



HRLS

Director's Report and Highlights

February 2022

Decisions through Committees & Results through Teamwork

- The Collection Development Strategic Planning Committee continues to meet on a regular basis. During the month of February, the committee evaluated the library's electronic resources by reviewing multi-year usage statistics and cost per stat analysis. As a result of the review, the committee recommended the library not renew its subscription to the "Open Athens" single sign-in service from Ebsco. This service had not met expectations and improvements have not seen significant progress. Subsequently, the committee also recommended to use these fund to acquire two new services that library administration had been exploring: "Infobase Access Video on Demand" and "Mylibro" patron app.

Be on the lookout for these new services coming soon:



Access Video on Demand provides instant access to world-class documentaries, award-winning educational films, and helpful instructional videos covering a wide range of subjects, such as business, career planning, health, history, travel, and much, much more.

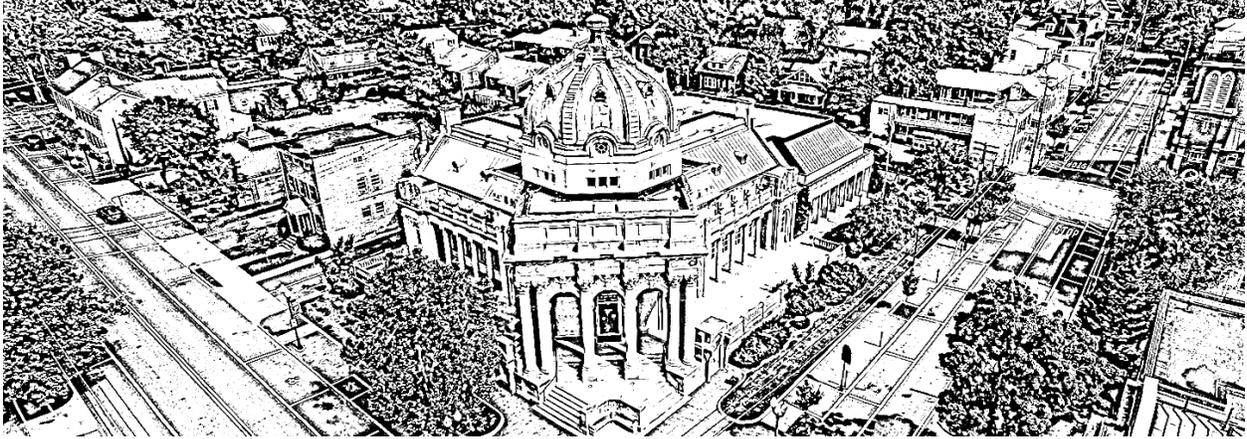
MyLibro allows patrons to use voice and chat conversation to connect with the library through Amazon's Alexa and a mobile app. Patrons can also search the catalog, place holds, review their account, renew materials, download and play audiobooks from Overdrive/Libby, check the library's event callendars and more.



- The Adult Program Planning Team spent much of February preparing for the annual "Push Your Self Reading Challenge for adults. This year's challenge, running from March 1st to March 31st, was created in a Bingo format and is a fun way for patrons to explore new and different books to read. "Go ahead and Push Your Shelf by reading a new genre or new author, books from other countries, or something from an entirely new library collection like magazines and documentaries". Completing a challenge earns "Book Bucks" and a chance to win a mini iPad. For more informtion visit: <https://www.handleyregional.org/bingo>



Library Board to Revisit “Facility Vision Plan”



In May of 2019 Kimberly Bolan and Associates, LLC, (KBA) a planning and design firm that works with libraries, had just completed an extensive study of the Handley Library. KBA worked in collaboration with the Handley Library staff, community members, Friends of the Library, Library Board and Trustee to assess the Handley Library facility and to discuss options for its future. The process included community and staff discussion groups, conducting a community survey, completing a building review, doing space needs analysis, developing a series of recommendations and a future vision and phasing plan for the library. Then Covid 19 began to spread and its impact on the operations of the library put future planning in the backseat. As life is returning to normal, the Handley Board is once again able to return to its planning activities and is undertaking a review of the “Handley Library Facility Vision” with hopes of generating plans for its future.

African American History Highlighted

On a blustery day in late February, the City of Winchester unveiled a historic marker honoring African American scientist and professor Madison D. Briscoe. The ceremony marks a continuing, community effort to bring greater awareness to the history of African Americans in the Winchester-Frederick County area, and the Stewart Bell Jr. Archives is delighted to play a role in this project. Archivist Rebecca Ebert and staff assisted the Marker Committee, comprised of four individuals with expertise in the area’s African American history, coordinated with the Virginia Department of Historic Resources and Winchester officials, and helped locate materials to support the application.



Dr. Briscoe (1904-1995) was born and raised in Winchester and went on to become a medical researcher with expertise in parasitic and tropical diseases. His research was instrumental in combating malaria and other tropical diseases among Allied soldiers during World War II.

Wildlife Ambassadors

Bowman Library's Youth Services partnered with Virginia Wildlife Care to present a virtual Groundhog Day program featuring furry educational ambassadors, Luna and Tiva. The event posted on February 2nd included an informational video about the life and environment of groundhogs, a song presented by puppet Bowman Bill, a story read by donna Hughes, and a weather prediction by Bowman Bill.



On the Move at Bowman

New custom-built media shelving arrived to replace eight double-sided units in the adult DVD area. After closing on Saturday, February 26th, five staff members and one spouse moved more than **6,000 DVDs** onto carts and counters. The old shelves were moved out in anticipation of Patton Movers' arrival to put the new shelves in place at 8:00 AM Monday morning. By 11:15 that morning all the DVDs were on the new shelves and waiting for patrons to browse.



Rediscovering Women of the Valley



The Friends of Handley Library produced two virtual programs in February. "The Creative Women of Fisher's Hill" was a co-sponsored with the Winchester-Frederick County Historical Society. Three researchers shared the fascinating story of three women who lived in Shenandoah and Frederick Counties and Winchester City in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. Cheryl Lyon, Neil Thorne, and Hope Brim gave presentations via Zoom on Maria a'Becket, Bertha von Hillern and Emma Howard Wight. Additionally, there was a virtual author talk with Judy Prescott Marshall, author of "Still Crazy". Both programs were transferred to the library's You Tube channel for the future.

Welcome and Information

The much anticipated, custom-made Greeter Desk arrived on February 9th. The piece was made from former Handley Library shelving and created to work within the space and design of the rotunda and to meet the workflow needs of staff. Having a permanent, fully functional service point enables staff members to better serve patrons as they enter and exit the building. Every branch staff member works at least one 1-hour shift at the Greeter Desk each week.



February, Was a Month about Appreciation



From the “Books I Love” display at Clarke County Library where staff and patrons recognized their favorite books to the amazing box lunches from Jordan Springs Market provided to all staff members by the Friends of Handley Library. February was a lovely month, and a good time to think about why people still need, and appreciate libraries. A number of Handley staff members shared their insights at the Branch Staff meeting. Here are a few.

“The library is one of the few places we can hang out where we are not expected to spend money. We receive free education, entertainment, fellowship and community feelings.”

“For many people, the library is the only place where they can explore their own interests in a non-judgemental space.”

“For equitable, quality programs, services and materials (for free).”

“People need to know that books (physical, digital, audio, etc.) are important. Kids need to grow up seeing that example, and that learning & knowledge are important.”

“ Social, economic, educational, & community & human interaction, customer services, free & easy access to resources for education, information & history, a safe environment to learn, use technology, to visit, open community space, activities & information.”

“Free & Equal access for all”

Contributors:

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