



Regional Library and Heritage Center • Cape Charles Memorial Library • Chincoteague Island Library • Northampton Free Library

DIRECTORS' UPDATE



Information literacy, the ability to access, evaluate, and utilize information effectively and ethically is a guide for the collections that we build. Many of our policies serve to illuminate how this skill is applied in the work that we do. It is an ability that our work means to nurture in the readers that we serve.

Financial literacy is the ability to manage personal finances effectively and make informed



Collaborative Summer Library Program material, available through the Library of Virginia, has already been ordered. We are working to schedule performers and other activities for Eastern Shore readers to show that adventure really does begin at your library.



DIRECTORS' UPDATE CONTINUED

decisions about money. Our collections offer Consumer Reports to help our patrons make informed decisions about their purchases. We also offer extensive materials to help people plan for their financial futures. In November, we were proud to kick off our first Financial Planning program at the Eastern Shore of Virginia Regional Library and Heritage Center. It was only the first of such programs planned.

Civic and social literacy refers to an understanding of how to participate in the democratic process and how to engage with other people effectively. Our libraries were closed on November 7th to permit our staff the opportunity to participate in this year's elections. Prior to that date, the library was a source for patrons to find information about where they could go to vote. If transportation was a concern, we even offered information about how to get rides to your local polling place. We also took November as an opportunity to partner with Eastern Shore of Virginia SPCA. We collected materials that will help the animals currently in the shelter. In December, we'll be holding a non-perishable food drive for the Food Bank of the Eastern Shore, too.



Finally, health literacy is the ability to access, understand, and use health information in order to make informed decisions about your own health. When I taught an Academy for Lifelong Learning class how to access and use our many digital resources, one of the databases that they seemed most excited to learn about was Medline Plus. The database is a health information resource for patients and their families and friends provided by the National Library of Medicine. I also had the opportunity to meet with Allison Bradshaw, Population Health Manager for the Eastern Shore Health District to talk about other opportunities for the library to provide resources and programs to empower Eastern Shore residents to make healthier choices and lead healthier lives.

In December, our commitment to social and health literacy will blend as we prepare to become the Eastern Shore's first location for a Memory Café. The Memory Café, organized by The Martha W. Goodson Center, is a monthly social gathering opportunity for individuals dealing with memory loss and their partners who provide care. Training for café facilitators will be held this month with the plan to begin a monthly gathering in early 2024. Memory Cafes are already popular in other areas of Virginia. The library system is, and will continue to be, a place where Eastern Shore residents can nurture a life-long love of reading, learning, and continued growth.

Bylaw and Policy Updates

Included in this Board Packet, you'll find proposed updates to the ESPL Board of Trustees Bylaws and the Request for Reconsideration Policy. The proposed Bylaw updates intend to clarify how and why remote attendance will be permitted for all Trustee members. Also included is the script that the Chair will use to certify remote attendance.

The intent of the policy update is to ensure that reconsideration requests receive the time and attention needed to be properly evaluated. When a reconsideration request is received, a review committee is assembled. This involves a major commitment of staff time and resources. The flexibility proposed ensures that the committee has sufficient time to fully review the title in question and prepare an appropriate recommendation.



Hear more from LVA

Did you know that the Library of Virginia offers a free monthly newsletter specifically for Trustees, Friends, and Foundation members? It offers information on a variety of topics relating to libraries in Virginia and national trends! You can register to receive the newsletter via email by asking Miranda Wisor to sign you up or you can register yourself at: <https://vpl.lib.va.us/newsletter-archives/trustees-friends-foundations-newsletters/>.



10th Librarian of Virginia

After conducting a national search, the Library Board has appointed Dennis T. Clark to serve as the 10th Librarian of Virginia. Clark brings more than 12 years of senior leadership experience in academic research libraries, and currently is chief of researcher engagement and general collections at the Library of Congress in Washington, D.C., where he leads the largest researcher-focused division at the Library, encompassing research services and collections in business, fine arts, genealogy, history, humanities, social sciences and science. Clark will begin Jan. 25, 2024, and succeeds Sandra Gioia Treadway, Ph.D., who previously announced her intent to retire after serving as Librarian of Virginia since July 2007.



