



HRLS

Director's Report and Highlights

March 2026

Celebrating Winchester and Literacy

The Handley Library Youth Services Department hosted its first annual **ABC Saturday** event on March 7 with 275 folks attending to celebrate the launch of the **Winchester ABC** poster as part of the **Grow a Reader Initiative!** Additionally, this early literacy event was a formal celebration with the public of the Handley branch's **Family Place Library** accreditation.

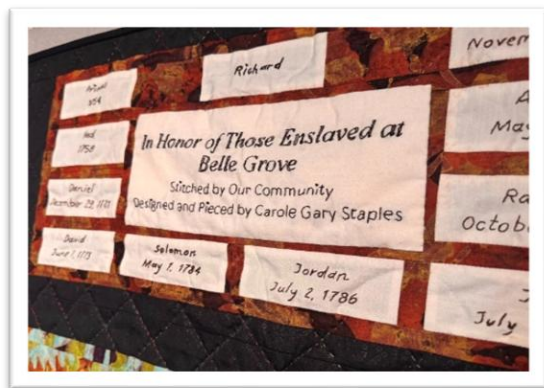
Families received a copy of their own Winchester ABC poster to use at home to reinforce letter recognition, phonological awareness, and early writing skills. Everyone enjoyed alphabet-inspired activities like digging for carrot letters in the sensory bins and going on a **StoryWalk** scavenger hunt in the reading garden.

Special thanks to the **Campaign for Grade Level Reading-Leyendo Juntos**, **Master Gardeners of the Shenandoah Valley**, and **Sky Meadows VA State Park** for helping to make this event engaging and community-focused.



Belle Grove Quilt Project

In partnership with the **Winchester Chapter of Embroiderers' Guild of America**, the Bowman Library hosted a unique **Final Stitch Event** to complete the project initiated by **Belle Grove** to memorialize the individuals once enslaved there. The event was the last of several "stitch-ins", several held at the Bowman Library, that brought community members together to embroider the names of the individuals and their birth dates on pieces of fabric used to create two quilts that are now on display at Belle Grove.



Technology

New credit card terminals were installed at all three library branches on self-checkout and fax machines. The new terminals allow patrons to **"tap to pay"** which has been a frequent request for patrons looking to pay fines and fees.



Representing the Archives

Staff members and volunteers were on hand to represent the Stewart Bell Jr. Archives at the **Virginia Forum** held at **Shenandoah University**. The Forum is an interdisciplinary conference for individuals and organizations engaged in the study and interpretation of the history and culture of greater Virginia. The annual conference is held to showcase members' activities and scholarship. Archives was one of ten organizations selected to share information about its collections and programs with the over three hundred participants.



Suzanne Glover, the new **Teen Services Associate** at the Bowman Library jumped right in to lead two very successful programs this month “The Works of Vincent Van Gogh” with the Ten Arts & Crafts Club and “Teen Game Night” with a cool masquerade theme.

Especially For Teens

Friends and Partners

In March, the **Friends** partnered with another local nonprofit and presented *Little Noon Music* at the **Barns of Rose Hill** in Berryville. **The Flying Camel Trio**, a jazz group, delighted patrons with their live music. Friends also hosted the **America 250 Book Circle** where community members were able to discuss *Revolutionary Mothers* by Carol Berkin.



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The Handley Regional Library ... handleyregional.org