

# **EASTERN SHORE PUBLIC LIBRARY**

## **BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

**June 14, 2022, 1:00 PM**

Meeting Location: Accomack County Airport, 29194 Parkway, Melfa, VA

### **Agenda**

1. Call to Order
2. Public Comments
3. Approval of Minutes of March 8, 2022
4. Finance Committee (Bloxom)
5. Financial Report
6. Branch and Friend's Reports
  - a. Cape Charles Memorial Library
  - b. Chincoteague Island Library
  - c. Northampton Free Library
  - d. ESPL Friend's Reports
7. Library Director's System Report
8. Facility Committee (Valentine)
9. Personnel Committee (Pittman)
10. Grand Opening Committee (Bloxom and Holland)
11. ESPL Foundation (Davenport)
  - a. Capital Campaign Update
12. Capital Project Update – Steering Committee (Valentine)
13. Old Business
14. New Business
  - a. Milliner bequest transfer to the endowment
15. Additional Comments
16. Next Meeting: Tuesday, July 12, 2022 at 1:00 pm, Accomack County Airport
17. Adjournment

**EASTERN SHORE PUBLIC LIBRARY  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

June 21, 2022 at 1:00 pm

(Meeting held in-person at the Accomack County Airport, Melfa, and electronically)

**Present:** Joyce Holland (Chair), Patricia Bloxom (Vice-Chair), Dennis Custis, Jay Davenport, David Poyer, Carl Rose-Jensen. **Absent:** Althea Pittman, Gerry Ryan, Tim Valentine. James Lilliston, Accomack County Treasurer.

**In attendance:** Cara Burton, Director, Jazmine Collins (virtual), Chris Pote, Charle Ricci (virtual),

**ESPL Foundation:** Al McMath, Colette Nelson. **Friends of the ESPL:** Carol Callander.

1. Meeting was called to order by Chair Holland at 1:01 pm.
2. **Public Comments.** None.
3. **Approval of Minutes.** Rose-Jensen motioned to approve the minutes from the May 10, 2022 meeting. Bloxom seconded. Motion approved.
4. **Finance Committee (Bloxom)** – Report distributed in board packet. Burton confirmed that the Milliner bequest has not yet been delivered. The insurance is over budget and will be examined after the move to the Parksley facility.
5. **Financial Report.** Burton is setting up a meeting with bookkeeper to review year-end status and any carryover. Custis motioned to approve the financial reports. Poyer seconded. Motion approved.
6. **Branch and Friend's Reports**
  - a. Cape Charles Memorial Library - Included in system report. No further updates presented.
  - b. Chincoteague Island Library – Included in system report. No further updates presented.
  - c. Northampton Free Library - Connor Buyrn is now the interim manager of the NFL. Hannah Swimley's last day was this past Friday.
  - d. ESPL Friends Reports – Included in board packet. No further updates presented.
7. **Library Director's System Report** – Cape Charles is having air conditioning issues and has needed to close early on hot days. A few years ago, the air conditioning unit that cools the front portion of the Accomack library became inoperable and window units have been used as a substitute. Recently, the unit that cools the back portion of the building stopped working. Burton has now added additional window units to the back portion of the building to help keep the temperature and humidity sufficiently cool. Flores has been very busy with Summer Reading Program events and is seeing good attendance. Staff did a wonderful job while Burton was away. Privacy pod for telehealth and legal meetings has been selected by administrative staff. With local people lacking access to in-person medical care and to sufficient broadband connectivity for telehealth appointments, this pod will provide a soundproof and quiet booth for such needs, and will be available by appointment. Pote is reading and learning about Eastern Shore history and systematically inventorying contents of the archive. Burton noted that Pote and Jazmine are working well together.
8. **Facility Committee (Valentine)** – Construction report included in board packet was submitted by Rakowski. McMath explained that it has taken a couple of weeks to locate a transformer and have it installed. Without a transformer, the HVAC could not be turned on in order to climatize the building, which has held up the installation of flooring. The lighting fixtures have been installed, and the painting and sheetrock is mostly

finished. The completion of the roof repair has been on hold until all of the roofing penetrations were finished. A thermographic test, done by the County, revealed pockets of moisture. The roof does not leak, but before a certificate of completion and warranty will be issued, the repairs will need to be carried out by the roofing contractor. A construction committee meeting is scheduled for next week, at which McMath hopes a schedule for completion will be provided by the contractor. Burton noted that Accomack County will continue to pay for electrical service until the library takes occupancy. The County confirmed that the building cannot open until the exterior site work (parking lot, sidewalks, light poles) is complete, for safety reasons.

