

July 12, 2022



Library System Report

Cara Burton, System Director

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).

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

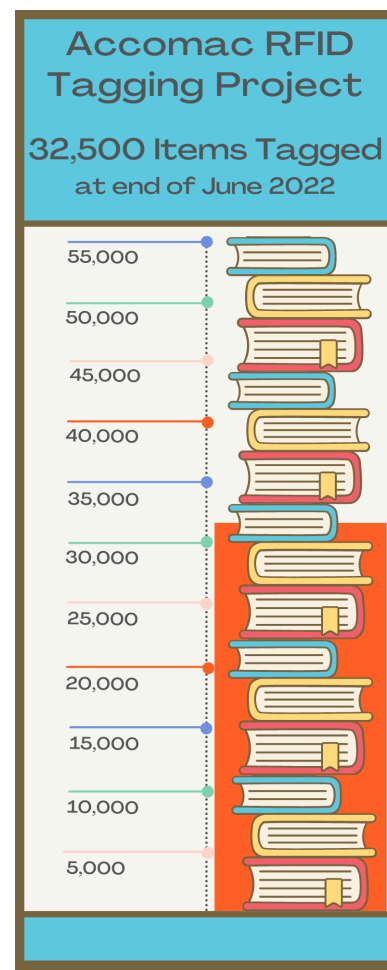
Charle Ricci, TS Manager

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.

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.