

May 11, 2021

## Director's Update:

### ON THE TRAIL TO BUILDING COMMUNITY

The new Nassawadox History Walking Trail debuted at the VMFA Art on the Road artmobile event last month along with the new Walking Classroom Walk-Kits (see NFL report). Both provided something else to do at the event and promoted a health lifestyle with walking while learning. The base of the projects, however, was to build partnerships and a sense of community. They also support the strategic plans of other organizations, in addition to our own.

Both programs support the Healthy Communities Walking Trails and the WalkKits are a project of the ESVA Community Services Board.

One of the Nassawadox History Walking Trail's goals was to promote how the ESVA Heritage Center can help local communities and the broader ESVA

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## NFL Hosts Collaborative Programs

Spring is finally here at the Northampton Free Library! NFL's visitors are greeted by the beautifully blossomed azaleas and the colorful garden located in the front of the building. Master Gardener volunteers maintenance of this garden truly adds to a welcoming entrance.

Perfect weather, beautiful scenery, and now patrons may enjoy our outdoor StoryTrail. A new book "Frog on a Log" by author Kes Gray and illustrator Jim Fields was added in April.

The newly added WalkKits, a project of the ESVA Community Services Board (CSB), has been a popular

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tourism industry. A Parksley History Walking Trail was created by ESPL in 2018 to support the Parksley Downtown Revitalization Committee. Printing costs are sought for each outside of the library's operating budget.

On Saturday, May 1, both were also showcased at the Franktown Methodist Church Spring Fair. The Nassawadox brochure was a great hook to lure people in to our booth. Locals and visitors alike enjoyed getting that brochure, other town walking trails, and the ESVA Tourism Activity Guide with a map of local museums. The Foundation bookmark with a photo of the new library was shown to them, pointing out the Heritage Center.

Once I reviewed these, I passed them over to Tiffany Flores by suggesting they may also want to learn about the WalkKits. This tag-team approach worked well and helped with social distancing. Flores was able to connect with some local teachers during this, as well. In fact, we ran out of brochures.

Town walking trails support the Eastern Shore of Virginia Tourism Commission Plan section on History and Heritage Project (page 12) as it will help "Refresh history and heritage visitor experiences."

This project directly aligns with the two Northampton County Heritage Tourism goals:

#1 – Promote the charm and history of the Eastern Shore's small towns/villages and foster their revitalization. (page 36)

#2 – Promote the area's rich historical and

cultural legacy by capitalizing on the Eastern Shore's role. Specifically, Strategy A, #1 – Create walking tour brochures for each historic town. (page 37).

Both of these projects are good examples of how ESPL can build community by aligning with regional strategic plans in its own planning. We look forward to how our future Heritage Hub and Culture of Reading Initiatives' projects will continue to have impact on the Shore.



This aerial photo that is on loan to NFL by Jeff Walker was helpful in developing the Trail brochure. Pictured is the current site of NFL! You can print copies of our walking trails from our website under the Genealogy tab.

# Technical Services

Charle Ricci, TS Manager

## Genre: Finding Just the Right Book

Fictional genres can be helpful when looking for your next great read. If you know which genres you enjoy most, finding books that are similar to those you've enjoyed in the past makes the search much easier.

**Fiction is typically divided into five main genres:**

- ⇒ **fantasy**
- ⇒ **historical fiction**
- ⇒ **contemporary fiction**
- ⇒ **mystery**
- ⇒ **science fiction**

Taking a deeper dive into fictional sub-genres, you'll also find:

- ⇒ romance
- ⇒ dystopian
- ⇒ action & adventure
- ⇒ horror
- ⇒ thriller & suspense
- ⇒ women's fiction
- ⇒ literary fiction
- ⇒ graphic novels
- ⇒ short stories

**Writer's Digest**, a well-respected guide for aspiring authors, lists 114 sub-genres at <https://www.writersdigest.com/writing-articles/genreddefinitions>. The library's acquisitions staff is very familiar with fiction types and trends, and

found some of the sub-genres on this list to be very interesting. Here are a few that they didn't realize had become a sub-genre of their own:

**Inverted** - a story in which the reader knows "whodunit" but the suspense arises from watching the detective figure it out.

**Creepy Kids** - a horror tale in which children, under the influence of dark forces, begin to turn against the adults.

**Glitz/Glamour** - focused on the jet-set elite and celebrity-like characters.

**Magical Realism** - inspired by Latin-American authors in which extraordinary forces or creatures pop into otherwise normal, real-life settings.

