



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

April 2023

Eastern Shore of Virginia Regional Library and Heritage Center...a Sisyphean Saga



Cool
Idea

Devil's in
the
Details

BEST STAFF EVER

Thank you for allowing me to go on this journey with you.

Sometimes you just need to laugh. No matter what, it's a real joy to come in each day and see EACH OF YOU smile and do what YOU do best helping each person feel comfortable in the library and that their questions or needs have your full attention.

You are intelligent, tech savvy, diverse, tolerant and you will CHANGE THIS WORLD FOR THE BETTER! TY JJ

DIRECTORS' UPDATE

*Janet Justis, Interim
System Library
Director*



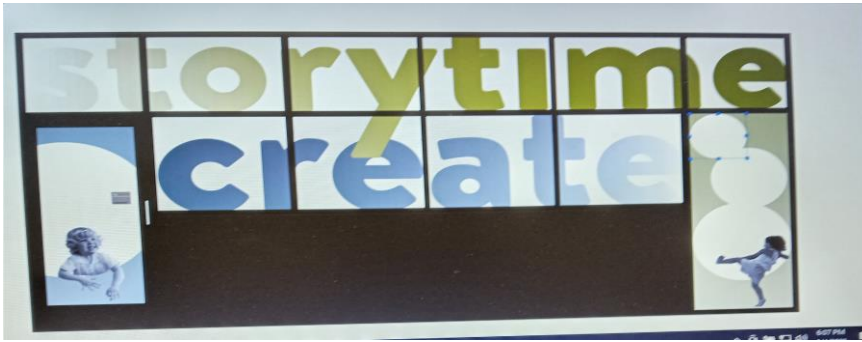
What Goes Up Must Come Down

Well folks we almost made it to Bennett Street. But we'll keep pushing this boulder up the hill until we get to the "TOP OF THE ROOF." Am guessing the view will be worth the wait. But laughter and hope are good qualities in times like these. So just keep smiling and dreaming.

Most of the articles this month seem to be about new beginnings. Lots of planting and nurturing of seedlings and flowers heralding the beginning of spring. So let's continue with that spirit and consider what it will be like to be in a new building filled with light and gorgeous window graphics. Children's smiling faces, leaping in the air ready for the next activity or story hour.

Adults gathering in the meeting rooms enjoying the latest programming or exhibit from the newly created Heritage Center.

HERE'S A SNEAK PEAK

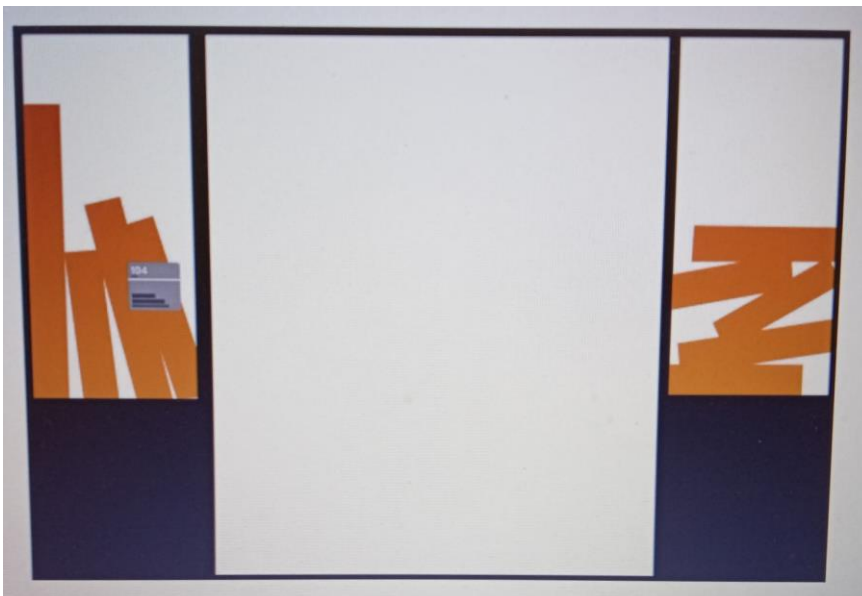


Adults and children are invited to read stories, tell stories, create stories, and most of all have fun while learning. What's your favorite children's book? When's the last time you colored outside the lines? Face painting anyone?



