with the Winchester Regional Airport Authority, bringing a monthly story sharing program to the local airport terminal. The program has received great interest and support from both local families and pilots. In addition to hearing stories and moving to music, the participants talked to pilots and got to climb inside airplanes.



STEAM to GO Kits (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, Mathematics) became available at the Youth Services Departments of all three branches in January. These interactive kits are thematic from fossils to dogs, to coding and more, and take learning to a whole new level. Each kit contains a high-interest book and several activity components that can be explored at home or in the classroom. The kits provide an innovative learning environment that fosters the development of critical thinking, problem solving and creativity.

Providing Opportunities

Students from the Education for Employment program at Sherando High School can once again gain real-life work skills by working a few hours a week at the Bowman Library. For about an hour, every other school day, students, accompanied by their instructors will help with a variety of tasks in both the adult and children's areas.



Preserving the Past

With the completion of the project to add additional movable shelves to its facility, Archives was once again humming with patron activity. In the month of January, there were 175 research visits, and 88 requests for manuscripts. There were also 41 remote requests for research, reference, and reproduction services. Account books of local businesses dealing in coal, wood, groceries, and feed, etc. from the late 1800s were acquired. Members of the local "Family History Hunters" group were provided with an introduction to doing research in the archives and the manuscript collections. Archives also provided an introduction to its facilities and services to the Frederick County Public Schools PRISIM students when they came to Handley.

Supporting Wellness and Medical Knowledge

Going along with the Library's health and wellness theme, the Friends hosted 4 all-levels yoga classes for patrons to experience and enjoy. The first two sessions were at the Handley Library in the Benham Gallery. The second two sessions were held in the Bowman Library meeting room.



Together with the Winchester-Frederick County Historical Society, the Friends also cohosted a program entitled "The Effect of the Civil War on Medicine" presented by Dr. Dianne Murphy

When the Civil War started, the US Army had no ambulances, most nurses were men including wounded soldiers. The war brought experimentation and the development of new lifesaving procedures as well as the entrance of women into the medical fields as never before.



Encouraging Growth

The Clarke County Library's Seed Library got a major facelift from Master Gardener Kathy Holcomb. She decorated a seed box that had been shared by the Handley Library and added another like it to expand available offerings. Seed libraries are located at each of the three library branches. Seeds are free for the taking. Sharing is very much welcomed.



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