



# 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

October 2023



## Get to the Library!

In October, the Eastern Shore of Virginia Regional Library & Heritage Center surpassed the total count of library cards that had been given out for the 2022-2023 year in Accomack. Last year, the Accomack location gave 477 cards away throughout the year. Since opening at the end of August, the new Regional Library has already placed 488 new library cards in the hands of Shore residents. The explosion of new library cards is mirrored by the increased attendance at library programs.

Northampton Free Library has also seen a modest increase to programs from the same time period last year. We're still working hard to try to provide innovative programming choices for patrons in the library's service area.

In addition to increased program attendance, the new space available at the Regional Library has been embraced by the community. We've seen 38 reservations for meetings and activities from groups outside of the library in the past two months alone. Those are just the scheduled uses!

## DIRECTORS' UPDATE

Miranda Wisor, Director



There has been no shortage of activities and programs going on in the library system over the past month. In this report, you'll read about reference services provided to Shore residents, the planned addition of a new digital resource, outreach work done, and lots of fun programs within our libraries. It's been an exciting time!

All of these services take time to plan, time to provide, and most of all, the dedication of the men and women working for the Eastern Shore Public Library. The work of any one of us relies on the contributions of all of us. Whether it's getting a book on the shelf or setting up a table at an Ag Fair, many people are involved in making those things happen and making them a success.



## DIRECTORS' UPDATE CONTINUED

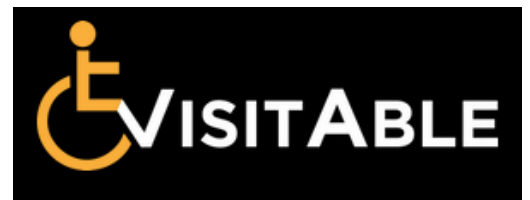
Ensuring that all Eastern Shore Public Library employee have the opportunity to continue learning is also vital to the success of the library system. Libraries have changed immensely in the past few decades. The opportunity to gain greater understanding of what our peer institutions are doing enables the library system to continue to provide the highest quality services to residents of the Eastern Shore. I am pleased that we were able to send four ESPL employees to this year's Virginia Library Association conference in Chantilly, Virginia. Sharon Silvey from Cape Charles Public Library was also in attendance.



This year was the 100th anniversary of the conference with Jason Reynolds as the keynote speaker. He is a New York Times bestselling author and poet, and his works have been the recipients of a Newbery Honor, a Printz Honor, and a Coretta Scott King Honor Award. This was the first in-person conference that ESPL employees have been able to attend since 2019. It offered attendees the opportunity to learn from peers, meet with library vendors, and talk to colleagues from across the state. Their individual conference reports are included in this document.

To ensure that all library system employees are given opportunities to learn, we are also planning a full-day In Service training on Monday, December 18th. In Service enables staff to learn and ask questions about new or changing practices. With the addition of Cybrarian for managing our public computers, adding Kanopy to our digital services, and updates to many procedures throughout the library system, this training time is vital for our staff.

There have been a number of questions in the previous months regarding service animals and disability services in the library. For this reason, I am working to arrange training from VisitAble as part of our In Service training day. One in four American adults have a disability of some kind. Training from VisitAble is endorsed by the Library of Virginia. The training is normally \$45 per person but is available for free to ESPL employees thanks to sponsorship by Eastern Shore Healthy Communities. VisitAble teaches organizations strategies for improving experiences for visitors with disabilities. The training will provide a certificate of completion at the end of the course.



## Employee Handbook Updates

Included in this Board Packet, you'll find updates to two pages of the current ESPL Employee Handbook. The update to section 4.11 covers holiday observances. Edits to this page were to more closely align the library system's observation of holidays with the state and local counties schedules. Also added are steps that will be taken in the event the Governor announces additional holidays. Omitted from the proposal are half-day observances from the state that precede some major holidays such as Thanksgiving and Christmas Eve.

An employee dress code draft is also included in the packet. The dress code is references as Appendix B in the current employee handbook. No current version of a dress code can be located and therefore this document is being presented without viewable edits.

## Welcome Nan Carmack

Nan Carmack is Director of Library Development and Networking with the Library of Virginia. She will be present at the next Board of Trustees meeting to offer training to attendees. The training, *Board Success*, is provided in part as a commitment to continual Board Training as outlined in the 2022-2027 Strategic Plan. Nan will also be available to answer questions about libraries in Virginia.