9. **Personnel Committee (Pittman)** – Rose-Jensen noted that an outstanding survey was distributed to staff by Collins who then submitted the responses to the committee. A second portion of the survey, focusing on job satisfaction, is currently out to the staff. After this second portion is completed and results compiled, the personnel committee will meet and then submit recommendations to the trustees.
10. **Grand Opening Committee (Bloxom and Holland)** –Planning is currently on hold until a scheduled completion date is announced.
11. **ESPL Foundation (Davenport)**
  - a. **Capital Campaign Update** –\$350,000 of the state budget will be awarded to the library project through the Library of Virginia. Davenport has tickets available for the drawing for the zero turn mower for the trustees to sell to friends and family. The drawing is to be held in mid-July.
12. **Capital Project Update – Steering Committee (Valentine)** –Holland expressed appreciation for Pat Bloxom’s good work and input throughout her term. Bloxom has been attending construction progress meetings.
13. **Old Business**
  - a. **Strategic Planning (Davenport)** – Burton noted that one public comment in writing was received in regards to Heritage Center programming for children. Pote did not feel that changes were required based on this comment. Davenport motioned to approve the 2022-2027 Strategic Plan. <https://espl.org/about-us/board-of-trustees/espl-strategic-plan-2022-to-2027/> Custis seconded. Motion approved.
  - b. **Nominating Committee** – Bloxom presented the committee’s report which recommends that the board chair be Joyce Holland and the vice-chair be Jay Davenport. Custis motioned to approve. Rose-Jensen seconded. Motion approved. Bloxom motioned that Davenport continues as the liaison to the Foundation. Poyer seconded. Motion approved.
14. **New Business**
  - a. ESPL to open late at noon on Thursday, July 14 for staff half day training. Custis motioned to approve the closing. Davenport seconded. Motion approved.
  - b. Davenport motioned to authorize the transfer of \$20,000 budgeted for NFL maintenance to the reserve for the purpose of future NFL maintenance expenses. Poyer seconded. Motion approved.
  - c. Custis motioned to approve the naming applications submitted by the ESPL Foundation. The applications will then be approved by the Accomack County Board of Supervisors. Bloxom seconded. Motion approved.

### **Requested Naming**

#### **Benches (located outside)**

In memory of Art Fisher, Eastern Shoreman and beloved

husband, father, and "Dodgy"

In loving memory of Abbie Arms. She was amazing.

Given by Kim and Wendy Miles in Honor of Helen and Abie Miles, Ben and Joy Nathanson

In memory of Joe & Helen McMath, and Clyde & Margaret Broache

Theodore Thatcher Belfit 1979-2011, Arborist, Family. Friends. Books. Trees and Waves.

**Staff Kitchenette (Room 130)**

Kitchenette sponsored by Jay Davenport

**Archivist Office (Room 117)**

Dedicated to the Memory of Kirk C. Mariner. Sponsored by Carol and R. Scott Callander.

**Eastern Shore Room (114)**

Eastern Shore Room in Memory of Katharine H. S. Edmonds

**Gallery (Room 109)**

Gallery Sponsored by Judy and Terry Malarkey

**Circulation Desk (to be in Room 118)**

The William R. Lewis, Jr. Circulation Desk is sponsored by Richard E. Lewis, W. Revell Lewis III, and their families in recognition of their dad's love for education.

d. Margaret Keen Hand memorial

**Margaret Keen Hand motion**

Whereas, Margaret Keen Hand, (December 5, 1906 to May 13, 1978) was a beloved resident of Nassawadox and loved local history, and

Whereas, her will bequest books to Eastern Shore Public Library which included first edition volume one and two of *Virginia's Eastern Shore: A History of Northampton and Accomack Counties* by Ralph T. Whitelaw and ninety-eight miscellaneous volumes of books devised to Eastern Shore Public Library, all valued at \$654.00, and

Whereas, the amount of \$7,357.00 was paid to Eastern Shore Public Library for portion of fire insurance proceeds allocated to it related to the loss and damage by fire to books devised to the Library, and

Whereas, the Eastern Shore Public Library Board of Trustees and staff feel it is most appropriate to recognize Miss Hand's thoughtfulness and generosity in honor of her memory,

Therefore, the name of Margaret Keen Hand shall be added to the "Eastern Shore of Virginia Room Memorials" plaque.

