



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

July 2023



Preparations for the move from Accomac to the new Eastern Shore of Virginia Regional Library and Heritage Center in Parksley have been a major focus for library staff in July. Christopher has been busy organizing building preparations in the new Regional Library. Charle has finalized plans directing shelf-to-shelf transfers between buildings. Tiffany and Megan G. have been sorting, organizing, and clearing out items from storage. Jaz has been leading circulation staff in preparing the rest of the building for moving. All Regional Library employees have been busy boxing up offices in preparation for the move. The excitement over the new building is palpable, but there is still much work to be done to get us there.

DIRECTORS' UPDATE

Miranda Wisor, Director



July has been a very busy month throughout the library system. On July 18th, we held an in-service 1/2 day training for all system employees. We were thankful to have Sharon from Cape Charles Memorial Library and several volunteers from Chincoteague Island library join us. It was good to get all staff from all locations together in one place. We spent the morning discussing the training we had received about "Violence Prevention and De-escalation in Libraries" from the Library of Virginia, learning about updates in Atrium, talking about plans for



DIRECTORS' UPDATE CONTINUED

library programs, and reviewing our quarantine procedures for materials that may pose a risk to the greater collection.

Moving plans have been finalized as much as possible for Accomac and Onley locations. During the closure, courier services will be based out of Northampton Free Library so that we minimize the closure's impact on other system libraries. Returned items headed for the Regional Library will be stored at NFL until the move is complete. I have also been working on securing a cleaning service for the new building. This packet includes bids from two cleaning companies for consideration.

In addition to preparing for the move, I've also been working with the Foundation and the ESPL Friends to prepare for the Grand Opening in Parksley. Our Grand Opening event will be held September 8th from 3pm to 5pm. This date was selected to provide the library staff time to learn new practices before our formal celebration. We have invited Chairman Crockett, Chairman Coker, the Librarian of Virginia, the current Governor, and the former Governor to each say a few words at the beginning of the Grand Opening event. Weather permitting, the library will have outdoor games set up to entertain young attendees.

I'm continuing to focus on meeting more library stakeholders, county contacts, and colleagues from across the state. I met with Chief Financial Officers from Accomack and Northampton Counties this month. It was helpful to meet Margaret and John to learn about their experiences in working with the library. I've also spoke with Kim Armentrout, Grants and Data Coordinator for the Library of Virginia, about the state's definition of common government expenditures in considering state aid to libraries. I forwarded the information that I received from Kim to Margaret with Accomack County. In order to claim state-authorized indirect support, I will need to submit backup documentation provided by the claiming county.

In many of my recent discussions with library users, I've been surprised by the number of people that I've met who were unaware that the library offered a courier service between locations. The service is a major benefit for patrons of all libraries in the system. This has inspired a new marketing initiative by system libraries to highlight that patrons can have any item in the library system available for them to pickup at their closest library.



Heritage Center

Christopher Pote, Heritage Center Manager

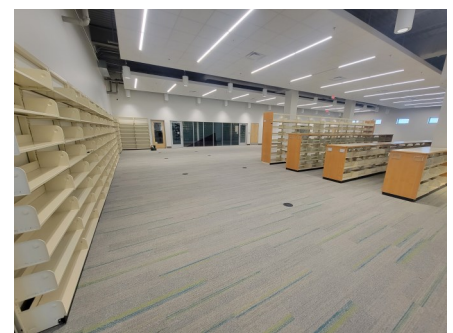


It's an exciting time for the Heritage Center as we prepare to move to our final destination at the Regional Library in Parksley. After years of planning and construction (and some unforeseen delays), final relocations are being implemented. For the collections currently housed in our temporary location in Onley, this means the journey begins August 1. Half of the collections will be moved in August, while we continue to process and perform conservation work on the remaining materials in Onley for the rest of the calendar year.

