



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

September 2024



Upcoming October Highlights @ Regional Library & Northampton Free

- **1st: Teen Gaming* & Craft Night - ESRL**
- **8th: Native American Lecture & Craft for kids - ESRL**
- **10th: Adult Craft, autumn wreaths - NFL**
- **14th: LIBRARIES CLOSED**
- **16th: Memory Café - ESRL**
- **17th: STEM Night, leaf pressing - NFL**
- **17th: Teen Creative Writing - ESRL**
- **22nd: Dennis Custis Lecture "Henry Wise and Friends" - ESRL**
- **24th: Kids' Costume & Candy Parade - ESRL**
- **26th: Touch Tanks presented by VIMS - ESRL**
- **31st: Halloween Costume Prize - NFL**
- **Tech Help: Every Tuesday - Northampton Free**
- ***Teen Gaming Night: Every Tuesday - ESRL**
- **Storytime Anytime: Every Monday & Wednesday - Northampton Free**

For more information: espl.org; (757) 787-3400

Director's Update



Christopher Pote,
System Director

Library card sign-up month in September was a huge success. Many people signed up for new accounts, and we are thrilled that they are now able to enjoy all of the services we provide free of charge: video games, movies, book, ebooks, and so much more. We are also thrilled that four individuals with new accounts won gift cards. The libraries of the Eastern Shore strive to provide services our citizenry needs. If you have ideas or suggestions for services or programs you would like added to our lineup, please feel free to email your thoughts and ideas to: espl@espl.org.

New Director Support

Taking a new role within an organization comes with a learning curve. As interim system director, my major concern was the short-term, day-to-day operations of the library: Did we open on time? Has everyone gotten paid? Are we prepared for today's program? Once I was appointed permanent system director, my focus changed entirely. Now I am much more concerned about the big picture and long-term planning: annual budgets, state aid, health insurance, staffing, and compliance. It is with this purview, that I am most grateful for the support system around me. First, the staff. Our amazing crew of people know how to do their jobs well, to go above what is required so that what is needed is accomplished, and they are lifted up and empowered to manage the day-to-day operations. I couldn't do it without them, and I hope to put them all in a position to be able to perform at their best.

Outside of the buildings, the support has also been tremendous. Every constituent I meet has been overtly supportive. And the Library of Virginia, our compliance agent, has a whole team of staff to support public library directors. There are also director-led groups such as the Virginia Public Library Directors Association and, locally, the Tidewater Area Library Directors Conference. I've been attending as many meetings, webinars, and workshops as time will allow.

Lastly, of course, are the Board of Trustees, the ESPL Foundation, and the ESPL Friends, who support me daily. I am so grateful to have such a cadre of great-minded people on which to lean.



Heritage Center Archivist Position Open

The Eastern Shore of Virginia Heritage Center is seeking an experienced, detail-oriented, dynamic, and tech-savvy leader, with proven processing skills, for the position of Archivist. Reporting directly to the System Director, the Archivist is responsible for managing all arrangement and description procedures and policies as well as donor relations. The Archivist will work collaboratively with other Heritage Center staff in planning and implementing programming, exhibits, and outreach initiatives.

Serving both Accomack and Northampton Counties, the Heritage Center is comprised of the Eastern Shore Room for local history research, a modern archives facility with dedicated processing space, Memory Lab, gallery space, and a lecture hall.

We are seeking candidates with strong processing and planning skills, demonstrated ability to communicate effectively with donors and patrons, as well as experience with and working knowledge of collection management systems. The ability to conduct outreach and work some nights and weekends required. Master's Degree in Archives Management, Library Science, Museum Studies, Public History, or U.S History required, and at least three years of professional archives experience; knowledge of U.S. and Virginia history, especially that of Accomack and Northampton Counties, preferred.

Interested individuals can send a cover letter, resume, and three references to espl@espl.org.



EASTERN SHORE OF VIRGINIA

Heritage Center

esplheritage.org

Jazmine Collins, Reference Manager & Local History



The Heritage Center hosted the Braver Lens Heritage and Legacy Storytelling and Photography Exhibit on September 18th. Braver Angels is a volunteer led group that seeks to lessen polarity, strengthen civic engagement, and open discourse across red and blue lines in the American political atmosphere at the local community level. Participants in the Braver Angel's project used photographs based on prompted themes as a platform to discuss personal perspectives and explore commonality. Jazmine Collins shared her experiences with Braver Angels and facilitated much of the conversation. The Braver Lens Heritage and Legacy Storytelling and Photography Exhibit is currently on display in the library.