Burton contacted the Northampton County Clerk and was able to obtain Ms. Hand's will, and confirm the value of the fire loss that was donated to the library. This documentation allows the library to properly recognize Ms. Hand. Poyer motioned to accept the resolution. Bloxom seconded. Burton inquired if it would be acceptable to the board to issue a press release if the resolution is approved. The board concurred and Holland will review the press release. Motion approved.

- e. Lease agreement with Accomack County for the Eastern Shore of Virginia Regional Library and Heritage Center –Poyer motioned to refer the proposed lease with trustee's comments and with reference to John Custis's emailed comments of August 10, 2020 to Custis and request that Custis present the trustees with a lease for consideration. Bloxom seconded. Holland noted that a special meeting of the trustees may be required to review returned lease. Motion approved.

15. **Additional Comments** – none.

16. **Next Meeting:** Tuesday, July 12, 2022 at 1:00 pm, Accomack County Airport.

17. **Adjournment** – A motion to adjourn was made by Custis and seconded by Rose-Jensen. Motion approved. Meeting adjourned at 2:05 pm by the Chair.

Respectfully submitted,

Cara Burton, Secretary

## **EASTERN SHORE PUBLIC LIBRARY**

### **FINANCIAL REPORT**

**July 12, 2022**

#### **Cara Burton, Library System Director**

- Ricci and Burton met with Karen Crockett and her staff to review year end status.
  - The pay period was changed to allow time to get written authorizations for ACH as needed with new cybersecurity procedures in place.
  - Reviewed the new reserve fund and how items will be recorded. We will be using classes, not subaccounts. The current \$40,000 is from four years's \$10,000 budgeted each year for reserve. \$20,000 is being added as approved at the June meeting.
  - Hannah Swimley's payout was reduced from Liability Restricted.
  - Rather than transfer monthly to the Reserve, ESPL will request the Treasurer's office to transfer \$10,000 to the reserve or what is budgeted.
  - Crockett's office was instructed to no longer email bank statements due to cybersecurity concerns. They will be photocopied and hand delivered.
- Milliner bequest funds received and dispersed to ESPL Foundation before end of FY22.

#### **FY23 BUDGET UPDATE**

Adjustments are being made to the FY23 budget based on yearend figures, funding approvals, and new information. Board approval will be sought once State Aid is finalized and related adjustments made.

#### **Income:**

- NFL Friends income increase \$3,000.
- Adopt-a-Book increase \$500.
- 42070 Foundation (new) add \$30,000
- NFL endowment increase \$500.
- CIL reimbursement decrease \$500.
- Photocopies increase \$500.
- Interlibrary loan increase \$50.

- Need to add \$200,000 (Northampton capital) and \$350,000 (state).

Expenses:

- Added back Accomac maintenance and electric estimating 3 months.
- Phone increase \$3,000 due to new Heritage Center line, new fire alarm line, deleted NFL phone line item as lumped with VOIP, and under budget in FY22.
- Travel added Heritage Center, \$2,000. Increase ESPL \$1,000.
- Dues add Heritage Center \$1,000.
- Continuing Education Heritage Center \$1,000 and ESPL \$1,000.
- Asked Parksley for a new estimate for water and sewage.
- Need to add \$200,000 (Northampton capital) and \$350,000 (state).

The annual \$10,000 was NOT allocated in FY22 as it was not budgeted due to budget uncertainties. It is recommended to authorize this expense now as well as budget another \$10,000 to be expended at the end of FY23.

We were recently notified of our final State Aid allotment. The FY23 budget will be revised to reflect that increase. The Library of Virginia has restrictions on how the aid can be spent, which is in the Trustee handbook.

**FY 2022 STATE AID TO LOCALITIES & FY 2023 STATE AID  
FINAL**

Library	\$18,043,514 State Aid Estimate	\$20,543,514 State Aid Estimate	Variance
	2022	2023	FY 2022 and FY 2023
Eastern Shore	227,695	275,613	47,918

## Director's Update:

THE LIBRARY SYSTEM AND ITS RELATIONSHIP TO THE LIBRARIES

With our rebranding and naming of the new regional library and Heritage Center, we have focused on the **Eastern Shore Public Library (ESPL) System** as an organization and its relationships with others. In the past, ESPL was used for both the system and the building in Accomac, which is confusing and did not reflect ESPL's library system role for the region. People grew to associate the regional headquarters for Accomack and Northampton counties' public library services with the "main" library and Accomac branch. They are

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Our supporting volunteer groups, like Friends of ESPL, provide valuable funds and time to help System services benefit all of the Eastern Shore of Virginia. Every year they help make the Summer Reading Program a success.

