



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

December 2023



Thank You, Volunteers!

The Eastern Shore Public Library relies on our volunteers to help us provide great service to residents of the Eastern Shore. We kicked off the festive holiday season with a visit from Santa and book give-away planned and organized by the Friends of the Eastern Shore Public Library.

During their holiday break, we were fortunate to have help from several Nandua Middle School Beta Club members who volunteered their time with us at the Regional Library. They prepared program materials for events in January, cleaned and organized shelves, replaced book stickers, and more!

We want to share our thanks to everyone who offers their time and effort to help us serve the Eastern Shore.

DIRECTORS' UPDATE

Miranda Wisor, Director



December was another active month for Eastern Shore Public Library System. Issuing new library cards is still going strong. We registered 152 new library users in December.

We had a full calendar of events and programs in all library locations. We saw over 280 visitors attend programs at Northampton Free Library and Eastern Shore of Virginia Regional Library & Heritage Center.

We collected non-perishable goods for the Eastern Shore Food Bank. We are happy to be a resource through which Eastern Shore residents can help their neighbors in the community. After two successful months of collection drives for services in the community, the



DIRECTORS' UPDATE CONTINUED

library will take a break from collection drives in January.

December was also a time for learning at Eastern Shore Public Library. I'm pleased to say that we had 100% of staff and many volunteers complete the VisitAble training earning the library system Advocate Certification through December 2024. You may have noticed the certification added to our website at espl.org.



On the 18th, we hosted a full-day In Service staff training. We were happy to host employees from the four libraries and several volunteers from Chincoteague Island Library to the training. In the morning, we welcomed Laurie Laird and Gabby Ramirez from the Eastern Shore Health District. They reviewed the clinical services, vital records, epidemiology and communicable diseases, environmental health, and emergency preparedness and response services available from the departments in Accomack and Northampton Counties. They brought handouts and brochures for the libraries. Many community members come to the library looking for information about things like local health care, water testing, and vital records. It will be helpful for library staff to be aware of these many services so that we can share their availability with our patrons.



We spent time during the training day reviewing the many changes and additions to our practices and resources that have come in the past few months. We took particular care to review how to access, search, and use many of our digital resources. As the holidays usually lead to patron questions about using new devices to access our streaming and downloadable content, we wanted to make sure that all library employees felt well equipped to help patrons use Libby, Freading, Great Courses, Magzter, and Kanopy.



Spring often brings research assignments, too. We made sure to review our academic digital collections to ensure that staff were prepared to help students who might visit our libraries looking for academic articles and books to aid in research projects.

The library system offers an enormous volume of resources for learning, exploring, and recreation. Those resources are only valuable if patrons are able to find and access what they are looking for when its needed. Our training in December served to make sure that our staff were as equipped to help patrons access our digital resources as they are in helping patrons access our physical resources.

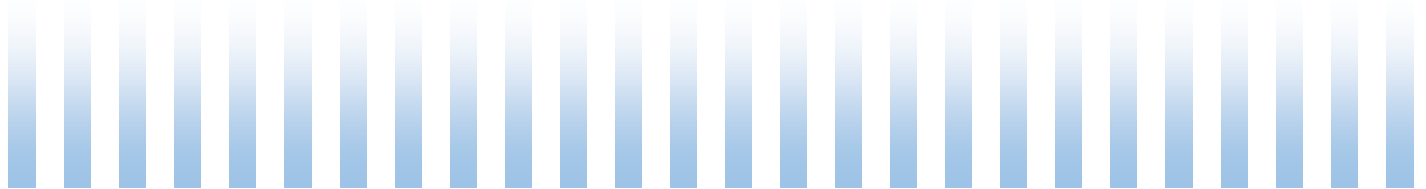


Payroll Update

In early December, the library system received notice that Intuit was going to be increasing cost from \$1.75 per pay per staff member to \$4.00 per pay per staff member. This would have the library system paying approximately \$160 each month just to be able to pay our employees.

