



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

October 2024



Upcoming November Highlights @ Regional Library & Northampton Free

- **5th: LIBRARIES CLOSED**
- **7th: Make Your Own Dinosaur Fossils - NFL**
- **9th: Rodney's Raptors Live Bird Demo - ESRL**
- **11th: LIBRARIES CLOSED**
- **13th: Kids Game Day - ESRL**
- **14th: Author Talk w/ Nan Carlton - ESRL**
- **14th: Teen Creative Writing - ESRL**
- **14th Adult Craft Night - NFL**
- **20th: Memory Café - ESRL**
- **26th: Make Your Own Dinosaur Fossils - ESRL**
- **27th: Hot Apple Cider Bar - NFL**
- **28th: LIBRARIES CLOSED**
- **29th: LIBRARIES CLOSED**
- **Tech Help: Every Tuesday - NFL**
- **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

Each month, ESPL strives to provide as much programming and resources to the communities of the Shore as staffing will allow. This will be evident to our readers over the next several pages. From story time for tots to interactive activities with animals for children to Teen Gaming Night to historical lectures to holiday celebrations, the four libraries of the system cater to all. And that's not to mention all of our free lending services (books, ebooks, movies, video games, etc.) and database access. We have something for everyone, and that includes you!



EASTERN SHORE OF VIRGINIA

Heritage Center

esplheritage.org

Jazmine Collins, Reference Manager & Local History

Identifying priorities and projects—that has been the theme of October. In September, the Heritage Center and the library as whole were adjusting to personnel changes, and October has been spent settling in and identifying and developing plans for changes and updates to the Heritage Center website and social media pages as well as the facility and Eastern Shore Room. Staff created a calendar for promoting the Heritage Center’s digital collections and online resources, as well as physical displays.

Dr. Miles Barnes updated the Historical Index Finding Aid, and the new version has replaced the previous version on our website. The Historical Index contains regarding popular topics and source information, mostly from our local newspapers. The previous version on our website, when selected, downloaded as an excel file. The updated version will display as a PDF document and is still searchable by keyword. Thanks to the help of our volunteer Theresa Petroni, we have updated our inventory of all the Heritage Center microfilm both in the microfilm case for public access as well as duplicate copies and uncatalogued items. Shelf arrangement in the Eastern Shore Room is being updated to better fit all items on the shelves and to utilize peripheral shelves for display.

Heritage Center staff attended the Virginia Library Association 2024 Conference in Norfolk this month. Part of the Conference included tours of the Ohef Sholom Jewish Temple Library and Archives as well as Slover Library. Staff joined the Family and Local History Forum which is comprised of library professionals from organizations that contain more specialized collections such as the Library of Virginia, The Jones Memorial Library, and the Virginia Museum of History and Culture. The forum will work collectively on goals throughout the year, such as compiling a toolkit of resources about collections development and language standards to assist special collections libraries and library staff who assist with genealogical research. Another goal is to create more conference sessions that address relevant topics in family and local history for next year’s conference and to attract more library professionals that work in special collections libraries or hybrid spaces such as the Heritage Center.

One of the conference sessions led by the Director of the Jones Memorial Library, a specialized genealogy and history research library in Lynchburg, along with a board member from Randolph College, detailed a two-year long project of transcribing a pre-Civil War business ledger from a local trader that had been in the collection for more than 20 years. In partnership with Randolph College and a student intern as well as grants from various organizations, and partnerships, the ledger was transcribed and made available through the library’s page and a digital platform. The highlight of this session was the use of a new AI software, called Claude AI, which can transcribe digital images of handwritten notes. AI and OCR software applications have proven instrumental in assisting with access to research sources but have been largely limited to transcribing or scanning documents already in some form of typeface, such as newspapers, however, the speakers raved about how quickly Claude AI was able to transcribe images of the ledger and how accurate the transcription was. Heritage Center staff hopes to further research how this software, and other AI applications, could prove useful in making our collections more accessible.