## Cape Charles Memorial Library New Staff

By Sharon Silvey  
CCML Library Manager

This month we welcomed summer as well as two new employees to Cape Charles Memorial Library. Maureen Tamares-Meditz is our new year-round part-time library assistant and Jade Saldana is our summer part-time assistant. We are very excited to have both Maureen and Jade join us!

In early June, third-graders from Kiptopeke Elementary School visited us for some ocean trivia and a craft. We also attended Cheriton Family Fun Day where we shared information on our summer programs and had fun giveaways.

We had several programs at Cape Charles Memorial Library this month. The first program was with NASA Wallops Flight Facility. Attendees were able to create their own "satellite" and then test their creation to see if it would sustain space travel. We were excited to welcome back international performer,

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actually three different entities in one building.

Let's start with the **"main" library**. This is the facility that houses the central materials collection of the system including the local history collection and archives. All four libraries struggle with space to house the books, audiobooks, and videos to meet our voracious readers' demands. The main library stores the bulk of the collection, 57%, that is shared between libraries using our van delivery service.



The new regional library will serve as the main library, however, space has been cut to meet the archive storage needs and the meeting/program space needs the community expressed as their priority

for the new facility. Charle Ricci has been doing a fantastic job of analyzing space availability for the move in conjunction with intensive collection development to update our reading collection to meet the community of today, not twenty years ago (Yes! The year 2000 seems like yesterday, but it was two decades and millions of published titles ago). This will likely increase use of interlibrary loan---ordering from libraries outside our system---to meet patron requests.

Interlibrary loan, ordering and processing new books, collection development, and technology access and management are important roles of

the **"regional headquarters."** Human resources, financial management, staff training, grant management, program management and system planning are other activities that take place at the headquarters.

The facility in Accomac also acts as the community library for the geographic area around Accomac. Just as Northampton Free Library, serves Nassawadox and its surrounding area; Cape Charles Memorial Library serves Cape Charles and lower Northampton County; and Chincoteague Island Library serves Chincoteague and the mainland readers that choose to use that library.



Northampton Free Library is referred to as a **branch**. The term "Free" in the library name is a bit misleading as free libraries are traditionally nonprofit stand-alone organizations, not branch libraries, which NFL was before it officially became a branch of ESPL. All NFL staff are ESPL employees and the property is owned by ESPL. The Friends of NFL support the branch with part of the book and program funding, but all operating expenses are funded by ESPL.

Cape Charles Memorial Library (CCML) is a

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**town library.** Most of its funding is from the Town of Cape Charles with some from Northampton County as well and its Friends group. CCML employees are town employees and report to the Town Manager. The Town owns and maintains the library facility. CCML has a contractual agreement with the ESPL System for administrative services that are defined in its contract.

Chincoteague Island Library (CIL) is a **non-profit 501(c)3 library**. It receives a small donation from the town, but the majority of funding is raised by its volunteers. As part of its contractual agreement with the ESPL System, it receives a part-time ESPL employee.

All four of the libraries in Accomac, Cape Charles, Chincoteague, and Nassawadox receive the benefits from the Library of Virginia with their formal agreements with the ESPL System. This includes access to grant funding, e-resources, consulting, training, board development, traveling exhibits, and other valuable services. With the Shore's isolation and economic situation, access to the Library of Virginia's resources is vital for providing quality library services that struggle to be on par with library standards in the Commonwealth.

Additionally, the ESPL System benefits from the ESPL Foundation and the Friends of ESPL. Both organizations raise funds that supplement the Library of

Virginia and local county government funding.

The ESPL System also provides library services to other nonprofits in a variety of ways. One is to support their small, informal libraries that serve their clients or immediate locality. Examples are located at Tangier History Museum, Mary Nottingham Smith Cultural Center, the Davis Center, and the Eastern Shore Area Agency on Aging. The ESPL System provides books, technology, advisory support, and other resources as requested. The System also supports area nonprofits by attending their outreach events. As staff capacity increases, opportunities for outreach programs and training will increase as well.

