



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

September 2023



Destination: Library!

With the new Eastern Shore of Virginia Regional Library & Heritage Center **AND** the new School Year in full swing, we were delighted to welcome classes and visits from after-school programs from Accomack and Northampton Counties to the library this month. The building was filled with lively, excited young people eager to explore the new facility and learn more about what they can find. Visitors were provided a tour of the facility and given an activity to encourage exploration and discovery of the library's many resources. It's been a joy to welcome so many young and eager learners into a space that celebrates and encourages life-long learning!

DIRECTORS' UPDATE

Miranda Wisor, Director



It's been an exciting and busy time in the library system. With the Eastern Shore of Virginia Regional Library and Heritage Center now open to the residents of the Eastern Shore, we've been busy putting our new spaces to good use! We're testing out new library programs in Parksley and Nasawadox; finding a few lessons and many successes. I've heard many library employees in the Regional Library comment that they're excited to be back to "doing their 'real' work;" meaning back to providing services and resources to the public.

With the new structure to house us, we're also taking a closer look to the organizational infrastructure that guides us.



DIRECTORS' UPDATE CONTINUED

As mentioned last month, the new building has necessitated some shifting of employee roles and duties. We've also developed more clearly defined roles for other positions. This includes work being done to update the current job descriptions for all library employees. Information Specialists received and signed copies of their updated position descriptions in September.

Library staff also began reviewing Library policies this month with the purpose of identifying policies that need updated. These updates will be guided by looking to peer institutions and staff discussions about the work that we do and how it gets accomplished. The first look at an update is included in this packet. We anticipate more updates will follow in future months.

The Personnel Committee met this month to begin laying out a plan for updating our employee handbook. Library staff have previously reported confusion regarding some details in the book. Updates will aim at clarifying confusion for library staff and ensuring that the library's practices, when feasible, align with our fiscal agent.

These updates to the library's guiding documents will be helpful as the system continues to grow and provide broader services to the Eastern Shore. Despite the need, we are approaching these changes at a manageable, sustainable pace. While change is constant in a Public Library setting, it will be vital to not overwhelm staff who are already working hard to provide the best service possible to the Eastern Shore.

Earlier this month, I attended the 2023 Library Directors Meeting in Richmond, VA. The two day meeting was held at the Library of Virginia. In addition to providing time to meet my peers from across the state and discuss issues and trends in the profession, a number of presentations were provided from adjacent organizations. Sandra Treadway, Librarian of Virginia provided the welcoming address where she discussed challenges that Public Libraries across the state are currently facing and provided an update on the search

for the next Librarian of Virginia as Sandra announced her retirement earlier this year. Creating a safe space for employees and patrons was another topic at the meeting. Many of the training topics and considerations discussed during the presentation mirrored our training during the library system's In Service training last summer. While taking steps to ensure that our libraries remain safe places for people to work and visit will be an ongoing consideration and topic for training, it was gratifying to know that we are taking productive steps for staff training.



Collection Development Policy

Included in this Board Packet, you'll find a proposed update to the Library System's Collection Development Policy. At first glance, it appears that the updates are a dramatic re-writing of the policy. In truth, very little of the policy has changed. Part of the goal of this re-write is to change the tone of the document. The changes allow us to provide a more positive approach to the work that we do and offer greater transparency to the steps that we take everyday to maintain a healthy collection that provides a mirror to the community that we serve and a window to other lands. The updates were led by our Technical Services Librarian, Charle Ricci, after review of policies from peer libraries and with feedback from ESPL staff.

Audit Update

The Library System's audit was completed on September 20th. Michael Aukamp from Dunham, Aukamp & Rhodes, PLC was on site to affect the audit. The process seemed to go well with needed information provided by Karen Crockett, Inc. and the library. Requests from the Board of Trustees were relayed to Mr. Aukamp when he arrived in Parksley on the 20th. A completed audit report is anticipated from Mr. Aukamp later in October or early November and will be relayed to the Board of Trustees when completed.