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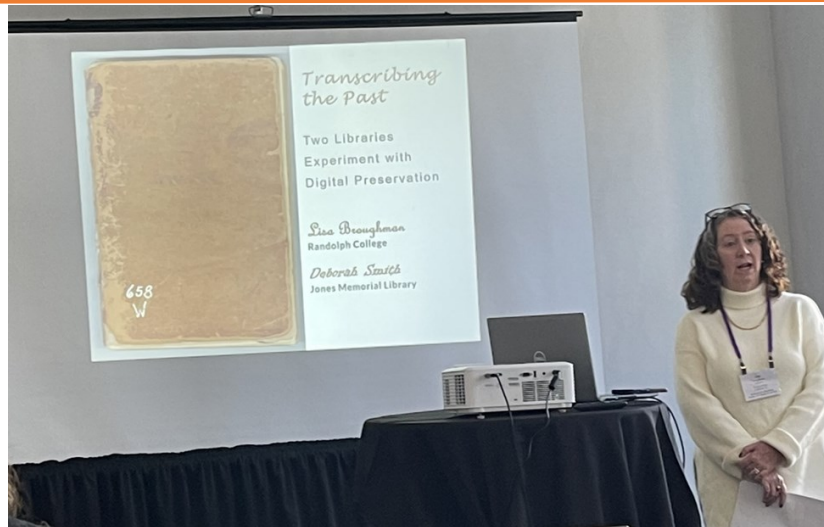


EASTERN SHORE OF VIRGINIA

Heritage Center

esplheritage.org

Jazmine Collins, Reference Manager & Local History



On October 22, Dennis Custis, gave a lecture at the Heritage Center entitled, "Henry Wise and Friends." Nearly 40 attendees listened to Custis detail the many interactions, both personal and political, that Wise had on the stage of Virginia politics and society in the nineteenth century, which emphasized how involved and important the Eastern Shore has been in our state and nation's development. The lecture continued past the standard hour and yet Custis promised more to tell. The Heritage Center hopes to schedule Custis for part two to this lecture.



No lecture is scheduled for November, however the Heritage Center staff will be creating a display and working on a Research Guide of local Native American History Resources in our collection. The second round of interviews for the archivist position will be conducted this month and a selection should be made by December.



Finding Just the Right Book using Genre and NoveList



As the weather turns colder and the evenings grow longer, there's nothing better than settling in with a good story. But sometimes even the most avid readers can be at a loss when trying to decide what to read next. Fictional genres can be helpful when looking for your next great read. If you know which genres you enjoy most, finding books that are similar to those you've enjoyed in the past makes the search much easier.

Fiction is typically divided into five main genres: fantasy; historical fiction; contemporary fiction; mystery; and science fiction.

Taking a deeper dive into fictional sub-genres, you'll also find: romance; dystopian; action & adventure; horror; thriller & suspense; women's fiction; literary fiction; graphic novels; and short stories.

Writer's Digest, a well-respected guide for aspiring authors, lists 114 sub-genres at <https://www.writersdigest.com/writing-articles/genredefinitions>. The library's acquisitions staff is very familiar with fiction types and trends, and found some of the sub-genres on this list to be very interesting. Here are a few that they didn't realize had become a sub-genre of their own:

- Inverted (a story in which the reader knows "whodunit" but the suspense arises from watching the detective figure it out)
- Glitz/Glamour (focused on the jet-set elite and celebrity-like characters)
- Magical Realism (inspired by Latin-American authors in which extraordinary forces or creatures pop into otherwise normal, real-life settings)

The library offers an excellent tool for exploring genres – or even combining them into a super-personalized search for your next book: NoveList Plus, found on the "Read, Watch, Listen" page of the library's website, <https://espl.org/read-watch-listen/>. To reach the NoveList Plus site that is linked to our local library collection, simply enter "Eastern Shore Public Library" in the search bar.

Once you've arrived at the NoveList homepage, select the "Browse By" tab on the main menu bar and then click on Genre. On the Genre page, you'll notice that you can search by categories such as Crime & Suspense, Romance, or African American Literature. There is also an option to browse the newest fiction across genres, which is ideal if you're looking for something outside of your normal reading preferences.

