



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 2025



Upcoming May Highlights Eastern Shore Public Library System

- 2nd: *Star Wars* Marathon - ESRL
- 13th: Teen Gaming and Craft Night - ESRL
- 15th: Marble Maze - ESRL
- 15th: Adult Craft, Flower Bookmarks - NFL
- 19th: Creature Catch, ID, & Release - CCML
- 22nd: Baby Safety Event - ESRL
- 22nd: Marble Maze - NFL
- 26th: Memorial Day - ALL LIBRARIES CLOSED
- 29th: Family Movie Night *Elemental* - ESRL
- Tech Help: Every Wednesday - NFL*
- *Note the New Day this Month
- Ancestry Help: Every Wednesday - ESRL
- Heritage Center Reference Assistance:
 Every Thursday - NFL
- Storytime Anytime: Every Monday &
 Wednesday - Northampton Free

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

CIL = Chincoteague Island Library

CCML = Cape Charles Memorial Library

ESRL = ESVA Regional Library & Heritage Center

NFL = Northampton Free Library

Director's Update



Christopher Pote,
System Director

The last week of April was national Volunteer Week. Volunteers play an integral part in the success of most public libraries. In recognition of this, all regular Eastern Shore Regional Library volunteers received a small gift bag of appreciation from us. The largest cadre of volunteers is the Friends of the Eastern Shore Public Library. Everyday they help with book preparation, shelving, weeding, and donations, as well as running their book store. They give freely of their time to benefit ESRL and the communities of the Shore. For this we are grateful: thank you Friends, and all volunteers, for all you do.



EASTERN SHORE OF VIRGINIA

Heritage Center

esplheritage.org

Jazmine Collins, Reference Manager & Local History

At the end of March the Heritage Center received a large donation containing the genealogy research of Clarence Doughty. Doughty was the editor, compiler, and publisher of the genealogy magazine the Doughty Tree, which ran from 1977 to 2003 for a total of twenty-seven volumes. As the name suggests, the magazine was focused on publishing genealogical information about the Doughty family and its associated branches. This included information about people who did not live on the Eastern Shore of Virginia but could trace their ancestry back to one of the Shore's prominent families. Crucially, however, Doughty also traced the branches of the family that remained on the Shore and those that married into the family and the daughters who married into other families.

Ninety-one binders of Doughty's research were given to the Heritage Center by Doughty's son. Most of these binders contain genealogy sheets with information that Doughty and his volunteers sourced from members of the family throughout the country. Other binders contain secondary and primary sources Doughty used in his research. One of these sources is several volumes of family Bible transcriptions done by Eastern Shore genealogist Jean Mihalyka. She transcribed and scanned dozens of Bibles of Eastern Shore families which were published across twenty-three volumes. A full set of these invaluable records is in the Eastern Shore Room, but the Heritage Center did not have additional copies of these records in the archives until now.

In April, Heritage Center welcomed Jim Spione, a well-known producer that has created several documentaries on Eastern Shore history and culture, and his film crew to assist in research for the upcoming documentary on Native American history on the Eastern Shore. Jazmine was filmed presenting and discussing some photos from the Frances Bibbins Latimer Collection of the Francis family that Latimer documented in her book *The Journey of a Multi-Racial Family*. Staff explained the Francis' family and other African American families' genealogical connections to the Native Americans that resided at Indiantown in Eastville as well as the dissolution of the reservation.



Heritage Center staff spent a significant amount of time in April working on a new display for the gallery wall which will feature about 30 maps. A third of the maps were already framed and the rest were printed from digital files and framed for display. The framed items from the Mariner Collection were taken down in the last week of April and the map display will be exhibited in the first week of May. The Heritage Center rack card was finalized and ordered in time for our outreach season, which begins with an exhibit at Peninsula Tractor Association event in Nassawadox on May 3rd. Heritage Center staff also created an interactive map activity for the upcoming History Day at Kiptopeke State Park on May 10th. The Archaeology Pop-Up event with archaeologist Mike Clem, of the Department of Historic Resources, that was scheduled for May 27th has been postponed.



Technical Services

Charle Ricci, Collection Management and Acquisitions Librarian



The Eastern Shore Public Library has begun the planning phase for an exciting new collection, the Library of Things. A Library of Things is a community resource containing non-traditional library items such as tools, kitchen equipment, outdoor gear, and musical instruments.

Each item in the Library of Things is available for library patrons to borrow and makes it possible to explore a new hobby, or use a piece of equipment or a tool that one might need only occasionally, without making a purchase.

