



HRLS

Director's Report and Highlights

May 2023

Over 40 Years of Service and Support

The “Friends of Handley Library” or simple the “Friends” is a small, non-profit organization whose unique mission is to support the library and its staff. The Friends formed in 1977 to save a Linden tree that was on the property of the Handley Library. The tree, beloved by many for the shade that it provided, stood in the path of the library’s planned expansion. The tree was moved, the organization was formed, and the tradition of providing the library with thousands of hours of volunteer time and thousands of dollars of financial support began.



At first, the Friends helped staff the children’s area providing storytimes and activity workshops in traditional arts and crafts. Soon they were providing programming for adults as well, including cooking classes, art workshops, concerts, research trips and authors’ programs. In 1979, Judy Basso started the Little Noon Music concerts when people used to come to Handley Library on their lunch break. All the traditions of programming, research trips and live music concerts continue to this day.



The primary way the Friends are able to raise money for the library is through book sales. They have 3 big sales each year, Spring, Summer and Fall. Recently, they have also been able to add several one day “pop-up” sales. The books they sell are donated by patrons and books that have been removed from the library system’s collections. It takes a lot of volunteer manpower to sort and box the books, set up for the sale, staff the sale and do the final clean up at the end. Each sale takes about 3 weeks and 350 volunteer hours.

In 2002 the Friends “Library Shop” was opened by Joan Johnson at the Handley Library. Today, the shop is still in operation and open a few hours each day that the library is open. Specializing in used books and library themed gifts it has recently been joined by the “Second Glance” shop at Bowman.

The Friends has a 19 member board. The longest serving members are Tara and Mike Cahak, Jennifer Warren and George Schember, all serving over 10 years each. The organization is led by Executive Director Gina Byrd whose office is located in the Handley Library. The organization publishes a monthly newsletter from September through May focusing on library news, programs and events. More information about the organization and membership can be found at www.handleyregional.org/Friends

Summer Reading Preparations

May is one the busiest months in the Library's year with preparations for the Summer Reading Programs going into high gear. Fortunately, the community is on hand to offer support. Each year Frederick County Schools students assemble over 2,000 registration bags to be handed out to Youth Summer Reading Program participants. This year 16 Sherando High School students in the Learning Center Career Skills classes provided over 150 hours of volunteer time to assemble the bags at the Bowman Library.



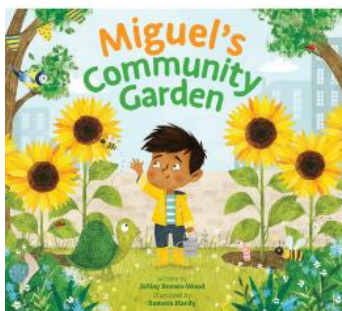
Youth Summer Reading Program Kick-Off

For the first time, each of the three Handley Library System branches will hold individual Summer Reading Kick-off events. Handley led the way with its branch-specific Rally for Reading on May 27th. Over 175 people attended the outdoor celebration in the Mike Foreman Rotary Reading Garden with families pre-registering for YSRP and exploring and enjoying fun, activity stations. Winchester City brought a fire truck and trash truck for kids to learn about them with community helper staff. The Winchester Book Gallery sold books from local children's authors that were present. And "Drew

Blue Shoes", magician extraordinaire, tied the event together nicely with a magic show about working "All Together Now". The event also provided an opportunity to collect donations for "Bright Futures" that will benefit both Frederick County and Winchester City families in need.

Summer Blooms

Students in the Library Club at Rober E. Aylor Middle School assisted with the "Books and Blooms" program at Bowman. The program allowed participants to plant a flower seed and take it home to enjoy watching the magic of growth and the wonder of nature.



Summer Walks

A new StoryWalk installation at the Bowman Library lake trail entitled "Miguel's Community Garden" by JaNay Brown-Wood incorporates a scavenger hunt game within the book's pages. Readers are asked to help Miguel find the sunflowers he needs for his party. Frederick County Parks and Recreation Department provides free pool passes for those who complete the scavenger hunt. Participants can also receive an activity kit from the library for planting and enjoying their own sunflowers.

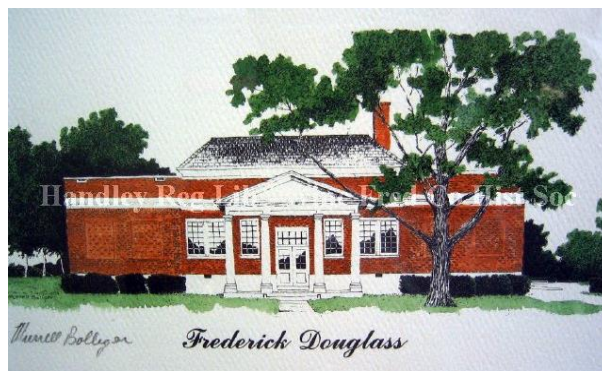
Supporting the New Museum

The new “Douglas School Museum” is scheduled to open this fall. Incorporated into the new Winchester Public Schools Administration Building and the former school building complex, at 598 N. Kent Street, the museum celebrates the importance of the Douglas school to Winchester’s African American Community. The Archives has been providing support to this project for several years and has been



collecting items

from former alumni on behalf of the Winchester Public Schools. The image to the left shows one of these items, a letter “D” from a cheerleading sweater. Letters were awarded to students for an achievement or making a team. This sweater letter was worn by Judy Humbert during her years as a Douglas Cheerleader.



Promoting Our Incredible Resources

Day in and day out, we rely on our PR and Outreach Department to keep the community informed about the incredible resources, programs and events that HRLS works so hard to provide. Most recently the “Library Swaps” campaign alerted people to the money-saving resources available to them through the library. From streaming video, ebooks, audiobooks, and language learning programs, to online magazines, the four resources shown on the right could save a patron over \$60.00 in monthly access fees.

LIBRARY "SWAPS"
Save \$\$\$ with these **FREE** services!
SCAN ME

STREAMING VIDEO/ EBOOKS/AUDIOBOOKS
SAVE up to \$19.99 per month!
FREE HOOPLA

LANGUAGE LEARNING
SAVE up to \$14.95 per month!
FREE MANGO

ONLINE MAGAZINES
SAVE up to \$11.99 per month!
FREE MAGZTER

AUDIOBOOKS & EBOOKS
SAVE up to \$14.95 per month!
FREE Libby.

LEARN MORE AT HANDLEYREGIONAL.ORG

Contributors:

Mary Anton, Bowman Branch Manager
Gina Byrd, Executive Director, Friends of Handley Regional Library
Adrienne Davis, Handley Branch Manager
Lorna Loring, Librarian of the Stewart Bell Jr. Archives
Donna Hughes, Youth Services Division Head
Kylie Olohan, Technical Services Manager
Katie Moss, Handley Youth Services Manager
Cheryl Nakagawa, Manager of Public Relations and Outreach
Todd Strader, Clarke County Branch Manager
Ann White, Deputy Director

The Handley Regional Library System www.handleyregional.org