The "Browse By" menu also features titles organized by Appeal, with categories such as *Thoughtful and Intricately Plotted* or *Menacing and Suspenseful*. In addition, from the "Browse By" menu, NoveList links to a page of over forty lists of Award Winners to peruse. The NoveList home page also offers excellent lists of Recommended Reads. Plus, all the search possibilities covered here can be filtered based on age: Adult, Teen, Ages 9-12, and Ages 0-8. Give NoveList a try and find out which genre, appeal, or recommended title will be a perfect fit for you!



Programs & Outreach Report

Tiffany Flores, Programs and Outreach Librarian

October's Storytime and Literacy Play had 10 good attendance. During this program patrons hear a story and are then able to participate in guided play. In addition to the Storytime success, Pre-K STEM play has also been successful. This program has grown in popularity over the past month. Then, as part of the Halloween festivities, the Regional Library hosted its Annual Candy Parade on October 24th. Library staff and the Friends of the Library passed out Halloween candy as patrons trick-or-treated throughout the building. Finally, on October 26th Meadow Noonan with the Virginia Institute of Marine Science brought a touch tank to the library! This was extremely popular with the attendees. For adult programming, the library collaborated with The Martha W. Goodson Center to bring the Memory Café to the Eastern Shore of Virginia. After about a year of work, the Inaugural Memory Café event was held on October 16th and was hugely successful. This program will be held every 3rd Wednesday of the month. Additionally, Dennis Custis's lecture 'Henry Wise and Friends' was enjoyed by all, and a second lecture is being planned.



With school back in session, there were plenty of outreach events to go to. The Regional Library attended the Party in the Park held in Sawmill Park. This had an average of 300 attendees who learned about community resources including the library. Additionally, the library attended Accawmacke Elementary School's yearly Otterfest. This year, the library was able to reach about 120 people and distribute books and goodies to kids. The Regional Library also participated in the yearly Latino Fest. While typically held in the Summer, this year it was later due to when the Guatemalan embassy could come and assist the community. This was a huge success with about 300 attendees. Like every year, this is one of the best opportunities for the library to reach into the Latino community. Additionally, Tiffany Flores attended ESCC's Career Day where 3 schools worth of 10th graders visited the college to learn about potential career opportunities. This was a fun way to talk to students about what libraries do and discuss career pathways. As part of the library's Halloween plans, the library attends one community-run Halloween event as they tend to be on the same day. This year the Regional Library attended the Boys and Girls Club's 1st Trunk-o-Treat event at the Mary N. Smith Cultural Center. The library gave out candy, toys, and books to about 100 children. Finally, the day after Trunk-o-Treat, the library returned to Mary N. Smith for the Boys and Girls Club STEAM Community Event. This event brought a variety of organizations together to celebrate STEAM education in the community. The library attended and brought Pre-K STEM toys for children to play with and promoted library STEM programming to the estimated 100 attendees.

Northampton Free Library

Connor Buyrn, Branch Manager



Northampton Free Library jumped into fall with a series of seasonally themed public programs. On October 10th, the library hosted an adult craft night – staff and patrons met to build personalized autumn wreaths. A week later, younger patrons were invited in to learn how to make leaf rubbings and preserve foliage using leaf presses in the library’s monthly STEM program for kids. Northampton Free Library also hosted a children’s evening story-time on the 24th. Finally on Halloween, kids who visited the library in costume were entered into a raffle for a festive gift basket. All of October’s scheduled programs were well-attended.



Next month will see a mix of cozy autumn crafts and paleontological Dino-vember fun. November’s first schedule program will be the children’s STEM craft on Thursday, November 7th at 6:00 PM. Kids will learn how to make fossil casts using plaster of Paris and participate in a dig for real fossils to take home. Library staff will also be hiding grow-your-own dinosaur eggs around the library every day during the month of November. On Thursday, November 14th at 6:00 PM, Northampton Free Library will host a wine cork pumpkin craft. This program is open to adults and registration in advance is required – follow the Northampton Free Library Facebook page or ask at the front desk for more information. The library will hosted another evening story-time for kids on Thursday, November 21st at 4:30 PM. Finally, the library’s second annual hot apple cider bar will be offered all day long on Wednesday, November 27th. In addition to cider and snacks, patrons will be able to put together their own bag of cider mulling spices to take home. Tech Help Tuesdays will also continue through the month of November. If you need help with a personal device, just ask at the front desk. As always, all Northampton Free Library public programs are free.