## Landscaping at the Regional Library

The Eastern Shore Public Library Foundation has expressed interest in planting of trees in front of the Eastern Shore of Virginia Regional Library and Heritage Center and of installing some kind of a divider between the library's parking lot and Dollar General's parking lot. The Soroptimists club sponsored trees to be planted through the Foundation. In discussion with Andy Nunnally, Deputy Director of Facilities with Accomack County, there is a concern that large trees in the parking area will create a potential hazard from falling limbs as the trees mature. Any trees planted in the space will need to be wind and drought resistant and trees with large spreads will need to have lower limbs trimmed regularly to avoid loss of usability of the sidewalk and parking area. Jay Davenport is the Foundation representative who is working to coordinate species and locations with Hortico. Discussion of this topic will be included as part of the next Board of Trustees meeting.





Christopher Pote, Heritage Center Manager



Catching up. That has been theme of the past month. August and September were about the move and all things shiny and new. Recently, focus has shifted to catching up on paperwork, reference queries, and reestablishing contact with potential donors and speakers, as well as buttoning up the remaining furniture and equipment installations. The Heritage Center is fully operational; this is very exciting.

The past couple of weeks, Judith Grier has been busily preparing the collection materials that remain in Onley for transport to their permanent home. As you may recall, the Heritage Center had been working out of the old Farmers & Merchants Bank in Onley for the past year. Prior the library move in Parksley, we were able to move about half of the Heritage Center's collections. Forced to pause for the entirety of the library relocation, we are gearing up to finally have all material together and accessible in one, permanent location. Thank you, Judith, for this important work.



Lastly, I'd like to thank Candy Perdue for her work these past couple of weeks. One long-outstanding project that we are tackling is the inventory, organization, and disposition of the HC's surplus books collection. We receive hundreds of books annually, and although the vast majority are duplicate to the Eastern Shore Room's holdings, it is important that we go through them to determine if all branches has appropriate copies, and the Heritage Center has at least one use, one preservation, and one surplus copy of important titles, if possible. Candy, in conjunction with Judith, spent hours organizing and inventorying so that we can take the next appropriate steps. This was no small task, and the work is greatly appreciated. Thank you, Candy.



On November 30 at 5:30pm, Heritage Center Manager Christopher Pote will be providing a preservation workshop called Heirloom Clinic in the Dennis Custis Lecture Hall. He will briefly present about preservation strategies people can do at home for handling, display, and preservation of paper-based heirlooms. People are welcome to bring in up to two items (photographs, correspondence, etc.) for a preservation consult, time permitting.



# Technical Services

Charle Ricci, Collection Management and Acquisitions Librarian



## Coming Soon: Kanopy, a New Video Streaming Service

Beginning later this month, anyone with an Eastern Shore Public Library (ESPL) card will be able to enjoy over 35,000 free films and videos from Kanopy. Thanks to the generous support of local donors, Friends of the Library groups throughout the ESPL system, and a mid-year increase in state aid, library patrons will have access to high-quality films from around the globe that inspire, educate and entertain.

As use of the ESPL's eBook and eAudio collections continues to rise, offering free access to a streaming video service is the next step in meeting the educational and entertainment needs of the Shore community. Kanopy's unique selection offers something for everyone, from award winning indie films to important and timely documentaries, to foreign films, popular cinema, and more.

Kanopy also features over 500 Spanish language titles for native Spanish speakers, as well as for individuals working on improving their Spanish language skills. In addition to videos and films for teens and adults, ESPL will offer unlimited access to Kanopy Kids. This collection for younger viewers includes a carefully curated collection of children's programming that supports early literacy, STEM education, and even foreign language learning.

Viewers can access Kanopy anytime and anywhere from their desktop or laptop computer, through mobile and tablet apps for Apple and Android devices, and by using SmartTV apps like Roku, Apple TV, and Fire Stick. The viewing experience is easy-to-use and completely advertisement free.

At the beginning of each month, ESPL patrons will receive a ticket allotment that can be used to view videos and films. Each Kanopy title or series is labeled to show how many tickets a title will use and how long the viewing period will be (in days) once the viewer presses play.

Details about creating a Kanopy account and exploring this incredible new world of streaming cinema will be posted on the library's website and Facebook page once Kanopy has gone live later in November. With an ESPL library card, which can be applied for at any of the four ESPL locations in Parksley, Nassawadox, Cape Charles, or Chincoteague Island, or on the library's website, an entire new world of viewing possibilities will be available throughout the Shore!