Another benefit of ESPL as a regional system is its partnerships and connections outside the region that can bring resources and expertise to our area. One example is being a member of the DOVE, Desegregation of Virginia's Education, initiative. This program has enabled us to partner with other heritage organizations and connect with scholars and programs that benefit history programs on the Shore. Staff



ESPL partners with other nonprofits, such as sharing tables at outreach events. Here is George Mapp with the Rail-Trail outreach and staff from ESVA Tourism, Christy Betz and Aileen Joeckel at the Wachepreague Carnival.

virtually attend their quarterly meetings to learn and share what each organization is doing in relation to this history program. ESPL acts as a conduit for information and often shares what it learns to other Shore nonprofits.

Because “system services” are embedded in the “main library” which happens to be in Accomac now, and Parksley in the future, the other locations often are perceived as receiving less service or attention than expected. Hopefully, by explaining the structure of the ESPL System and its roles, this line of thought has shifted. No matter where the system headquarters is located, each library in the system is valued and served equitably within the parameters of its self-determined organization affiliation.

That is why my job title is “Library System Director.” My office and that of system staff could be in any of the small towns on the Shore, but it makes more economic sense to have it in the “main” library with the larger collection and footprint. It also needs to be somewhat geographically central. An office in New Church is not that practical.

This is also why the new facility serving the readers in the larger area around Parksley is not the “Parksley Library,” but the “Eastern Shore of Virginia Regional Library and Heritage Center” facility and the home of the Eastern Shore Public Library System.

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The memorial to Margaret Hand was installed in the Eastern Shore Room.



# Heritage Hub

After one month of familiarization of both a new job and new life on the Shore, the second month provided stabilization and contribution towards some of the main tasks of the job: donor relations, relocation plans, reference inquiries, and collection management. Progress has been made in all four areas and will continue to be the focus all summer.

Donors of collections are vital to the growth and success of the Heritage Center. Without the unique material they possess, we cannot provide our patronage with the information they seek. Maintaining good relations and encouraging gifts is paramount, but can be challenging in the midst of planning a move and devising space allocation. Unfortunately, we cannot automatically accept everything we are offered. Therefore, it is important to build a relationship with the donor to learn about the material, establish trust, and assess the potential donation. Over the past two weeks, I have begun the work of contacting and meeting with potential donors. I met with one donor in particular that owns what would be an outstanding addition as it contains a significant amount of Shore research and photographs. We hope to make it a key acquisition.

## Local History Services

*Christopher Pote, Heritage Center Manager*

Knowing how much material to expect after relocating to Parksley is important, but we also need to plan, prep, pack, and move the existing archival collections of ESPL. And before you can verify that all material was transported successfully, you have to know exactly what you have. An inventory of the entire archival holdings is underway, and a relocation plan will be created. This will allow for us to prepare a smooth transition, address immediate preservation concerns, and get a sense of available shelving space.



**Pote reviews Heritage Center space with ESPL Foundation volunteer and consultant Kasey Grier.**

Planning for the move also requires being attentive to the progress of the new facility. I have been fortunate to attend construction meetings, tour the new site, look at schematics, and provide some feedback.

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# Cape Charles Memorial Library

Sharon Silvey, Library Manager

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HOOPOE. Though Hoopoe's mime and magic performance is silent, our audience giggled with laughter throughout the show! The Virginia Living Museum also visited with their program, *Shells by the Seashore*, which was a favorite for families!

Our "Shellebration Registration" took place on June 21 and we currently have over 70 participants. It's still not too late to register – we encourage each participant to read 20 minutes a day. Once you have read 100 minutes, you may come by Cape Charles Memorial Library to receive a small prize.

We were excited to have our story and craft program back in the library (first time since COVID restrictions have lessend!) The theme of the program was *Turtle Time* and we had a wonderful turnout!



Welcome new employees Jade Saldana (l) and Maureen Tamares-Meditz (r).

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*Heritage Hub, continued from previous page.*

It is our duty to provide the best curatorial and intellectual control of our existing collections and as the Heritage Center archives grow. Current procedures are being assessed and new procedures implemented. These procedures will be re-assessed and eventually codified to provide standardization throughout the holdings and across staff, but in particular to provide steady and consistent workflow as new collections are acquired.

And, of course, the research needs of our patrons don't cease during the summer or because we are preparing a move. We collect this material to make it accessible, so we will continue to provide these services the best we can for as long as we can. The benefits have been three-fold over the past month: we're continuing to provide this core service, we maintain good relations with our patronage, and it forces to me to do research within our holdings. I get to learn the collections as both the archivist and the researcher, and I also get to learn more about the history and importance of the Shore.