**Cli-Fi** - stories depicting the consequences of climate change.

The library offers an excellent tool for exploring genres – or even combining them into a super-personalized search for your next book: **Novelist Plus**, found at <https://espl.org/how-do-i/reading-resources/>. Using your library card number, log into Novelist and select the "Browse By" Genre on the main menu bar. The "Browse By" list also features titles organized by Theme such as Missing Memories or Too Good to be True. You can also "Browse By" Appeal with categories such as Lush and Haunting or Intensifying and Menacing. Give Novelist a try and find out which genres will be a perfect fit for you!





# Northampton Free Library

Barbrielle Rogers, Branch Manager

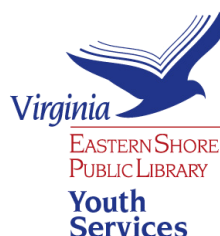


addition to NFL's collection. The Walking Classroom consists of a WalkKit audio player with over 150 kid-friendly podcasts, and a walking trail passport designed by CSB. The podcast topics are appropriate for students who are in 3rd to 8th grade. Podcast topics include English, language arts, social studies, science, and more.



Due to multiple checkouts and patron requests, CSB has placed an order for additional Walking Classroom materials to be added to our collection. Once introduced to the WalkKits, some teachers have begun to add the Walking Classroom program to their classroom's curriculum. Not only teachers, but individual patrons have checked out WalkKits with their children and enjoyed the different podcasts that are available.

This month, NFL also had a visit from the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts "VMFA on the Road" artmobile. VMFA on the Road is a mobile interactive art space that brings works from the VMFA's art collection to communities across the state. Due to some traveling issues, staff and VMFA's staff were still able to have a successful event. There were approximately eighty attendees. Along with COVID-19 protocols, nine individuals toured at a time. During this event, we were also issuing library cards and introduced the Walking Classroom program to the community.



## Youth Services

Tiffany Flores, Youth Services Librarian

Draw with Me, Tiffany Flores' virtual art program, launched on April 16th. This program uses art technology and software to invite children to be creative for an hour and learn about digital art. Currently, Tiffany is collaborating with the kids to create a Facebook banner for the Youth Services Facebook Page as a way to teach how to do an art project and allow kids to participate in the process. The program has about one to two attendees per week with seven kids registered. As summer nears, Tiffany hopes to see more attendance .



# Heritage Hub

## Local History Services

Stacia Childers, LH Specialist

Staff has completed the main phase of processing the Kirk Mariner collection prior to the move to the new library. The books and materials from the shelves have been matched to the original inventory created by Edward Barnes and evaluated for inclusion into the existing Eastern Shore Room reading room collections, inclusion in special or archival collections, and portions set aside for evaluation as separate stand alone collections by a trained archivist. The latter includes Mariner's nearly 300 items pertaining to religion which includes local church histories, rare books by or about



ministers who spent time on the Shore or had influence here, and Mariner's own research notes. Still to be inventoried and packed are the map collection, the extensive subject folder collection, and his large collection of magazines and journals which contain articles pertaining to the Eastern Shore.

Approximately 560 volumes were duplicates and often much-needed backup copies for items already in our Eastern Shore Room reading room collections. About 450 will be completely new additions to the reading room. The remainder will be added to either Special Collections (rare and/or delicate volumes that need protection) or added to the archival manuscript collections.

## Franktown Methodist Church Spring Fair



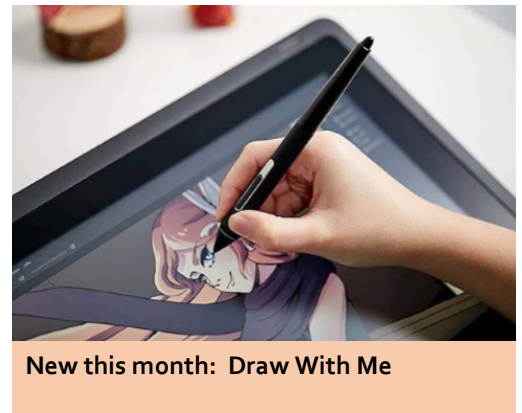
# Youth Services

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.

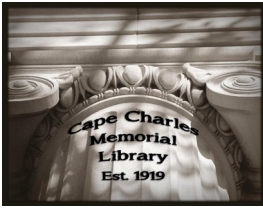


Eggtravaganza was held at Sawmill Park.

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.







