



Library System Report

EASTERN SHORE OF VIRGINIA • PUBLIC LIBRARY SYSTEM

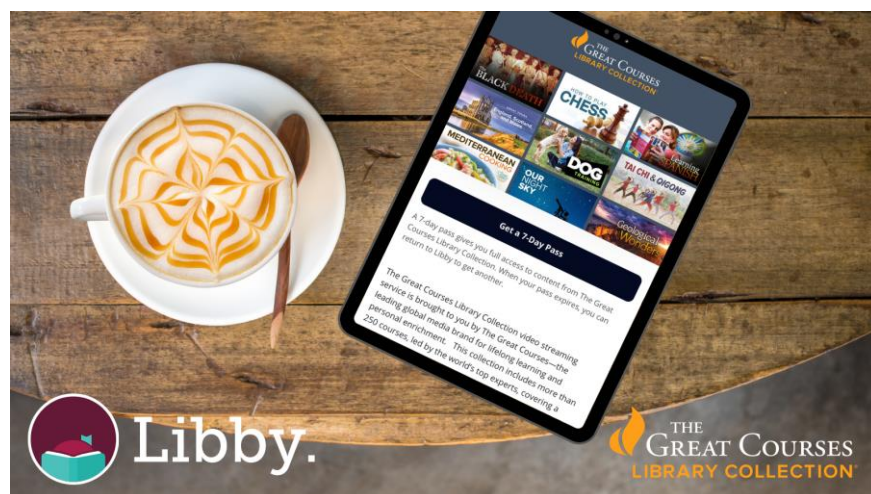
Regional Library and Heritage Center • Cape Charles Memorial Library • Chincoteague Island Library • Northampton Free Library

January 2023

Explore and Enjoy over 250 Courses that will

Enrich all Areas of Your Life

By Charle Ricci, Collection Management & Acquisitions Manager



THE GREAT COURSES LECTURES NOW AVAILABLE ON STREAMING VIDEO THROUGH ESPL

Eastern Shore Public Library (ESPL) now offers access to The Great Courses Library Collection video streaming service for lifelong learning and personal enrichment. This free collection includes more than 250 courses and new content will be offered monthly.

The Great Courses are led by the world's top experts, and cover a broad range of subjects, such as science, mathematics, philosophy, history, literature, fine arts and music, travel, business, and personal development. These unique courses are designed to capture your curiosity or help you to improve in areas you are passionate about. Each course is commercial-free and contains a guidebook to supplement course material.

Explore these immersive learning experiences in the library's free Libby app on your desktop or mobile device. Find the app link at espl.org under "Read, Watch, Listen" or search for Libby, by Overdrive on the AppStore or Google Play. Once in the Libby app, log in with your library card number and PIN and then scroll down to the "Extras" section to access The Great Courses.

DIRECTORS' UPDATE

Janet Justis, Interim System Library Director



New Beginnings

As we begin 2023, ESPL is on the road to new beginnings. We bid a hearty 'hail and farewell' to Cara Burton, retired System Library Director, who has led the library with passion and conviction.

Her legacy will include a new regional library in Parksley which will make information available to everyone in a variety of formats. The new regional library will provide the Eastern Shore with a beautiful and welcoming setting for gathering together to exchange ideas and support our communities in moving forward in business, entertainment, historical research and so much more.

As the new interim director, I would like to thank Cara for sharing her expertise and a special thanks to the staff who have made me feel welcome and who have kept operations moving seamlessly by providing our patrons with the excellent customer service and assistance that ESPL is proud to provide.



LIGHTS ... CAMERA... ACTION

**New Lights... A Visit From ShoreCAT... ESPL on track (photos by Cara Burton)
site visit 12-29-2022**

Director's Update Continued

As a native of the Shore, ESPL has always had a special place in my heart. It was my first childhood library and some of my first library memories include my Mom driving me to Accomac so I could fill my bag with treasures. My first library card number was 777, and I felt so grown up one day when the librarian asked me if I wanted to fill in the numbers on my checkout slip. Little did I image that might have been my first library job. To this day my job is to inspire readers of all ages and to make information available in ways I could only have dreamed of as a child.

