



# 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

August 2023



## A New Look

August brought many changes including new name badges for all library system employees. The new badges will help us enhance service at our library locations by offering a visibly recognizable sign to patrons that a person wearing the badge is a library employee. When a patron has a question, they'll know who in the building will be available and able to assist them. The new badges also match the library system's new branding and serve to remind patrons on the shore that although we have multiple library locations, together we are one library system dedicated to serving all residents of Accomack and Northampton Counties.

## DIRECTORS' UPDATE

Miranda Wisor, Director



August was a month marked by projects on top of projects keeping the library system somehow busier than usual despite having one facility closed to the public for most of the month. The physical and practical details of moving the contents and services of the library in Accomack to the new facility in Parksley were gargantuan, but I'm thrilled to say that we've done it, we're open, and we are providing library services once again. A few challenges continue to linger as we work toward full operations at the Regional Library and Heritage Center but for the most part, those challenges have had minimal impact on patron use of the facility. Overall, responses from the library's



## DIRECTORS' UPDATE CONTINUED

venders have been prompt and helpful. We have also benefited from a very positive collaborative relationship with Public Works with Accomack County and county staff have been exceedingly helpful when questions or concerns about the facility arise.

During the closure, Northampton Free Library extended hours to provide greater services to the Shore. Branch Manager Connor Buyrn worked with librarians Tiffany Flores and Megan Gallipeau to plan refreshed programs for Northampton Free Library as new programs were also planned for the Regional Library to match the availability of the enhanced space.

To enable this enhancement of programs available at both locations, I've worked with Tiffany Flores and Megan Gallipeau to shift their position duties to better match the needs of the library system. Tiffany was the library system's former Children's Librarian before being moved to Administrative Assistant last December. Tiffany has shifted again to serve the library system as our Programs & Outreach Librarian. A position better aligned with her training and experience. Tiffany will lead other library system employees in planning and organizing programs in our Nassawadox and Parksley locations and plan our outreach initiatives. Tiffany will not lead all programs, but instead will lead other library employees in planning, organizing, and presenting programs at the library. Megan has been our Children's Librarian since she began with the library system in January, but Megan is shifting her attention to the system's marketing and technology needs as our Marketing & Digital Strategies Librarian. These changes don't mean that the library system is abandoning programming for young children; those services will still be provided through work by multiple library employees. Megan will retain some programming duties but will also focus on ensuring that the programs and events in Northampton Free Library and the Eastern Shore of Virginia Regional Library & Heritage Center are adequately advertised and she will serve as liaison to vendors and contractors for our technological needs. The shift in duties for both librarians do not represent a difference in classification or pay grade at this time. These changes enable us to better utilize the spaces and expertise that we have available in order to provide enhanced programs and services to all library patrons.

The library staff's excitement is palpable. After so much time of planning and preparing to move, it is now behind us. As we continue to clean up the last lingering details of transferring locations for one of our libraries, we can begin redirecting efforts back to the services that are the core of the work that we do by sharing resources, providing experiences, and fueling discoveries.

## Welcome Teresa!

Teresa Wright began working as a temporary Branch Manager at the Chincoteague Island Library in June when a vacancy occurred at the location. Teresa agreed to work at the library through its busiest season to assist the volunteers there with the many programs and events. Teresa's work enabled the library system to conduct a search to fill the position permanently. Following a search and interviews with several strong candidates, Teresa rose to the top of the applicant pile. We are pleased to re-welcome Teresa to the Eastern Shore Public Library System as the part-time Branch Manager at Chincoteague Island Library.



## New Staff Resource

Sharing the most recent version of documents and forms between employees and between library locations has been a challenge for the library system. In August, the library system added a staff-only page to our website that is password protected. We have begun using this page to host documents that may be important to all staff at different times to ensure that everyone has access to current information. Available information includes our Incident Report form, Time Off Request Slips, the Employee Handbook, and more.



