

in future applications. Some of the feedback included: "...they are just in the strategic planning stage of the capital campaign and have not performed a feasibility study or seem have a solid plan." and "Perhaps one of the most important issues facing the Center will be establishing rational long-term operational sustainability. What are the current and future staffing and operational needs of the Heritage Center?"

Ouch. It can be painful to receive such criticism, but successful organizations swallow the input and use it to improve. Such is our case after Kasey Grier, our newest volunteer Foundation Director, laid out a call to action to address the need for a sustainability plan for the ESVA Heritage Center. In fact, she did the work to apply for a Virginia Humanities SHARP grant, which was awarded and is funding the work of consultants to develop such a plan.

By *sustainability* in this case, we mean financial and organizational sustenance. Using library funds for occasional Eastern Shore Room book and equipment purchases and part-time staff is not what it will take to run the Heritage Center as the community is expecting. Significant resources---mainly financial---will be needed to fund the personnel, equipment, and programs to meet the Center's mission to collect, preserve, and make available to the Shore's public documents, images, and rare published materials.

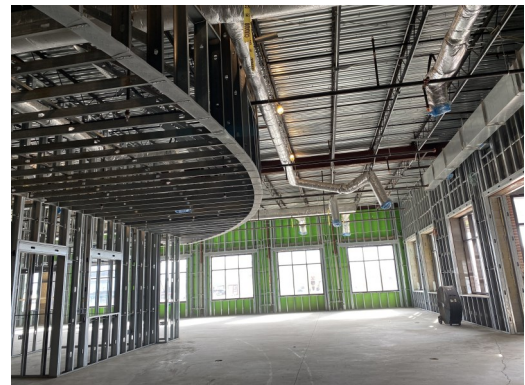
On February 22 and 23, ESPL hosted two consultants from Bryan and Jordan who interviewed five small focus groups in-person. The interviewees were asked about their expectations for the Center and the value of the collections. Financial opportunities were also discussed. The sessions lasted about an hour and a

half each. ESPL is very grateful for the time the volunteers spent to participate.

This sustainability plan will be in addition to the five year ESPL Strategic Plan that is near completion now. The ESPL Strategic Plan focuses more on the programs of the Heritage Center and the staff needed, while the B&J Sustainability Plan will focus on the financial plan to support those goals and the general operations. We expect the Sustainability Plan to be completed by the end of April 2022.



Burton on the roof of the new library.



Technical Services

Charle Ricci, TS Manager

A Valuable Learning Experience

In late January, several portions of the Accomac library were rearranged to allow for the storage of new shelving and other items that will be used in the library in Parksley. New books, Spanish language materials, and nonfiction and large print collections were moved to better utilize the existing space. Not only did this rearrangement improve the layout and safety of the library until the big move to the new Parksley facility, it also gave library staff a preview of how library movers organize and carry out a large scale moving project.

Each shelf of books to be moved was packed in order into a single box, which was then labeled with a numbered tag. Library staff provided a diagram to the moving crew supervisor that clearly showed where each collection of books was to be moved. The supervisor then placed a numbered tag on each shelf where the boxes of books were to be unpacked. The moving crew matched each numbered box to the corresponding numbered tag on each shelf, which resulted in an efficient and accurate workflow.

After witnessing the moving process, library staff are now ready to finalize preparations for moving the entire library collection to the Parksley library. Knowing that the move will involve a shelf to shelf transfer, staff are evaluat-

ing and counting shelves for each sub-collection in Accomac to ensure that it is right-sized for the area designated for that sub-collection in Parksley.

Each area of the collection will be given a final review to remove any out of date or worn items. Then, the items will be shifted, either condensed or expanded, to match the available

Over the past twelve months, 4,299 items have been added to the Accomac library collection, while 3,858 have been withdrawn. This results in a net increase of 441 items. This relatively small increase reflects strategic collection development work to ensure that the library's inventory will be rightsized to match the shelving space at the new Parksley library.

shelf space in the Parksley library. Library staff have recently completed this process for the nonfiction and biography collections, and have plans to review and shift the Christmas, Science Fiction, Young Adult, and Graphic Novel collections in the coming weeks.

While library staff will be very glad to finally move into the Parksley library when it is complete, the preparations now taking place will ensure that the moving process itself will go more smoothly.



Friends of ESPL volunteers sort withdrawn books for in-library booksales or to send to Better World Books for commission sales. Their hard work produces needed income for library programs and materials.

Youth Services

Tiffany Flores, Youth Services Librarian

February was a busy month of final preparations for **2022's Oceans of Possibilities' Summer Reading Program**. This month focused on primarily finalizing the promotional materials and developing plans for a Teen Art and Poetry Contest. In relation to promotional materials, all written articles were finalized and flyers were distributed to partners and teachers. In addition to beginning the promotional process, Tiffany developed a promotions calendar to follow to ensure all tasks are executed. This process included prescheduling items such as e-newsletters and social media posts.



As part of this summer's programming, Tiffany developed a **Teen Art and Poetry Contest** that will allow teens to submit their creations for a chance to win a gift basket full of goodies. This process included developing rules, an application, and promotional items. This contest is planned to launch on June 21st with the rest of this year's summer programming.