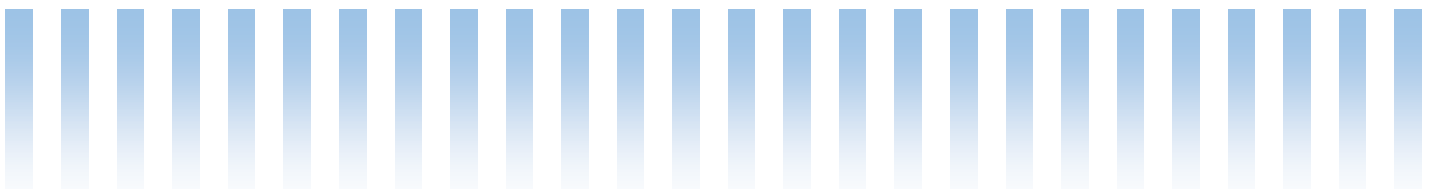
Through research, we found that Truist, the financial institution that the library system currently uses, offers their own payroll processing service. For a flat fee of \$60 per month, Truist offers payroll processing with direct deposit to all ESPL employees. The platform will also enable employees to access past paystubs and, beginning with the 2024 tax year, print W-2s on demand. Both are services that we are not currently able to offer to staff.

For a lower price and added benefits, we will be making the switch to Truist payroll services in January. Karen Crockett, Inc. will be able to maintain management of our payroll service through the transition and beyond.



Tree Planning at the Regional Library

In December, the Board of Trustees Facilities Committee met to discuss the plan to plant trees at the Regional Library. They settled on either planting two Crepe Myrtles or Flowering Dogwoods in the space. Both selections were forwarded to Deputy Director Andy Nunnally for review. Mr. Nunnally offered that he recommends the Crepe Myrtles because they are more drought resistant than the Flowering Dogwoods.



Welcome (again) Jamie Johnson

The search for a new Administrative Assistant concluded in December. From a pool of thirteen candidates, we found our new Administrative Assistant from among our own ranks. You may have met Jamie at the Circulation Desk at the Regional Library. In January, she'll be moving from circulation to her new role.

Jamie brings with her to the position years of experience in maintaining vendor relationships and supply stores, creating and executing marketing projects, administrative support services, and working collaboratively to plan and execute events. All skills that she will bring to this position to strengthen and enhance the services that we are able to provide to residents of the Eastern Shore.

Please join us in congratulating Jamie on her new position.



This was quite an eventful year. Please indulge me for a brief retrospective of highlights for 2023 of the four main roles of the Heritage Center.

Collections

- ◇ Mr. John W. Edmonds, IV donated materials related to family members, Benjamin and Bessie Gunter, as well as materials related to the former family business The Peninsula Enterprise;
- ◇ Sarah and Robert Lentz donated the story about the making of Mr. Lentz's book: *The Story Behind the Tree: Chesapeake Wood Art History, Eastern Shore of Virginia and Beyond*, an interesting mixed-media archives;
- ◇ The papers of photographer, journalist, and author Curtis J. Badger; over 21,000 images, 625 magazine articles, and original manuscript material covering the breadth of the Eastern Shore;
- ◇ A lifetime of receipts belonging to Meshack Mears III (1822 – 1897) donated by Lennie Mears. This collection provides a wonderful snapshot of daily life and commerce on the Shore in the mid-nineteenth century;
- ◇ Additional donations to the Mapp-LeCato Collection, building on the Zillah Mapp Winn materials. Donated by members of the Chase, Guerrant, and Arnett families, all descendants of Shore families Mapp and LeCato.

