



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

May 2023

Feet on the Ground With Eastern Shore Public Library & Heritage Center



*Keep your eyes on the stars,
but your feet on the ground.*

-Theodore Roosevelt

DIRECTORS' UPDATE

Miranda Wisor, Director



Hit the ground running

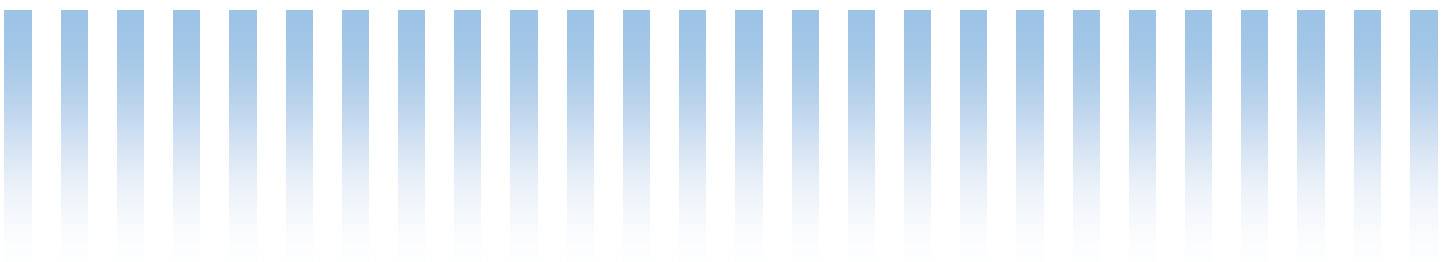
I've landed and am working hard to get up to speed with the rest of ESPL. A new Director couldn't have asked for a warmer or more supportive welcome than what I have received from the folks at ESPL.

I've been reading and reviewing the many documents that guide the work that we do in libraries. I've also been trying to visit as many locations and speak with as many ESPL employees as possible. Throughout my decades in libraries, I've grown to firmly believe that the greatest resource

THANK YOU!



Many thanks to Janet Justis for her work supporting the Eastern Shore Public Library. Her efforts as Interim Director ensured that the library system was able to continue serving the citizens of Northampton and Accomack Counties.





DIRECTORS' UPDATE CONTINUED



that a library offers it's community is it's employees. Already, I've been able to visit the Heritage Center, Northampton Free Library, and Chincoteague Island Library. I hope to visit Cape Charles Memorial Library soon. I believe that the Eastern Shore is fortunate to have such an effective and hardworking team working together to build, curate, maintain, and guide users to the variety of resources that we are able to offer. Many thanks to each of them and to Janet Justis for her guidance and wisdom!

I've not the only one that moving quickly and leaving footprints. This month's report highlights the many steps and much work being tackled throughout the system to reach into the community, build relationships, and add value to the Eastern Shore's libraries.

The path walked in May might not have been the one that ESPL had expected or planned for, but the month was no less busy or productive. Much of librarianship is planning and moving forward, but often not in the ways that we had originally expected. That's ok. Unexpected paths may come, but we'll be ready to walk—or run—on them.

Introducing Miranda

You've read my CV and have an idea of my professional history, but who am I when I'm not working in a library? I brought with me to the Eastern Shore a husband and two wonderful (I might be bias) sons who are eager to start school at Nandua Middle School in the Fall. I also brought three furry friends: Cinder, Fritz, and Fafnir. I enjoy reading many genres, but my favorite are social topics in Nonfiction and Fantasy. My favorite way to relax is to make lye soap and experimenting in the kitchen, although I'm a sucker for almost any kind of craft project.





One of the silver linings of the delay to Parksley is time to reassess the furniture and AV needs of the new facility. Many hours have been spent discussing needs, optimizing layouts, and choosing equipment and finishes for the Heritage Center and Library. It is imperative that the boost in morale for the new building is carried over into the staff offices and public meeting rooms. Furniture for staff offices has been chosen, shelving for the Eastern Shore is being made, and the AV equipment for the Lecture Hall and smart meeting spaces is being considered. It remains an exciting time.

Reference services continue apace. This is good; this is why we are here: to preserve and make available. Being able to provide researchers, whether professional historians or amateur genealogists, with the hard to find piece of information they've been looking for is truly a joy. To continue to provide services while in this time of flux is a credit to the staff. Historic maps seemed to be popular this month as we served several researchers with map requests.