# Cape Charles Memorial Library

Ann Rutledge Library Manager

On April 5 we again reopened the Library from 10:00 am until 2:00 pm for 30 minute time limits. Many patrons enjoy the curbside service feature and are still getting their books this way.

We are busy planning our Summer Reading Program which will begin on June 21 and extend through August 13. There will be a combination of virtual programs and in person programs that will be held outside. The theme will be Tails and Tales. Each week will feature a separate theme with additional outdoor crafts and free take and make activities.

Staff met with Ranger Stan Osmolinski of Kiptopeke State Park regarding collaboration of summer programs and litter program(s).

Staff met with Jen Lewis, Community Relations Manager with Town of Cape Charles regarding collaboration of summer programs.

Staff attended Big Share zoom meeting.

Our Spring Take and Make bags were a big success, giving kids materials to make flowers and bugs. Three requests for theme specific Kid Kit bags. (Pictured: homeschool students requested a Human Body Kid Kit.)

The Friends of the Library presented another Spring into Health Zoom and Learn program, Hypertension and me on April 17.

Library staff attended cyber security training.



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## Facility News

The new burglar/fire alarm system has been installed by Johnson Control at NFL. This was funded by the Friends of NFL and ESPL Foundation with their match for the USDA RD grant.

ESPL in Accomac had ants again, which were treated. A large tree limb fell on the septic tank. The limb was removed as well as some ivy that contributed to the ants.

ESPL in Accomac's water test failed....again. A meeting with the Virginia VDH staff to troubleshoot the intermittent problem will be held the week of May 10th. Staff use a water cooler and the public water fountain was turned off when the pandemic started.

Two window air conditioning units were purchased. One replaces the office unit of which the age is before staff memory. The other is in the reference area as the front serving system became unserviceable last year. A unit for the Eastern Shore Room is on loan from an individual. The new units will be more energy efficient than the old office unit and quieter. Someone was hired to install them. Staff also use fans.

A severe, unknown obstruction in the sewer outflow line from the library to the septic tank was cleared.



## Grant Update

**American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA)** has several streams of potential funding we may get. We cannot use the money for construction, however, equipment that falls within the ARPA guidelines will lessen the “outfitting” of the ESVARLHC. Most funding opportunities involve Internet and digital resource access. All are applied for through ESPL (not the Foundation).

**Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS)** – This ARPA money is distributed to the Library of Virginia which is allocating it in two ways: (1) additional e-Resources for all Virginia public libraries, contracts of which are now under negotiation, and (2) grants to libraries. Burton is currently exploring possible projects for funding that fall within the speculated guidelines, which have not been defined yet.

**National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH)** – ESPL is partnering with the Nabb Center at Salisbury University. ESPL would get a subaward, if Nabb is awarded this competitive grant. We might receive an archivist 20 hours/week for a year and other benefits on work that will support their DelMarVa African American History database project. The burden of grant application, recordkeeping and fiduciary responsibility falls on SU.

**Virginia Humanities (VH)** – Burton reviewed possible grant options with VH, however, their November 2021 application due date does not fit within ESPL’s spring application plan. This grant will be reviewed later.

**Federal Communications Commission (FCC)** – Emergency Connectivity Fund. More information will be presented when this funding opportunity is evaluated.

**County and Town Funding** – It is possible that either County and local towns can allocate money to ESPL. It is expected that their infrastructure will be a priority, but Trustees should inquire of their Supervisor and ask them to keep ESPL in mind, if opportunities arise.

### **Pending:**

**NEH Sustaining Cultural Heritage Collections** – August award date. Will support compact archival shelving. ESPL Foundation applied.

**NEH Preservation Assistance Grant (PAG)** – August award date. Will provide a consultant to assist with the organization system for the archives. ESPL applied.

### **Awarded:**

**USDA Rural Development Communities Assistance Grant** – two grants were awarded for a variety of technology and equipment. Paperwork and purchasing taking place now.

**ESVA Community Foundation (\$50,000)** – This will be the match for the Accomac USDA RD grant and will support children’s shelving and the Digitization Lab. Awarded to the ESPL Foundation.

**Being Researched:** Heritage Center Strategic Planning. Several Foundations are being explored by the ESPLF Grant Committee to support the needed planning consulting firm.

# Scenes from VMFA's On The Road Artmobile

You can watch artist videos on the VMFA Youtube Channel or at:

<https://www.vmfa.museum/exhibitions/exhibitions/vmfa-on-the-road/>