Computer Monitoring Software

At the September Board of Trustees meeting, the request was made that the library solicit quotes for PC Software that would require patrons to "log on" via a library card or key obtained at the Circulation Desk. Two businesses were identified that offer the software solution and quotes are included in this Board Packet. Miranda Wisor has experience with Envisionware from her work at another institution and knows it to be a reliable service. Librarica is a software company that no one in the Library System has used previously. Because of the significant difference in annual cost, we plan to look for peer institutions who are existing or former customers of Librarica for feedback. We also plan to schedule a demo with Librarica in October to take a closer look at the service.



Heritage Center

Christopher Pote, Heritage Center Manager



The Heritage Center is proud to announce the acquisition of the Curtis J. Badger Papers. As most of you know, Mr. Badger is a prolific photographer and writer about all things interesting on the Eastern Shore. His books fill the shelves of the Eastern Shore Room, and his newspaper articles fill our living rooms. His work covers the breadth of the Eastern Shore, and soon researchers will have access to over 21,000 images, 625 magazine articles, and original manuscript material. Mr. Badger's documentary evidence of Shore life is second-to-none, and we are honored that he and his wife, Lynn, chose to donate it here. The Badger Papers mark the first major acquisition since hanging our shingle in Parksley.



Thank you Curtis and Lynn for welcoming us into your home and trusting the Heritage Center with this legacy. Generations of researchers and historians will benefit from access to this material.



We also received two other important gifts this month. Lennie Mears donated a lifetime of receipts belonging to Meshack Mears III (1822 – 1897). This collection provides a wonderful snapshot of daily life and commerce on the Shore in the mid-nineteenth century and will be a useful resource for researchers.

The Heritage Center also accepted a wonderful gift of a U.S flag and a Virginia state flag for display in the Eastern Shore Room. Thank you very much Carol and R. Scott Callander for this patriotic gesture.





All About Manga



Over the past few years, the manga collection at the Parksley library has been growing, not only in number of volumes, but also in popularity among local readers of all ages. Manga is a general term for a wide variety of comic books and graphic novels originally produced and published in Japan. Unlike American comic books, which are usually printed in full color, Japanese manga are almost always published in black and white.

Japanese manga is read right-to-left rather than left-to-right, which is the norm for English language publications. This can take some getting used to for readers most comfortable with traditional English language works, but it becomes more familiar with experience. Manga artwork is often full of energy and communicates a wide range of emotions. Some titles focus on normal everyday life, while others are full of intense action sequences and fantastical settings. Many manga series are long-running and can span multiple volumes. For example, ESPL offers the first 23 volumes of the One Piece manga series, which currently includes 106 volumes (and growing).

At the library in Accomac, the manga collection was housed on a mobile shelving unit located at the boundary between the Young Adult (Teen), Graphic Novel, and Adult Fiction collections. This location was highly visible to readers of all three collections and allowed for serendipitous browsing by both teens and adults.

When the library collections moved to the new library facility in Parksley, the manga collection was shelved in the Teen Room. Library staff soon realized that this location could limit the visibility and use of the collection for manga fans who may be past their teen years. Over the past few weeks, Technical Services staff and volunteers have been hard at work to identify which titles would be best retained in the Teen Room, and which titles would be enjoyed more by adult patrons.

After careful analysis, about one-half of the Manga collection is in the process of being relabeled and reclassified in the library catalog. These items will move to the main adult collection area of the library (near the Graphic Novels). The remaining half of the manga collection will stay in the Teen Room and will receive snazzy new genre labels to help differentiate between the two manga collection locations.

This project will result in increased visibility for the manga collection for both teens and adults. An added benefit of this reclassification is that readers will now have a bridge from the Teen Room materials to the main library collection as they follow their favorite manga authors and series over time.

