

HANDLEY LIBRARY

CURRENT CONDITIONS

Frederick County participates in the Handley Regional Library with Winchester and Clarke County. Handley Regional Library currently supplies library services through three libraries: the Mary Jane & James L. Bowman Library in Stephens City (35,000 sq. ft.), Handley Library in Winchester (34,000 sq. ft.), and the Clarke County Library in Berryville (5,000 sq. ft.). Frederick County residents borrow about 60% of their materials from the Bowman Library and 39% from the Handley Library. Frederick County residents account for 85% of all the items loaned at Bowman Library and 55% at Handley Library (June 2008-May 2009).

Currently, library services include the selection and checkout of materials (books, magazines, audio books, DVDs and videos, and music CDs) to children and adults. Library staff provides assistance to users to find answers to questions, to locate library materials, and to use library computers and software. Children's Services staff provides activities that encourage reading and learning in children from preschool through high school. Through the library's webpage, users with library cards have access to databases that provide newspaper articles, magazine and journal articles, books, and downloadable audio books. The Stewart Bell Jr. Archives collects materials relating to the history of the northern Shenandoah Valley and helps local residents and visitor from all over the world locate the documents and information they seek. Library staff members also teach basic introductory courses in computer use and software.

The Handley Regional Library Board's Long-Range Plan directs the planning and decision making of the regional system. It is revised annually and fully updated every five years.

FUTURE FOCUS

Currently the Library System has one library in each jurisdiction served. As population grows in Frederick County, the demand for library services also continues to grow. Frederick County's larger population and land area mean that there are Frederick County locations not well served by the Winchester or Stephens City libraries. Additionally, new residents from Northern Virginia and from areas outside Virginia have higher expectations for library services.

PUBLIC FACILITIES

Each library in the Handley Regional Library system functions as a community center, a search engine, and a place that welcomes everyone to lifelong learning. Ideally, a new library can best serve as community centers when they are located within a walkable community, near schools, parks and retail establishments.

Additionally, in response to the 2007 amendments to the Comprehensive Policy Plan and in support of Neighborhood Design, new and existing libraries should be co-located with schools and parks in or near Neighborhood Villages and Urban Centers in the UDA or in Rural Community Centers in the Rural Area.

As the residential population in Frederick County continues to grow the Library System has plans for opening new facilities. Within the next five years the Library Board plans for a library to open in the Gainesboro district and new libraries at Senseny and Greenwood and at 522 and Justice Drive are planned for the next ten years. The inclusion of small library branches that can offer delivery of materials from anywhere in the system as well as providing information and training to customers about new online services is also being considered.

Also part of the Long-Range Plan is an examination of alternative delivery mediums. The library plans to offer citizens access to more formats that are downloadable.

COMMUNITY BENEFITS

The mission of Handley Regional Library is to provide our community access to the best resources that educate, inform, entertain, and inspire. Handley Regional Library serves those in the population who cannot afford to purchase books as well as those that lack computers and Internet access. Through the pooling of funds, the library makes available to the public at large expensive printed works, audio books, downloadable books, and computer databases that an individual or most companies cannot afford. In addition, the Stewart Bell Jr. Archives maintains a large collection of historic documents and media for public consultation.

The Library serves all age groups from very young children to senior citizens providing both recreational and education materials. The libraries in the system are favorite locations for families to visit together and serve many children and adults when they are working on school assignments or for self-improvement.

PUBLIC FACILITIES

Through its participation in the Regional Library system, Frederick County receives the benefit of the Commonwealth's contribution to the library system, the contributions of other two jurisdictions, the revenue from the library's endowments (that were provided by donations from residents of all jurisdictions), and the use of the Clarke County and Handley Library. All these provide a much richer library environment than any single jurisdiction can provide.

POLICIES/IMPLEMENTATION

POLICY: IMPROVE SERVICES TO PATRONS THROUGH THE PROVISION OF THREE BOOKS PER CAPITA.

IMPLEMENTATION:

- Handley Regional Library will continue to review and revise marketing procedures to make citizens aware of our services.
- The Library will update its collection development policies and procedures to make certain the materials purchased meets current needs.
- The Board and staff will review procedures to make certain services offered are needed and meet a high standard of service.
- The Board and staff will investigating and adopt new media and technology when such adoption meets current and users' needs and is cost effective.

POLICY: STUDY AND PLAN FOR GROWTH WITH THE AIM OF PROVIDING ADEQUATE LIBRARY SPACE FOR LIBRARY USERS IN THE FUTURE.

IMPLEMENTATION:

- The Handley Regional Library Board will review and update its long-range plan for facilities growth, using the criteria of cost, need, safety, and proximity to the greatest number of residents.
- Continue to monitor the growth throughout the County to determine where new library facilities are needed.

PUBLIC FACILITIES

COMMUNITY PARTNERS AND STAKEHOLDERS

The Handley Regional Library Board is the governing board for the regional library system and acts as its own fiscal agent. The Code of Virginia, §42.1-37 to §42.1-42, treats the powers and duties of regional library boards.

Frederick County appoints five members to the 10-member Library Board. A member of the Frederick County Board of Supervisors also serves as a non-voting liaison to the Library Board.

Handley Regional Library works with the following to promote reading and literacy and in some purchasing decisions:

- Frederick County schools,
- Lord Fairfax Community College
- Shenandoah University

SUPPORTING MATERIALS AND RESOURCES

- Handley Regional Library Joint Operating Agreement, 1995.
- Planning for Library Excellence: Standards for Virginia Public Libraries, Library of Virginia, 2009.
- Requirements which must be met in order to receive [state] Grants-in-Aid. Library of Virginia, 1991.