Reference

- ◇ Migrants of the Southeast and immigrant ministry;
- ◇ Genealogy;
- ◇ Material for WAVY10 for the opening graphic for a story they did on Tangier Island: <https://www.wavy.com/news/local-news/special-report-the-fight-to-save-tangier-island-a-cultural-gem-in-the-chesapeake-bay/>;
- ◇ History and imagery for a story on the Matthews Building for WBOC: https://www.wboc.com/news/historic-matthews-building-in-parksley-virginia-considered-for-affordable-housing-for-veterans/video_423cd31f-20a1-5e1b-bca4-fe911b7c3fdb.html;
- ◇ Images and news clippings for a yet to be published documentary about Hog Island

Programming

- ◇ Heritage Center staff participated in the Virginia Department of Natural Resources' archaeology programming hosted by Northampton Free Library;
- ◇ The first hosted lecture in the new facility, "Shore Books", was delivered by Dennis Custis Lecture in the eponymous Dennis Custis Lecture Hall;



Christopher Pote, Heritage Center Manager



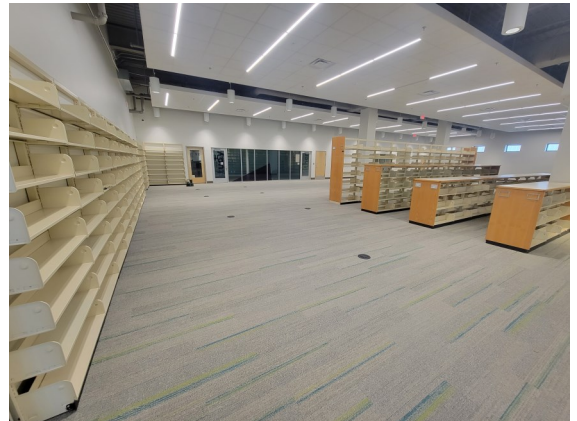
- ◇ A Memorabilia Clinic was presented by myself and archives assistant Judith Grier; a short presentation about best practices you can do at home to properly handle, display, and preserve your paper-based memorabilia, and subsequent consultation with participants on their specific heirlooms.

Collaborations

- ◇ Pote is the facilitator for the Eastern Shore Museum Network that met four times this year;
- ◇ Northampton250 and US250 initiatives;
- ◇ ESVA Climate Equity Project;
- ◇ Library of Virginia exhibitions;
- ◇ Virginia Coast Reserve Long Term Ecological Research Program (VCR LTER).

Of course, the biggest accomplishment was relocating the entire Library and Heritage Center to Parkside from Accomac and Onley. Pote oversaw logistics of the move as well as final installations of the IT infrastructure, A/V equipment, furniture, shelving, and signage. It took a village. And only three weeks. The staff of Eastern Shore Regional Library is absolutely amazing.

None of the Heritage Center work would be possible without an incredible, albeit part-time, support staff: Jazmine Collins wears many important hats here at Eastern Shore Regional Library & Heritage Center, but the few hours she has for the Heritage Center are invaluable to me and our researchers; Judith Grier brings vital preservation experience and willingness to do any job requested of her; and Stacia Childers is back in the fold aiding in archival tasks and assisting me with institutional memory. I cannot express strongly enough how grateful I am to be able to work with and lean on these incredible colleagues.



Thank you to all supporters of the Heritage Center! And Happy New Year!



Technical Services

Charle Ricci, Collection Management and Acquisitions Librarian



While the population of the entire Eastern Shore could easily fit into a small city, the number of books written by local authors, or written about the Shore by authors from elsewhere, is not insignificant. Technical Services staff and volunteers have begun tackling a new project to create a list of these items with a local connection.

Beginning with a listing from an online book store that featured books about the Eastern Shore or written by Shore residents, a library volunteer cross-referenced the listing with ShoreCat, the library catalog. Any item appearing in both was added to a spreadsheet. As our volunteer worked her way through the list, she would include additional titles found in ShoreCat that did not appear in the online book store listing.

Once this portion of the project was complete, our volunteer began utilizing a spreadsheet created by ESPL staff that lists books that were featured in local newspapers over the past several years. This spreadsheet is also being compared to ShoreCat so that titles already in the catalog can be added to the master spreadsheet, while those that are not yet a part of the library collection can be considered for purchase.

