



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

February 2023

WOWBRARY- Be in the Know about What's New @ the Library

By Charle Ricci, Collection Management & Acquisitions Manager

Each month, ESPL adds approximately 300 new books, audiobooks, and DVDs to the four Shore libraries. With items arriving all the time, it can be a challenge for library patrons to keep up with what's new. ESPL is pleased to offer **Wowbrary**, a free weekly email newsletter, which serves as an online version of the new book shelf, but better! It's like seeing the new book shelves at all four ESPL libraries simultaneously, including even the new books that might be currently checked out.

Not only can library patrons see what's new, **Wowbrary** makes it easy to reserve items from the library's catalog, **ShoreCat**. Clicking "Borrow" beside each title of interest in Wowbrary connects directly to that item in **ShoreCat**. Once in the catalog, patrons can place a reserve on any or all of the titles featured in that week's Wowbrary newsletter.

In each week's newsletter, Wowbrary includes 20 "Top Choices", highlighting new items that are expected to be popular. Each featured choice includes a summary of the item and a link to more information. In addition to the "Top Choices", a menu along the left side of the screen contains all of the week's new items and is organized by subject. These subject lists include Fiction, Mystery and Thrillers, Romance, Science Fiction and Fantasy, Graphic Novels, Large Print, and DVDs.

Wowbrary makes it easy to scan quickly through what's new and then request your favorites. To sign up, visit espl.org and click on the Read, Watch, Listen tab. Next, click on the button that says "Sign up for **Wowbrary eNewsletter**" and enter your email address. After signing up, all that's left to do is to look forward to receiving your newsletter each Wednesday, and to enjoy being in the know about everything new at the library.

DIRECTORS' UPDATE

*Janet Justis, Interim
System Library
Director*



2023 is off with a bang

The New Year got off to a busy start with patrons returning after the holidays to check out books for those cold dreary days. This was timed perfectly with large receipts of a variety of print titles.

The Nassawadox Free Library cohosted a virtual event on January 14th with Pender County, NC featuring Tyrone Goodwyn and his genealogical research "From Eastern Shore VA to Southeast NC. "Special thanks to Jazmine Collins for hosting the local in person group at NFL.

On January 17, 2023 Megan Gallipeau joined our staff as the new Youth Services Librarian. Read about some of the exciting events and programs she has planned for February. A Valentine's story time and craft program on 2-13-2023 at 4:00 gets everyone ready for Valentine's Day followed by a Black History Month activity hour on 2-23-2023 at 4:00. (See more in her Youth Services Report.)

Find books & more

Wowbrary



REVIEW ... SELECT... READ

Director's Update Continued

The director also attended a Cape Charles town council meeting on 1-19-23, and discussed the unique collaboration of the regional library system on the Shore. While each of the four libraries represent specialized locations they share all collections and processing of materials as well as training for staff. This means that policies in each of the four locations need to reflect similar procedures in requests for book reconsidering and general expectations for positive behavior by staff and patrons while in the library or at events hosted by the library.

We are grateful that the Cape Charles town council approved CCML's policies as created by staff and approved by the Board.

FULL HOURS RESTORED

AT ACCOMMAC LOCATION 1-23-23

Monday: 10:00 am - 5:00 PM

Tuesday: 10:00 am - 8:00 PM

Wednesday: 10:00 am - 5:00 PM

Thursday: 10:00 am - 8:00 PM

Friday: 10:00 am - 5:00 PM

Saturday 9:00 am - 1:00 PM

Parksley Building Update

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

During recent site visits on January 25, 2023 and February 10, 2023, work continues on track for a substantial completion date by April 3, 2023 with a final completion within an additional 30 days. Best case scenario is that we can begin moving in during April and May with a potential opening to the general public in early June.

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

Roof assessment is ongoing. Efforts to remove wet materials from the ceiling area are under way. New materials to code will be installed and the county will continue to monitor this issue. Onsite supervision of roofing work will occur with a goal of all concerns being addressed and seeking a warranty of 20 years.

Concrete sidewalk has been removed and replaced to ensure that drainage slopes away from the entrance. Area was roped off for additional work on 2-10-2023.

Gutter repair is under way and drywall is being placed underground to reduce any chance of upper ground obstacles.

The library had requested that Dominion Carpet replace carpet areas in the meeting room and part of the Eastern Shore room with carpet tiles to assist maintenance concerns. Unfortunately the county has decided not to support doing this work which will make it more difficult to maintain these high traffic areas.