Christopher Pote, Heritage Center Manager

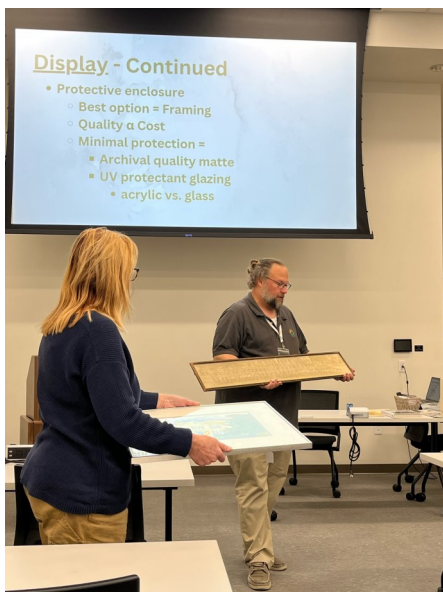


If November was any indication, the Heritage Center is going to be a rounding success. Over the past month, we had significant accomplishments in three main objectives of the HC: augment our collections, provide outstanding research assistance, and offer programming to the community.

The highlight acquisition this month was additional donations to the Mapp-LeCato Collection. Building on the Zillah Mapp Winn materials that were donated by her family a couple of years ago, I had the joy of welcoming six members of the Chase, Guerrant, and Arnett families, all descendants of Shore families Mapp and LeCato. This included correspondence, photographs, cook books, and genealogical and other material related to the two families. It was honor to meet with these families and share some of the history of their forebears.



When providing research assistance to patrons, there are two moments I cherish the most: the moment you provide someone with that one piece of information that's eluded them for years, and the moment when you see the fruit of that research published. We were able to enjoy that latter moment twice in the past month. First, WAVY10 used HC material for the opening graphic for a story they did on Tangier Island on November 16: <https://www.wavy.com/news/local-news/special-report-the-fight-to-save-tangier-island-a-cultural-gem-in-the-chesapeake-bay/>. And this past week, we assisted WBOC with history and imagery for a story on the Matthews Building here in Parksley: https://www.wbo.com/news/historic-matthews-building-in-parksley-virginia-considered-for-affordable-housing-for-veterans/video_423cd31f-20a1-5e1b-bca4-fe911b7c3fdb.html. Watching these stories while relaxing at home after a hard day's work was a delight.



The HC also hosted a Memorabilia Clinic presented by myself and archives assistant Judith Grier. We opened with a short presentation about best practices you can do at home to properly handle, display, and preserve your paper-based memorabilia. We then consulted with participants on their specific heirlooms and questions they brought with them. It was a blast see and discuss what members of the community brought in.

And lastly, I am glad to report that the collection materials in the offsite facility in Onley have all been relocated to their permanent home in Parksley. For the first time, the Heritage Center is operational with all staff and collections materials in one location.



Expanding on the Traditional: New Types of Materials to Borrow

When you think of a library, books may immediately spring to mind. Indeed, the Eastern Shore Public Library's core materials are overwhelmingly books (in print, audio, and electronic formats). However, through partnerships with local and state organizations and nonprofits, ESPL is expanding the selection of non-traditional items that can be checked out by anyone with a library card.

Nature Backpacks The library offers a variety of backpacks containing themed materials that focus on the wildlife and natural environment of Virginia's Eastern Shore. The themes include Birding, Beaches & Fishing, Butterflies, Forests & Flowers, Virginia Wildlife, Nature in Winter, and Virginia State Parks. Each backpack is unique, with contents relevant to each subject. For example, the Virginia State Parks backpack contains a parking pass for free entry to any Virginia State Park, and the Birding Backpack contains binoculars and bird identification field guides. These Nature Backpacks are perfect for outdoor adventuring and were made possible through support from the Library of Virginia, Coastal Virginia Wildlife Observatory, and the Eastern Shore Chapter of Virginia Master Naturalists Program.

Chincoteague Island Museum Family Pass In partnership with the Museum of Chincoteague Island, ESPL is now offering circulating family passes to the museum. Each laminated pass provides free admission to the museum for four adults (ages 13+). Children 12 and under enjoy free admission anytime. A Family Pass is available at each of the four Shore libraries and can be borrowed for 14 days.