Throughout January and February, Tiffany Flores and Charle Ricci have been focusing on weeding the Easy Readers at Eastern Shore Public Library in Accomac to make the collection easier to browse, make room for new materials, and ensure the collection is current and relevant. Volunteers and staff will also more easily and accurately shelve materials. As of this month, Tiffany and Charle have gotten through three quarters of the Easy Reader shelving and have made plans to move into Juvenile fiction next. Additionally, Northampton Free Library is getting the same weeding treatment. Tiffany has already finished weeding the Easy Readers there and plans to move into the board books and I Can Read's next.



Cape Charles Memorial Library

Ann Rutledge Library Manager



February Grab & Go Bags
now available for pick-up at
Cape Charles Memorial Library

Each Grab & Go Bag contains:

- Snowflake craft
- 1 Spy Valentines
- Black History Month artist activity
- Lunar New Year color sheet
- a special treat!

Cape Charles Memorial Library
201 Mason Avenue
Cape Charles, VA
757-331-7300

while supplies last...

NEW MOVIES

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201 MASON AVENUE CAPE CHARLES, VA

AVAILABLE NOW!

Thank you!
DONATED BY THE FRIENDS OF
CAPE CHARLES MEMORIAL LIBRARY

MOVIES SHOWN: CHATBUSTERS, THE LITTLE PRINCE, CLIFFORD THE BIG RED DOG, JUNGLE CRUISE

As the weather improves, we are seeing more visitors to the Library and this reminds us that summer is right around the corner. Sharon is busy ordering supplies and booking performers for our Summer Reading Program and we are also ordering new shirts and labels with our library name on them. The theme



for this summer is Oceans of Possibility and since we are a block from the Chesapeake Bay, it is a great theme for us. We're planning an exciting summer and we look forward to seeing old friends.

Staff attended a webinar, Place & Spaces to Grow Literacy presented by the Library of Congress as part of their Literacy Awards Successful Practices Series.

We celebrated Valentine Day with Take and Make Bags for children, and all were handed out. Our displays this month featured books about Black History and Valentine Day books for children.

Northampton Free Library

Hannah Swimley, Branch Manager



Hannah Swimley, Branch Manager, moderated a virtual and in person program on February 25th. This program, Social Security 101, was presented by Matthew Baxter. Matthew is the Public Affairs Specialist for the Social Security Administration and has a working relationship with the library system. The program was free to the public and was recorded to be put onto the ESPL.org website. The program went well and was very informative, with 14 online participants and two in-person at the Northampton Library.

The meeting room in Northampton Free Library was painted this month. This room, which was previously a light pink in color, is now a calming shade of green to help promote creativity for those who utilize the space. The company who painted the meeting room will also be painting the exterior trim and the parking lot striping come springtime. All of these projects will help brighten up the library.

Northampton Free Library had an issue with siding rot near the vestibule. A contractor came and installed a gutter and flashing; and will be coming back in the spring to completely patch up the rot. The gutter and flashing were installed in order to prevent further damage to the pillar and siding.

Herbert Senn came during the latter half of February to replace the belt in fan motors within the heating system. This helped to ensure that the heating system would run smoothly and safely. The fire extinguishers were inspected during the month of February. Throughout the NFL building there are four extinguishers which are to be used in the case of a fire. All four of the fire extinguishers passed the inspection given by Fire Protective Services Inc., from Berlin Maryland.



The meeting room has received a new make-over with paint , tables, and chairs.



ESPL Grant Update - March 2022

Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) – This ARPA money is distributed to the Library of Virginia. \$28,709 based on the state aid formula. Original budget: RFID installation (due to construction delay) - \$10,000; security system - \$1,950; Video monitoring - \$9,186; HC website - \$6,000, phase 2; tech consultant - \$1,573. Due to construction delays and the timing of the grant deadline, a revised budget is being developed of actions that can be completed now, such as the purchase of Niche Academy and the reorganization of shelving. **Therefore, new funds will need to be secured for: RFID installation (due to construction delay) - \$10,000; security system - \$1,950; Video monitoring - \$9,186.

NEH Challenge Grant – The expenditure budget of remaining funds needs to be updated and approved.

Virginia Humanities (VH) – 2 grants (1) Consultant, John Verrill, presented a final copy of the US250 planning grant at the February 2022 Museum Network meeting. That project is complete and a final grant report needs to be submitted to VH. (2) SHARP grant for the purpose of a Heritage Center planning consultant was awarded and the consultant has been retained. Bryan & Jordan Consulting, LLC, www.bryanandjordan.com, has been retained to provide consulting services for this project. The B&J consultants were at ESPL February 22 & 23 interviewing preselected focus groups. The final report will be done by the end of April 2022.



Verrill presents at the February ESVA Museum Network meeting at the Chamber.

Federal Communications Commission (FCC) – Emergency Connectivity Fund. Application submitted that will support technology for area nonprofits, namely wifi hotspots, ipads, and ChromeBooks. The ipad provider has not met FCC documentation needs. Am awaiting a reply from the vendor to verify whether they will comply.

United Way of ESVA – ESPL Foundation applied for the FY22 grant for an outside information kiosk. (around \$2,000)

USDA Rural Development Communities Assistance Grant – *Grant awarded.* Parksley (compact shelving for Heritage Center): Total project \$140,000. 99% of application submitted for **\$21,000**. Match will be \$100,000 from Northampton County FY22 capital funds and \$19,000 from ESPL Foundation. Equipment order on hold until new schedule is made for the construction. It is hoped the timing for all works together.