## Find It Virginia for FY24 (October 1, 2023-September 30, 2024)

The Library of Virginia has announced the continuation of all resources provided by the state for the next year with the exception of Entrepreneurial Learning Initiative. The database was licensed with ARPA/CARES Act funds and the state does not have funding to renew the resource next year.

Resources that will continue to be provided include: Homework Help, which offers 24/7 tutoring services to students of the Eastern Shore; Transparent Language Online, which offers language lessons for learners of any age to more than 100 world languages; Gale Legal Forms, which offers customizable fillable legal forms for common legal needs; Explora for personal or school related research on various topics; Magzter, providing digital magazines; and much more.

These resources and more can be found on the library system's website.





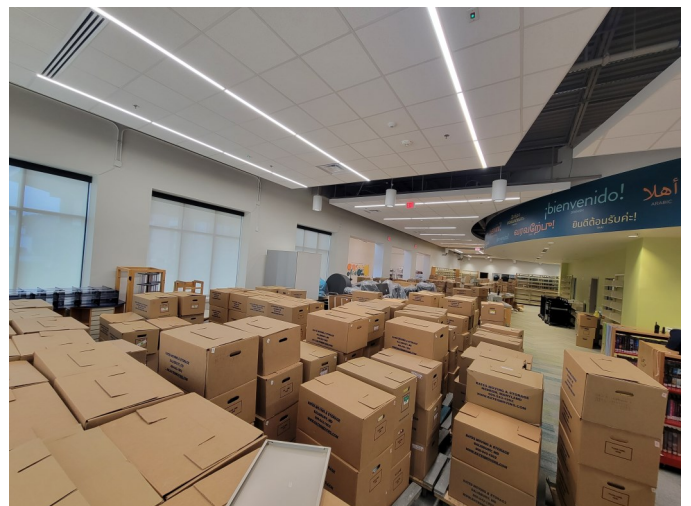
# Heritage Center

Christopher Pote, Heritage Center Manager



The Eastern Shore of Virginia Heritage Center is open for business. We're processing material, answering reference questions, accepting collections, and welcoming patrons to use our collections in the Katharine H.S. Edmonds Eastern Shore Room. The Brooks Miles Barnes Archives Room is filling up with its permanent residents.

All of this work commenced this last week, as manager Christopher Pote was able to begin to shift focus back to the Heritage Center. The previous three weeks were concentrated strictly on the physical relocation of the entire Accomac facility. Bates Moving worked non-stop for over a week removing books from shelves, breaking down shelving, reinstalling shelving, and putting books up. Over 3,500 hundred boxes of books were moved. And this is not to mention the truckload after truckload of furniture and office materials. Each item needing to find its way to a pre-designated location or office. There's still some buttoning-up to do. But with the collaboration and hard work of our entire, amazing staff, we did it!





# Technical Services

Charle Ricci, Collection Management and Acquisitions Librarian



After years of planning, preparation, and anticipation, the move of the Accomac library to Parksley has been completed. With the expert assistance of Bates Moving, the collection shelving that was gleaned from Maryland's Kent County Public Library, as well as much of the Accomac library's existing shelving, was installed. Bates Moving also successfully carried out the relocation of nearly 75,000 books, audiobooks, and video recordings from Accomac to Parksley.

A few adjustments to the shelving and collection layout plans were needed during the move as unanticipated challenges, such as support columns that were wider in reality than on the construction diagrams, were encountered. These issues were addressed through thoughtful collaboration between the moving company and library staff, and adaptations to the original plans were implemented.

Once the collections and shelving were in place, library staff carried out shelf reading projects to ensure that library materials had been relocated in the proper order. Improvements to the shelving were begun to remove the difficult-to-adjust suspended metal wire book supports and replace them with sturdy steel bookends. Additionally, book stands were placed throughout the collections to provide areas to display books. Some shifting of the collections was also carried out so that items are more evenly spaced to allow for easier browsing and shelving.