Vision Impairment Support (coming soon) With the generous support of the Onancock Lions Club, ESPL has ordered equipment to support individuals with vision impairments. Soon, library patrons will be able to borrow a variety of magnifying glasses and page magnifiers. Many of these items provide magnification with the addition of enhanced lighting for even better visibility. Magnifiers will be available in hand-held, hands-free, and sheet form. The library will also offer magnifying lamps for use in the Regional Library in Parksley. It is our plan to install a screen-reader app to public computers that will read screens to patrons with vision impairments. We are also exploring the possibility of purchasing further equipment with voice to text and text to voice functionality.

STEM Kits (coming soon) If you're not familiar with the term STEM, it stands for Science, Technology, Engineering and Math, and is an essential component of a child's education. Hands-on experiences help young people build confidence and interest in STEM fields, and reinforce important 21st century skills. The Virginia Partnership for Out-of-School Time is partnering with ESPL libraries to develop programs and circulating kits that will help children build knowledge about and experience with STEM concepts. Recent STEM craft programs at the Regional Library featured building spider webs and digging for fossils. ESPL staff are currently designing circulating kits that focus on a STEM activity, such as engineering or coding. Each kit will contain books about the topic as well as interactive, hands-on activities, and can be checked out by Shore families for learning at home.

ESPL is excited to offer these unique materials to the Shore Community and is grateful to our supporting partner organizations who are making it possible to expand our circulating collections beyond the traditional.



Programs & Outreach Report

Tiffany Flores

Throughout November, the Eastern Shore of Virginia Regional Library & Heritage Center and Northampton Free Library participated in Dinovember! Each week a new display was put up featuring dinosaurs doing something mischievous around the library. The library also invited the community to submit their photos of naughty dinosaurs for a chance to win a dinosaur dig kit. Colton Collins won for his submission of dinosaurs playing board games at his home.



In addition to Dinovember, both libraries hosted an SPCA supply drive all month long. Supplies for pet needs were collected by the library and dropped off at the SPCA at the end of the month.



The Regional Library has seen good attendance at after-school programs such as the STEM programs and Teen Gaming Tuesdays. Additionally, adult programs have also seen good participation. The monthly Crochet Stitch-a-Long had three participants who greatly enjoyed the program and looked forward to the next session. The regional library's first Tech Help session was popular with four attendees who received one-on-one aid with their devices. All parties were thankful for the aid and asked for more programs like this in the future. To meet their needs, Tech Help will be offered regularly. The next one will be in January.



December brings a couple of programming changes. Kid's crafts will now be offered from 10:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. in the hopes of getting more preschool children to participate in the program. Additionally, Storytime Anytime will now be offered on Mondays and Wednesdays.

Programming has picked up at Northampton Free Library! Bedtime Storytime was attended by two children. The program is taking a break in December, but Bedtime Storytime will resume in January. The hot cider and mulling spices program was well attended. Twenty people participated in the hot cider bar and five people put together their mulling spice bags for cider-making at home. The monthly STEM program was offered on Saturday, November 18th, and had one child participate. While





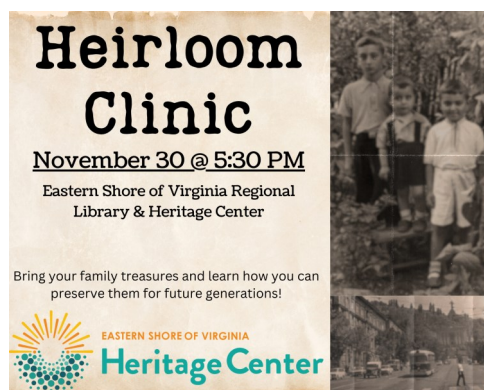
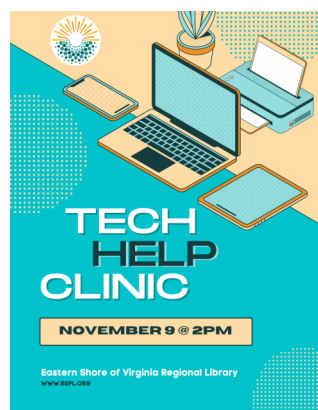
Programs & Outreach Report Continued...