Full Services Restored

The Accomac location will resume Monday hours effective January 23, 2023. Monday hours will be 10:00 a.m. until 5:00p.m.

Accomac Building Update

During a recent cold snap the boiler needed repairs as did several breakers including ones affecting air flow. Herbert Senn's team responded quickly and repairs were made greatly improving heat and air flow throughout the facility. The building continues to have some leaks during severe rains presenting the need to check for mold or mildew regarding books and other items.

Parksley Building Update

(Progress Meeting hosted by County of Accomack Public Works & Facilities)

During a recent site visit on December 29, 2022, it was announced that a substantial completion date by April 3, 2023 is on track with a final completion within an additional 30 days.

Progress reports were also provided regarding numerous areas. Electrical work was completed on 12/26/2022. Inspection was conducted and all areas passed.

Internet service was working during the visit. May need to address possible boosting.

Roof assessment is ongoing. visual assessment was conducted assessing approximately 22,000 square feet with some deficiencies that need to be addressed. An infrared moisture survey was performed for Accomack County in March 2022. Since anomalies were identified additional investigation was recommended. The County will continue to monitor this issue with a goal of all concerns being addressed and seeking a warranty of 20 years.

Concrete sidewalk will be removed and replaced to ensure that drainage slopes away from the entrance.

Gutter drywall will be redone and placed underground to reduce any chance of upper ground obstacles.

Fire suppression system flow test was performed on 12/14/2022 and indicated the psi needs to be reviewed to achieve optimum range. Hiller will be onsite during the week of 01/02/2023.

Charlie Brown Doors still has work to do. Column covers have been delivered and will be installed later.

Noland Mechanical is reviewing plumbing and HAVC needs. Trash in the lines may be an issue.

Shore Lock and Key may need a longer lead-time for interior locks.

Painters and Dominion Carpet have been onsite to address remaining needs. Punch list includes replacing carpet areas in the meeting room and part of the Eastern Shore room with carpet tiles to assist maintenance concerns.

Masons are returning when the weather is a little warmer.

Security gates will be installed closer to completion to reduce chances of damage. These are sensitive.

The next progress meeting is scheduled for January 25, 2023.

Janet Justis



Heritage Center

Christopher Pote, Heritage Center Manager



Live Stream Presentation on January 14, 2023 @ 1:00

The Heritage Center is proud to announce that we are partnering with Pender County Library (NC) in hosting the presentation **From Eastern Shore VA to Southeast NC: One Family's Story** by researcher, genealogist and Gabriel Jacobs' descendant, Tyrone Goodwin. Gabriel Jacobs was a member of one of the first documented groups of kidnapped Africans in North America, and was the progenitor of the Jacobs' family of free people of color in southeast NC and Tidewater VA. Please join us for a live stream of the presentation Saturday, January 14, at 1pm. @ <https://penderpl.libcal.com/event/9983737>

The Kirk Mariner Collection

During the past several weeks, the processing work of the Heritage Center has focused on creating container lists for collection materials that have yet to be fully organized. The Kirk Mariner Collection is one of our largest and most important collections of personal papers. In this initial phase, we focused on Mariner's **extensive subject files** that spanned seven file cabinets. Processing the Mariner papers in full will take months, but we've quickly gained resources of countless Eastern Shore topics.

Eastern Shore News Photographs

Along these same lines, we inventoried a file cabinet's worth of *Eastern Shore News* photographs. This material provides a literal snapshot into Eastern Shore topics mostly from the 1990s.

MORE FROM THE DIRECTOR...