Now that the patron-facing areas of the library have been readied, Technical Services staff are setting up their workspaces. Desk contents and computers are unpacked and in place, and book processing and cataloging have begun. With the addition of a two new tables, which provide a larger work area intentionally designed for the department's workflow, staff can now unpack, prepare, and process materials to be cataloged for all four Shore libraries more comfortably and efficiently. In the new modern and bright work area, the Technical Services department will be better able to carry out their best work and provide a steady stream of new collection items for ESPL patrons.





# Youth Services

Megan Gallipeau, Youth Services Librarian

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## Active Programming:

We had our last story hour in the Accomac building on Thursday, August 3rd, which was attended by two children. When we reopened in Parksley, the end of summer reading party was attended by four young people, who enjoyed the games, prizes, and pizza party that was held in the teen room. Print calendars of upcoming programs for all ages were shared.

## Outreach:

We attended the community health partners outreach after Accomac closed, and reached around 100 visitors. Many visitors expressed interest in the opening of the Parksley building at the end of August.

We were able to give away many books to children and teens. The cookbooks we received from First Book seemed to be especially popular with local adults, which could indicate interest in future cookbook giveaways, or cooking programs.

## Summer Reading Program:

The summer reading program wrapped up with a prize drawing on August 29th. There were separate participation tracks for children and teens. Prizes were awarded to participants in both age groups. A top reading child and top reading teen received a \$50 Barnes and Noble gift card, and two children and one teen received a \$25 Amazon gift card.





# Programs & Outreach Report

Tiffany Flores

On August 8<sup>th</sup>, Tiffany Flores and Megan Gallipeau participated in the National Health Center Week (NHCW) by tabling at the Atlantic Community Health Center event. This event saw a steady stream of adults and children who were interested in the free books and informational flyers the library had to offer. Megan and Tiffany were able to distribute a variety of resources, namely library e-resource flyers and information on Medline Plus. This event was successful, serving about 150 people. Eastern Shore Regional Library also attended other NHCW events this week. Miranda Wisor and Jazmine Collins attended the Onley Community Health Center and Eastville Community Health Center events and saw equal success.



Schools will be back in session soon! As part of this exciting time, the Eastern Shore Regional Library was invited to attend Occohannock Elementary School's Open House on August 31<sup>st</sup>. During this event, Miranda Wisor and Tiffany Flores were able to reach many families about library services and encourage parents to sign up for library cards by using a form brought to the event. While turnout was lower than expected, the event was successful in that it reached many families that didn't have library cards and provided them with the tools needed to get started.

As a part of August's program planning, Tiffany Flores and Megan Gallipeau applied for the **Coastal Virginia Informal STEM Learning at the Library, Community of Practice** project. This project allows library staff across the state of VA to meet and discuss STEM programming in public libraries. The goal of this group is to learn from each other while developing programming that develops STEM awareness, literacy, and skill development. Both Megan and Tiffany got accepted into the program. Megan Gallipeau will be representing the Eastern Shore Regional Library and Tiffany will be representing Northampton Free Library. Starting in September, both librarians will be attending regular meetings and developing programs. They have already scheduled to do sensory bottles as a STEM program for young people in September at both library locations.





# Northampton Free Library

Connor BuYrn, Branch Manager



August was Northampton Free Library's busiest month of 2023 so far, with more than 1,200 patron visits. The library provided extended hours to 8:00 PM on three Tuesdays in August to provide additional time for patrons who still needed library services while the move to Parksley was under way.

On August 8<sup>th</sup>, NFL hosted the Chincoteague Bay Field station for a children's event focused on fish. Several live sea creatures were brought to the library for patrons to learn about and enjoy. Outside the building, NFL's dedicated pair of barn swallows successfully raised their second brood of the season. Several patrons have mentioned that they enjoyed the opportunity to watch the chicks grow up and take flight.