J.T. Williams contacted the director regarding creating a new cornerstone dated 2023. The previous stone was engraved twice with 2021 and 2022 dates based on delays in construction and opening. The former cornerstone will become part of archives and help create a timeline and summary of the building's beginnings over time.

The next progress meeting is scheduled for February 22, 2023.

Janet Justis



Heritage Center

Christopher Pote, Heritage Center Manager



Live Stream Presentation “One Family's Story from Eastern Shore, VA to Southeast, NC” on January 14, 2023 By Tyrone Goodwyn

The Heritage Center’s partnership with Pender County Library (NC) hosting **“One Family’s Story from Eastern Shore, VA to Southeast, NC”** by researcher and genealogist Tyrone Goodwin focused on Gabriel Jacobs’ and his descendants. The material was informative and showed the complex relationships among indigenous peoples, free and enslaved blacks and their interactions and relationships with European colonists. Mr. Goodwyn’s research indicates that 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. Special thanks to Mr. Goodwyn, Pender County Library, Chris Pote, Jazmine Collins, and Judith Grier for their efforts in making this event successful. The director enjoyed the program and feels this is the beginning of these types of events exploring stories of the many peoples from the Shore.

ONGOING WORK AT THE HC

Research support continues to be a focus of the Heritage Center. Over the past month we have served several people in the Eastern Shore Room, and we have started to allow scheduled research visits to the Heritage Center location in Onley. This includes both new and recurrent researchers, and is in addition to the people served via phone or email. **Thank you, Jazmine Collins, for your support of our researchers.**

The processing work of the Heritage Center continues to focus on assessing and inventorying previously unprocessed collections. The main benefits of this phase are initial intellectual control and collection condition assessment. In terms of condition assessment, we are looking for things that may be detrimental to the long-term preservation of the materials. The most common of these potential problems include: mold, insect and/or rodent infestation, and improperly housed fragile materials. If these concerns are found we can immediately determine treatment plans.

This same methodology is applied to the framed materials in our collections. The Kirk Mariner Collection, in particular, has many framed items from including artwork and artefactual materials. We’ve created a condition assessment form that we utilize for every framed piece and are steadily working our way through the collection. This allows us to learn what pieces need conservation work, what is or is not archivally framed, and subsequently, candidates for being removed from frames for better storage flexibility, and initial assessment of future display or exhibit potential. **Much appreciation to Judith Grier for her work on these tasks.**

MORE FROM THE DIRECTOR...

UPDATE REGARDING USDA RURAL DEVELOPMENT COMMUNITY FACILITIES GRANT “PARKSLEY 2”

On February 2, 2023 the director and her administrative assistant had a Microsoft Teams Meeting with Peggy Jordan regarding the USDA Grant known as “Parksley 2.” During the meeting the following were discussed: Letter of Intent, Request Obligation, Code of Conduct, ESPL Audit, and Form 1940. The director signed all forms as requested and on February 7, 2023 was advised that the grant has been approved and that we can begin ordering materials listed on the request. The grant will only begin to pay once ESPL’s share of \$153,487 has been expended. (see table)

Vendor	Description	Quote
Intertech	Room technology	\$97,844
Hall Auto	Ford transit	\$33,207
Grainger	Shed (back of library)	\$6,992
IBI	Furniture	\$25,329
Dell	Computers	\$5,851
Daly	Lenovo All-1 computers	\$11,350
	Total Project Amount	\$180,573
	Federal (grant)	\$27,086
	ESPL (local match)	\$153,487

Eastern Shore of Virginia Climate Equity Workshop Held at Eastern Shore Community College on January 30, 2023

The director attended the climate equity workshop hosted at ESCC on January 30, 2023. The event was a set of activities with attendees visiting various interactive stations reflecting different concerns in the area including frequent flooding, changes in salinity, reduction in marshlands, the history of climate and weather on the Shore since the 1600s, and the effects on individuals and the community at large. While learning valuable information about the effects of climate change in the area, the director was able to network with civic groups, associations, scientists, and community leaders providing opportunities for hosting events and outreach in the future. Many individuals have previously used the Eastern Shore Room for local research and are very excited about the new possibilities of using materials in the Heritage Center. One individual is currently working on his Ph.D. in rural farming over the decades. The director was able to promote the Heritage Center and its resources and staff and looks forward to partnerships in the future.