UPDATE REGARDING USDA RURAL DEVELOPMENT COMMUNITY FACILITIES GRANT "PARKSLEY 2"

Retired director Burton had hoped to have final submission of this grant by December 30, 2022. The application is largely completed and has been reviewed with interim director Justis. Regrettably a remaining invoice quote and some signatures have been delayed largely due to challenges with communications over the holidays. The major change will likely be a match of \$27,086.00 instead of the maximum of \$50,000. This is due because some items cannot be allotted to the grant as hoped. The total estimated costs for furnishings, a vehicle and a shed are \$180,573.00. ESPL would be responsible for \$153,487.00. We anticipate that all grant materials will be submitted to Peggy Jordan at USDA within a few days.

CERTIFICATION OF FY 2022 BIBLIOSTAT FINANCIAL DATA

Interim Director Justis and Treasurer Lilliston met on January 3, 2023 to sign the required certification form before a notary. This is required after the Library of Virginia reviews and approves data related to state aid. Kim Armentrout of LVA advised that all financial data regarding ESPL appears to be in order. The certification form will now be sent to LVA attention: Paranita Carpenter.

Youth Services and Administrative Assistant Report

by Tiffany Flores

At the beginning of the month, Tiffany Flores transitioned into her role as Administrative Assistant. In this role, she has taken on learning a variety of areas in library management including developing a deeper insight into finances, records management, staff management, and overall library operations. In addition to taking on her new job responsibilities, Tiffany will continue to manage the e-resources and various parts of the website. While this month has been filled with information overload, Tiffany is excited to learn and grow more in her career. Congratulations Tiffany!



In December, Tiffany was able to host tours for students from Shore Christian Academy and Nandua Middle School. The tours encouraged the children to visit the public library and learn about the vast variety of resources that are available to them. The visits provided students with a chance to: tour the building; see a demonstration of Shorecat (the online catalogue); have fun making buttons using the Button Press; and an opportunity to ask questions. In addition to learning about the library, each student was able to get a library card and check out books. Both schools greatly appreciated the library staff engaging with students and teachers. Shore Christian Academy expressed interest in visiting again, especially to conduct research, as their collection is limited.



Furniture Continues to Arrive on a Regular Basis: It really feels like a new opportunity is just around the corner...

While Tiffany completed many tasks in closing out her duties as Youth Services Librarian she fulfilled lots of children's and young adults' wishes as large shipments of furniture for the new Children's and Young Adult Areas arrived. The attractive spaces will inspire lots of educational and fun activities at the new regional space.

One of our favorite patrons is trying out the new equipment. She seems to love it.



Cape Charles Memorial Library

Sharon Silvey, Library Manager



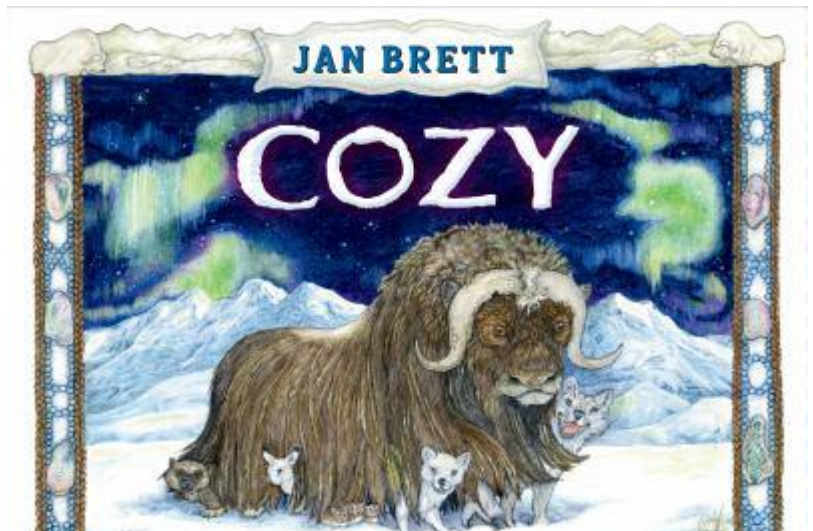
December was full of fun holiday decorations, programs, and our wonderful patrons and visitors.