Tiffany Flores

that number is low, it was good to finally have children participating in the STEM activity at the Northampton Free Library.

While the outreach season has slowed down for the season, Eastern Shore Public Library continued to attend community events. This month, the library went to Accawmacke Elementary School and participated in their Otterfest celebration on November 11th. Due to the holiday, this event didn't see huge attendance but Miranda and Tiffany were able to reach people who either didn't know about the library or didn't know the library was free.

Due to recent staff changes, Charle Ricci has taken over the role of representing the Regional Library in the STEM grant project. In doing so, she has begun attending the monthly meetings and working with Tiffany in planning the STEM circulating kits and assisting in STEM programming. For November, Charle hosted the STEM Fossil Dig Program which was attended by five kids and their parents. The children enjoyed this program especially because they got to dig up real fossils. In addition to Charle joining the project, Betsey Doherty from Cape Charles Memorial Library and Teresa Wright from Chincoteague Island Library have joined. This means all shore libraries will be represented in the grant and allows all locations the opportunity to collaborate.





Northampton Free Library

Connor Buyn, Branch Manager



The month of November was packed with paleontological fun at Northampton Free Library, with several children's programs focused on dinosaurs and fossils and NFL's participation in the elf-on-a-shelf-like #Dinovember social media trend. Throughout the month, dinosaur toys were arranged in wacky antics around the library and shared on Facebook to help advertise public programs. There was increased interest in NFL's programs this month, with the hot apple cider bar and mulling spices activity held on Friday, November 24th being particularly successful.

Improvements to the building in November focused on reorganizing storage areas and maintenance work on some of the building's exterior light fixtures. In the upcoming months, further landscape work outside the building is being considered. The Friends of Northampton Free Library group has set up and decorated a lovely tree in the library's vestibule in celebration of the holiday season.

NFL will offer another full month of programming in December. Storytime Anytime will continue on every Monday and Wednesday, as will Tech Help on every Tuesday. Both are available by request at the front desk at any time during library open hours on Mondays & Wednesdays and on Tuesdays, respectively. Library staff will host a book wreath craft activity at 5:00 PM on Thursday, December 7th and a crab pot buoy Christmas tree ornament craft activity at 6:00 PM on Thursday, December 14th. On the following day, Friday, December 15th, there will be a children's STEM activity held at 4:00 PM. Participants will learn about chemistry by growing their own Christmas ornaments out of borax crystals and pipe cleaners. At 5:00 PM on Thursday, December 21st, Northampton Free Library will host an apple pie preparation event. Registration in advance is required for participation in the pie prep activity – see the Northampton Free Library Facebook page or visit the library for more details. Finally, the library will host a LEGO competition starting at 6:00 PM on Thursday, December 28th. Contestants will be challenged to build the best snowflakes out of LEGO bricks. Prizes and snacks will be available and winning designs will be put on display in the library. All library events are free of charge.





Cape Charles Memorial Library

Sharon Silvey, Library Manager



During the month of November, Cape Charles Memorial Library welcomed local author Nan Mosteller for two special story time and craft programs. Mrs. Nan read the book, "Leaf Man" by Lois Ehlert, a story about a young boy who collects pieces of nature on a walk through an area that was once a forest. Mrs. Nan had collected her own pieces of nature and shared with participants for them to create their own Leaf Man. Both programs were well attended by adults and children. We are excited to be having Mrs. Nan back in the spring!



Cape Charles Memorial Library participated as a community partner at a Family STEAM Night. The program partners presented science, technology, engineering, art, and math activities for the 116 participants. This wonderful program was sponsored by Ebenezer A.M.E. Church Capeville.



CCML received notification of a grant award from Virginia Department of Environmental Quality for Litter Prevention and Recycling Program activities. This is the third year we have received this grant, and we again look forward to using these funds to educate our community.

Staff were able to attend two educational webinars this month, Understanding and Programming for Homeschool Students and their Parents and Living Our Values Out Loud: Programs That Walk the Talk.

The end of our month was spent preparing for Festive Fridays, an annual event hosted by the Town of Cape Charles. Staff decorated our building and prepared three crafts for participants which included a swirly snowman, pipe cleaner and bead ornaments, and an adorable tealight snowman. We also had a Letters to Santa station and a small nail-art station. CCML was open after hours, from 5:30 p.m. until 7:30 p.m., and we had over 130 visitors. The library will again participate in Festive Fridays on December 15th.