A Library of Things promotes sharing within a community, reduces waste, and provides access to items that might otherwise be unaffordable.



In preparation for this new project, members of the library's cataloging staff attended a three session Object Cataloging Workshop during the month of April to learn about the process of creating library catalog records for non-traditional items. The workshop instructor walked the class through each of the fields in a catalog record and shared examples of how the field could be constructed to better reflect a given object, rather than a print book.

Using authoritative references from the Library of Congress and other respected cataloging organizations, ESPL catalogers learned how to accurately represent a wide variety of physical items so that they could be clearly described in our catalog, and also findable through basic keyword searches by library patrons.

As part of the class assignments, each participating library was asked to post a picture of an object they would be adding to their own Library of Things, and then create an example of a catalog record for that item. It was fascinating to see what other libraries were working on: a pasta maker, a camping cook set, and a Predicto Cat (a fortune telling toy cat), to name a few. The ESPL team successfully created a record for a Color Code Puzzle Game, which will be included in a circulating STEM kit for children.

Cataloging objects will definitely expand on the traditional practices used by our catalogers, but thanks to the knowledge and resources gained from this workshop, the ESPL is now better prepared to offer our community even more resources that they can use to share items sustainably, and to explore and learn new hobbies and skills.



Programs & Outreach Report

Tiffany Flores, Programs and Outreach Librarian

April Fools! For a little bit of silliness, the teens were permitted to hide 200 rubber ducks around the library, which could be found and redeemed for a prize. There was a lot of excitement about the ducks and many people participated and laughed. Saturday story times continue to perform well. This month we had about 20 attendees over four Story Times. Additionally, Teen Game Night has had higher reoccurring attendance. Each event is seeing an average of five to eight attendees each week. Finally, adult programming performed well. This month we teamed up with Karen Crumb to hold another Supply Swap like in the Fall. This event was attended by 20 patrons who were more than happy to give away their unwanted supplies. This was so popular that patrons suggested seasonal Supply Swaps. The Adult Crafternoon program was also successful with several attendees. Patrons were able to participate in a 'Choose Your Own Adventure' Crafternoon. It ended up being a really cozy and creative experience. Finally, this month's movie was *The Wild Robot* which was well attended.



Sometimes working with the public provides opportunities for fun. This month someone donated a surprising number of jellybeans so, the library hosted a jellybean count where patrons could guess the amount in the jar. At Parksley, we had 161 participants and the winner guessed 709 jellybeans. The jar had 723 jellybeans in it.

Preparations for this year's SummerFest are well underway. Performers and entertainment has been scheduled. The library has also purchased a variety of supplies and materials for all the activities planned and there's still more to be done. This year, the library plans to go BIG and really hype up the summer fun. Tiffany is super excited for all the activities planned for both SummerFest and the Summer Reading Program.

On April 26th, Connor Buyrn and Tiffany participated in the 2nd Annual Return to Our Roots Earth Day Celebration at Exmore Town Park. Despite the risk of rain, the sky stayed sunny and the people came in at a steady pace. About 100 people were engaged with the event. It also served as a great time to connect with local organizations and support each other. With the gusts of wind taking tents with it, many community partners jumped to help each other and save tents and resources. It served as a good example of community togetherness. As the months, the library is scheduled to participate in a variety of events. The Regional Library is already scheduled for multiple events in May.





Northampton Free Library

Connor Buyn, Branch Manager



April was a fun month at Northampton Free Library, with our usual slate of public programs as well as a few special offerings. The library's popular on-demand tech help program was re-scheduled from Tuesdays to Wednesdays and was offered weekly throughout the month. April's special evening story time and snack for kids was hosted on April 10th. On the following Thursday, adult patrons had their own fun at our monthly craft program—attendees took home mason jar lanterns decorated with real pressed flowers. Finally, on the 24th, Northampton Free Library was visited by Botley the robot for April's STEM program for kids. Patrons were able to set up an obstacle course for Botley to navigate using his sensors.



Library staff also hid an Easter egg in the children's section every day that kids could hunt for and bring back to the desk for a prize. All patrons were also invited to estimate the number of jelly beans in a jar, with a gift basket to be awarded to the closest guesser.

On-demand tech help at Northampton Free Library will continue to be offered all day long on every Wednesday through the month of May. On Thursday, May 6th, library staff will host our monthly children's story time and snack starting at 4:30 PM. No sign-up in advance is required. May's adult craft is scheduled for the next Thursday, May 15th and will start at 6:00 PM. This time we'll be crafting our own pressed flower bookmarks to take home. Feel free to find a book to take home at the same time! This program is free, but sign-up in advance will be required. Finally, we'll be offering a marble maze activity for kids on Thursday, May 22nd starting at 6:00 PM. Attendees will be able to build their own maze and pick out a marble to take home. No sign-up is required.