Northampton Free Library will be closed on Tuesday, November 5th, Monday, November 11th, and Thursday and Friday November the 28th and 29th. Happy Thanksgiving!



Cape Charles Memorial Library

Sharon Silvey, Library Manager



Cape Charles Memorial Library would like to give a big thank you to the ESPL Foundation for funding the new study carrels in our computer lab! The new pieces allow patrons more personal space and privacy, as well as giving us more open space in the lab. We are appreciative of the Foundation and so happy to have some fresh updates to our building.

Staff enjoyed hosting programs this month which included weekly story time, two sessions of Dungeons & Dragons and an owl prowl. Our twice-monthly STEM Club was a hit, with attendees learning about sound. We invited a local musician who demonstrated the effects of sound with a guitar and a water xylophone which exemplified how the vibration of molecules in the air generate sound (pew!) Next month will be STEM Club: Spy School. Rookie spies will learn about secret codes and hidden messages. This program will also teach cryptography and some simple math and chemistry. Program is appropriate for ages 5 and up.

CCML hosted two author events in October. Author Bill Morris visited the library to discuss his new book, *The Lions Finally Roar: The Ford Family, The Detroit Lions, and The Road to Redemption in the NFL*. Mr. Morris, who is an energetic speaker, engaged the audience with tales of the early 1900's, stories of his father's connection to the Ford family and how they all connect to the Detroit Lions. Local author Nan Carlton also spoke this month about the trials and tribulations of being a new author. Ms. Carlton shared some of her personal experiences and provided practical advice for aspiring writers.

We ended October by hosting a Fall Mini-Festival with some of our local community partners including Virginia Institute for Marine Science (VIMS), Kiptopeke State Park, Eastern Shore Soil & Water Conservation District, American Water, National Wildlife Refuge, the Preserve Ranger from Baycreek, Friends of CCML, Eastern Shore Popcorn, Northampton YMCA, Cape Charles Police, the CC volunteer Fire Company, Shockley Farms and Quail Cove Farms.





Chincoteague Island Library

Linda Ryan, for the Board of Directors



Lions, and tigers, and Bears, Oh My! The month of October on Chincoteague revolves around all things about autumn and Halloween. Our library staff, board members, and volunteers have been busy providing a welcome place for the community...window and interior decorations, children's story times, book clubs, and community puzzles.



Tales 4 Tots Storytime: Fall leaves, monsters, a field trip to the Chincoteague Volunteer Fire Company, a visit from the Chincoteague Police Department, and Halloween were the activities for October. Over twenty children participated each week.



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Chincoteague Island Library

Linda Ryan, for the Board of Directors



Special Events: As members of the Historic Downtown Merchants' Association, we participate in the following events: Death By Chocolate in February, Search for the Shamrock in March, Halloween Trick or Treating on Main Street in October, and the Annual Tree Lighting which takes place in December in the park adjacent to the library. Pictured below are staff and volunteers getting ready to hand out candy and books to the children on Halloween.



Maintenance: The front library windows need significant repair, and we have hired a local contractor to complete the work. Additionally, we are replacing the carpet in the front room with LVP flooring. A wall has been built between the stairs and one of the sides of the talk box. Not only does this look better but it also provides some much-needed storage. We recently installed a new security system. Cameras provide a visual display to enable staff and volunteers to view all the rooms in the library.

Fundraising: The annual newsletter/appeal, The Chincoteague Library Review, is in the mail. This is our main source of funds during the year.

Two winners were selected at the basket raffle drawing on October 14—one for the adult basket and one for the children's basket. We will hold this successful fundraiser again next year beginning on Valentine's Day weekend and running through Columbus Day Weekend.

Planning has begun for many late fall and winter programs and events including an informative health and wellness talk for adults and a holiday sing-a-long for our Tales 4 Tots children.