



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

April 2024



THE ADVENTURE BEGINS!

Come out and celebrate the beginning of our first summer in the brand-new building

- What: ESPL's first-ever SummerFest
- When: **June 15, 10AM–2PM**
- Where: Eastern Shore Community College
- Why: To kick off the **Summer Reading** Program and encourage families to sign up and participate in this year's challenge
- Who: You!
- Who else: Food trucks and community partners
- Featuring: Bounce houses, face painting, games, and crafts

Director's Update



Christopher Pote,
Interim Director

Adventure begins at Eastern Shore Public Library this summer! For the first time, Eastern Shore Public Library commences its summer reading program with **SummerFest** on **June 15th** from **10 am to 2 pm** for bounce houses, games, crafts, activities, food trucks, face painting, and community outreach tables at **Eastern Shore Community College** in Melfa. Come sign up for the summer reading challenge, receive your free summer kick-off bag full of goodies, grab a bite, and have a blast! There will also be a variety of exciting programs ESPL Parksley and Northampton Free Library all summer long.



DIRECTOR'S UPDATE CONTINUED

Last month I wrote about how vital maintaining partnerships for the library and the communities we serve are. There are two more partnerships that were active in May that I would like to highlight. The first is the partnership between ESPL and [MilesFiles](#). MilesFiles is a genealogical database that contains “hundreds of Eastern Shore Families from Charlemagne to the Present”. M.K. Miles and his cousin Barry created the database in 1996, and it has been hosted by ESPL since 2000. M.K. still inputs data daily and now has a cohort of people assisting him. To date, there are 121,334 individuals accounted for in the MilesFiles. Amongst them are over 6,600 hundred surnames and over 455,000 citations indicating where the information was source.

The relationship between ESPL and MilesFiles is symbiotic in the sense that we are constantly aiding each other in our pursuits. Many of the 455,000 citations are from sources located in the Heritage Center’s Eastern Shore Room and its digital holdings that M.K. has either sourced for information or links to directly. People using the database can follow the citations back to the Heritage Center and come in to do follow up research. When people come to us to being their genealogical research, or first question is always “Have you been on the MilesFiles?” so we can better understand the level of assistance needed. The MilesFiles brings traffic to the Eastern Shore Room/ESPL, and ESPL sends traffic to M.K. and the MilesFiles.

A tangible example of this partnership occurred on the evening of May 30. In response to growing community feedback about using the database, M.K. hosted “Eastern Shore Families at Your Fingertips, Using the MilesFiles” here in the Dennis Custis Lecture Hall. The information was so robust that the hour allotted was wholly insufficient. We are thrilled that M.K. will be hosting Part Two in the weeks to come. And we are proud that M.K. has chosen ESPL and the Heritage Center to be home for the MilesFiles in perpetuity. There are forty-five generations that go back to Charlemagne, are you in that lineage?

M.K. will also be presenting on his database during the Genealogists and Historians of the Eastern Shore (GHOTES) conference at the end of the month. To be held in the Heritage Center, the GHOTES conference brings people together from over from all over the country interested in the history and genealogy of the Eastern Shore. The three-day conference will host numerous lectures and presentations June 26– 29. We are honored to host them. For more information, please visit: <http://www.ghotes.net/>.

The second partnership I want to highlight is a new one. You may recall in February we hosted Gerald Boyd, founder of Peaceworks and ESTACI and manager of the Samuel D. Outlaw Blacksmith Shop Memorial Museum in Onancock. The lecture was a great introduction to Mr. Outlaw and his shop that is on the National Register of Historic Places. In order to bring more attention to the museum and raise funds, Gerald and his team will be holding a Shoebox Lunch Festival on Saturday, August 24, 10am – 2pm. There will be exhibits, blacksmith demonstrations, hands-on activities, as well as the opportunity to purchase a traditional shoebox lunch. ESPL is participating on the planning and marketing committees. Being supportive and participatory of other cultural heritage organizations on the Shore is imperative, and we are humbled that Gerald invited us to this table.

May was another strong month for the Eastern Shore Public Library System, as the following reports will indicate. June will be a particularly busy month as we begin our summer reading program (See you there: SummerFest, ESCC, June 15.), have a full slate of programming, and work on end-of-year finances.