September was a month of transition for the Heritage Center. The Heritage Center Advisory Committee, group of local historians and individuals integral in the Center's creation charged with advising Heritage Center staff, met on September 13th and discussed updated job positions of the Reference Manager and Archivist.

Jazmine Collins was officially installed in her new role as Reference Manager & Local History. She is responsible for assisting patrons of the Eastern Shore Room and Barnes Archives with their research needs. She is also leading reference services for the library at large. The Archivist position opening has been posted and resumes are being gathered. The search committee meets soon to go over candidates and schedule initial interviews. We are excited to fill this position as this work has not been performed since Christopher Pote began serving as System Director.

Programming announcement: Please join us on Tuesday, October 22nd @ 6PM to hear Dennis Custis lecturing on "Henry Wise and Friends". Open and free to all!



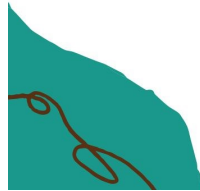


Technical Services

Charle Ricci, Collection Management and Acquisitions Librarian



Presented by the Friends of the Eastern Shore Public Library through the Better World Books Early Literacy Grant



Earlier this year, the Friends of the Eastern Shore Public Library (ESPL) applied for, and were awarded, a \$3,000 Early Literacy Grant from Better World Books. The ESPL Friends and Better World Books (BWB) have long enjoyed a mutually beneficial partnership through which the Friends ship donated and withdrawn books from the library to BWB and then receive a commission for items sold by BWB.

In addition to the support provided to non-profits through sales commissions, Better World Books offers annual literacy grants, with a focus this year of “supporting early reader projects that make a significant impact on young minds and contributing to building a foundation for a lifelong love of reading”.

The ESPL Friends’ grant application aligned perfectly with the parameters of the grant and centered on a plan to provide books for the library’s collections, manipulatives for play and learning during library programs, and books for giveaways, all for children ages 0 – 5. Additionally, the Friends specified that books purchased for the library and for giveaways were to be written in Spanish, Haitian Creole, or bilingual editions in Spanish, Haitian Creole, and English.

When the Friends received notice that ESPL had been selected to receive the Early Literacy Grant, library staff began preparations right away to select books that would build stronger library collections for local families whose first language is not English, and to plan interactive and educational programs for babies, toddlers, and preschoolers.

While Outreach and Programming Librarian Flores focused on the items related to programs and giveaways, Acquisitions Librarian Charle Ricci selected and ordered over 100 books for the youngest library patrons in Spanish, Haitian Creole, and bilingual language editions.

The books have now arrived and are receiving bookplates, covers, labels, and barcodes in our Technical Services department. Next, they will be cataloged and then placed on the shelves in the Spanish, Bilingual, and Haitian Creole collections in the children’s area.

It’s always wonderful to see new books arrive and be processed for circulation, but this batch of titles is even more special than usual due to the source of funding used to purchase them: a dedicated group of Friends who are committed to building literacy and learning among all members of the Eastern Shore community.



Programs & Outreach Report

Tiffany Flores, Programs and Outreach Librarian



The Regional Library celebrated its first year on September 7th by setting out free books, cupcakes, and goodies for patrons. Over 100 patrons celebrated with us. As part of our Pre-K programming, we are regularly hosting storytimes. So far this has seen success. Additionally, the Pre-K STEM Play had a great start to this new program. Teen programming is also going well. With a new school year in full swing, the Teen Room has seen new teens join in on programming. Game nights and Teen Creative Writing are doing well with regular participants and new attendees weekly. Adult programming was also widely successful this month. The Pinball movie night had better attendance than any movie night, so far. The Hobbit Door Wreath was huge! The craft reservation filled up and the event was packed with individuals making wreaths. Additionally, the monthly Crochet Stitch-a-Long has moved to Tuesday night. The consensus was this was more accessible for patrons. The library hosted a Percy Jackson Party in celebration of the release of the new book *Percy Jackson and the Wrath of the Triple Goddess*. Among this program's many participants included one very excited 10-year-old boy who spent hours participating in the activities, eating snacks, and discussing all his favorite parts about the series.