Step inside the Friends' Bookstore and find a bargain.

So many books so little time. That's what summer's for...



See You At The Library. We're All Better Together

Let's also remember what libraries are and why we need them. Public libraries are free and open to everyone. Speaking of FREE. Libraries offer lots of free things. Freedom to READ. Freedom to choose the information we need and access that information in a way that fits into our challenging and complex lives. Freedom to gather, to discuss, to learn, to share, to build healthy, strong and lasting communities.

From cradle to the final journey the library has something unique and special for you. **You are one of a kind so we celebrate your diversity and your special place in this community of inclusiveness.** If you are just beginning to hear the magic of sounds and words and see letters and pictures jump off the page or screen you are about to enter the world of imagination, creativity, learning, exploration and you'll develop roots and wings that will hold you up when you need a hand and let you soar to heights unknown. But just as important it's going to be FUN along the way.

Whether that computer scares the life out of you or you truly wonder if phones and watches can be SMART we've got you covered. Remember that there are generations who have always had the benefits of ever changing technologies. These tech savvy library staff really want to share the next best thing so that we all dream big and succeed.

We can only imagine or dream what the next technological advances will bring, but libraries will be at the forefront making sure that the digital divide is NO MORE.

Don't let challenges get in your way. Lifelong learning is a necessity and proof that we all still have goals to achieve and places to go

When we all have equal access, equal opportunities, support, and encouragement WE ALL SUCCEED.



Heritage Center

Christopher Pote, Heritage Center Manager



This past month was archiving in a microcosm: accessions, reference queries, outreach, partnerships, continuing education, and processing. With a little crushing disappointment thrown in for good measure. The disappointment was, of course, the news that opening of the Library and Heritage Center in Parksley had been delayed once again.

Donations of collections is on the rise, and we accepted several important ones this past month. Mr. John W. Edmonds, IV donated some materials related to members of his family, Benjamin and Bessie Gunter, as well as materials related to the former family business *The Peninsula Enterprise*. A week later, we welcomed Sarah and Robert Lentz to the library for the donation of the story about the making of Mr. Lentz's book: *The Story Behind the Tree: Chesapeake Wood Art History, Eastern Shore of Virginia and Beyond*. This donation presents a particular challenge as it contains text, audio, and video within the same package, as well as the metadata supporting it, so we'll need to strategize about best methods for preserving and sharing the entirety of *The Story of the Tree*.

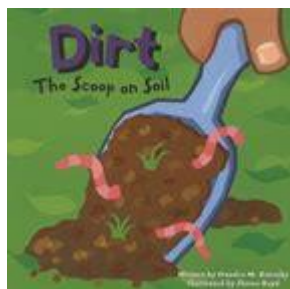
With the assistance of Judith Grier, we were able to serve Frs. Michael McAndrew and Michael Imperial in their quest for information about migrants of the Southeast and immigrant ministry. Fr. McAndrew has been serving the migrant community for decades, and Fr. Imperial is the Pastor at St. Peter the Apostle here in Onley. Fr. Imperial and Christopher Pote are in further conversation of potential areas of collaboration and oral history subjects.

The Heritage Center has agreed to partner with two local initiatives with potential wide-ranging benefits. Jazmine Collins has been representing the HC in participating in the Northampton250 committee. We have agreed to make relevant resources to the 250th U.S. anniversary to the committee, as well as assist with specific research and offered to host events. Collins and Pote also met with members of the ESVA Climate Equity Project. The HC availed its historical material for research and offered use of the lecture hall and meeting rooms (once available), as well as to be the repository for the Project and the oral histories they conduct, so that the information gleaned and gathered will forever have a home on the Shore.