Christopher Pote, Heritage Center Manager



Jazmine Collins will be authoring the Heritage Center Report while Christopher Pote is in the Director's Office:



The traveling season is approaching and the Heritage Center has already proven to be a popular spot, as this month we have welcomed and assisted genealogical researchers visiting from Tennessee, Alabama, Georgia, Texas, and Massachusetts, another testament that the ancestral roots of the Eastern Shore have branched all over our nation. Also, the number of remote reference questions the Heritage Center has fielded has increased this year, showing that more individuals are accessing our collections and information via online contact, as well.

The Heritage Center has received additions to the Edmonds' Family Papers, including notes of Katherine H.S. Edmonds, the namesake of our Eastern Shore Room. We have also received materials to add to our cookbook and yearbook collections. While we currently have 194 Eastern

Shore high schools yearbooks online, we do not have them all. The Heritage Center is updating our yearbook collection later this year by sending any donated or loaned yearbooks to the Library of Virginia to be scanned and added to the site. Visit our yearbook collection at <https://archive.org/details/easternshorepubliclibrary>, and please consider donating or encouraging others to loan or donate yearbooks for those missing years.

On May 23rd, the Heritage Center hosted the "Invisible History" talk featuring Thomas Godwin, a community leader and businessperson in Northampton County, who proudly noted that he owns the longest continuously operating funeral home in the county. Godwin explained how he met Metty Pellicer, the author of his memoir, and discussed the impetus for and need to share the story of his in the book *Invisible History: Growing Up Colored in Cape Charles, Virginia*, along with some heartfelt anecdotes. Richard Press, a spokesman for the Invisible History Walking Tour and Speakers Bureau initiative in Cape Charles, shared with attendees how Godwin's memoir inspired the move to preserve and share the African American history of Cape Charles, history such as the 47 businesses that African American owned businesses in the town. Press shared some of the projects that the group has in development, such as the African American walking tour which will be available through the Clio app.

On May 30, M.K. Miles gave a talk on the MilesFiles genealogical database, including the many features of new web-based version, such as finding kinship connections between individuals, the ability to add photos and documents, and the ease of proving ancestry, for example to the Jamestown Society or to individuals already designated as First Families of Virginia or Gateway Ancestors. Miles was happy to share that with the new software, he has been able to add users as editors to help input individuals and information into MilesFiles. By request, Miles will be joining us for Part 2 in the future.

M.K. Miles, and other notable historians and genealogists, will be speaking at the Genealogy and History of the Eastern Shore Conference June 25-June 29th, here at the Heritage Center. Go to ghotes.net for more information.





Technical Services

Charle Ricci, Collection Management and Acquisitions Librarian



Technical Services Practice and Procedures – Building Greater Consistency



As we approach the end of ESPL's fiscal year on June 30th, Technical Services Department staff have an opportunity to catch up on projects that have taken a backseat during the earlier portions of the year. The collection materials budget must be utilized in full by the end of May to allow time for the ordered items to arrive, be invoiced, and then paid for before the end of June. Now that this has been accomplished, staff can take some time during the month of June to focus on departmental plans and special projects that are sometimes difficult to accomplish when acquisitions and cataloging work are at the forefront.

Two projects that the department is currently working on are related to improving shared documentation regarding book processing and cataloging. While the acquisitions librarian is a full-time staff member, the other three department staff are part-time employees. When the availability of a small band of dedicated volunteers is added into the mix, work schedules don't always overlap. Whenever questions arise about topics such as the details of spine label creation, book covering, or catalog record fields, it is best to avoid delays in obtaining guidance so that materials can continue in their journey to the library shelves and be available for circulation.

To address this challenge, staff are creating guidance documents that will not only provide detailed information for current employees and volunteers but will also free up future time when training additional volunteers or staff for the department. The documents will be shared both in print form and electronically so that they are easily accessible by all who need them and will be updated over time as local practice expands or changes.

The first documentation project currently taking place centers on providing examples and instructions for applying call number spine labels and all accompanying genre and collection labels. At first glance, this may seem like a simple process, but due to the large number of subcollections, material formats, and languages found in ESPL's materials collection, there are many instances where a combination of call number prefixes and labels are needed. A couple of examples of a potentially confusing labeling situation are a Spanish/English bilingual edition of a children's graphic novel, or a Mystery in Large Print format. Maintaining consistency in labeling across time and staff members is essential to ensure that like items will be correctly located together on the library shelves.

The second documentation project currently underway is the creation of Cataloging Practice and Guidelines specific to ESPL. Cataloging language, methods, and technology continuously evolve at the national level, and ESPL actively monitors and evaluates cataloging recommendations and best practices to remain current. The new Cataloging Practice and Guidelines document includes details on local practice for cataloging every field of an item's bibliographic record, which the library's software application then translates into the item information displayed in ShoreCat, the library catalog. Again, consistency in catalog headings and subject classification across different staff members and over time is key to increasing an item's discoverability in ShoreCat by patrons and staff.

