



# HRLS

## *Director's Report and Highlights*

*October 2024*

### **A Month of Multi Talented Events**



Bestselling graphic novelists **Raina Telgemeier** and **Ben Hatke** were the special presenters at the Friends of Handley Library sponsored program “Smiles and Miles”. Raina, who has penned the graphic novels *Smile and Guts*, and Ben, author and illustrator of *Zita the Space Girl Series* shared stories about their creative journeys, travel experiences, and comic-making processes with an entranced, all-ages, capacity audience in the Robinson Auditorium.



Highlights of the event included a drawing game with audience participation and book signings, with books provided by **Winchester Book Gallery**. Our Public Relations and Outreach team created a *Facebook Ad Campaign* for the event, resulting in 2,611 post engagements and reaching 6,492 people, significantly boosting visibility and excitement for the event.



The Friends also hosted the horn quartet ***The Weather People*** to perform for *A Little Noon Music* at the Handley Library. The group plays original, eclectic, compositions and arrangements by member trombonist Cam Millar. *The Weather People* came together mid-pandemic in order to safely perform live in outdoor settings for music-starved audiences. Their debut album, “Current Conditions,” was released in January 2022.

While at the Bowman Library, **Gary Reid**, the foremost authority on the music of the Stanley Brothers presented a 90-minute music and storytelling program where he took on the persona of Carter Stanley, a Virginia bluegrass legend who composed more than 100 songs in his short life.



## The New Teen and Tutor Room

Handley Library's West Reading Room's conversion into the *Teen & Tutor Zone* is now complete with new tables and chairs, displays, signage, and fun activities.

Additionally, in the Lower Level Lobby, new café tables and chairs have been added to create a more efficient and welcoming "Collaboration Zone".



## Expanded Services for Patrons

Just in time for the Holliday Season, Tech Services has added the Hallmark BingePass to our Hoopla collection for November and December. For just one Hoopla borrow, patrons can get a week of unlimited Hallmark+ movies.

The Department has also added a new fleet of hotspots into circulation this month. The new hotspots have increased upload/download speeds and provide more reliable internet access than our older models. There are now 25 hotspots available for checkout to patrons who might otherwise not have access to the internet.

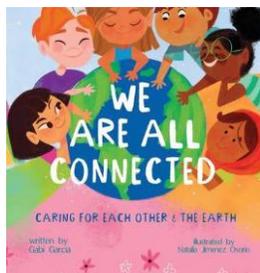


## After Hours With Archives

In its third Archives After Hours program, Archives Manager Lorna Loring celebrated Archives Month by sharing some of her "favorite things" in the Archives. Among them were the newly acquired Civil War journal of John Barton Guard, a letter from the French and Indian War and a Lord Fairfax Grant.



## StoryWalk Program Adds a New Location



The Handley Youth Services Department helped launch a new StoryWalk location in Winchester. With their school librarian and principal the department installed a StoryWalk in the inner courtyard of Garland R. Quarles Elementary School on South Loudoun St. This is the first site that will connect project-based learning and curriculum to StoryWalks we provide them as a school-wide initiative. Additionally, a copy of the first StoryWalk book, "We Are All Connected" by Gabi Garcia was donated to be cataloged for their school library.

## New Teen Services Position

Shari Putnam is the new Teen Services Associate at the Bowman Library. Shari recently retired as a school librarian and has extensive experience in our area having worked most recently with Winchester Public Schools.



## Of Course October Meant Halloween



Whether you were crafting origami jack-o-lanterns at the Clarke County Library, watching the Monster Mash, or parading in your Halloween costume and enjoying the “Teal Pumpkin” (non food) sites at the Bowman and Handley Libraries, the Handley Regional Library branches were a safe, fun, and creative place to enjoy the Holliday with family and friends.



## It Also Meant the Friends Fall Used Book Sale

The 7-day sale held at the Bowman Library raised \$18,606.50 while offering a 50% discount to teachers on regular-priced items. On the last day of the sale the Friends sold 148 bags for shoppers to fill with as many items as they could fit. Patrons also redeemed \$1,566 worth of “Book Bucks” earned during the Adult Summer Reading Program. After the sale, the Friends invited community partners from CCAP, ARE, Little Free Libraries, the Auxiliary Attic and Winchester Medical Center to select books for their organizations. Left over items were donated to Blue Ridge Hospice. It takes a village to get things done and the group’s volunteers donated 310 hours of their time to make the sale such a success.

### Contributors:

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*The Handley Regional Library System ... [handleyregional.org](http://handleyregional.org)*