The materials that are scheduled to go to Parksley first are the initial archival collections gathered by former librarian Brooks Miles Barnes. These materials are cataloged and heavily used, and it is more than apropos that the foundational material of the Heritage Center, so carefully curated by Mr. Barnes, is the first to be installed and made available through the Brooks Miles Barnes Archives Room. Preparing this material for relocation has been a priority of the past weeks.



As mentioned in the last report, Heritage Center Manager Christopher Pote, is the project manager for the relocation. The bulk of that work has been coordinating vendor installs. As is the case with library projects, the focus has been on shelving. Shelving has been installed in the Teen Space, Friends' Book Shop, and the Eastern Shore Room. And 25% of the main stacks areas shelving is complete. It's starting to look like a library!





Selecting and Placing Collection Materials

The ESPL materials collection reflects the interests and needs of a diverse community, and system librarians strive to provide a broad range of materials that offer something for everyone on the Eastern Shore. In building and managing the collection, the librarians respond to user requests, local interests, and community needs in the selection of materials.

In selecting materials and developing collections for adults, as well as for children and teens, librarians include materials that represent the human experience, reflecting the ethnic, religious, racial, and socio-economic diversity not only of the local community, but also the larger global perspective.

The selection tools used by ESPL librarians include professional library journals, trade journals, subject bibliographies, publisher's promotional materials, and reviews from reputable sources. Librarians also consider materials reviews in national newspapers and magazines, local publications, broadcast media, and reputable internet sources.

To meet anticipated patron demand, the library also purchases popular authors and titles. These items may not have professional reviews available when selected, but are purchased based on anticipated high demand, and also on previous circulation statistics and publication history.

Materials are selected by ESPL librarians based on literary, educational, informational, and recreational value; the author's reputation and significance as a writer; importance of subject matter for the collection; appearance of material in bibliographies or indexes; cost; and availability of material through interlibrary loan. The final decision to purchase is based on the value of the material to the collection.

Once an item has been selected for purchase, system librarians carefully decide where to best locate the item within the library collections. Librarians consult library and trade journals, book vendor information, and publisher's data to determine the recommended audience age range for the item's content. Items are then placed in the children's, teen, or adult collection areas.

At times, it can be challenging to determine where in the collection a newly purchased item should be placed so that it can be easily discovered by fans of a particular genre. For example, deciding whether a thriller featuring a police detective should be placed in mystery or

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EASTERN SHORE PUBLIC LIBRARY SYSTEM COURIER SERVICE

**ANY BOOK,
ANY LOCATION**

SERVING LOCATIONS IN ACCOMAC, CAPE
CHARLES, CHINCOTEAGUE, AND NASSAWADOX

FIND A BOOK ON
OUR WEBSITE

Pick it up from the location
closest to you



Shelf talkers like the image above and other similar fliers are being sent to all libraries in the system to be hung around libraries and on shelves in the stacks to remind browsers that there are more books available to them than what they see on the shelf. Our courier service runs two days a week and can deliver any available item from our catalog to any library within days. Posts highlighting the service have also been placed on our social media pages. Marketing will be updated next month to reflect the change from 'Accomac' to 'Parksley.'



Technical Services

Charle Ricci, Collection Management and Acquisitions Librarian



Selecting and Placing Collection Materials Continued

fiction; or whether a western themed adventure set in the future should be located in science fiction or western. Experience with and knowledge about both published materials and the local community of readers are very helpful in making such decisions.

Through thoughtful choices and the careful consulting of selection tools, ESPL librarians work to choose the best materials to meet the informational, educational and recreational needs of the local community, and also to find the optimal place in the materials collection for each item added. In so doing, library patrons are more likely to find the items meant for their age, reading level, and interests as they browse the library shelves or search the catalog.



Youth Services

Megan Gallipeau, Youth Services Librarian

Summer Reading Program:

We had a good turnout for the jar terrarium project, with 10 participants, and the paper bag puppet craft had 6 participants. The shoebox fairy house project had 5 participants and parents expressed that they enjoyed the craft for their children. Attendance has increased by extending the activities to last an entire afternoon so more library visitors have a chance to participate. Young people continue to check in for prizes weekly, and a number of other participants have expressed that they will be redeeming their logs at the end of summer.

