



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

June 2023



The storm on June 21 led to a tree falling near the library in Accomac. Thankfully, the tree did not land on the building or any vehicles in the parking lot, but it did block the dumpster beside the library. Thanks to the quick work of Marshall's Tree Service, the tree was removed within hours of staff first hearing the crashing sound.

DIRECTORS' UPDATE

Miranda Wisor, Director



The secret of change is to focus all of your energy not on fighting the old, but on building the new.

~Socrates

After so much time watching and waiting, substantial change is occurring in the library system. The move to Parksley demonstrates tangible, visible change in much the same way that a new Director is tangible and visible.

What is less visible, at least for now, is the behind-the-scenes changes that are going on. Policies are being reviewed by ESPL staff for recommended updates that will be sent to the board



DIRECTORS' UPDATE CONTINUED

beginning this month. I've been working with our IT contractor to identify a server for purchase that would enable ESPL employees across both counties to share documents in real time. We've implemented an online ticketing system to improve communication with our IT contractor, too. A team of staff members are working on updating our Emergency Procedures for each ESPL location. Plans are underway to restructure some staff at the Accomac/Parsley location to enhance library services and outreach opportunities. We're also exploring migrating to a new email system.

I'll admit that I was nervous in my first days here about how ESPL staff would take to the changes that needed to happen. My concern was unfounded. Despite the whirlwind of change and the flurry of activity trying to navigate so much that is new and a major move, the library staff remain positive and ready to meet any challenge.



MOVING PLANS UNDERWAY

Bates moving company has offered the library firm dates to move the library collections and other materials to the ESPL Regional Library and Heritage Center in Parksley. The move will begin on Monday, August 7th.

The move to the Parksley facility will involve transporting the shelving and materials between two towns with multiple steps in the process. Each shelf of books, audiobooks, and video recordings will be packed in order into boxes, which will then be labeled with a numbered tag and color coded to match corresponding shelves. Then shelves will be disassembled in Accomac, transported to Parksley, and reassembled. Finally, the books and other materials will be transported to Parksley and reshelfed in the same order that they appeared on shelves in Accomac.

Bates anticipates that the entirety of the library materials can be transported and reshelfed within two weeks. The library will remain closed, however, until August 26th to allow a cushion for moving time and allow library staff an opportunity to learn new workflows and layout prior to opening to the public.



Christopher Pote, Heritage Center Manager



The Heritage Center staff is very excited to finally be making plans for the relocation to the permanent, modern facility in Parksley. The lease is signed and keys are in hand. Christopher Pote, Heritage Center Manager, is the project manager for the relocation of both the archives facility in Onley and the main library in Accomac. The main task is to ensure that all collections are relocated and shelved in the new facility in the proper manner. This is a multi-faceted, layered project. The work includes coordinating staff responsibilities with vendor availabilities to allow for a smooth transition. Other tasks to manage are the delivery and installation of the Eastern Shore Room shelving, office furniture for the entire facility, A/V equipment for the lecture hall and meeting rooms, and making sure the internet, phone, security, and PA systems are functioning properly. It is a major undertaking that goes well beyond the moving of books. The Heritage Center will be closed the same duration as the Library: August 7 to August 25.

Until the temporary lull in August, the HC will continue to provide and perform our main duties: serving our patrons and processing collections. Reference queries can be a daily occurrence, and this past month has been no different. We continue to support local organizations already preparing for VA250 activities, to serve genealogical requests, and to locate historic images for future publications. Finding that obscure piece of information or long lost image and eventually seeing it in published form is a true joy of the job.

On the processing side, Judith Grier has been hard at work on several projects. Edmonds Family papers, as mentioned last month, has received a lot of attention lately as we prepare to make it available for research. And she has completed some preservation activities on the Robertson Family Collection. We are very happy to report that we have added a new member of the team. Stacia Childers has joined us on a volunteer basis; I am sure faithful readers of this report recognize that name and are familiar with her work. Stacia more than capably sat in this chair and, combined with the work of Miles Barnes, established the foundation of the Heritage Center. We are grateful for all the work she has done for the HC in the past, and being able to pick her brain has been a blessing. Stacia is currently working on photocopying newsprint from the Kirk Mariner Collection onto archivally safe paper, and we are so happy to have her.

Pote also lead this last quarter's Eastern Shore Museum Network meeting at Historic Onancock School. This is a great opportunity for representatives of the cultural heritage organizations of the Shore to meet. Each organization has a chance to talk about the work they have

have been doing, what are their successes or challenges, and what events they hosted or will be hosting. But most importantly, it provides a chance for collaboration. This will be more and more important as we approach the country's semiquincentennial.