Pote also attended remotely the Spring conference of the Mid-Atlantic Regional Archives Conference. It is important to stay current, learn about new initiatives and other repositories, but also energizing to meet with other archivists and information professionals and share successes and failures.

It was a busy month. Much appreciation, as always, to Judith Grier and Jazmine Collins.

Youth Services by Megan Gallipeau



Passive Programming:

During the month of April, we continued book bingo and offered various worksheets throughout the month. 10 copies of book bingo were taken, as well as all 15 coloring pages and 7 word searches.

Active Programming:

Four story hours were held at the Eastern Shore Public Library branch during the month of April, with a total of 6 participants. We also had a field trip visit to the library from Nandua Middle School with 16 boys.

Four story hours were held at the Nassawadox branch; however, none of them were attended. Since we are just restarting this programming after an extensive delay, the Friends are going to reach out and see if they can help facilitate some road trips to schools in the area. We may consider rescheduling this based on library attendance on other days of the week.

Summer Planning:

We have continued to purchase supplies for Summer Reading. There are a number of Social Media posts and templates for summer that will be used during the month of May. We are also working with the Friends to spend a \$750 budget for books and magazines to hand out at the 4th of July parade, on mostly STEM topics. **(THANKS TO THE FRIENDS)**

GRACIAS THANKS MERCI MESI GRAZIE DANKE OBRIGADO

Coming Soon: New Nature Backpacks

By Charle Ricci, Collection Management & Acquisitions Manager

In late 2022, the Eastern Shore Chapter of the Virginia Master Naturalist Program donated a collection of books and literature to ESPL. The donated materials cover a variety of subjects, but all share a focus of the wildlife and natural environment found on Virginia's Eastern Shore. Some of the donated items will be cataloged for the general library collection at Accomac, but the remainder will be utilized to create new Nature Backpacks to supplement backpack kits already available at the library.

Currently, the library offers a Birding Backpack, with binoculars and field guides, and fifteen "I Love Virginia State Parks" Nature Backpacks. The State Park backpacks include a parking pass for free entry to any Virginia State Park. These backpacks are particularly popular with local families, as they contain pocket guides, dip nets, bug observation containers, and magnifying lenses.

Utilizing the items donated by the Master Naturalists, ESPL's Technical Services department is preparing five new backpack kits. The planned themes of the kits are Beaches & Fishing, Butterflies, Forests & Flowers, Virginia Wildlife, and Nature in Winter. In addition to the donated books and pamphlet literature, ESPL has purchased lightweight, water resistant daypacks to house each themed collection, and will be adding laminated pocket field guides, perfect for outdoor adventuring.

Once the new backpacks have been prepared and cataloged, they will be available for check out. The backpacks will be located at the Main Library (currently in Accomac), but can also be requested for borrowing by library patrons at any of the three other ESPL libraries in Nassawadox, Cape Charles, or Chincoteague Island for.

ESPL is grateful to the Master Naturalists for their generous gift that will not only expand the library's general collection, but also serve as the foundation for the new backpack kits. Library staff are excited to add these additional backpacks to the library's collection and hope that they provide inspiration and knowledge that library patrons can use to venture outside and explore the natural world.





Cape Charles Memorial Library

Sharon Silvey, Library Manager



April was a wonderfully busy month at CCML!



Story Time & Crafts resumed this month, meeting every Tuesday morning at 10:30 am. Participants have enjoyed listening to stories, singing songs and playing instruments, and being creative with their crafts. Children receive a free library tote bag (supplies limited) upon their first visit. Program is designed for ages birth to four.



Grab & Go bags, a passive program started during COVID, continue to be popular with local patrons and visitors. Every month, staff select a theme and assemble 25 – 50 bags filled with educational activities, honeycomb crayons, and a special giveaway (which varies each month). This month, with grant monies from Virginia Department of Environmental Quality, CCML purchased childrens books about recycling and the environment. One free

book was included in our Earth Day Grab & Go bags, along with earth friendly activities.



