

April 13, 2021

Library System Report

Cara Burton, System Director

Director's Update:

Virtual Programs: What's Next?

I recently held two successful virtual programs for ESPL. These have been scheduled at lunchtime to facilitate attendance by working folks. This also provides for staff to not have to be scheduled hours outside of our normal operations. Judging by individuals "signing off" at 1:00 pm, the lunchtime model seems to be working.

On March 17th, Roots Matter's author, Rev. Dr. Paula Owens Parker, gave a slideshow presentation entitled, "What Makes You So Strong?" Sixteen people attended. She introduced attendees to generational trauma and how we can use genealogical information in healing, reconciliation, and well-being. ESPL partnered with Eastern Shore Community Services Board (CSB) and the Community Partners of the ESVA (CPES) because this topic addresses ACEs: Adverse Childhood Experiences. CSB and CPES, as well as Healthy Communities, have been working to educate Shore residents and professionals about the health effects

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On The Homestretch!

Planning Shelf-by-Shelf for the New Regional Library

On March 24th, librarians Ricci and Flores met with library director Burton to review and finalize the shelving layout plan for the new library in Parksley. By determining the quantity and location of shelving that will be present in the new building, Ricci and Flores can now begin the final analysis of the current materials collection at the Accomac library.

Knowing exactly how many linear

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Staff met with furniture vendor to plan shelving layout in November 2020.

of ACEs. CSB regularly has ACEs training. I encourage you to learn more by reading Parker's book, taking the CSB ACEs training, and attending the Healthy Communities Trauma Informed Community Summit this month.

ESPL uses Zoom Webinar now, rather than the simpler Zoom Meetings module, which greatly assists in registration. The beauty of the virtual meetings is that we can record them to share with people who could not attend. The presenters almost always share their slideshow for distribution to attendees. It is common to have a flurry of follow-up emails with attendees, as well, that continues the library's engagement with them.

On April 2, I hosted a "What Every Retiree Should Know" webinar with Matthew Baxter, Public Affairs Specialist, of the Social Security Administration. Six attended. This was Matt's third virtual program with us. Judging by the attendance, these seem very beneficial for social service professionals as well as the general public. Matt's presentations tend to be fast-paced and chock full of information. The virtual platform allows individuals that may not have transportation, nor maybe the time to travel thirty miles, to attend. This greatly helps accessibility for many and opens new doors for library attendance.

The additional benefit of virtual programs is staff time is not needed for meeting room set-up. The new Regional Library will pose some new challenges for staff as we will have the lecture hall and three smaller meeting rooms to manage. The library may need to invest in a reservation management system in the future, which is common for public libraries.

Healthy Communities of the E.S. Trauma-Informed Summit

Plan Now to Attend Trauma-Informed Summit

Save your space now for the three-day Trauma-Informed Summit by emailing kigerpg@evms.edu.

Day One. Wednesday, April 28, 10-11:30. What Being Trauma-Informed Means.

Day Two. Thursday, May 13, 10 – 11:30 am. What Does It Mean to Become a Trauma-Informed Organization?

Day Three. Tuesday, May 25, 10-11:30 am. What does it Mean to Become a Trauma-Informed Community?

Virtual programs also enable individuals to attend with anonymity and from the safety of their own personal space. Some people do have anxiety in visiting public spaces, which the pandemic likely exacerbated. Some are uncomfortable being in groups. Just entering a library that has shelves and shelves of books can be overwhelming for some. Sitting still in a chair can be challenging physically and mentally for a variety of people.

The new Regional Library will have new technologies that will help us continue to provide engaging programs, both in-person, virtually, and in a hybrid manner. This is likely the way of the future for library programming. What is appreciated is when patrons provide the feedback as to what works best for them and what programs they want us to offer in the future.

The Retiree virtual program supported the 2016 Strategic Plan Action Plan for Goal 5:

Objective # 5a: Patron identity theft will be minimized.

Technical Services

Charle Ricci, TS Manager

Homestretch, continued from page 1

feet of shelving will be available for the library’s books, DVDs, and audiobooks allows our librarians to finish the measuring of books and shelf space calculations that are part of this concluding stage of collection preparation. Each of the library’s sub-collections will need to fit comfortably onto the new shelves and any fine-tuning of the materials or layout that is required can be completed before the move to Parksley.

One low-tech tool that Ricci has been utilizing is a 10-foot length of clothesline rope with marks at each 12-inch interval. While each shelf may be the same width, the actual space taken up by books on each shelf varies widely. Ricci measures the exact amount of linear feet of materials on each shelf throughout each sub-collection with the rope. Added together, the number of rope lengths (or portions thereof)

provides an accurate measurement of how many linear feet of shelving will be needed for that sub-collection at the new library.

Over the past several years, all portions of the materials collection have been examined. Items that are out of date, irrelevant, or in poor condition have been withdrawn and, in some cases, updated or replaced. The collection is nearly ready to move, and this final round of preparations will involve a great deal of measuring and calculating. Our librarians will be checking and double checking that everything is ready to go. Inch by inch, book by book, and shelf by shelf, the library is truly on the home stretch to Parksley now.

