



HRLS

Director’s Report and Highlights

“What a Summer” June, July, August

“Rockin’ the Library” Returns!

The Handley Youth Services Department celebrated the long-awaited return of the “Rockin’ the Library” special event in collaboration with Shenandoah University’s Children’s Literature Conference. After a hiatus of 3 years due to the COVID-19 Pandemic, 300 plus, excited patrons joined the party for authors/illustrators like Greg Pizzoli, Jonathan Stutzman, Heather Fox, Deborah Freedman, and Alicia Williams. Families also got their faces painted, enjoyed shaved ice and cupcakes, met real llamas and much, much more. Winchester’s Mayor Smith and other local celebrities were on hand to help acknowledge our community’s love of reading, too!



Books-a-Million Sponsors Book Donations

The Winchester Book-a-Million chose the Handley Regional Library System as the recipient for book donations from shoppers of their store. Throughout the month of August customers were encouraged to purchase books from a preselected list to donate to the library. The donations provided 583 new books for the library system. Thanks to Books-a-Million and to all those who purchased books for the library!!!!



Most Children’s Materials Are Now Fine Free

The Handley Regional Library System is thrilled to announce that overdue fines will not accrue on most children’s materials – no matter the age of the person checking out the materials. These items include books, CDs, audiobooks, and DVDs.

Fines can potentially be an obstacle that disproportionately impacts people without the means to pay. Removing these children’s fines (while still requiring the items to be returned) will allow more children in our community to enjoy library materials for both education, enjoyment, and entertainment.



Tradition of Service to Continue

After 21 years with the Handley Regional Library System, Barbara Dickinson, the Executive Director of the “Friends of Handley Library” has retired and is moving to the Northwest to be closer to family. Gina Byrd, formerly with HRLS Public Relations and Outreach Department has been selected as the new Executive Director to carry on the tradition of service and support the Friends have provided to the library system since the group’s founding in 1977.



Work of Task Force Recognized

Members of the Black History Task Force, sponsored by the Stewart Bell Jr. Archives, are pictured outside the Hopewell Friends Meetinghouse in Clearbrook, VA. The group received the Elizabeth Engle Award from the Winchester Frederick County Historical Society at its Annual Meeting for their work in bringing greater awareness to the history of African Americans in the Winchester/Frederick County area, especially for their efforts to erect historic markers to commemorate outstanding individuals, their achievements, and the locations significant to their lives.

Summer Reading ...by the numbers

Library Visits **92,088** ... More than 300 people in the library each day
Total Checkouts **157,587** ... 70% Books, 10% Audio, 20% E-Books
Summer Reading Signups **1,737** ... Kids 1,149, Teens 187, Adults 401
Programs **319** ... Kids 259, Teens 46, Adults 14
Attendees **9,958** ... Kids 8,785, Teens 972, Adults 201



“MyLibro” Goes Live

Thanks to the hard work of the Technology Department, and months of input and beta testing, MyLibro, the new smartphone app went live on August 8th. The app allows library patrons to connect with HRLS anytime, anywhere. Patrons can review their account, renew materials, place holds, download, and play audiobooks. They can even search the catalog for materials using voice or chat by title, author, or subject. They can find basic information about library services like branch locations, and hours of operation. They can configure branch preferences or just check the library’s event calendars for programs, and presentations.

Girls Who Engineer

Kendall Clark, a Governor’s School high school student and national grant recipient, organized an 8-week series of presentation on engineering with the focus on inspiring girls to become engineers. Each program featured an engineer in a specific field like aeronautic, structural, mechanical and chemical. The chemical engineer gathered the largest group of participants and showed chemical reaction with exploding foam and lava lamps.



Scholarships to Complete High School Diplomas

Handley Regional Library system is one of three library systems in the state selected as pilot sites for free patron participation in Career Online High School (COHS). The Library of Virginia is sponsoring up to ten scholarships which can be awarded for our patrons to participate in classes and mentoring to complete high school diplomas while also earning career certification. Cheryl McKelvey and Mary Anton of the Bowman Branch have participated in multiple meetings and training sessions in preparation for an early October program launch. Cheryl will be managing the program for HRLS.

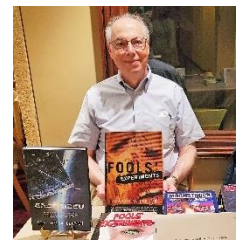


Seed Lending Library Now at Handley Branch

Thanks to the Library’s great partnership with the Northern Shenandoah Valley Master Gardener Association, the Handley Branch now has a Seed Library. Patrons can take free seeds (plus free library books on gardening) and are encouraged to “borrow, grow, and return”. The Seed Library has become very popular as patrons learned of its availability, and Master Gardener and Handley Seed Library volunteer Lisa Robertson has been making weekly visits to restock the seed supply.

Book Sales and So Much More

The “Friends” are well known for their book sales. This year’s Summer Sale made over \$13,000 to support the library system. But the group also plays a major role in programming for the Library. Most recently the Friends sponsored the local author, Edward Lerner who spoke on “Of Science, Fiction and Science Fiction”.



“Windsong”

Friends also produced a choral concert by the newly formed, community, female acapella group, “Windsong” providing an appreciative audience and welcoming venue in which to introduce them to the community,

Contributors:

- Mary Anton, Bowman Branch Manager**
- Gina Byrd, Executive Director, Friends of Handley Library**
- Adrienne Davis, Handley Branch Manager**
- Becky Ebert, Librarian of the Stewart Bell Jr. Archives**
- Donna Hughes, Youth Services Division Head**
- Kylie Feiring, Technical Services Manager**
- Katie Moss, Handley Youth Services Manager**
- Cheryl Nakagawa, Manager of Public Relations and Outreach**
- Ann White, Deputy Director**

The Handley Regional Library System handleyregional.org