Judith Grier reports from the processing desk on two recent projects: The Katherine Edmonds Clippings collection is an assortment of newspaper clippings from the *Peninsula Enterprise* and *Eastern*

Shore News covering topics related to ESVA. The box was packed with newspaper clippings, letters, bills, diaries, etc. and seemingly in no particular order. The clippings were sorted into very broad categories/topics, assessed for their condition and moved to archival



folders. An inventory was created and the next step will be to scan and digitize the materials for use by researchers. Personal note: the advertisements are great!

The second collection is related to Benjamin Thomas Gunter (1831 – 1898): an assortment of letters, and a few newspapers, that span his career. Gunter was the Commonwealth's Attorney for Accomack County, a colonel, a lawyer, and founder of the Locustville Academy... in addition to being a complicated and very smart man. The letters support his biography of being a prisoner at Fort McHenry early on in the Civil War (political prisoner as he would not sign an oath of allegiance to the US Constitution), and later his law practice in Accomac. An inventory of the letters, the number and physical quality, was completed during this process.

To preview the month ahead, Christopher Pote will be leading the Eastern Shore Museum Network's quarterly meeting last week of June. These meetings are wonderful time for the cultural heritage institutions on the Shore to convene and disseminate pertinent information, as well as share initiatives, successes, and struggles. It allows to collaborate and corroborate. There is a core of wonderful local museums and organizations dedicated to preserving the history of the Shore. The Heritage Center will also be partnering with the Library of Virginia in hosting the travelling banner exhibit about the Lantz Mills Deaf Village.



Statewide partnerships such as these are vital to the success of these institutions, and we always look forward to hosting these exhibits. It will be on display in Accomac commencing June 7.

Pote will also be joining Brenda Holden on June 27 at 9AM on WESR to discuss the new Heritage Center and pitch the Foundation's lawn mower raffle. Tickets can be purchased here: <https://esplfoundation.ourraffle.org/>.

Thank you, Jazmine Collins and Judith Grier, for your continued hard work and good cheer.



Technical Services

Charle Ricci, Collection Management and Acquisitions Librarian



New books and audiobooks arrive each week at the library and are processed, cataloged, and placed on shelves at all four ESPL locations. It may seem somewhat magical when carts of brand new items are rolled out from the workroom at Accomac, or delivered via the library courier to the branch and affiliate locations, but the new items are a result of a dedicated team of staff working behind the scenes to ensure that ESPL patrons have access to newly released and requested materials.

The staff members who select, order, process, and catalog all of the new (or new to the ESPL) materials make up the Technical Services department. While the name of the department may sound as though the focus would be on computers and technology support, instead the department's core work centers on library materials at every stage - from beginning, with acquisitions, to the end, at deselection.

The Technical Services workflow begins with the acquisitions librarian who evaluates professional journals and reviews of items that will be released in the near future. Utilizing knowledge of ESPL circulation patterns, as well as the local popularity of particular authors and subjects, the librarian selects and orders materials that will supplement the existing collection and best meet the interests and informational needs of Shore readers.

Once the orders arrive, the boxes are unpacked and call numbers are assigned to each item. These call numbers determine which subcollection and library the item will belong to, as well as the exact place on the shelf where the item will be placed. The items then travel to the processing desk where a staff member or volunteer adds a protective book jacket cover, a barcode, and library ownership stamps.

Next, the processed items are ready for cataloging, where, for each item, a bibliographic record is downloaded from a worldwide database, edited for clarity and accuracy, and uploaded to the ESPL's catalog software, ShoreCat. At that point, the new materials become visible in the catalog, and can be reserved or checked out by library patrons. This is also the time when the new items are distributed to each Shore library and placed on the shelves.

While all booklovers wish for shelves with unlimited space, continually adding new items to the library results in the need to remove outdated, irrelevant, and damaged materials from the collection. This process is carefully carried out with local circulation data, as well as guidance from well-regarded reference volumes. Deselected items are withdrawn from the catalog and then passed along to the Friends of the ESPL for sale, or given to local nonprofit organizations.

From start to finish, the library's collections are carefully curated by Technical Services staff, with the objective of making materials available and accessible to readers across the Eastern Shore.



Youth Services

Megan Gallipeau, Youth Services Librarian

Passive Programming:

During the month of May, we offered out the remainder of supplies for the Mother's Day mug craft, as well as the Pete the Cat handprint craft. This helped use up additional supplies, and gave students who were unable to attend story hour take-home projects.



Free comic books were also offered throughout the month, beginning Monday 5/8/23, for Free Comic Book Day. We are continuing to give out the remainder of the comic books for that event.