Chincoteague Island Library



Children's Programs: On November 2, Tales 4 Tots Storytime began the month with a visit from the folks at the Island Community House. Following our stretching, songs, and fingerplays, director, Katie O'Shea, read about a bear hunt. The children and parents then followed the bear tracks across the street to the Island Community House where they each received their very own bear and enjoyed juice and bear cookies.



The following week, mail carrier, George Tripp, brought the mail truck to the library parking lot and let the children climb in the truck. He explained about delivering mail and packages. Later, we all went into the library for stories about mail carriers and made a mail truck craft.

The week prior to Thanksgiving, the library was bursting to the seams with children. First, our Tales 4 Tots kids sang, danced, listened to turkey/Thanksgiving stories, and made turkey puppets. Next, the Chincoteague Elementary School preschool class made their annual visit to our library. Volunteers told the class about the library, and then the children listened to turkey/Thanksgiving stories, sang, and danced to turkey songs. Each child was given a take-home activity bag with all the makings for a turkey puppet.

Window & Holiday Displays: At the end of November, volunteers and staff decorated the library for the upcoming Christmas holidays in time for the Town's Annual Tree Lighting and the Christmas Parade. Both events use the library porches.

This year, library volunteers decorated a Christmas tree for the Chincoteague Museum's Christmas Tree Village. Library volunteers opened the library from 5 – 7 p.m. on November 10 for the 2nd Friday Art Stroll. We were also fortunate to have one of our local businesses, Amarin Coffee, donate a portion of their sales on Tuesday, November 21, to our library. We received a check from them for just over \$1,000. We are also taking part in the Giving Tuesday Facebook fundraiser.

Upcoming Events: The Town's Christmas Parade will take place on December 2. The library will host a "Meet the Author" night for the author of the book, *Bean Unleashed: Golden Wisdom for Fetching Joy* on December 13. The Thursday Book Club will be holding their annual holiday party and planning session on December 14. The Annual Meeting & Election of Officers of the Board of Directors will take place at our regularly scheduled monthly meeting on December 15.





ON THE HORIZON

- ⇒ ESPL's contract with Dunham, Aukamp & Rhodes, PLC will terminate at the end of the FY2022-2023 audit. Soon, the library system will need to distribute a Request for Proposal for future audits of the library's accounts. This will not impact the financial and payroll services provided by Karen Crockett, Inc.
- ⇒ The search for a new Administrative Assistant is nearing an end. We have received a number of applications for this full-time paraprofessional position. The Administrative Assistant will assist the Director with clerical tasks, maintaining supplies throughout the system, provide marketing support for library programs, and more. Interviews will be conducted in December before the holidays. We intend to have the role filled by January.
- ⇒ Adding Cybrarian to public computers has illuminated a need for increased Information Technology support throughout the system. We are entering our second month of service at Northampton Free Library. Patrons are growing accustomed to the platform. We have not, as of yet, been able to install the service at the Regional Library while we await updates to our public computers. Miranda has begun reaching out to other agencies on the Shore to inquire about what service providers they use.
- ⇒ ESPL's contract for e-rate services with Eastern Shore Communications is nearing its end. Through the contract that the Library of Virginia maintains with E-Rate Central, we currently have an active Request for Proposals open and bids are expected to arrive by the end of the month. The deadline for questions from potential vendors was 11/29/2023. We have requested pricing for 12, 36, and 60-month contracts.
- ⇒ The concrete base for the memorial bricks that will be placed beside the sidewalk at the Eastern Shore of Virginia Regional Library and Heritage Center has been poured. The ESPL Foundation has shared that they anticipate the bricks will be delivered on December 15th. Installation of the bricks will follow. Bricks are still available for purchase at the Foundation Office in the Regional Library.
- ⇒ There are a lot of programs and events going on at each of the libraries in December! Check out our calendar of events on espl.org or stop into libraries into Northampton Free Library or Eastern Shore of Virginia Regional Library & Heritage Center to pick up a print calendar!

AND ON TO 2024!