The Regional Library attended the Veterans Hike and promoted VetNow and additional resources. This event reached 100 individuals. Additionally, the library hosted the Nurse-Family Partnership's yearly graduation on September 24th. This event is to celebrate the 2-year-olds who finished the program and provide families with resources and supplies including diapers and clothes. Every year the library has supported the event by attending as a vendor. But this year the library was very happy to host it, and we provided library tours to the families in attendance. This program easily had more than 75 individuals who got to see what the library has to offer. In preparation for the Memory Café launching in October, Tiffany Flores attended the Fearless Caregiver Conference to promote the café and library resources. Many people stopped by the table and were very excited about the program coming to the library.

During the Summer, the Friends of the Library applied and received a grant from Better World Books which aimed to support early literacy in ages 0-5. For programming, this means purchasing literacy toys that encourage play and learning. One of Tiffany's main focuses for the year is to invite more opportunities for learning through play. This will provide a good start to supporting this goal. These will be used predominately during storytimes but their portable nature means we can transport them to Pre-K classes and support Pre-k groups that visit the library. The manipulatives were used on September 27th for a class of pre-k students. The children had fun learning through play. They made animal sounds and identified colors, shapes, and numbers. The teachers were very impressed with the items and even asked how to obtain some for their classes!





Northampton Free Library

Connor Buyrn, Branch Manager



Northampton Free Library had 17 new library cards for the month of September. More than 30 new library card requests were made online and processed for their respective branches, two being non-resident guests from other parts of Virginia that were specifically interested in accessing the systems eResources. September programming attendance was low compared to other months, but the age range of adult program participants has broadened. The name plate bookmark program on September 26th required little preparation and participants were happy to make more than one bookmark with the supplies on hand. Many patrons were eager to see October's program calendar.



- Guest author Jazmine Collins



Cape Charles Memorial Library

Sharon Silvey, Library Manager



During the month of September, the American Library Association celebrates Library Card Sign-Up Month. According to their website, *The campaign started in 1987 as a response to then Secretary of Education William Bennett, who stated, "Let's have a campaign ... Every child should obtain a library card and use it."* This year, Cape Charles Memorial Library offered those who signed up for a library card to enter a raffle to win either a bundle of children's books, a \$25 Cape Charles gift card, or a \$25 K-Coast gift card. As we love all our visitors, patrons could also enter the raffle by checking out a book or attending a library program. The drawing is scheduled for October 1, 2024. Good luck to the over 115 entrants!

CCML is excited to announce that we are one of 300 libraries across the country to receive a Thinking Money for Kids grant through the American Library Association and the FINRA Investor Foundation. Library Manager, Sharon Silvey, is currently attending training webinars and is excited to launch programs this fall. Programming will focus on financial education for children.

In late summer, CCML staff created an interest survey for a Dungeons & Dragons group. We had so much interest, two groups were formed – one for teens (ages 12 – 17) and one for adults (18+)! Library staff researched and worked tirelessly for the "Session Zero Kick Off Event" held in late September. If you were not able to make this event, there is still time to register. Teens will meet on the first Wednesday of each month and Adults will meet on the third Wednesday of each month. Meetings for each group are from 5:15 pm until 8:15 pm.

Next month looks fun with the start of STEM Club, which will meet October 9 and October 24 at 10:30 a.m. This program will be geared towards children ages 5 and older. For our very first program, *Sound Science*, participants will explore how the air around us allows sound to pass through to our ears.

CCML will also be hosting our first ever Fall mini-Fest! This event will be held on Wednesday, October 30 from 10:30 a.m. until 1 p.m. We will have local community partners, games, and snacks. Programs at Cape Charles Memorial Library are always FREE and always OPEN to all.