Materials to Move:

- ⇒ 65,181 Books
- ⇒ 1,396 Archival Items*
- ⇒ 1,839 Audiobooks
- ⇒ 2,923 Videorecordings

* Archival items from Accomack only. This does not include the Mariner or Latimer Collections.

NonProfit Capacity Building Update

- ♦ Tangier’s Muddy Toes Public Library now has a book truck and sneeze guard, supported with funding from Accomack County CARES. ESPL is also donating an iPad, received in 2016 with a LVA grant.
- ♦ Saxis Island Museum now has public outdoor wifi with the SmartBus device ESPL received with the ALA 2020 Census Equity Grant. An iPad was also loaned to assist the volunteers in showing visitors history websites.
- ♦ Three area nonprofits contacted ESPL to obtain the Foundation Directory Online login information. ESVA Community Foundation renewed the subscription for this great grant-finding resource.

Northampton Free Library

Barbrielle Rogers, Branch Manager



The Northampton Free Library continues to assist patrons under COVID restrictions. NFL patrons appreciate the time inside the library, and have continued to use curbside pickup throughout the day.

In the month of March, the Northampton Free Library was gifted a beautiful quilt. The quilt was donated by an Eastern Shore sewing group called “Shore Can Sew”, along with a unique brass hanging rod. It is a welcome addition to the library’s collection of photos and lovely artwork. The quilt has not gone unnoticed and has received plenty of compliments from patrons!



Quilt donated by Shore Can Sew

Also, in the month of March, NFL received a new Xerox Machine. Upon installation, staff and patrons found this printer to be more “user friendly”. By switching to a more user friendly Xerox machine, this helps staff adhere to the 6-feet apart social distancing rule. So far, patrons are able to use the new Xerox machine with minimum assistance.

Over the past several months, NFL and Youth Services were training for a new program, the Walking Classroom. The Walking Classroom is a grant-funded program of the Eastern Shore of Virginia Community Services Board (CSB). The program consists of a WalkKit Audio player with over 150 kid-friendly podcasts, and a walking trail passport designed by the CSB staff. This program was created to promote a healthy lifestyle and exercise. The podcast topics are appropriate for students who are in 3rd to 8th grade. Podcast topics include English, language arts, social studies, science, and more.

NFL was assigned 20 WalkKit audio players, along with some walking trail passports. All WalkKit Kits are now cataloged and ready to circulate throughout our community. Each Walkkit kit is available for check out for three days to patrons with a library card. The NFL library staff is excited to see the children walk, listen, and learn with their WalkKit kits!!



The Xerox copier was purchased with a matching Community Facilities grant from the USDA Rural Development with support from the ESPL Foundation and Friends of NFL.

Heritage Hub

Local History Services

Stacia Childers, LH Specialist

This month staff spoke on the phone to a patron from elsewhere in Virginia whose roots on the Shore run very deep. At one point, her voice cracked as she audibly tried to refrain from crying while speaking of her white 3rd great-grandfather who, according to family stories, sold his three daughters by his free black wife into slavery shortly before the outbreak of the Civil War even though he had promised their mother that he never would. The couple's three boys remained free in Accomack County and continued to be raised in his household. The pain of that act of betrayal reverberates down to that man's descendants 160 years later.

This sort of interaction between patron and staff is not at all unusual.

One patron sought newspaper articles about the horrific poisoning of members of his family – a case that was never solved – in the hopes of bringing unity to his family. Another

patron, now a coach at a local high school, wanted to locate articles from his own high school years when he led the same school to a championship victory in the hope that it would motivate his players prior to their own game. And a woman who never knew her (now deceased) father, was overjoyed to find a photo of him in one of our digitized high school yearbooks.

Local history is not strictly an intellectual pursuit. Family history is not just a hobby. Often it is an emotional journey of discovery. As helpers on this journey, Eastern Shore Room staff often bear witness to stories and experiences both

painful and exciting. It is our responsibility to hear them with respect and hold them with discretion.



Staff spent 6 hours moving the Latimer Collection to the Mariner House due to imminent loss of its temporary storage place.



Launch your search to discover **your** family history beyond vital records! ESPL has many books and e-Resources that can help.

We look forward to the stories that will unfold with enhanced capabilities for new programs, equipment, and resources in our ESVA Heritage Center.

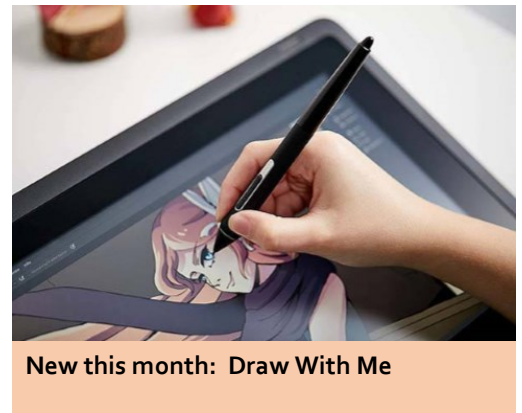
Youth Services

Tiffany Flores, Youth Services Librarian

Youth Services is excited for the next coming weeks! After months of research and planning, Tiffany Flores is ready to initiate some virtual art programming she has been working on.