Letter of Support for the Eastern Shore Rail Trail RAISE Application

The director and former director Burton were able to offer a letter of support for the Eastern Shore Rail Trail RAISE Application. Thanks to the Accomack-Northampton Planning District Commission for their work in this effort. (letter attached in packet)

Youth Services by Megan Gallipeau

Megan assumed the position of Youth Services Librarian on January 17th, and immediately began training and started implementing programming. The Children's department is currently offering students takeaway crafts for Black History Month.



She also began a program in which the library raises butterflies. Children can stop in and observe the butterflies at various stages in their life cycle, and the caterpillars have more than quadrupled in size in the last week.

Students have also been provided with worksheets and origami projects as a tie-in to the ongoing project. So far, about 45 young people have engaged with the craft or the butterfly display, and it will continue to be offered until the butterflies are old enough for a release day.

Megan has a Master of Science in Library and Information Science from Syracuse University and a Bachelor's degree in Computer Animation from Lynn University. She is a motivated librarian with state of the art 21st century technology skills and hopes to provide traditional children's programs as well as natural history programs with tie-ins to local history for young students.

Megan hit the ground running by participating in two outreach programs with local K-12 schools. On February 1, 2023, girls from NMS 6th and 7th grades visited the library in Accomac and received library cards. The librarian from Nandua Middle School thanked Megan and the staff saying, "They will remember today forever." Megan and ESPL staff visited Metompkin Middle School on February 2, 2023 for their Title 1 reading event and children received library cards as well. Their excitement was palpable.



Furniture Continues to Arrive on a Regular Basis:



Training for New Youth Services Librarian

On January 17, 2023 Megan Gallipeau, our new youth Services Librarian, began her new role at ESPL. One of Tiffany Flores new roles as administrative assistant includes training Megan in Tiffany's former position. We are lucky to have Tiffany be able to provide this institutional knowledge and program consistency so that all youth and children's programs continue without interruption. They have made a great team.



K-12 Outreach Events

Both Tiffany and Megan participated in the Nandua Middle School and Metompkin Elementary School outreach programs in early February. In addition to learning about the library, students were able to get library cards and learn about library resources and upcoming programs. Both schools greatly appreciated the library staff engaging with students and teachers. Wendy Johnson of our desk staff also joined in the events to help ensure library card entry into the ILS.

----- Original Message -----

From: Mary Margaret Browning <mary.browning@accomack.k12.va.us> To: mgallipeau

<mgallipeau@espl.org> Date: February 1, 2023 5:34 PM

Subject: THANK YOU!!!!!! We cannot thank you enough, and everyone else at ESPL in Accomac, for making the group of NMS 6th and 7th grade girls feel so welcome there today. Although we had encouraged all the girls to apply for their library cards ahead of time, only a few did. Today, however, once they were in the library and loving what they saw, that changed. All the staff was so helpful and accommodating, and I hope they could sense the excitement these girls felt at receiving library cards. They will remember today forever. We really look forward to working with you, MMB:>) --

Mary Margaret Browning, Librarian



Cape Charles Memorial Library

Sharon Silvey, Library Manager



This past month at Cape Charles Memorial Library was a quiet one as everyone settled from the holidays.



Our children's book display highlighted the Winter season, with titles about hibernation, snow, and sledding. For adults, books about local and world travel were on display. As author **Jhumpa Lahiri** stated, "That's the thing about books. They let you travel without moving your feet."

Board Members Training and Enjoying the Programs for Younger Patrons

Several of CCML's Board members expressed an interest in learning what goes on at the front desk of the library and we happily agreed to do some training! Members came in several times and learned the basics of assisting patrons, checking in and out of items, and basic daily operations of the library. One Board member spent some time on the children's AWE early learning literacy computers and was amazed at all the educational options available for younger patrons.



January saw visits from many families with young children who also enjoyed the use of the AWE educational computers. Little ones have fun with the touch screen, "finger painting" their own colorful creations. There are options to have a story read to a child, allow the child to interact with the story, or allow the child to read the story

on their own. One young patron has been visiting CCML since she was a baby. She is now 5-years old and has used one of the AWE computers to begin writing her *very own story*.

Summer Programs are Coming!!!

Even though the summer season seems impossibly far away, staff has started planning for our Summer Reading Program (to begin in mid-June). Eastern Shore Public Libraries are again participating in the Collaborative Summer Reading Program (CSRP), with libraries across the United States. The theme this

summer is, “All Together Now”. We have some awesome programs and special guest visits in the works – stay tuned for more information!