Active Programming:

4 story hours were held at the Accomac branch. Crafts included Mother's day mugs, origami, and keepsake handprint crafts for students. 8 students attended over the course of the month.

2 story hours were held at the Nassowadox branch. Each of these was attended by one student. The student at Nassowadox enjoys humor, so in the future I will be bringing books that have more comedy elements.

Outreach:

Tiffany and Megan attended a showing of Encanto at the Elk's Lodge, where we were able to share summer program information with the families who attended.





Northampton Free Library

Connor Buyn, Branch Manager



In the month of May, patrons were provided with numerous opportunities to learn about the outdoors at Northampton Free Library. The pollinator garden maintained by the Eastern Shore of Virginia Master Gardeners has come into full bloom, and the Master Gardeners also provided a seed exchange and reading materials box that patrons can access inside the building. The pair of barn swallows that have nested at the library for the past few summers have returned, and are now raising a clutch of eggs. Next month, Youth Services at ESPL will host a visit from the Salisbury Zoo at the library in Nassawadox, providing patrons of all ages an opportunity to meet and learn about four animals. The event will take place on Monday, June 26th, at 3:00 PM.

In other news, weekly story hours continued through the month of May and will also continue into June, taking place on Wednesdays from 4:00 to 5:00 PM. Northampton Free Library is currently selling raffle tickets for a chance to win a zero-turn lawnmower, with proceeds benefiting the Heritage Center. The drawing will be held on Friday, July 28th. Tickets can be purchased at the front desk for \$20.





Cape Charles Memorial Library

Sharon Silvey, Library Manager



The month of May was busy, with our patron visits more than doubling the count of our April patron visits! Weekly preschool story time is back on schedule (every Tuesday at 10:30 a.m.) and we hosted our first Owl Prowl of the season.

Staff have been tirelessly working for the past several months on our summer programs – researching, evaluating, creating, and scheduling. As a participant in the Collaborative Summer Library Program, our theme this year is **All Together Now**. This all-embracing theme invites you to explore together as a community through activities, programs, and (of course!) all kinds of books. Programs begin in mid-June and registration for our reading program begins on June 20th.

We would like to give a big thank you to friend and patron, William Dyas. Mr. Dyas is a metal detectorist and has generously provided numerous local artifacts for Cape Charles Memorial Library to display over the summer.





Chincoteague Island Library



Submitted by Linda J. Ryan

on behalf of the Chincoteague Island Library Board of Directors

Despite our staffing issues, May was a busy month. The Tuesday evening book club read and discussed the book Caleb's Crossing. Next month they will read The Last Thing He Told Me. The Thursday book club discussed books on the topic of "humor." Next month they will read and discuss books by Eastern Shore of Virginia authors.

This past year, the Library gave out 12 reading awards and gift certificates every marking term to one student from each class at the Chincoteague Elementary School. The awards were presented at the school's award assemblies.

Tales 4 Tots, our weekly preschool story time began meeting in the library in November. Prior to that, we were meeting in Brianna's Kindness Park due to Covid concerns. We are averaging 20 children each week. The spring program wraps up this week and will begin again in July.



This year, our Library Board decided to award a \$500 scholarship to a graduating senior who was continuing their education. One of the requirements was that the student must have a current library card. Thanks to the generosity of a local patron who heard about the

scholarship, we were able to award a \$1,000 scholarship instead. This award was presented by our president, Paul Miller, at the Senior Awards Assembly at the Chincoteague High School.

Registration for our Summer Reading Challenge runs until June 17. The program will run through August 11. Currently 40 students have signed up.

Summer Programs for both children and adults are in place.

Fundraising:



SUNSET CRUISE
"Around the Island" benefit cruise aboard the Marlin Lee
to support Chincoteague Island Library program.

Join us in celebrating the beginning of summer!



Thursday evening, June 22, 2023
Enjoy sailing the waters surrounding Chincoteague, the music of Troy & Clara Guthrie, a formal meal catered by Bill's Seaford Restaurant, assorted red and white wine & bottled water.

Tickets \$65 per person (adults only please)

Meet at Curtis Merritt Harbor at 5:30 p.m., the boat leaves by 6:00 p.m.
To reserve your space, go to:
www.marlinleecharitycruises.com or call (757) 336-4466. Reservations waiting is limited.*

*When making reservations, please let them know if you prefer the vegetarian option.

The Annual Sunset Cruise is scheduled for Thursday evening, June 22 at 5:30 p.m.

Our basket raffle will take place through Columbus Day weekend.