The next time you visit the library in Parksley, be sure to take a look at one (or both) of the manga collections. You may just find a new favorite character or series to enjoy while practicing your right-to-left reading skills.



Marketing & Digital Strategies

Megan Gallipeau

This month a large focus was on updating and expanding the tech inventory. I completed re-inventory of the current on-site computers in use at the Regional Library and Heritage Center. I also cataloged the tech at Chincoteague and identified which units the library system purchased and which units were purchased directly by Chincoteague Island Library. We can now identify which units we purchased for Chincoteague that have been disposed of in the past. The new tech inventory lists units that need maintenance and disposal, as well as location by office of the person they have been assigned to. In the coming month, I intend to add information about all the non-computer tech in the Regional Library and Heritage Center as well as updating Northampton Free Library's inventory and adding status on each machine.

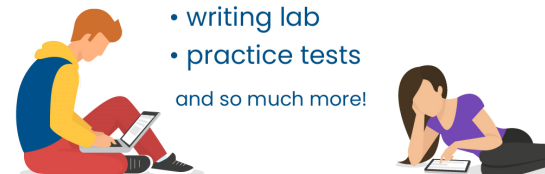
I was also able to get 4 of the 5 televisions (all the smart TVs that are currently able to access the internet) running the same BrightSign program, so advertisements can be updated and replaced regularly. One machine is still awaiting access to a power source. We purchased Micro SD cards for each unit before they would accept external

inputs from the BrightSign software. October advertisements are running on the units, and will be updated and removed as events pass by. I am also working with Charle to build a schedule of intentional marketing for the televisions and for Facebook of the online offerings we have available for patrons. The library system will be highlighting a different digital service each month.



INTRODUCING Brainfuse HelpNow

- homework help
- writing lab
- practice tests
- and so much more!



All you need is an internet connection, computer or mobile device, and your library card.



OCTOBER

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1	2 Storytime Anytime	3	4 Storytime Anytime	5	6	7
8	9 Storytime Anytime	10	11 Storytime Anytime	12 Tech Help 2-3 PM Bedtime Storytime 6 PM	13 Pumpkin Stitch Along 11 AM	14
15	16 Storytime Anytime	17 STEM Spiderweb Craft 4-5 PM	18 Storytime Anytime	19 Tech Help 2-3 PM Lego Competition 5:30 PM	20	21
22	23 Storytime Anytime	24	25 Storytime Anytime	26 Tech Help 2-3 PM Heirloom Clinic 5:30-7 PM	27	28
29	30 Storytime Anytime	31 Happy Halloween				



Programs & Outreach Report

Tiffany Flores

With the rising excitement of a brand new location, schools were lining up for a tour of the Parksley building. Throughout September, Tiffany was able to coordinate tours for three different groups: Cape Charles Christian School, The Boys and Girls Club, and Pungoteague Elementary. This provided an opportunity to reach a wide array of age ranges and educate them about what the library has to offer. No matter the age, the gasps of awe and excitement filled the halls as they went through the tour. After the tours, the kids participated in planned activities and ultimately had a lot of fun in the library. All tours left children excited about the library and teachers pleased with what we provide. It even inspired a few kids to say that they want to be librarians. A number of them expressed wishes to live in the new building!



On September 14th, the Eastern Shore of Virginia Public Library and Heritage Center hosted its first lecture in Parksley featuring Dennis Custis. *Shore Talk* about the history of the Eastern Shore and its development was a popular session. Fifty-one people attended the lecture; many expressing interest in more programs on similar topics.

The Library System hosted an Author Talk on September 28th. This talk featured Susan Friedland who presented her new book *Marguerite, Misty, and Me* and Kendy Allen who discussed her experience with Marguerite and the Chincoteague ponies. Ten people attended this event and stayed after the event to purchase books. The Pony that visited during the event was very popular among the patrons, especially the children. The event received a lot of positive feedback and encouragement from patrons for more events like this.