While these two projects may not be flashy or sensational, they serve to lay the groundwork for consistency and continuity in the Technical Services Department's ongoing practices and procedures. Through supporting behind-the-scenes processing and cataloging work, the documentation currently being created will make catalog searching and shelf browsing more successful for years to come.



Programs & Outreach Report

Tiffany Flores



May was an exciting time at the Regional Library. Local Children's Author Nan Carlton visited on Saturday, May 10th for a special storytime featuring her first book *Huck, Chuck, and Bruce Visit the Shore*. 10 patrons participated. Ms. Carlton is interested in collaborating with the library for future programs. Additionally, on May 18th, Kasey Grier, ESPL Foundation President, read *Leo the Late Bloomer* to children who very much enjoyed the story. Teen game nights had its regular attendees while nights with additional programming such as craft nights or Manga Book Club saw increased participants. The teens enjoy the crafts and suggest they be at every game night. The Teen Creative Writing Club had several participants this month, and the May adult programming saw good attendance. Lectures have been seeing steady attendance participants, as well. Tech Help, which will continue to be offered monthly during the summer, focused on the Zoom webinar service this month. Everyone is welcome to bring in their tech-related questions for assistance.

With the end of the school year approaching, interest in field trips to the library and interest in a librarian visiting the schools has increased. Tiffany Flores visited Migrant Headstart on May 10th, providing ten children with storytime and crafts. The staff was so impressed they invited her to visit anytime. Additionally, she visited Virtual VA on the same day, provided twenty students with storytime, and encouraged them to participate ESPL's summer reading program. On May 15th, Headstart came to the library for a fieldtrip! Eighteen children were given a tour of the library and made puppy paper bag puppets. Tiffany has three more field trips planned before the end of the school year.





Programs & Outreach Report Continued...

Tiffany Flores

On May 16th Tiffany went to Nandua Middle School for their SOL Family Night. Tiffany distributed resources about Homework HelpNow and informed many families about SummerFest. On May 30th, Tiffany and Jamie Johnson attended the Kid's Count Forum hosted by Go and Grow of the Eastern Shore at the Community College. As part of their participation, the library presented a poster advertising eResources and services related to youth and the Summer Reading Program including SummerFest. This was very successful; the library reached a variety of organizations and shared about many of the services we provide. Many of these organizations signed up for the monthly eNewsletter. Overall, the library reached 160 people at this event. In addition to the Forum, Tiffany attended the Occohannock Elementary Parents as Educational Partners Meeting as a guest speaker. She was able to reach twenty-five parents and students about library services and the Summer Reading program.



The STEM Coop Grant project is ending. Tiffany has been working on the STEM Circulating Kits for Northampton Free Library to finalize her work in the COOP. The last meeting will be held on June 24th to clarify some burning questions about how to catalog and build the circulating STEM kits.

ADVENTURE
— BEGINS AT —
YOUR LIBRARY™





Northampton Free Library

Connor Buyn, Branch Manager



May was another month of stellar public programs at Northampton Free Library. Younger patrons were invited to celebrate May the 4th at NFL with a LEGO spaceship building competition. Kids, parents, and staff alike had lots of fun and the winning builds by Lochlan, Maddie, and Merrick can still be seen in the library's display case. The library also hosted four different arts & crafts programs in May. Adult patrons were invited to create crochet coasters and glass bead suncatchers, and kids to build and paint their own birdhouses and to participate in a STEM watershed craft activity. Story Time Anytime continued to be offered on Mondays and Wednesdays, and Tech Help continued on every Tuesday and saw steady attendance through the month.



In addition to maintaining the pollinator garden outside the building, the Eastern Shore Master Gardeners are continuing to partner with Northampton Free Library to provide free seeds and educational materials as part of a revolving gardening-focused book display. These can be found on the last display shelf in front of the staff desk.



June will be an exciting month at the library – we will have a series of special programs in addition to our usual crafts and story times. NFL will host an adult rock painting craft on Thursday, June 6th starting at 6:00 PM. This event is free, but registration in advance will be required. There will be an evening story time for kids on Thursday, June 13th at 4:00 PM with no registration required. Next, Northampton Free Library will be offering an off-site magic show with children's performer the Amazing Mr. B. – this very special event will start at 11:00 AM on Tuesday, June 18th and will be hosted by Northampton Parks & Recreation. Finally, there will be a children's STEM activity on Thursday, June 27th starting at 6:00 PM – kids are invited to hone their engineering skills by completing building challenges with K'nex blocks.