And as mentioned last month, Pote was at WESR on June 27 with Brenda Holden enjoying Coffee with Kelly and discussing the Foundation's current raffle fundraiser (<https://esplfoundation.ourraffle.org/>) and the work of the Heritage Center. It was a good conversation, and we are appreciative of the public forum.

Welcome to the new Library Director, Miranda Wisor, and thank you to Jazmine Collins, Judith Grier, and Stacia Childers for your continued hard work and good cheer.



Technical Services

Charle Ricci, Collection Management and Acquisitions Librarian



Demand for eBooks and eAudio from the Shore community was slowly but steadily increasing prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, but when impacts to daily life began to reach the Shore in early 2020 during the “Safer at Home” and “Stay at Home” orders, library users flocked to these resources. During this time, the Eastern Shore Public Library (ESPL) began offering an online library card registration option so that individuals who had never had a library card, or those whose card had expired, could easily create a library account and begin borrowing items from the library’s digital collections, all without needing to visit the library in person.

As the world has now passed the three-year mark of the start of the pandemic, assessing library patron’s borrowing activity, and how it may have changed because of the lessening of restricted or reduced daily activities, is worthwhile. Evaluating circulation statistics over time can help to identify long-term trends in patron interests, behaviors, and information needs.

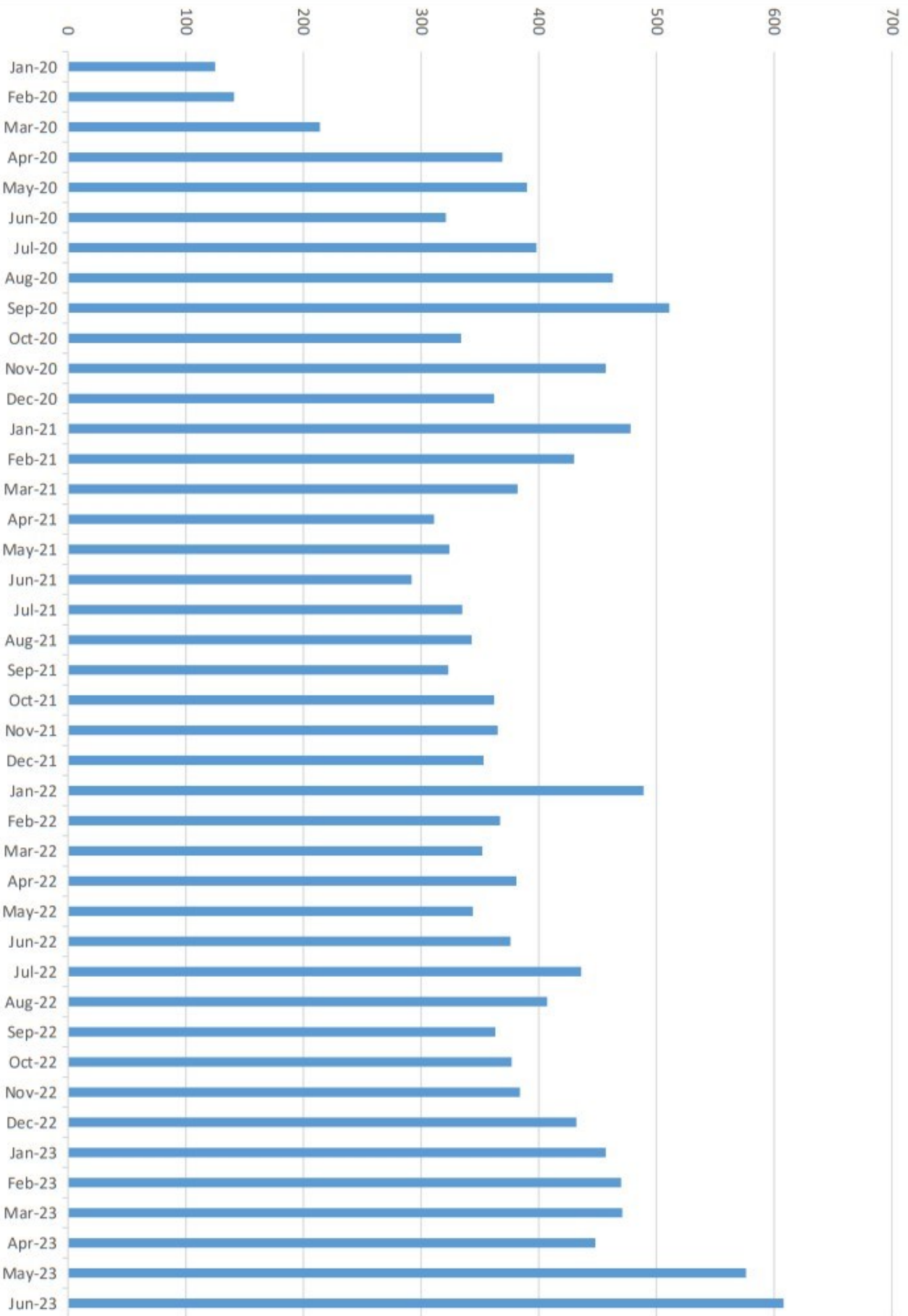
Using statistical reports from ESPL’s eBook and eAudio platforms, Libby and Freading, monthly circulation figures for eBooks and eAudios were compiled. This data, covering the beginning of the pandemic in January 2020 through the month of June 2023, was then converted into a bar graph to create a visual representation of the electronic reading and listening patterns of ESPL library patrons.