We started the month participating in the Town of Cape Charles' Festive Fridays. Staff had three separate craft stations where children could make a twirly snowman, beaded ornaments, or a handprint reindeer card. We also had a "Letter to Santa" station where Mr. Claus received over 40 letters! CCML was a part of two of the Festive Fridays, hosting over 300 visitors. We'd like to thank the Cape Charles Memorial Library Board of Trustees for volunteering their time and energy during these two events.

The month continued with a program by storyteller Debra Alsko who shared her original account of Christmas in the 1960's. Ms. Alsko kept the entire audience entertained with her interactive and amusing storytelling style.

Our Grab & Go bags continue to be popular with the youngsters. This month we created and put out 55 bags full of fun educational activities, crayons, I-Spy sheets, and color by number sheets. For the month of December, we added a few holiday books and some yummy treats.

Towards the end of the month, staff hosted two story and craft programs for children. The first program was "The Christmas Owl: Based on the True Story of a Little Owl Named Rockefeller" by E. Kalish and G. Sterer. This lovely book is about a little owl that was found in the Rockefeller Center Christmas Tree.



Participants created an owl holiday card using recycled paper. The second program was "Cozy" by Jan Brett. This is the tale of a group of animals searching for a warm spot to spend the harsh Alaskan winter. Participants of this program created their own polar bear that swirled!

Throughout the month book displays highlighted Chanukah, Christmas, and Kwanzaa.



Chincoteague Island Library

Candy Purdue, Library Manager



Lots going on at our little library in December. The Saturday after Thanksgiving, we hosted Santa Claus in the library as part of the Historic Downtown Merchants' Holiday Tree Lighting Ceremony. The following weekend, the reviewing stand for the Chincoteague Chamber of Commerce Old Fashioned Christmas Parade was held on our front porch. The judges then came into the library to choose the parade winners. Volunteers decorated the outside of the library and the library windows.

Our Thursday morning book club held its annual planning meeting on December 10, 2022. Weekly Tales 4 Tots wrapped up the fall program on December 15th with stories about Santa Claus and a take home activity bag which was put together by our Saturday teen helper, Nicole.



Author Mike Nixon captivated his audience with excerpts from his book, Life Travels and the People in Between.

Submitted by Linda Ryan for the Board of Directors





Northampton Free Library

Connor Buyn, Branch Manager



Improvements to the Northampton Free Library facility continued in December, as several damaged floor power outlet plates were replaced. Our public computers also received needed updates with the goal of improving patron user experience.



An outdoor surveillance system will be installed by Doug Brown Alarm Engineering on January 23-24, 2023.

In 2023 we hope to provide more public programs for library patrons, and we are currently researching several possibilities. Thanks to our ever helpful Friends of Northampton Free Library group for decorating the library building for the holiday season.



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT: ESPL @ 757-787-3400

LIBRARY SYSTEM HIRES INTERIM SYSTEM DIRECTOR

Photo attached.

(ACCOMACK, VIRGINIA) December 16, 2022 - The Eastern Shore Public Library Board of Trustees is pleased to announce the appointment of Janet Justis as Interim Library System Director of ESPL. Justis will oversee administration upon the December 31 retirement of Cara Burton, the current director. Burton served as director for seven years. The Trustees formed a Search Committee for a nationwide recruitment of a new Library System Director and expect to hire the new professional before the move to the new regional library in the Spring.

Having grown up on the Eastern Shore of Virginia, Janet is pleased to join the excellent team of library staff, board members, and volunteers. Janet's most recent position was Dean of Learning Resources at Eastern Shore Community College. She also worked at Tidewater Community College and Old Dominion University. Janet has over 25 years' experience in librarianship with 10 years' experience as a Library administrator. She earned her Master's in Library Science at UNC-Chapel Hill.

Justis will lead ESPL into the new year with a return to full library hours of operation in Accomac and readying for the move. For more information about the library and its services, call (757) 787-3400 or visit espl.org.





HAVE A SEAT AT THE TABLE OF INFORMATION