# Marketing & Digital Strategies

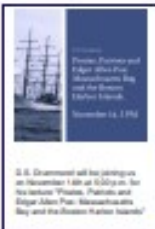
Megan Gallipeau



The tech inventory project is progressing. All computers in libraries in Chincoteague, Parksley, and Nassawadox are now reflected on the inventory. I also deaccessioned some outdated equipment that no longer runs supported software. This included eight assorted e-readers that had been purchased approximately eight years ago to provide library employees an opportunity to practice with the machines so that we could better assist our patrons.



This month was challenging at the Regional Library as several of the public computers in the Regional Library stopped working or were suddenly unable to connect to the internet. Most of the machines in use are over eight years old and well beyond warranty coverage. We tried to supplement the two available computers by repurposing two laptops for in-house public use. We ordered two new desktop computers for the public area and they should arrive soon. The Foundation also sponsored two new staff workstations. When the new computers arrive, existing staff work stations will be reformatted for public use. That should bring our computer lab back up to six working desktop computers.



November 14th at 10 AM - The library will be hosting Wellness Wednesdays as they facilitate a group and consultation space for adult library patrons.



Click here to read the latest Library System Monthly Reports.

For more of our monthly events, visit our calendar here!

The Eastern Shore Public Library System



Chincoteague Public Library

Parksley Public Library





# Programs & Outreach Report

Tiffany Flores

The regional library had a busy month offering a variety of programming including Storytime Anytime, a STEM activity, weekly craft times, Hometown Heroes, and A Storytime and Candy Parade. Participation is starting to pick up for some of these programs. Monday craft times are starting to see participation from local homeschool families, the monthly STEM activities are beginning to have more participants, and Hometown Heroes is seeing more participation. The most successful program this month was the Candy Parade and Storytime serving approximately 150 people with a special story time and trick-or-treating experience in the library. The Friends of the Eastern Shore Public Library and The Eastern Shore Public Library Foundation both assisted with handing out candy to the children.



In addition to the kid programming, Teens were able to participate in weekly Teen Gaming programs and a Halloween eyeball craft that was held during craft time. The eyeball craft had 9 participants. Also, two adult craft programs were held which included a Crochet Stitch Along and a Book Pumpkin craft. While the Stitch Along had no attendance, the Book Pumpkin craft had 12 attendees.

Northampton Free Library offered a variety of programming this month including Storytime Anytime, Bedtime Storytime, a Crochet Stitch Along, a Lego competition, Tech Help, and an Heirloom Clinic Program. While participation is low, the library will continue to offer programming and modify it to







## Programs & Outreach Report Continued...

Tiffany Flores

meet the needs of the community. To encourage engagement, Tech Help will now be on demand all day Tuesday and an all-day Hot Cider and Mulling Spices program will be held on November 24th. Additional passive programming will be planned for December including kid's take-and-make kits which have been a huge success in the past.

October brought on the fall festivities! Between the Agricultural Fair in Machipango, the Nurse-Family Partnership Graduation at the Eastern Shore Agricultural Research and Extension Center, and the Hall of Treats at Accawmacke Elementary School, Eastern Shore Public Library remained busy throughout the month. All events were successful, providing an estimated 375 people with information about the library, upcoming programs, and resources. Additionally, free books were provided at these events. The Agricultural Fair, while windy and wet, was a great way to reach a large number of community members and provide them with a variety of resources. The Nurse-Family Partnership Graduation event was a great chance to provide Haitian and Latino families with information and discuss what the library provides. And, finally, Accawmacke's Hall of Treats provided the library with the chance to reach families of small children and encourage them to attend library programming while handing out books and treats.



Tiffany Flores and Megan Gallipeau continue their work on the STEM Community of Practice provided by Virginia Partnership for Out-of-School Time (VPOST). Their monthly meetings have proven to be informative in providing information about the grant program and meeting with the committee members. Grant stipends should be received soon to pay for library materials related to STEM. October's STEM program had 4 children show up with their parents and participate in the activity. Participants engineered and crafted spider

webs out of pipe cleaners and yarn and tested their webs to see if they could hold a spider. Northampton Free Library has yet to see attendance for their STEM programs but efforts will continue to be made.





# Northampton Free Library

Connor Buyn, Branch Manager



Northampton Free Library entered the quieter autumn season in October, with some of the library's wonderful volunteers taking advantage of the cooler weather to provide critical yardwork outside the building. Inside, the Friends of Northampton Free Library group arranged for the library's carpets and bathroom floors to be professionally cleaned.

