



Main Library  
Northampton Free Library  
Chincoteague Island Library  
Cape Charles Memorial Library

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*From the Director's Desk*

*Cara Burton, Director*

## ***Why is the new library important?***

- **Public libraries facilitate and grow social investments.** Communities with high social capital, i.e. non-financial resources, tend to *have lower crime rates, better health, better educational achievement and greater economic success.* (“Pathways to Economic Mobility,” Pew Charitable Trust, 2008)
- Northampton County invested \$124,892 in the Eastern Shore Public Library regional system and \$20,000 in Cape Charles Memorial Library in the 2016 budget. The new library will annually leverage these operational funds by **providing technical and administrative support** allowing Northampton Free Library and Cape Charles Memorial Library the time and resources to provide the desired programs and services their local communities need and want. *See system services handout.*
- Because a majority view libraries as a natural partner in providing educational programming and services to the community in addition to the tradition of nurturing a joy of reading. (Pew Research Center Study released in September 2015). **Libraries improve the social and educational climate with minimal draw on community financial resources,** and in fact, libraries help the community to maximize what resources they have. Dynamic public libraries support local nonprofits to maximize their services. ESPL cannot by dynamic in the existing building.
- **Space is needed to store books.** Not only are young adults (ages 18 – 29) more likely to have read a book (80%) than older age groups, they are more likely to have read that book in a print (69%) rather than electronic (34%) format. (Pew Research Center, 2015)
- **Literacy tutors need tutoring space.** People learning a new language need a non-threatening place to practice their English skills. 20% of both Northampton and Accomack’s population have only basic literacy abilities. (U.S. Census)
- Homework help and resources need to be available to the 115 Shore students taking Advanced Placement classes and the 237 Shore students taking Dual Enrollment Classes **when schools are closed for the day or out of session.** 30% of Shore residents do not graduate from high school and need library resources, particularly free computer and Internet access, to prepare for the GED exam and tutoring. (VEDP, [www.yesvirginia.org](http://www.yesvirginia.org))
- **The Eastern Shore has an unemployment rate higher than the state and national averages.** (VEDP) Public library space and resources are needed for workforce development programs, Career Readiness Certificate preparation, and studying for programs they are taking through ESCC or distance learning.
- **Space to store a collection** stocked to meet the community’s needs reduces the need for interlibrary loan and its associated costs for our residents, plus gets it in their hands sooner.
- **Genealogists and historians** with deep roots on the Shore depend on ESPL to store, preserve, and make accessible rare documents to support their research and personal needs.
- The main library in Accomac fails to meet 20 out of 24 Virginia State Library standards for communities of similar size. *Shore residents deserve better.*