The master spreadsheet of items about the Eastern Shore or written by local authors currently includes over 500 titles. Many of these books are a part of the Heritage Center's Eastern Shore Room collection and focus on the history and genealogy of the Shore. In addition to the items focusing on local history, there are numerous fictional titles and series. These range from board books for babies to mystery and thrillers for adult readers. Currently, at the Regional Library in Parksley, visitors can browse and check out items from an attractive display of just some of the available local author's works to the left of the circulation desk.



The end goal of the library's local author project is to create two lists from the final version of the master spreadsheet. One list will focus on Shore history and genealogy and could be a helpful resource for researchers and family genealogists. The second list will highlight the more general works written by local individuals or about the Eastern Shore. These lists will be posted on the "Lists" menu within ShoreCat, as well as featured alongside library book displays or on flyers as a QR code that will link to the list in ShoreCat.

The Shore is fortunate to have so many talented and creative local authors, and this project is just one way that the Eastern Shore Public Library can celebrate and feature their literary work.



Programs & Outreach Report

Tiffany Flores

December began on a high note. On December 2nd, The Friends of the Eastern Shore Public Library hosted their yearly Santa event and All About Dance came to perform the Nutcracker in the library. This proved to be widely successful with a total of 156 people between the two events. There were many happy smiles and plenty of joy to go around.

Throughout the month, the library has been busy providing various programs to patrons. Adult programs such as the stitch-a-long, The Swedish star craft, and the book wreath craft were all well attended by adult patrons seeing anywhere from 3 to 12 participants. In addition to craft times, the library offered two yoga programs: Wellness Wednesday on December 13th and Kids Yoga on the 16th. While Wellness Wednesday, an adult yoga program, had only one attendee, the Kid's Yoga program had 6 people participate with interest for more. Tiffany plans to continue to provide these programs and encourage patrons to attend. In addition to kids' yoga's success, the new kid's craft times have proven successful! Regulars are beginning to attend the program consistently. Tiffany hopes this means more families will attend. Finally, David Poyer's Author Talk on December 19th had 9 people attend despite the dark skies and holiday.

December was a quieter month at Northampton Free Library. Tiffany resumed distributing children's Take and Make activity packs to the branch in hopes of providing crafts at a location where youth attendance tends to be low. Tiffany suspects it will take a month or two for people to resume picking up kits as word spreads, although some kids were claimed in December. With the holidays in full swing, programming hit a lull but adult programming was well attended. The book wreath craft was attended by 4 people and the Apple Pie prep event was attended by 2 people although 5 people had registered. At the end of the month, Northampton Free Library held another Lego competition for kids! Unlike the October event, this one was attended by 3 people.





Programs & Outreach Report Continued...

Tiffany Flores

December brought one of Eastern Shore Public Library's annual traditions: The Accomack County Parks and Rec Books and Bikes event. Every year the library has participated by donating books and attending the event at Sawmill Park. This year, Tiffany Flores and Tim Hall attended the event on December 16th and gave out books and candy canes to 30 families. While this is a smaller event, it is always a great way to give to the community and make people's Christmas a little brighter.

As a part of Eastern Shore Public Library's outreach initiatives, Tiffany had three schools visit the library for field trips. Metompkin Elementary School visited on December 11th to participate in the library's regularly scheduled craft program. About 14 people attended and participated in the activity. On December 12th, Pungoteague Elementary School brought a group of 15 special education students to the library for a tour and story time. These students had a lot of fun playing with the Lego table and exploring the library. Last but not least, Nandua High School brought a small group of about 6 special education students for a tour. These kids were really sweet and enjoyed the tour; especially the kid's program room. All participants were impressed with what the new space has to offer and excited about all the programming going on.



The STEM grant program is in full swing and seeing success. This month's STEM program was well attended at the Regional Library and had 12 participants who made borax crystal ornaments. However, Northampton Free Library did not have any participation this month but there was interest from patrons passing through. At this month's meeting, the grant awardee group spent time discussing Citizen Science projects and which ones would make great STEM circulating kits for library locations. This encouraged helpful brainstorming and collaboration. Additionally, attendees were informed that the money for the kits should be distributed soon. Each participating library will receive 1,500

dollars to develop at least five stem kits meaning that at least 20 STEM kits will soon be making their way to the Eastern Shore Public Library System.