As the summer progresses, it is the hope of the Heritage Center to maintain services, be as prepared as possible for a smooth transition, and be poised for the exciting new growth ahead.

## Youth Services

Tiffany Flores, Youth Services Librarian

Earlier this year, The Library of Virginia offered Eastern Shore Public Library the opportunity to receive VOX books in one of the many languages they offer. Because we have many Spanish-speaking residents, Charle Ricci chose Spanish, and soon after ESPL received a 77 new Spanish-language VOX books. VOX Books are children's Easy Reader Books that have a built-in audio player that reads the story aloud to kids. These books are great for developing reading skills, especially for those who may struggle with reading. Charle and Tiffany worked together to determine a shelving unit to store them and set them up. These books are now available in the Children's Room.



So many new VOX books, we needed to buy a special display!

The Summer Reading program is seeing great success this summer with participation. Hoopoe the Mime had thirteen people at NFL and fifteen at ESPL the week before the summer reading program officially began. With the kickoff of storytime in the following week, Tiffany began to see more success. Storytimes have gotten upwards of twelve people at NFL Library and thirty-five people at ESPL during June. Tiffany Flores saw lots of enthusiasm with the slime storytime where children got to make slime. The Oceans of Possibilities reading challenge is off to a good start with twenty-four registrants participating. Tiffany hopes to see even more participation throughout the rest of the summer.



June marks one of the busier months for library outreach as many events happen in June. Throughout the month, Tiffany attended multiple outreach events including the Latino festival in Onley and the Juneteenth event in Exmore. At both events, she promoted the summer reading program events and gave out many books to the children.

# Technical Services

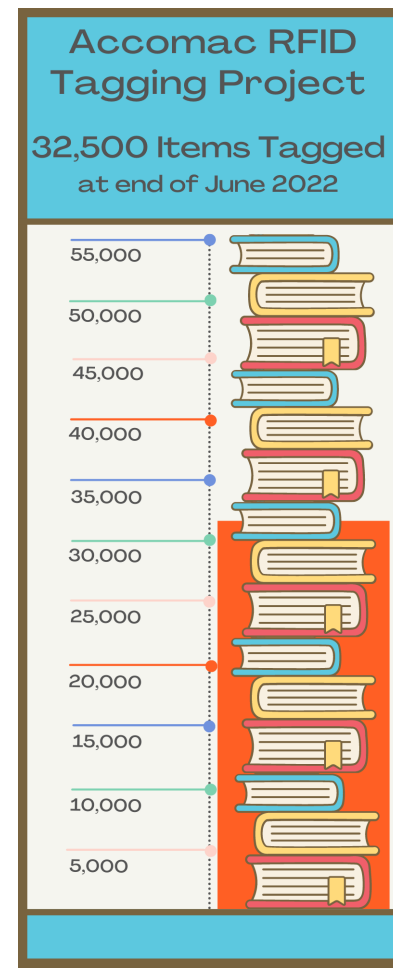
Charle Ricci, TS Manager

When asked to visualize a library, an individual may imagine rows upon rows of traditional print books. While the ESPL's collections are comprised of mostly books, Shore libraries now offer several new types of materials that can enhance the conventional reading experience.

For adult readers and learners, ESPL now has a series of over 40 college-level audio and video courses on a wide variety of topics. From gourmet cooking to the Hubble Telescope, and from playing the piano to ancient history, the Great Courses offer an immersive experience for life-long learners. Each course features audio CDs or DVDs with an accompanying printed booklet that contains a course outline and supplemental reading material.

While the Great Courses are currently found only at the Accomac library, they are readily available by request and circulation for library patrons at any of the four ESPL libraries. For a list of Great Courses titles, simply click on the "List" menu in ShoreCat, the library catalog. Under the "Adult Book Lists" section of the List menu, click on "Great Courses" to see details about and to request any items that are of interest.

For younger readers, ESPL offers several non-traditional pathways to learning and literacy.



Accomac and Nassawadox library locations offer DVD video recordings of popular children's stories that include read-along subtitles. These videos provide a wonderful multi-sensory experience for children learning to read, or for those are working to improve their reading abilities. A list of Kid's Read-Along DVDs can be found under the "Children's Book Lists" section of ShoreCat's List menu.