CCML was awarded two additional grants in April. We received a Billie Fitzgerald Memorial Conservation Grant for Environmental Education through Eastern Shore Soil & Water Conservation District, which will help fund our seed cart and a Virginia Commission for the Arts Touring Grant to assist with summer programs.

At the end of April, we joined with other community groups in Cape Charles and hosted our Seed Cart Kickoff. CCML partnered with the Virginia Coastal Zone Management Program and Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation to bring a Plant Eastern Shore Natives Campaign display. In the weeks leading up to the event, staff and volunteers packed and labeled over 300 seed packets! Flower seeds are all native to the Eastern Shore of Virginia and vegetable seeds are non-GMO. Donations for seeds

came from individuals, the Friends of the Library and from the folks at New Roots Youth Garden. The seed cart is located in the library and *free seeds are available to everyone, four seed packets per month.*



Chincoteague Island Library

Candy Purdue, Library Manager





Northampton Free Library

Connor BuYrn, Branch Manager



The month of April saw continued planning for improvements to the building and to library services. We are exploring options to improve the speed and functionality of our public computers while continuing to ensure patron privacy and security.

Our collection of children's books was surveyed to identify items that were not circulating or were in poor condition, and these have been retired to make room for new and exciting reads. Recent acquisitions include a juvenile biography of Supreme Court Justice Ketanji Brown Jackson as well as books about otters, seeds, and baseball.

Weekly children's story hours continued on Wednesdays from 4:00 to 5:00 PM, and are planned to continue on through the month of May. Thanks Megan!



Northampton Free Library held a free raffle for a gardening-themed gift basket, and is currently holding another free raffle for a Mother's Day gift basket. Tickets are available on request from the front desk and the drawing will be on May 10th.



The color of the month was purple in our pollinator garden, with verbena and wild indigo flowers providing nectar for tiny sweat bees and other insects.

Seeds Planted by Staff

CHARLE Quiet, calm and steady at the wheel. I think the cat does some book buying when Charle's not looking. Did you see how fast those paws move over the keyboard on Zoom?	JAZMINE Happiest in the Eastern Shore Room helping folks discover their past. But whenever she's asked she's here, there and everywhere. Heard she plays a mean game of basketball.	TIFFANY Left the safety and fun of the children's room and is learning how the sausage is made. Keep reaching for your dreams. Best MOM ever. Sweet Claire.
BRIAN Did Brian stop laughing? Call 911. What's Brian doing in the frig? Did that baggie just move? Best DAD ever.	WENDY Como puedo ayudarte? Como estas? Nuevos libros! Does that come in RED?	MEGAN G. Brought butterflies, smiles and so many story hours to our fantastic children's room.
MEGAN T. Best work ethic in town. Never have to say that something needs to be done because Megan already took care of it.	TIM Where do you think he really goes in that teal green van? Honk if you know Tim. Another gas receipt?	CONNOR Renovating, hosting pop up events, solving patron concerns, and still has time to smell the roses or all the flowers in the NFL garden.
CHRIS Goanna make the Heritage Center Legendary . Applause or A-Paws. JUDITH –no Janet –no Judith (Chris?) Has never had more fun with boxes of local treasures and stuff.	SHARON Introduced me to the Cape Charles Town Council. You took a difficult situation and turned it into an educational opportunity. CCML does us proud.	JAMIE Tamed Robert's Rules. We'll always have the Beta Club dinner and the Foundation. Do you need more tea? Motion. Second. Adopted. Sounds so easy.
DAPHNE Saturday's STAR.	WILL Polite, professional, quiet too.	SUSANNAH Quiet as a library used to be.
AMY Makes me smile. Always knows just what to say.	THERESA Best organic veg in the area. Love collards and turnip greens.	CANDY She's baaaack.