Much effort was dedicated this month to developing a full program calendar for September. On each Monday throughout the next month, a member of staff at NFL will be providing story time on demand at any time of the day. On September 7<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup>, both Thursdays, another member of staff will be available to provide basic technology assistance to library patrons between 12:00 and 1:00 PM. Personal devices are welcome, though library staff cannot make repairs to damaged devices. On Thursday, September 14<sup>th</sup>, Northampton Free Library will host our first Bedtime Storytime event at 6:00 PM. Young patrons are welcome to visit in pajamas and hear a story read by library staff. Snacks will be provided. On Saturday, September 16<sup>th</sup>, deputies with the Northampton County Sheriff's Department will visit to read stories to children as part of our new Hometown Heroes series of events. The event will start at 11:30 AM. Between 4:00 and 5:00 PM on Tuesday, September 19<sup>th</sup>, NFL will host a science and technology focused sensory bottle creation event for children. Finally, between 5:00 and 6:00 PM on Thursday, September 28<sup>th</sup>, the library will host an arts and crafts event for all ages – patrons will be able to produce their own mug decorated with a marbled pattern.







# Cape Charles Memorial Library

Sharon Silvey, Library Manager



The month of August 2023 set record attendance at Cape Charles Memorial Library! Last year, the month of August saw 1,612 people visit CCML and this year we had 2,103 visitors – almost 500 more guests!

Our summer reading program came to an end in mid-August; early statistics show we had over 60 registered participants for the reading program and close to 100 prizes were earned by those who partook.

Programs this month included Cascading Carlos the Juggler, another beach seining collaboration with the staff of UVA's Coastal Research Center, a handful of story & craft programs, and an owl prowler.

During the summer months, CCML had a display case full of local artifacts discovered by metal detector enthusiast Bill Dyas. Also in the display case was a child's metal detector, donated by Gone Diggin', a dedicated group whose mission "is to create a love for history through content creation and the sharing of ethical searches for treasures and historical artifacts." Throughout the summer, local children were encouraged to enter the drawing for the metal detector. The lucky winners were thrilled and excited and look forward to exploring with their prize.

We would like to thank our Friends of Cape Charles Memorial Library group for their ongoing support. Over the summer they have held monthly book sales to support the library and recently financed 3 new computers for our computer lab.



Cape Charles Memorial Library



Story Time 8.15.2023  
Cape Charles Memorial Library



Beach Seining (Netting)  
August 3, 2023  
Coastal Research Center &  
Cape Charles Memorial Library



Story Time 8.29.23  
CAPE CHARLES MEMORIAL LIBRARY



Cascading Carlos 08.01.2023  
Cape Charles Memorial Library



# Chincoteague Island Library



## Children's Summer Programs

Tales 4 Tots Storytime ended on August 10 with a picnic. Attendance this summer averaged 20 children each week. The program will resume on September 21 and run through December 21. The Young Explorers' Program finished for the summer on August 10 with a behind the scenes visit to the Island Theatre. The most popular program was the visit from CES art teacher, Jacqui Gilfoyle, who provided the art supplies and instruction for painting shells.



Summer Reading Program—Lubbock's Learners. The program ended on August 12, and the wrap-up party was held on August 24. Sixty-five students signed up for the program. Each student who completed 100 minutes of reading could place a slip in the raffle jar for a Kindle Fire tablet and Chincoteague Monopoly game or choose a prize from the prize box. All students who returned their reading logs of reading bingo cards were eligible for a bag of school supplies which included gift certificates from Mr. Whippy's, Island Creamery, and Refuge Golf. Winners were James Bueno, Ezekiel Zanin, Landon Shue, and Amelia Zanin.

August Cooperative Events at the Island Theatre included Eva Watters, Celtic harpist and storyteller (for adults) and juggler Geoff Marsh, the One-Man Circus (for the children).

We are very excited to welcome our new library manager, Teresa Wright. She has been working with the patrons and volunteers all summer and has done a fantastic job.

We've had some issues with our Broadband internet connection but have been doing our best to keep things going. Our annual newsletter, The Chincoteague Island Library Review, is at the printers. Many fall programs are being planned to include author visits and monthly book clubs.