Tech Help will continue on every Tuesday through the month of June, and Story Time Anytime will continue to be offered on Mondays and Wednesdays. Northampton Free Library is also participating in the Beyond Books Library Escape Adventure organized by Eastern Shore Community College and the Eastern Shore Literacy Council. Visit <http://tinyurl.com/ESVAescape> for more information on how to participate! This program will be ongoing through the month of June. Also be sure to watch the Northampton Free Library Facebook page for more information on all of our public programs.

Northampton Free Library will be closed on Tuesday, June 4th for staff training; Saturday, June 15th for Summerfest; and Wednesday, June 19th in observance of the Juneteenth holiday.

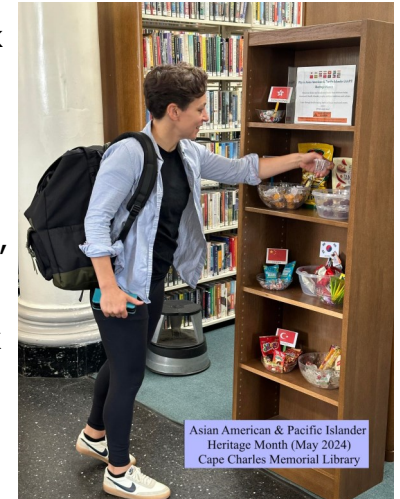


Cape Charles Memorial Library

Sharon Silvey, Library Manager



During the month of May, Cape Charles Memorial Library celebrated Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) Heritage Month. Our book display was full of titles by AAPI authors and books recognizing the contributions and influence on America's history, culture, and achievements. Staff created an amazing AAPI "food tasting" display that was enjoyed by many patrons throughout the month. The snacks provided offered guests the opportunity to try something new and exotic, such as lychee jelly and senbei rice crackers from Taiwan, spicy tamarin bites from Thailand, kimchi seaweed and moon pies from Korea, shortbread cookies from Hawaii, banana chips and mango bites from the Philippines, and cacao cream wafers and Eti Burcak from Turkey (Yes! The country of Turkey is part of AAPI month as it is located mainly in Anatolia in West Asia with a small part in South-east Europe.) Younger patrons were encouraged to also grab a free book, "Because Dragons Love Milk" a bilingual English-Mandarin picture book by Marie Chow.



We hosted our first collaboration of the season with the UVA Coastal Research Center, located in Cape Charles. The Catch, ID, and Release program was such a big hit last summer that we added even more dates this year. Participants meet at Cape Charles beach, where UVA research staff seine the bay. It is amazing to see what creatures are pulled in! Critters are collected and placed in a bucket of bay water for all to observe. Participants may gently examine the creatures and research staff are available to answer questions. CCML will be hosting several more during the summer – every program is unique!



CCML is again participating in the Collaborative Summer Library Program (CSLP) with the theme of "Adventure Begins at Your Library". Registration for our summer reading program begins on June 18th. Each participant is encouraged to read 20 minutes per day and earn an incentive for every 100 minutes read. Check out our facebook page for additional information on all upcoming events!

Chincoteague Island Library

Linda Ryan, for the Board of Directors



May is always a super busy month at our library...wrapping up our Tales 4 Tots Storytime, planning for children's summer programs—"Lubbock's Learners (summer reading challenge), Young Explorers, and Tales 4 Tots, and serving our patrons and Island visitors.

During the month of May, our Tales 4 Tots programs revolved around Earth Day, Mother's Day, May Flowers, Kites, Boats, and lastly, a picnic/parade in the park. Below are some of the highlights:



Our boat ride aboard the Martha Lou, Daisey's Island Cruises, and the boat craft:



Armed Forces Day, Misty's Birthday, Mother's Day, and Memorial Day were a few of the library displays this month. The Thursday Morning Book Club read and discussed works by William Shakespeare and books about him. We continue to post on our Facebook page the Eastern Shore Public Library and Foundation events and programs as well as many programs sponsored by other Island organizations.

Upcoming events include registration for our Summer Reading Program, the Sunset/Moonrise Cruise, and the non-motorized parade in the park adjacent to the library. The basket raffle will continue through October 9 (Oyster Festival Weekend). We are beginning to work on our annual newsletter and appeal, which is the main source of funding for our library.

Our part-time staff and volunteers are looking forward to a busy summer.

