



HRLS

Director's Report and Highlights

November and December 2022

Celebrating the Community, the Season, and the Library

Two long-time staff members were recognized for their service at the Library's 2022 Staff Development Day held on December 14th at the Valley of Shenandoah Museum. **June Norwood**, left, has been with the library system for over 35 years, both at the Handley Library and the Bowman Library. She also served as the manager of the "Apple Blossom Mall" location in the early 2000s. **Anna Weinmann**, right, has worked in the system for 25 years, starting at Handley, then as the first delivery driver and currently working in circulation at Bowman. Staff Development Day is the one day a year that all staff members can come together, step away from their normal duties and participate in a day of professional learning, information sharing and fellowship.



As the Fall season came to a close, the **Handley Youth Services Department** celebrated with the return of the family-friendly "**Harvest Hoedown**" event. The 145 attendees enjoyed an interactive puppet show, station activities, and take-home kits courtesy of Virginia Farm Market. The Fall season theme was supported with very special book displays about *Leaf Jumping*, *Hoedown Stomping*, and *Thanks Giving*.

On November 19th, the **Friends of Handley Library** hosted a poetry reading in partnership with the Poet Society of Virginia called "Poets Give Thanks. Five poets read original works that focused on gratitude and participated in a question-and-answer session. There was also an open mic portion to the event where anyone could read an original poem and several patrons took advantage of the opportunity to share their work.



Bowman Library was the site for a “**Whoville Christmas**” in December. The puppets performed while participants made ornaments, sang songs and enjoyed a reader’s theater presentation of “**How the Grinch Stole Christmas**”. Later in the afternoon, the community theater group presented a child’s version of a “**Christmas Carol**”.



The Friends of the Library added to the celebrations by sharing music, presenting “*Christmas Brass*” with the **Shenandoah University Jazz Group** “*Night of Wonder*” with **The Valley Chorale**, “*Acapella Voices*” with **Windsong** and..... “*Sounds of the Season*” with the **Apple Valley Ringers**

At **Clarke County Library** “**Santa’s Workshop: Make a Toy**” program offered families an opportunity to be creative together making animal toys while Santa was on hand to add cheer and give out candy canes.



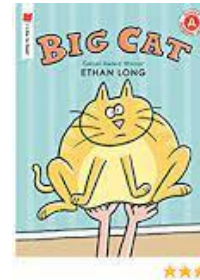
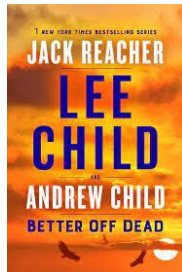
The season also provided the perfect opportunity for the **Friends of Handley Library** to promote the Library Shop at Handley Library as a shopping destination for holiday gifts. Showcasing library and literary themed gifts, the shop also carries items from local artists. Along with new gift items the shop has installed a new credit card terminal making it easier for people to shop at the library or online through its website.

Finally, celebrating a special part of our community... **Tiwaz**, a Swedish Vallhund, and a Kennel Club champion, achieved a milestone of 100 therapy visits through the “Paws for Reading” program at Bowman Library, and earned his “Tail Wagging Tutor Award”. This special reading program allows children to practice their reading skills without correction or criticism while enjoying the supportive company of a very special “furry friend”. The owner of Tiwaz, Michelle Gooden says he loves children and enjoys coming to the library to be with them.



A Quick Look Back

Top Checkouts of 2021: As a way to promote library collections, statistics were gathered to create Top 10 Most checked out titles lists for various types of materials, i.e. Fiction, Non-fiction, and numerous juvenile collections. These lists were shared on social media and through email newsletters to patrons. Have you read the most popular titles. Here are the number one titles. Fiction: Better of Dead by Lee Child. Non-fiction: Fodor's Bucket List USA. Juvenile Fiction: Diary of a Wimpy Kid Wrecking Ball by Jeff Kinney. Juvenile Picture Book: Big Cat by Ethan Long, Young Adult Fiction: Hell Followed With Us by Andrew Joseph White.



Looking to the Future



The new amphitheater at the Bowman Library is nearing completion. A joint project between the Frederick County Parks and Recreation Department and the Bowman Library, the amphitheater is situated between the library building and the lake. It will be used by both entities for entertainment and programming events. Excavation for the seating area and preparations for the stage were begun in November. Grading and seeding are currently underway, and the pergola planned for the stage will be assembled on-site in the next few weeks. Completion of the project is projected for this Spring.

Imagination and Creation

The Handley Youth Services Department welcomes a new decorative addition to the 2nd floor. Through the creative vision of Sarah Gallahan Art, a local muralist, a 3D tree was fabricated around an existing column close to the department's desk. Virginia State Park Nature Backpacks will hang on the "branches" for patron to be inspired to check to check them out



Space and Organization

With the major project of installing additional movable shelves in the Archives completed, the staff is looking forward to providing even more efficient service to the community. The new shelving provides more usable space for staff and offers the opportunity for greater, more organized storage for the myriad of papers, photos, books and objects stored by the Archives to document and preserve the history of this unique part of Virginia. The project was directed by Archives Librarian Becky Ebert, left, and Archives Associate Lorna Loring, right.

Contributors:

Mary Anton, Bowman Branch Manager

Gina Byrd, Executive Director, Friends of Handley Regional Library

Adrienne Davis, Handley Branch Manager

Becky Ebert, Librarian of the Stewart Bell Jr. Archives

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The Handley Regional Library System www.handleyregional.org