NFL offered a wide range of programs in the month of October and will continue into November with Storytime Anytime available all day on Mondays and Wednesdays. On Thursday, November 2nd, the library will host an autumn wreath craft activity starting at 5:00 PM. Tech Help Tuesdays will begin on November 14th, and continue on every Tuesday throughout November and December. Patrons can request basic tech services help with either personal devices or the library's computers at any time on Tuesdays. NFL invites children to a Bedtime Storytime at 6:00 PM on Thursday, November 16th, and will provide a children's STEM craft at 10 AM on Saturday, November 18th. Finally, there will be an all-day open hot apple cider bar on Friday, November 24th. Patrons can stop by for a cup of hot apple cider with fixings, and also put together a bag of seasonal mulling spices to use at home.

Northampton Free Library is also participating in the SPCA's Supply Drive for the entire month of November. Library patrons are encouraged to drop off items from the SPCA's shelter wish list, including dish soap, paper towels, and Purine One dog food among other items.

Library staff engaged in a bit of good-natured competition in October by decorating pumpkins. Patrons were invited to vote for the best-dressed gourd at each location. NFL patrons expressed a preference for simpler stylings by giving the nod to Tim's pumpkin, at right. Scary Potter, at left, has contested the results.





# Cape Charles Memorial Library

Sharon Silvey, Library Manager



This month I was able to attend the 2023 Virginia Library Association (VLA) Annual conference, held in Chantilly, Virginia. Librarians of all types and specialties from all over Virginia were able to "Come Together" and celebrate with and learn from each other. Keynote speaker, Jason Reynolds, was an inspiration. Winner of many awards and doer of good deeds, Mr. Reynolds spoke of libraries as a "space for community, a space to communicate off-line" and encouraged us all to have "healthy discourse and civil conversations" and to remember it is "okay to disagree, but not disengage." Important words for us all.



Through participation in the Community of Practice for STEM at the Library, Cape Charles Memorial Library received 10 James Webb Space Telescope Kits via the Center of Science and Industry. The kits are full of hands-on STEM activities including building a model rocket, building a model of the James Webb Space Telescope, and creating a model nebula. Staff is excited to begin planning some great STEM programs!

Staff visited Kiptopeke Elementary School and Cape Charles Christian School in October and read the book Pumpkin Jack by Will Hubbell. The story tells of a young boy who puts his decomposing jack-o-lantern in his backyard garden, watching as it turns from pumpkin to seed to pumpkin again. As part of the visit, CCML staff brought along a pumpkin, some soil, and an air-tight container and created a yearlong science and STEM project! Students will be able to observe and learn all about pumpkin life cycles and decomposition.



Staff also hosted five story times this month for ages 0 to 4. Children and their caretakers listen to stories, sing songs, create fun crafts, and play! Story times are wonderful ways to introduce socialization and the importance of reading. Program is held each Tuesday at 10:30 am and is free and open to all.

CCML would like to thank Mr. Bill Dyas for leading our Owl Prowl programs this year. With over 20 attendees, Mr. Dyas led the last Owl Prowl of the year this past month. We look forward to continuing this popular program next year.







# Chincoteague Island Library



**Tales 4 Tots** began the month with a visit to the Chincoteague Volunteer Firehouse hosted by firefighter, Denise Bowden. After reading 2 stories, she showed the children the equipment, helped them to climb onboard a fire truck, and sent them home with activity bags. Thirty children and their parents attended. On October 19, Officer Geno from the Chincoteague Police Department came and read two stories, talked to them about being a police officer, and showed them the police car with the lights and sirens. The children then made their own police car. On October 24, library volunteer, Beverly Gorsuch, read Halloween stories. The children dressed up in their costumes and took home Halloween activity bags. Twenty-five children have attended these last two events.



Our basket raffle drawing was held on October 9. Chincoteague resident, Kay Gelty, won the adult basket, Salisbury resident, Sara Taylor, won the children's basket. Close to 1,000 tickets were sold. We will be having another basket raffle in place by Valentine's Day weekend when the library participates in the Main Street Merchants' "Death by Chocolate." The raffle will again run through Oyster Festival Weekend.

Book displays this month included Indigenous Peoples' Day, Hispanic Heritage Month, and Halloween. The library windows were also decorated for fall.



The library opened its doors for the Chincoteague Cultural Alliance's newly instituted 2<sup>nd</sup> Friday Art Stroll. We also participate each year in the Main Street Merchants' Main Street Trick or Treat held on Halloween from 4 to 7 p.m. Our volunteers dress up in costumes and hand out gently used children's books and candy on the library's front porch.



And...for the cooler months, we have a community puzzle in our front room for visitors and patrons to come in to help complete the puzzle. Additionally, thanks to the generosity of one of our patrons, we will be selling gently used puzzles. This has been a big hit with our residents and visitors.