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 July coming to 12. We also had 5 students at NFL this month, who participated in a ship-in-a-jar craft.

Outreach:

The Friends of the library sponsored our booth at the 4th of July parade down Main Street, Accomac, where we gave out about 60 to 70 children's books to children in attendance of the parade.





Administrative Assistant Report

Tiffany Flores, Administrative Assistant



On July 22nd, Tiffany Flores and Wendy Johnson attended the third Annual Latino Festival held at the St Peter the Apostle Catholic Church. While the event was slower than in previous years, it allowed for ample opportunity to reach out to the Latino community, educate them about library resources, and invite them into the library. At this event, vendors were invited to get in front of attendees that were there to see the Mexican Embassy and present their organization. Wendy was able to do this, presenting to them all of the resources the library has to offer and inviting them to visit Parksley. One of the things she emphasized was that the public library is a free resource for them to use. During the event, Tiffany was able to distribute a lot of flyers about the library's

resources and talk to other local organizations at the festival. All in all, it was a successful event where Wendy and Tiffany were able to reach marginalized community members.

Throughout the month of July, Tiffany Flores, Chris Pote, and Megan Gallipeau worked on developing and updated Emergency Action Plan for the Eastern Shore Regional Library System. This required a lot of research and multiple meetings where they discussed matters, assigned tasks, and edited drafts. After weeks of work and a lot of guidance from Miranda Wisor, the group was able to develop a final draft. This draft has been distributed to Chincoteague Island Library and Northampton Free Library so it can be modified for their locations. The draft has also been sent to Cape Charles Memorial Library for them to review and consider.



Northampton Free Library

Connor Buyn, Branch Manager



July had a challenging start at Northampton Free Library, as staff discovered an HVAC breakdown and significant ceiling leak on the morning of Monday, July 3rd. The building remained closed to the public for most of the week, though curbside service was provided throughout. The library reopened fully on Friday, July 7th, with no significant losses to the collection.

On Saturday, July 15th, NFL hosted a tour of the library's pollinator garden maintained by the Eastern Shore Master Gardeners. With the garden in full bloom, patrons learned about the garden's plants and the benefits they provide to local wildlife. A Master Gardener led the tour and took questions from attendees, providing valuable gardening advice. Attendees were also able to take home butterfly milkweed seedlings grown from seeds collected in the library's garden.



In upcoming news, Chincoteague Bay Field Station will host a Fin-tastic Fish event at Northampton Free Library on Tuesday, August 8th. The event is free, open to children ages five and up, and runs from 4:00 to 5:00 PM. Kids will be able to learn about fish, their adaptations, and participate in a fish-themed arts & crafts project.

Also starting Tuesday, August 8th, Northampton Free Library will have extended evening hours until 8:00 PM on Tuesdays running until August 22nd. This is intended to provide additional opportunities for patrons to continue accessing library services during the period that the Eastern Shore Public Library is closed.



Cape Charles Memorial Library

Sharon Silvey, Library Manager



The months of June and July have proven to be busy, busy, busy!

Since the start of our “All Together Now” 2023 Summer Programs, we have hosted 9 story time & craft programs, created and given away 150 Grab & Go activity bags, and had over 50 participants for our in-house crafts. In addition, we welcomed the Barefoot Puppet Theatre who performed “Galapagos George.” The performance was based on the true story of Lonesome George, the last tortoise to be found on Pinta Island in the Galapagos archipelago. Attendees learned about the islands animals and the impact of humans on the environment. (This performance was sponsored in part with a grant from the Virginia Commission for the Arts.)

CCML has been grateful to collaborate with some of our educator friends on the Eastern Shore. Julie Head with Eastern Shore Soil and Water Conservation District stopped by the library and read the book *Tales of the Dairy Godmother*. The book describes the inner workings of a dairy farm and what it takes to be a dairy farmer – and where ice cream comes from. And of course, the program ended with each participant making their own ice cream!