These are just highlights of the many programs and events that were hosted in Nasawadox and Parksley for patrons of all ages. The weekly teen events in Parksley have resulted in encouraging interest, but some attendees have expressed a desire for the events to begin later in the day. In response, we're moving the program to Tuesdays in October at a new, later start time.



Northampton Free Library also hosted a marble mugs arts and crafts activity for patrons of all ages on September 28th, and the event was well attended. A pumpkin stitch along activity will be held at NFL on Friday, October 13th starting at 11:00 AM. On Thursday, October 26th, certified archivist and ESPL Heritage Center Manager Christopher Pote will host an 'Heirloom Clinic' event at NFL between 5:30 and 7:00 PM. Our patrons will be able to learn about techniques for proper preservation of paper-based items like photographs and documents as well as receive advice about such items that they bring in. Please watch the Northampton Free Library Facebook page for further information. Finally, NFL will offer a tech help session on Thursdays October 12th, 19th, and 26th between 2:00 and 3:00 PM.



In maintenance news, a large silver maple behind the library was removed on September 27th due to persistent rot and falling limbs posing a threat to the building. While we're not sure how old the tree was, at its widest point, the stump is more than five feet across.



Cape Charles Memorial Library

Sharon Silvey, Library Manager



In early September, staff and I attended the ribbon-cutting ceremony at the new Eastern Shore of Virginia Regional Library in Parksley. We enjoyed delicious cups of ice cream from Island Creamery and listening to the diverse group of guest speakers who shared their thoughts on the importance of libraries and how excited the Shore is for the new building in Parksley. Our walk-through of the building was met with openness and cheeriness. We also had a moment to mingle with ESPL staff (our “co-workers” up the road) and congratulate them all for a job well done.

I attended my first virtual meeting with the Coastal Virginia Libraries, Informal Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) Learning Community of Practice (CoP). I am excited to be a part of this wonderful group and work with other Coastal Virginia Libraries, which include Eastern Shore of Virginia Regional Library and Northampton Free Library.

The “All Together Now” Summer Reading Program officially ended in mid-August. Staff worked long and hard for another successful summer. A few of Cape Charles Memorial Library’s statistics include:

121 children attended weekly story times

196 Grab & Go educational activity bags were created and given out FREE to young visitors

379 people attended one (or more!) of our summer programs



Story Time 9.18.2023
CAPE CHARLES MEMORIAL LIBRARY



Chincoteague Island Library



Annual Fundraising Appeal. *The Chincoteague Island Library Review* has been printed and mailed to Chincoteague taxpayers. This is our library's main source of revenue. Copies have been distributed to Miranda Wisor to be handed out to each trustee at the September Board of Trustees meeting.

Tales 4 Tots Story time began on September 21 with a visit from Ellen Richardson and the school bus. Children climbed aboard the bus while Miss Ellen talked to them about school bus safety. Then they went into the library and listened to 2 stories about school buses, stretched, sang songs, and took home a school bus craft. We had 26 children attending.



During the fall, we will be visiting the Chincoteague Volunteer Fire Company. Later in the month, Chincoteague Police Officers bring a police car to the library and read some police officer stories. On September 28, author Philip Martin presented an evening program about his new book, *Sasha goes to Tibet*, to adults and older children.

Facebook Page: To promote Library Sign-up Month, we posted information and offered one free basket raffle ticket to each new patron.

Statistics 2023 Summer Programs:

Special Programs with the Island Theatre

Zoo 2 You – 98 children and adults

Magician Rob Westcott – 106 adults/63 children

Juggler – 39 adults/25 children

Storyteller Sheila Arnold – 38 adults/2 children

Celtic Harpist – 28 adults/4 children

Young Explorers - averaged 15 children each week.

Tales 4 Tots - averaged 20 children each week.

Summer Reading Challenge - 65 registrations/25 received back-to-school supplies.