The accompanying chart demonstrates the circulation activity for eBooks and eAudios from the library’s collections. From early 2020 through the summer of 2022, eBook and eAudio usage tracked closely to the pandemic’s local impact. Whenever COVID levels increased, and library patrons were less able or willing to visit the library in person, eBook and eAudio circulation increased.

As pandemic-era restrictions have eased, there has been a continuing increase in eBook and eAudio circulation over time. Circulation numbers for 2022 were higher than they were in 2021. 2023 brought further increases over 2022 levels, with May and June of 2023 having the highest levels of borrowing yet.

The evaluation of ESPL’s eBook and eAudio circulation data has shown that the Shore’s need and demand for digital content has continued post-pandemic, and will most certainly continue to increase over time. In addition to the physical book and audiobook collections, ESPL plans to continue to expand the digital content available to library patrons through Libby and Freading. In so doing, local readers and listeners will have plenty to choose from, whether they prefer paper or digital materials or both.

Monthly eBook and eAudio Circulation : January 2020 - June 2023





Youth Services

Megan Gallipeau, Youth Services Librarian

Summer Reading Program:

To kickoff the Summer Reading Program, we had the Salisbury Zoo visit both the Accomac and Northampton branches. Accomac especially was extremely well attended, with over 65 members of the public attending. Northampton had a turnout of 8 attendees.

Over the month of June we have handed out about 90 physical summer reading logs, and so far, one family has returned to share their logs and progress. We expect more people to return in the next few weeks of Summer Reading, as books checked out to those patrons come due. Summer Reading participation can also be tracked electronically via the Beanstack App.

We have had low turnout at teen events, so the teen journaling program is going to be provided passively as well as at events, so that teens can participate in the program on their own schedule.



Active Programming:

Story hour continues to get between 2 and 4 students per session at Accomac, with the total number of students for the month of June coming to 9.

Outreach:

We had two outreach events this month, 6/11 at Zion Baptist Church and 6/17 at the Juneteenth event in Exmore. Both were extremely well attended, with several hundred attendees per event, and we handed out reading logs at Exmore to students interested in participating in Summer Reading. We also gave away about 4 boxes worth of books.



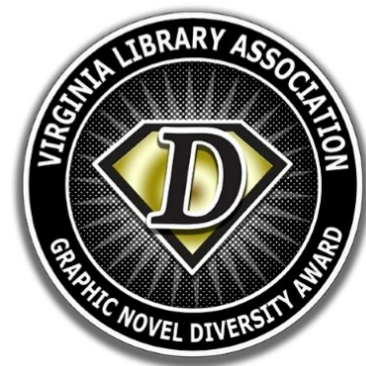
Administrative Assistant Report

Tiffany Flores, Administrative Assistant

In light of all the recent bad weather, it became clear that Eastern Shore Public Library needed a cleanup of the library's Emergency Action Plan and the general procedures related to weather and emergency preparedness. To achieve this project, Tiffany, Megan, and Chris were assigned the job of reviewing and updating these procedures. While the process has only just begun, it has become apparent that these procedures have a lot of outdated information. Currently, Tiffany is working on updating the emergency services contact list and inventorying Eastern Shore Public Library's disaster kits. The team hopes to have a final product around the end of July.

Summer is here which means it's time to have fun in the sun at Outreach events. Tiffany represented the Eastern Shore Public Library at the Juneteenth event on June 17th. While Tiffany hasn't attended a lot of Outreach events this summer, she did make arrangements for Eastern Shore Public Library to attend a variety of events this summer. Though these events are not until later in the summer, Tiffany looks forward to making a presence at events that the library hasn't done before.

Tiffany finalized her role as a Graphic Novel Diversity Award judge (youth award) with the Virginia Library Association this month by writing descriptions of some of the titles considered. The Graphic Novel Diversity Award (GNDA) celebrates diversity captured within the pages of graphic novels.



Tiffany has spent the month of June also assisting the new director in orienting to the Eastern Shore Public Library practices and procedures.



