



HRLS

Director's Report and Highlights

June 2024

Celebrating Reading...

With a Very Special Event: The Handley Youth Services Department, along with 400 kids and adults, 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 26th. With a trackless train, live author/illustrator drawings, and bounce houses galore, families joined the party for the famous authors/illustrators: Sophie Blackall, Brian Floca, John Parra, and Doug Salati. Winchester's Mayor David Smith presented the keys to the Handley Library to the authors as other local celebrities joined in to help acknowledge and support our community's love of reading!

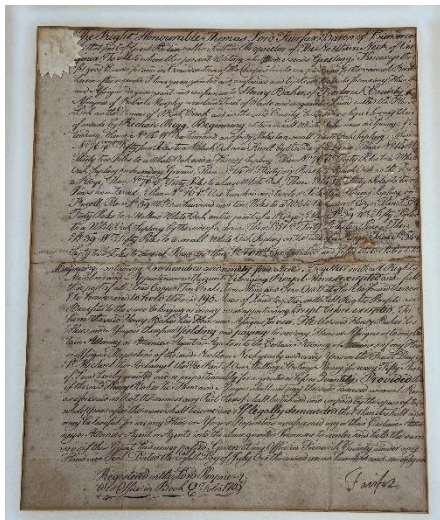


With Princesses: The Clarke County Library began the Youth Summer Reading Program with a kick-off party in Chet Hobert Park. Over 85 young readers and their families enjoyed a bounce house, face painting, visiting with their favorite Disney princesses (as portrayed by volunteers from Clarke County High School Drama Department), and performances from local magician, Drew Blue Shoes,

With Local Author June Smalls: Patrons at the Bowman Library enjoyed the launch of the Youth Summer Read Program with local author June Smalls. June engaged her young readers and their parents with her book "Hear Them Roar", stories about 14 endangered animals from around the world. Among her other popular book titles are the "Leads Series", about elephants, gorillas, and wolves, "Odd Animal ABC's" and the upcoming Digging for Dinosaurs series.



Preserving Local History



Among the donations received by Archives in June was the original Fairfax land grant to Henry Baker for land in Frederick County dated July 8, 1777, (pictured here). The 195-acre tract of land known as Horse Lick on the Drains of Back Creek was a very small portion of the over 5 million acres of Virginia land, the Northern Neck Proprietary, that Thomas Fairfax, inherited through his family. Thomas Fairfax, 6th Lord Fairfax of Cameron was a British Peer, military officer and planter, and the only member of the British peerage to reside in Britain's North American colonies. He was a mentor to and employer of George Washington. He lived in a modest manor called Greenway Court, in Clarke County near White Post, and is buried at Christ Church, here in Winchester.

Providing Entertainment

In partnership with Frederick County Parks and Recreation, June kicked off the Sunset Series of outdoor concerts at the Bowman Library Amphitheater. Over the course of June, more that 1,000 attendees enjoyed the music and family ambiance provided by the setting and the musical groups Fly Birds, Glen Shelton Duo, Robbie Limon and the Meisha Herron Duo.



Promoting Resources and Services



Thanks to the efforts of the Public Relations and Outreach Department, HRLS now has informational signage at the Apple Blossom Mall. The new display, located near the playground area, allows shoppers to pick up our current brochure and our monthly program calendar. Staff members also participated in Kidzfest on the Old Town Walking Mall, attended the July First Friday, and the Winchester Public School New Student event. All in all more that 400 new people contacts were made and 52 new card sign ups resulted from these efforts.

Adopting New Technologies

The CoverOne book repair unit was recently purchased by the Technical Services Department. The unit can repair paper back and hardback books in about 10 minutes and at a cost of \$0.25 per book, greatly reducing staff time and resources dedicated to maintaining a quality collection for our patrons to enjoy.





Encouraging Personal Development

Alyssa Grant, Handly Library Information Services Coordinator, received her “Civic Leadership Academy” certificate from Winchester City Manager Dan Hoffman, (pictured) after completing the nine-month course in June. Program sessions included a tour of the historic district, a mock city council meeting, visits to the Public Safety Building and Fire Training Facility, along with opportunities to learn from representatives with the Department of Social Services and other government agencies.

Maintaining Support

Once again, the Friends, its members and volunteers have completed another successful Summer Used Book Sale. Held between June 7-9, the 3-day sale raised \$8,151.75 to support the Library and to provide programming. The Friends held a Member Night before the sale was open to the public and the last day of the sale was on a Sunday, something the group had never tried before, only to find out that patrons seemed to enjoy shopping the sale while the library was closed.



Lighting The Way

A new, highly visible, back lit, sign has been installed at the Bowman Library, identifying the building and making it easier for patrons to find it, especially in the darker days of Winter.

Contributors:

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