CAPE CHARLES MEMORIAL LIBRARY PRESENTS... **DUNGEONS AND DRAGONS**

Join in on adventures led by staff and volunteers from *Tales From the Yawning Portal* in one of our two groups:

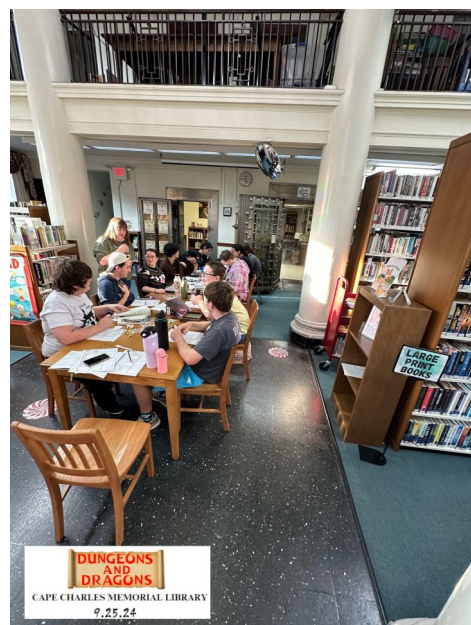
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| TEEN GROUP (Ages 12 – 17) | ADULT GROUP (Ages 18+) |
| • Meets 1st Wednesday of every month, starting October 2024 | • Meets 3rd Wednesday of every month, starting October 2024 |
| • Meetings run from 5:15 PM to 8:15 PM | • Meetings run from 5:15 PM to 8:15 PM |



Session Zero Kick Off Event
September 25, 2024
5:15 PM to 7:15 PM



Those interested in participating in one of our groups are invited to come, learn about the campaign, and make their character!





Chincoteague Island Library

Linda Ryan, for the Board of Directors



September is National Library Card Sign-up Month: To encourage residents and visitors to obtain library cards, we offered a free raffle ticket for each person who signed up. In addition, children were photographed with our “First Library Card” Sign which was posted on the library’s Facebook page. To date, 153 patrons have received new library cards. During the week of September 9 to September 13, 179 residents, visitors, and patrons availed themselves of our facility.



Tales 4 Tots: Fall into Reading” —our 2024 fall preschool story time-- began on Thursday, September 19 with a visit from Miss Ellen Richardson and the Accomack County School Bus she drives. Miss Ellen, who has driven the school bus for 48 years, explained the rules to the children and talked about school bus safety. Her visit was followed by songs, stories and crafts about school buses. Twenty-five children and nineteen adults attended.



The following week, library board member and volunteer, Bryce VanStavern, read airplane stories, showed the children a model airplane, how to fly a paper plane, and donned the appropriate gear to fly in an open plane. The children then painted their own model wooden airplane.

Upcoming events for this program include a visit to the Chincoteague Firehouse and visits from our very own mail carrier and police officers.



Chincoteague Island Library

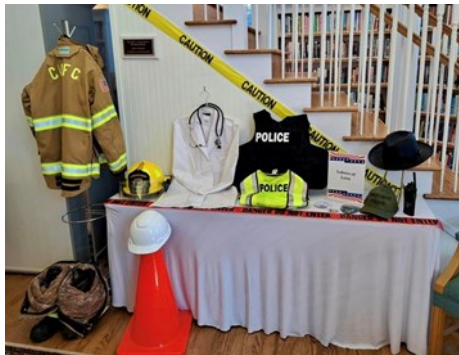
Linda Ryan, for the Board of Directors



Grant for Technology: Thanks to a generous grant from the Eastern Shore Public Library Foundation, our library has new computers and a new learning center for children. We are in the process of getting the computers up and running; and the learning center is being well used by our younger patrons.



Window and Book Displays: Staff and volunteers have been busy changing our window and book displays. This month the Chincoteague Police Department and the Chincoteague Volunteer Fire Company generously donated gear to help our honor the heroes of 9/11 with a “Labor of Love” display inside the library. The window display, “Out of This World,” has been enjoyed by visitors and passersby.



Building Maintenance: After the building was repainted this spring, we found that the Main Street windows need major repair. The library board is in the process of obtaining bids for the repair. Additionally, the board determined that, in the interest of safety and security for our staff and volunteers, cameras should be installed throughout the library. The cameras are being installed this week.

Fundraising: Our annual newsletter and appeal is in the process of being completed. It should be in the mail sometime in October. The annual basket raffle drawing will be held on October 14. As a non-profit library dependent upon private donations, these happenings as well as our annual sunset cruise are our main source of funds for the year.

We are all—part-time staff, volunteers, and board members, looking forward to a busy fall and winter, If we are able to accomplish all we do with a minimum of staffing (only 23 hours per week), imagine what we could accomplish if we had paid staffing for all of the hours the library is open to the public.