Northampton Free Library

Connor Buyn, Branch Manager



Youth Services at ESPL continued to host weekly children's story hours through the month of June, and these will continue on Wednesdays from 4:00 to 5:00 PM through July. Northampton Free Library also enjoyed a visit from the Salisbury Zoo on June 26th. Attendees were able to see and learn about a broad-winged hawk, salamander, corn snake, and chinchilla. Youth Services will partner with the Nature Conservancy to host special nature-focused children's story events on July 3rd and August 7th, starting at 4:00 PM.



The library's pollinator garden, maintained by the Eastern Shore Master Gardeners, came into full bloom late in June. On Saturday, July 15th, one of the master gardeners who works to maintain our garden will host a garden tour with a question and answer session. The event starts at 10:00 AM, and will be open to all ages.

In response to patron feedback, our large print section has been spruced up and reorganized to eliminate the bottom row of shelving. This will help improve accessibility for all patrons as well as make space for more items. Our large print collection continues to grow thanks to generous donations from the Friends of Northampton Free Library group.





Cape Charles Memorial Library

Sharon Silvey, Library Manager



Summer months are upon us, and we are super excited!

Cape Charles Memorial Library started the month attending a ribbon cutting ceremony for the new Northampton YMCA gym. Along with other community partners, we had a table at the event, displaying library services and our upcoming summer programs and giving away free books.

The rest of the month was full of fun and free programs for all ages! We hosted a local storyteller, Deborah Alsko who shared stories of June Brides. We had a full house for international performer Chris “Hoopoe” Yerlig who made us all laugh with his silent comedy, and the Virginia Living Museum visited with a program that educated us on how we and animals can work together to protect our eco-system.



CCML staff have also presented Story Time every Tuesday morning for ages 0 to 4 and afternoons for ages 5 – 9.

Registration for the All Together Now summer reading program began mid-month. Each participant is encouraged to read 20 minutes per day. When a participant reaches 100 minutes, they are eligible for a weekly incentive. Already, our summer readers have accumulated more than 1,500 minutes!

A free streaming series, Kindly Ever After, is also available to all patrons. This online program has stories, crafts, and activities about friendship, cooperation, kindness, and empathy. For additional information, please contact the library at 757-331-1300.

Our computer lab is in the process of being upgraded with one new computer system and 3 more on the way. A big thank you to our Friends of Cape Charles Memorial Library for their support!





Chincoteague Island Library



Submitted by Linda J. Ryan

on behalf of the Chincoteague Island Library Board of Directors

June was a very busy month as we were wrapping up our spring programs and beginning our summer programs. Paul Miller and I were pleased to meet our new director, Miranda Wisor. We had a very productive meeting with Janice Justis, Gerry Ryan, and Jay Davenport to confirm our library agreement and to discuss hiring a new library manager.

Paul Miller presented a graduating senior from CHS with a \$1,000 scholarship. And Diane Fisher presented the CES student reading awards at the June award ceremony.



Tales 4 Tots, the library's preschool story time, finished the spring session with a visit from two Chincoteague Ponies and from author/illustrator Christy Lynn who read her book from her "Adventure of Jemmy" series. Pictured below is the pony, Jemmy. Over 30 children attended this program.

On June 29, the **Salisbury's Zoo2You Program** was held in the Theatre Annex across from the library. There were 97 people in attendance—approximately 50 children. Next week, our Young Explorers program will begin with a visit from the Chincoteague Bay Field Station. Tales 4 Tots will hear stories about shells and take home a shell craft. Both these programs will be held every Thursday through August 10 at 10 a.m.





Chincoteague Island Library



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Registration for the library's Summer Reading Challenge began at the end of May and ran through June 30. To date, 64 students from grades K through 12 have registered. We held a drawing for day passes for Maui Jack's Waterpark. Two lucky students each received 2 one-day passes. The summer reading program will wrap up on August 24 at which time there will be a raffle drawing for a Kindle Fire and a bag of back-to-school supplies will be handed out to each student who turns in their reading logs by August 10.

The library windows and inside displays have been updated. We are very pleased to have Teresa Wright as our part-time staff person until we have a permanent replacement. Monthly book clubs are ongoing. The library board is working on our annual newsletter and looking into grant funding for painting and maintenance of the library building as well as a new handi-capped ramp.

The Island Theatre and our library presented a program, "Invisible Threads," by Storyteller, Sheila Arnold on Monday, June 19 at 7 p.m. in the Island Theatre. Our next joint program will be held on August 7 at 7 p.m. featuring Eva Watters, Celtic harpist and Storyteller.

The library's Annual Sunset Benefit Cruise was held on a cool, breezy, cloudy evening on June 22. The food was catered by Bill's Seafood Restaurant. Clara and Troy Outten provided the entertainment. Despite the weather, we all had a great time.