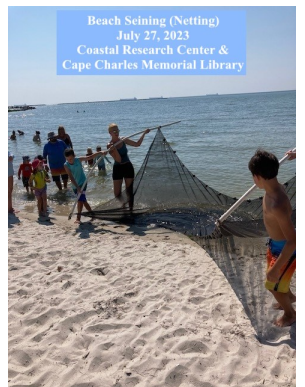
We also had an amazing beach seining program on Cape Charles beach with the University of Virginia’s Coastal Research Center. Close to 40 guests participated in the seining (netting) of critters. All critters that were caught were identified and released back to the Chesapeake Bay. A favorite find of the afternoon was a tunicate, also known as sea squirts. Did you know that these little creatures are more closely related to vertebrates than to most other invertebrate animals?



Story Time 1.25.23
CAPE CHARLES MEMORIAL LIBRARY



Story Time 7.11.23
Cape Charles Memorial Library



Beach Seining (Netting)
July 27, 2023
Coastal Research Center &
Cape Charles Memorial Library



Beach Seining (Netting)
July 27, 2023
Coastal Research Center &
Cape Charles Memorial Library

What in the world would we do without our libraries?

—Katharine Hepburn



Chincoteague Island Library



Submitted by Linda J. Ryan

on behalf of the Chincoteague Island Library Board of Directors

The month of July on Chincoteague Island is all about ponies and Pony Penning. Our little library is no exception. During Pony Penning Week (the last full week of July), the library hosted an author visit. Susan Friedland charmed our patrons and visitors with stories about her book, *Marguerite, Misty, and Me*. And our children listened to two pony stories and were visited by one of Misty's descendants, Misty's Black Mister.



Young Explorers' met weekly in the theatre annex and enjoyed programs from the Chincoteague Bay Field Station and Jenna Chapman. The Tales 4 Tots children read about shells and took home activity bags. Both groups combined to visit the Beebe Ranch where Billy Beebe told stories about Misty and the ranch. The children got a chance to feed the ponies and the resident goat.



Magician Rob Westcott performed at the Island Theatre to a packed house. This program is a cooperative program between the our library and the Chincoteague Island Arts Organization.

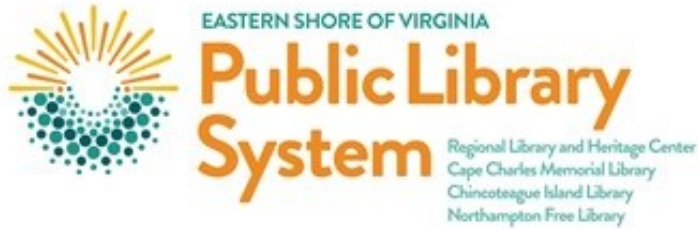


The Library Board is continuing to maintain our buildings and grounds. We are in the process of getting estimates for exterior and interior painting and replacing the handicapped ramp. We have ordered a new mobile bookcase to streamline the circulation desk area. And our volunteers are please to be included to additional training on the Atrium system. Teresa Wright, our temporary staff person, has been very helpful in keeping us on track.



We are busy planning our fall newsletter and our fall programs.





Appendix

1. DRAFT Minutes of July 11, 2023 ESPL Board of Trustees Meeting
2. Revised DRAFT of Meeting Room Use Policy
3. Naming Applications
 - Joyce Gibb Rose
 - Peggy Grey Williams
 - Thomas D. Rose, Jr.
4. Housekeeper Quotes
 - Blue Touch Cleaning Services
 - Final Touch Cleaning
5. Meeting Locations (2 options)
6. Fund Reserve Report
7. Letters sent to Board of Supervisors for Accomack and Northampton Counties
8. Copies of Emails sent to Chairman Crockett, Chairman Coker, and Librarian of Virginia Sandra Treadway
9. Financial Reports
 - Profit & Loss Report
 - Budget vs. Actual Report
 - July Balance Sheet