Beginning April 16th, Tiffany will host virtual **‘Draw with Me’** sessions where patrons will be able to watch her draw, ask questions, and join her for an hour of creativity. The idea behind the program is to encourage creativity and educate Eastern Shore patrons on digital art. She looks forward to seeing who will join her!

May will bring child-friendly **virtual tours of local artists’ galleries** in lieu of Celebrate Us!



New this month: Draw With Me

Sometimes things don't work out. At the beginning of March Virginia Cooperative Extension and Eastern Shore Public Library launched 'Pick a Better Snack' after months of collaboration and promotion. Despite the program being advertised and promoted across multiple platforms, no one registered for the event. No matter how much work goes into a program, if the community is not interested and/or can't attend the event then it simply doesn't work. Tiffany Flores has taken this as a learning opportunity about her community and looks forward to more success in the future.



Eggtravaganza was held at Sawmill Park.

On April 3rd, Tiffany Flores and Jessica Guzman assisted Accomac Parks and Recreation with their first ever Easter **Eggtravaganza: Drive-Thru Egg Hunt**. At the event goodie bags were given to both parents and children featuring books donated by Eastern Shore Public Library and various goodies provided by Accomac Parks and Recreation. By the end of the program, 120 Children's bags had been given out. The highlight of this event was seeing children get ecstatic about the gifts in cars parents had decorated for Easter.



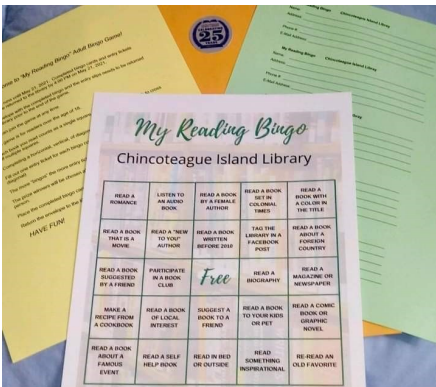
Chincoteague Island Library

Karen Sharp, Library Manager



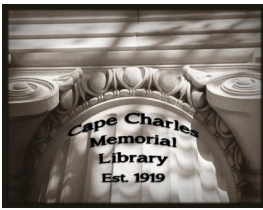
Chincoteague Island Library will be re-opening on Tuesday, April 13th! We will be open the same 24 hours per week as we have been since closing December 7 th, 2020 for curbside pickup. Patrons will be allowed in the library for 30 minutes, at a time, while wearing masks.

CIL has been busy with some events for our patrons and community. In addition to Easter Take-Away Bags, for the 3 and 4-8 year-olds, the CIL Board has finalized our Virtual “Tales 4 Tots” Episodes. A 6-episode series, one episode each week, features 2 children’s books and an interactive rhyming activity. Each episode features music by bensound.com. These episodes started on March 25 th and will continue each Thursday at 10AM. All episodes will be archived on the Chincoteague Island Library YouTube channel for all to view after the premier. The website address is: <https://youtu.be/hOw29xhl6ZQ>. CIL, also, has something for adults! For adult readers, we have “My Reading Bingo”. This is a bingo board game that includes a bingo card, directions and slips to fill out for each bingo achieved. This started March 16 th and will run until May 21, 2021. So there is still plenty of time to play. There will be three prizes at the end of the game!



Chincoteague Island Library Board has purchased a new printer/ FAX/copier/scanner to better serve our patrons and the community! This investment will be much appreciated.

The CIL Board will meet on Friday, April 9 th.



Cape Charles Memorial Library

Ann Rutledge Library Manager

Although we remained closed to the public this month, we presented two zoom programs. The first program was presented by the Friends of the Cape Charles Memorial Library and was intitled Spring into Health Zoom and Learn: Managing Stress. The second was a virtual discussion of the book, Growing Up Colored in Cape Charles Invisible History, Virginia a memoir by Tom Godwin written by Metty Pellicer. Both programs were well received.



During Covid-19 closures we have developed some new services to provide material to patrons. Grab and Go bags, Storytime Kits and Kid Lit Kits continue to be a big success. Sharon Silvey creates all these bags and she recently received this nice thank you from an appreciative patron:

“I can’t thank Cape Charles Library enough for providing wonderful Grab & Go Kits, Storytime Kits, and Kid Lit Kits for my visiting grandsons, ages 3-8. They enjoyed everything, especially the crafts and Legos. It kept everyone in-

involved in books and it made a retired elementary school teacher’s heart happy that her grandsons loved and were engaged in reading. I know where to go when my grandchildren come back to visit me.”

We began opening the CCML to patrons on April 5 from 10:00am -2:00pm daily. We ask that patrons schedule appointments to enter the building. Curb-side service continues.



Shipping via Tangier Mailboat



ESPL NonProfit Capacity Building Update

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