Chincoteague Island Library

Candy Purdue, Library Manager



We have a special Valentine Tree this month on display inside the library. Patrons are invited to pick a heart from the tree and write their favorite book and/or author on the heart, then rehang it on the tree. It's fun to read the hearts that show the diverse interests of our patrons.

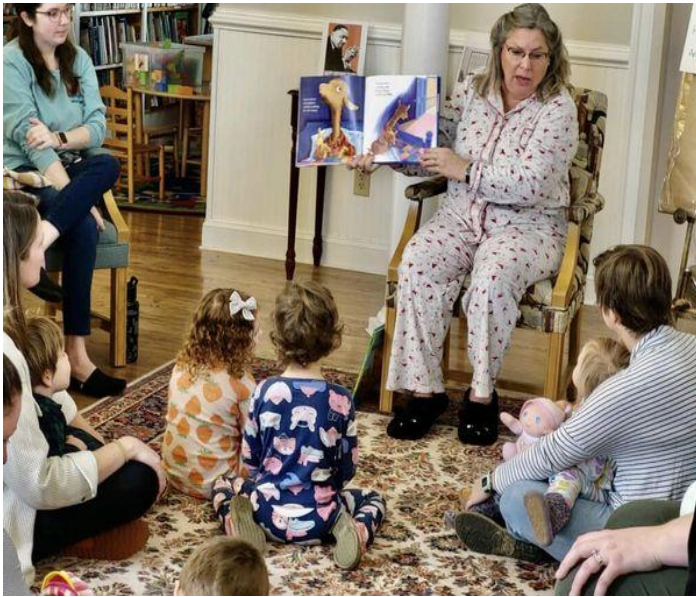
At CIL we're starting out the year with an expansion of our [book clubs](#). Because there has been such a great response to our current reading clubs, we are adding a third one! A Couples Book Club will meet in February for their initial meeting. Our two other active book clubs are the Tuesday Readers' Book Club, and Nancy's Thursday Book Club - anyone interested is welcome to attend and start enjoying the discussions and camaraderie that goes with being a part of a group with the same interests.



Candy created a very nice, informative display in honor of [Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. in January](#). She has also completed a window display honoring Black History Month. The plan is to vary the display in the window with other smaller ones throughout the library during the month. Presidents' Day will be the focus during the week of February 20th.

Lou and Brice, two of our longtime volunteers have also designed a nice winter display – in one of the front windows. Their display depicts a winter scene, focused on the warmth of being inside a home where it is

cozy in front of a nicely lit fireplace – of course with a good book, a comfy chair, and kitty sleeping contentedly by the fire.



For the kiddies - Tales 4 tots was on a holiday break but resumed at the library on January 15th with a pajama party! Check out our great pictures of the event. Children ages 2 – 5 gather weekly at 10:00 a.m. for stories, games, activities, and snacks.



Looks like River and her mother Roberta had fun along with Isabella and all of the children and their parents.

We have a few outside improvements that have been made to increase safety for those visiting our library. The brick walkway located near the ramp on the north side of the building has been modified to create a level walking area. Also, the bottom step on the Main Street side entrance has been repaired for stability. Let's hear it for safety!

Compiled by Harriet Lonergan and Candy Perdue @ CIL



Northampton Free Library

Connor BuYrn, Branch Manager



Northampton Free Library started off the New Year with a busy January. Several projects have been completed while others remain underway pending scheduling.

A new camera system was installed on January 23-24, 2023, to help assure patron and staff safety.



Repair work was completed in one of the building's bathrooms. Carpet tiles will be installed and door repairs and plaques are in process. These new security measures and other repairs were made possible by the generous donations raised by the Foundation as part of their Giving Tuesday event. Thanks to the Foundation.

ESPL's Heritage Center hosted an engaging event concerned with local history and genealogy on January 14, 2023. This event was co-sponsored with Pender County Library in North Carolina. The library is planning to host an archaeology-related event by the end of February. Sort of a local artifacts "Antiques Road Show" experience where folks can bring in local artifacts for discussion. Keep an eye out for more information about this event as details are confirmed.

Finally, we are looking for patron input on subject areas where Northampton Free Library can expand our
your suggestions
inside the front



nonfiction collection in the new year. Please place
in our anonymous 'Make a Suggestion' box, located
door of the building.