Northampton Free Library celebrated the holiday season with several public programs in December. The book page wreath-making craft activity, apple pie prep, and winter-themed LEGO building competition were particular favorites with library patrons, and many expressed interest in attending more library programs in the future. We value public feedback, so make sure to watch our social media for opportunities to provide your input. You can also send suggestions to our email at nfl@espl.org or leave comments anonymously at the suggestions box inside the building.



January 2024 will have a more relaxed programming schedule with Storytime Anytime continuing on Mondays and Wednesdays and Tech Help continuing on Tuesdays. Both events are available all day by request at the front desk. At 6:00 PM on Thursday, January 11th, Northampton Free Library will host a STEM program for children focused on the night sky. Weather permitting, attendees will be able to take a stargazing walk and use a telescope. A related craft activity will also be provided. On the following Thursday, January 18th, NFL will host a Bedtime Storytime event with snacks provided, also starting at 6:00 PM. Finally, patrons of all ages are welcomed to visit the library to build snow globes on Thursday, January 25th at 6:00 PM.

In maintenance news, work on several interior and exterior light fixtures took place in December and will continue into January. The removal of some of the landscaping rock around the outside wall of the library is also underway, and some maintenance on the public bathroom door is planned for January.

2024
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NORTHAMPTON FREE LIBRARY
JANUARY

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
CLOSED	10AM-5PM	10AM-5PM	10AM-5PM	10AM-5PM	10AM-5PM	9AM-1PM
1 Happy New Year CLOSED	2 TECH HELP ANYTIME	3 STORY TIME ANYTIME	4	5	6	
7 STORY TIME ANYTIME	8 TECH HELP ANYTIME	9 STORY TIME ANYTIME	10 STEM STARGAZING 6PM	11	12	13
14 CLOSED	15 TECH HELP ANYTIME	16 STORY TIME ANYTIME	17 BEDTIME STORYTIME 6PM	18	19	20
21 STORY TIME ANYTIME	22 TECH HELP ANYTIME	23 STORY TIME ANYTIME	24 ADULT CRAFT 6PM	25	26	27
28 STORY TIME ANYTIME	29 TECH HELP ANYTIME	30 STORY TIME ANYTIME	31			

JANUARY HIGHLIGHTS
ALL MONTH LONG
Take & Make children's crafts
STEM STARGAZING 1/11
Join us for a children's program exploring the wonder of the night sky.
Bedtime Storytime 1/18
Wind down with a bedtime snack and story time.
Adult Craft 1/25
Create your own snow globe.



Cape Charles Memorial Library

Sharon Silvey, Library Manager



The month of December was calm and festive at Cape Charles Memorial Library. We started the month by participating in another Festive Friday, where we had over 150 visitors in a two-hour period! CCML staff and Board spent the evening greeting guests and assisting the younger visitors with holiday crafts. One mom shared that CCML was her children's favorite spot to visit during Festive Fridays – we love that!

Through Eastern Shore Public Libraries, all staff at Cape Charles were able to participate in and complete *Disability Etiquette and Inclusion Training* through VisitAble. All Cape Charles staff were also able to attend an all day in-service at the Eastern Shore Regional Library in Parksley. Representatives from the Eastern Shore Health District spoke and shared the many resources available to Eastern Shore residents.

CCML staff attended *Stronger Together: Collective Impact and Climate Action Program* webinar, as well as our monthly STEM Community of Practice webinar. We look forward to using what we are learning for many programs in 2024.

Weekly story time was held three times this month. We ended the year with a special pajama time Story Time program which was so much fun! All attendees wore their pj's, listened to stories (with shadow puppets!), made cute crafts, and received a small gift bag.

We wish you all a wonderful New Year full of good books and joy!





Chincoteague Island Library



No update from Chincoteague Island Library was provided by the completion of this Board Packet on January 3, 2024.

An update will be presented, if available, at the Board of Trustees meeting on January 9, 2024.