As always, Northampton Free Library's programs are free and open to the public. Keep an eye on the Northampton Free Library Facebook page or ask at the front desk for more information.

In nature news, our pair of barn swallows have returned for the nesting season.

Northampton Free Library will be closed on Monday, May 26th in observance of Memorial Day.



Cape Charles Memorial Library

Sharon Silvey, Library Manager



This year, April 6 through April 12 was designated as National Library Week. According to the American Library Association, "National Library Week is an annual celebration highlighting the valuable role libraries and library professionals play in transforming lives and strengthening our communities." As part of this celebration, the Cape Charles Memorial Library Board treated our library staff to a week full of sweets and lunches. We are very appreciative of our Board and all the volunteers who donate their time at the library – it certainly is a team effort, and we value their dedication.



Another celebration this month was Earth Day (every day!) Through a litter prevention and recycling grant from the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality, CCML was able to purchase everyday eco-conscious items to give-away and to educate our community on how easy it is to be Earth friendly. Some of the items in the giveaway bags included: stainless steel water bottles or mugs, bamboo toothbrushes, and silicone stretch lids. Several of the reusable items were silicone tea bags, washable bamboo cotton rounds, bamboo utensils and baggies (which can replace hundreds of single-use baggies!) The public engagement and awareness was impressive! Remember, as historian Howard

Zinn stated, "Small changes, when multiplied by millions of people, can transform the world."

It is always bittersweet when a staff member leaves. We wish the best to our library assistant, Olivia Palmer, as she heads out to spend time with her family.

Our regular programs this month consisted of S.T.E.M. Club, Story Time & Craft, Crochet and Knit Club, and the Eastern Shore of Virginia Master Gardeners at the Seed Library. These programs will continue into May, as well as our first Creature Catch and Release program of the season. Over the past two years, this program at the Cape Charles beach has become one of our most popular! We collaborate with the UVA Virginia Coast Reserve, whose scientists lead the programs. UVA VCR staff use a seine to catch creatures in the Chesapeake Bay. When the net is pulled to the beach, program participants get to learn first-hand (and sometimes gently touch!) about the creatures from scientists on staff.



Storytime
4.23.23
Cape Charles Memorial Library



Beach Seining (Netting)
July 27, 2023
Coastal Research Center &
Cape Charles Memorial Library



Chincoteague Island Library

Linda Ryan, for the Board of Directors



Our library was a very busy place this April as many of our part-time residents and visitors were back on the Island for Easter vacations and spring break.

Library board, staff, and volunteers mourned the loss of Gerry Ryan, who was a friend and supporter of our library as well as a member of the Eastern Shore Public Library System Board of Trustees. In his honor, the library closed early for his funeral on April 22.



Adult Programs: Our two book clubs continue to meet each month—one on Tuesday evening in which the participants all read the same book; and one on Thursday morning in which the participants choose a book to read on certain predetermined topics. The topic of the Thursday book club for April was "Mysteries."

Several new programs are being planned for the upcoming months. In June, we will begin a 6-week class led by Robin Carpenter on American Sign Language. Participants were asked to sign-up in advance. When posted on our library's Facebook page, the response was overwhelming so that we now have a stand-by list.

Our Writers' Workshop continues to be well attended. The next workshop is scheduled for Sunday, May 4.

Displays and Window Decorations revolved around Spring and Easter as well as Marguerite Henry's Birthday which was April 13.



Continued...



Chincoteague Island Library

Linda Ryan, for the Board of Directors



Scholarship Program: Once again, we are taking scholarship applications from Chincoteague seniors who plan to attend post high school education. The \$1,000 scholarship will be awarded during the high school's award ceremony.

Tales 4 Tots Storytime: This program continues to be very well attended. The themes for April story times were crabs (by the Chincoteague Bay Field Station), the cartoon character "Bluey", bunnies, and Earth Day. On April 17, twenty-seven children and their parents or guardians attended the program. Two of the arts and crafts were wooden Easter egg and bunny hangers to paint or color and earth day headbands to decorate and wear.



We are busy planning for our children's summer programs which include Young Explorers, Tales 4 Tots, Summer Reading, and special programs. Additionally we have scheduled another field trip to the Space Authority.