



HRLS

Director's Report and Highlights

September 2024

Sharing Information, Knowledge & Skills

“How To Fest”... On September 28th the Handley branch held its first building-wide “How to Fest”. The event took place on all 4 floors of the building and included activities provided by all the departments, including Archives and Friends of HRLS. The How To Fest provided a mix of workshops and all day information stations, such as “How to Keep Bees Happy”(photo right), “How to Save Seeds”, “How to Sew a Button”, “How to Change a Flat Bike Tire”, and even “How to Make a Foldscope That Turns Your Phone Into a Microscope”!



A special guest at the event was Howie the How-To-Alien who was on hand in the Handley Youth Services Department to “Learn How to Human”. Patrons of all ages enjoyed learning how to do all sorts of things with Howie. From learning how to be an artist or an engineer to learning ways that families can invest money for their child’s future. The event provided something for everyone, even aliens.

Nature Insights ... At the Bowman branch, Sky Meadows State Park-Ranger, Charlie Price presented “Living with Bears” (photo right).



While Lym Hoffman from the Northern Shenandoah Valley Master Gardeners presented a program on flower arranging (photo left).



And staff member Cheryl McKelvey, released 5 Monarch butterflies that she had “grown”.

D.C. Trip ... The Friends took 38 patrons on the fall bus trip to the Natural History Museum in DC. Bus trips are offered annually in the fall and the spring to different locations around Washington DC. The luxury coach departs Winchester at 8am and stops in Berryville to pick up passengers before heading into DC. Passengers are dropped off at the Natural History Museum, which is central to several other Smithsonian museums, and have the day to explore DC. Return pickup is at 3pm with arrival back in Winchester around 5pm.



Voting Information... In advance of Tuesday, November 5th Election Day 2024, the Bowman branch hosted an on-site voter registration opportunity on September 25th & 28th. It proved to be a convenient and popular stop for people wanting to register to vote and for those who wanted more information about the ballot, precinct locations, and voting procedures.

Research Knowhow ... Lorna Loring, Archives Manger visited James Wood Middle School to teach a class of students about using newspaper databases, including those hosted by Archives. Students got to see an original newspaper from the late 1800s, learned about preservation, and then explored the *Winchester Star* online to search topics such as jellyfish, swim teams, and shoes. The students responded with a thematically appropriate thank you note formatted as a newspaper.



Outreach Events ... September was Library Card Sign Up Month. The Public Relations & Outreach Department organized 4 in person outreach events to share information about the Library and its services. Their efforts added 323 contacts and 36 new library card holders.

Contributors:

- Mary Anton, Bowman Branch Manager**
- Matthew Bernstein, Technical Services Manager**
- Gina Byrd, Executive Director, Friends of Handley Regional Library**
- Adrienne Davis, Handley Branch Manager**
- Donna Hughes, Youth Services Division Head**
- Lorna Loring, Manager of the Stewart Bell Jr. Archives**
- Katie Moss, Handley Youth Services Manager**
- Cheryl Nakagawa, Manager of Public Relations and Outreach**
- Alison Waddell, Clarke County Branch Manager**