In addition to Read-Along DVDs, Shore libraries also offer Read-Along Vox Books, which are hardcover children's books with an attached sound player. Young readers can listen to the book while they read through it, all without needing CDs, tapes, batteries, devices, or in-

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ternet access. These Read-Alongs can be used with or without headphones, making them perfect for both individual readers and groups of children. Lists of Read-Along Books in both English and Spanish languages are located under the List menu in ShoreCat.

Finally, ESPL has Walkkit Audio players available for borrowing by young learners. Each audio player contains over 150 kid-friendly podcasts on subjects ranging from language arts, social studies, and science. The podcasts are designed to be listened to while enjoying a walk or other physical activities. Special STEM edition (science-themed) Walkkits can be borrowed as well. A keyword search for “Walkkit” in ShoreCat will return a list of both editions of the audio players, which can be requested directly from the catalog.

Be sure to take a closer look at these non-conventional items in ShoreCat, and explore all that the ESPL System has to offer – in print, through sound, on video, and with movement.

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## System Services to Tangier



On July 6, Cara Burton and Chris Pote met with the Tangier History Museum manager Nina Pruitt to deliver ten wifi hotspots and books and to introduce our new Heritage Center Manager to the town. Ms. Pruitt was kind to spend the day giving Pote a tour of the island, but also asked a lot of questions concerning the Museum’s collections. Plans are tentatively made to present a program on preserving family archives in the Spring.



The wifi hotspots are part of the Emergency Connectivity Fund grant. Jazmine Collins has done a phenomenal job of inventorying the devices for a quick roll-out to the nonprofits.







# Chincoteague Island Library

Karen Sharp, Library Manager

What a great day at the Robert Reed Memorial Park! The Chincoteague Island Library celebrated 27 years of service to the community and celebrated July 4th with a parade. Thanks to all who came out and participated or watched! So many people to thank! Mayor Leonard, Amy & Harper Stewart, Pastor Woodburn, Doug Mills of the CIAO, Uncle Sam (AKA Lou Bender), all of the library volunteers and board members who were on hand to help! This is a huge album...many smiling faces!





# Northampton Free Library

Connor Buyrn, Interim Branch Manager



The month of June saw some important maintenance completed outside of the library. The parking lot has been fully pressure-washed and the faded dividing lines have been re-painted. The outdoor trim on the building itself has also received a new coat of paint. Together with the vibrant pollinator garden maintained by ESVA master gardeners - now in full bloom - and the new concrete pad installed earlier in the year, these updates help Northampton Free Library continue to present a fresh and welcoming face to the public. The entrance has become a hotspot of wildlife activity, attracting several species of bird, butterfly, and bee. Patrons with an eye for nature will find an educational



opportunity right outside the front door.

Inside the library, work continues to help improve and enrich patron experience. Youth Services Librarian Tiffany Flores has begun hosting an increasingly popular children's story-time at the library on Tuesdays. This event has also helped draw patrons to other library services while they are inside. After the story-time has concluded, participants often stay a while to use the children's iPads or find books to check out.

The shelving for new books and books on temporary loan from Accomac has been reorganized, with several patrons having already mentioned that they now find it easier to browse. The library's collection of mystery and science fiction books is currently being reviewed to identify volumes that can be retired, with the goal of opening up space on the shelves for exciting new acquisitions. Maintaining an updated and evolving selection of books will help continue to entice both new and returning patrons.



# ESPL Grant Update - July 2022

**Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS)** – This ARPA money is distributed to the Library of Virginia (LVA). \$28,709 based on the state aid formula. The 3rd quarter report was submitted satisfactorily. Final paperwork needs to be submitted to close out the grant early.

**NEH Challenge Grant** – The expenditure budget of remaining funds needs to be updated and approved. Kasey Grier, Cara Burton, and Chris Pote met June 30th to discuss the best way to budget the funds.

**Federal Communications Commission (FCC)** – Emergency Connectivity Fund. Awarded \$148,000! Devices are in the process of being ordered for nonprofits signing agreements. Vendors are to bill USAC directly.

**LVA ARPA** - Because we are designated as serving a "medically underserved area" AND an area of low employment, ESPL will be receiving a privacy pod. This looks like a phone booth and is sound-proof for confidential conversations that require Internet access. The booth will include a laptop or ipad and be located in the ESVA Regional Library, Cape Charles Memorial Library, and Chincoteague Island Library.