



HRLS

Director's Report and Highlights

No "Lazy Days of Summer" This Year June, July, August 2023

Honoring One of our Own

On June 28th the staff and volunteers of the Archives, with support from the the Library's administration and the Winchester-Frederick County Historical Society hosted a reception to honor Rebecca "Becky" Ebert on her retirement from Archives and her more than forty years of dedicated service in the collection and preservation of the history of the Shenandoah Valley.



Amphitheater Ribbon-Cutting

On June 3rd representatives of the Top of Virginia Regional Chamber and Frederick County Parks and Recreation were on hand for the ribbon-cutting at the new amphitheater behind Bowman Library. County Supervisor Josh Ludwig wielded the scissors and John Huddy, HRLS Director, spoke on behalf of the library. The amphitheater has been an immediate success with musical and informational programming all summer long.

Reading Royalty at the Library

The Handley Youth Services Department celebrated with famous children's authors and illustrators at the annual "Rockin' the Library" event in collaboration with Shenandoah University's Children's Literature Conference on June 29th. More than 500 excited patrons joined the party for authors/illustrators like Matthew Cordell, Edward Heminway, and Vanessa Brantley-Newton. Rising Kindergarteners were honored for getting ready to start school in the Fall, just like in Brantley-Newton's books. Vice Mayor Hill and other local celebrities were on hand to acknowledge our community's love of reading and to encourage and support our young patrons.



Three “Kick-offs” for Our Great Summer Reading Programs

This year each of the branches created an individual “Kick-off” event to begin our Summer Reading Programs. But at the same time, they shared goals, ideas and resources to provide music, art and crafts, storybook characters, science presentations, face painting, puppets, live animals, gift certificate prizes, brag tags, Winchester Royals ball players and even Hula dancers to create an amazing, summer-long experience at the Library, no matter which branch you attended.



Always Collecting, Always Sharing

Over the summer the Archives received 576 Research Visits, 476 Requests for Manuscripts, and 115 Remote Requests for research, reference, and reproduction services. One Research Visit involved two groups from the Blue Ridge Environmental Governors School. Each received a tour of the Archives and a presentation related to their track. The presentations included the challenges of analog and digital preservation with one group and the importance of correspondence as a historical resource with the other. The photo to the right is of the Archives' "Show-and-Tell" box of obsolete media that was shared with the students. The items are used to help people understand how media formats have changed and the challenges this presents to Archivists who need to preserve audio and film materials.



Program Partnership with the Handley 100th

The Handley Library branch has teamed up with the planning committee of the Handley High School 100th Celebration. Among the activities will be a monthly Handley Alumni Speaker Series. The first event on August 16th was a presentation entitled "Experiences along the Appalachia Trail: A Father & Son Talk". The first presentation can be found on the internet <https://onehandley.com/2023/08/18experiences-along-the-appalachian-trail-a-father-son-trek/>

Something New in Reserving Books and Media

The HRLS Technical Services Department has begun using catalog records for books and media that are still "on-order". When an item is purchased, our ILS (Integrated Library System) now automatically links the order to a catalog record. This allows patrons to place holds on popular new titles before they are released and helps staff by reducing the number of redundant purchase requests for popular titles. It also helps staff to identify titles with longer holds lists and to prioritize cataloging of materials.



A Book-and-Bake Sale

Always innovating, always providing support. This summer in between sponsoring musical events and trips to fabulous destinations, the Friends found new sources of book donations, added "Baked Goods" to the Summer Sale and raised over \$12,000.00 to support Library programs and provide educational opportunities for staff members.

And There's Even More What a Summer!



Over the Summer, volunteers at Bowman collected 56 towels and 46 washcloths for the CCAP.

At Handley the addition of two new umbrellas, for the tables on the West Esplanade now offer the perfect spot for outdoor programs.



Celebrating Japanese anime, manga, and pop culture, Natsu Con at Bowman drew in a crowd of teenagers for the largest youth program of the Summer.

At Clarke, Bruce Ingram gave a presentation on “Raising Chickens”, a topic that has recently become very popular.



The Handley Youth Services Department prepared 120 “New Baby and New Preschooler Care Packages” in partnership with Healthy Families (HFNSV). This joint project helps guide new parents to positive development resources for their baby.

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The Handley Regional Library System handleyregional.org