

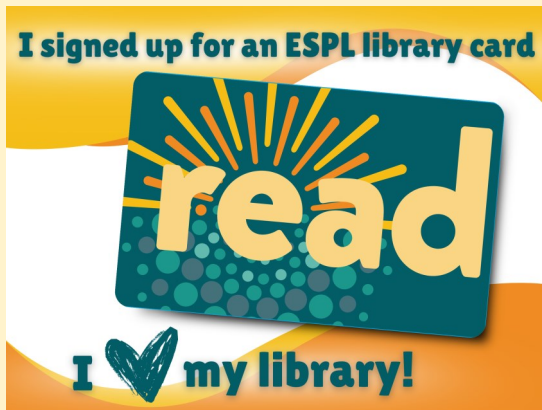


Library System Report

EASTERN SHORE OF VIRGINIA • PUBLIC LIBRARY SYSTEM

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

August 2024



September Highlights @ Regional Library & Northampton Free

- 7th: Regional Library 1st Birthday Party - ESRL
- 10th: Craft & Story Time w/ Chesapeake Bay Field Station - ESRL
- 12th: STEM Night, Leaf Pressing - ESRL
- 12th: Author Talk w/ Karen Downing - ESRL
- 18th: Braver Angels Workshop & Braver Lens Exhibit opening - ESRL
- 19th: Teen Creative Writing - ESRL
- 19th: Hobbit Door Wreath Adult Craft - ESRL
- 21st: Resume & Interview Workshop - ESRL
- 24th: Teen Gaming & Manga Book Club - ESRL
- 26th: Camp Halfblood Party (for the Percy Jackson & Olympians new release) - ESRL
- 26th: Name Plate Bookmarks Adult Craft - NFL
- Tech Help: Every Tuesday - Northampton Free
- Storytime Anytime: Every Monday & Wednesday - Northampton Free

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

Director's Update



Christopher Pote,
System Director

September is Library Card Sign-up Month! Your free library card entitles you access to all ESPL services including free movie rentals and streaming; books, audio books, and ebooks; video games; internet access; and so much more. All free! We are also giving away \$150 worth of gift cards for all new library cards issued this month. Both the Regional Library in Parksley and Northampton Free Library in Nasawadox will be giving away one \$25 gift card for kids and one \$50 gift card for adults each! All individuals signing up for a new library account are eligible to participate in the drawing.

Badger Family Gift to Heritage Center

This summer, the Heritage Center was honored to receive a most generous gift from Curtis, Lynn, and Tom Badger of Melfa. Donated in the form of Norfolk Southern stock, the monetary value of the gift is over \$53,000. The donation was made directly to the Eastern Shore Public Library Foundation to augment the Mariner-Barnes Archivist Endowment. The gift was made in the memory of prominent local historian and author, Kirk C. Mariner, and in honor of former librarian and local historian Brooks Miles Barnes.

Mariner and Barnes, for whom the endowment is named, are integral in the Heritage Center project. The Eastern Shore Room and the eponymous Barnes Archives are full of material collected by Miles and form the core collection of the Heritage Center. Mariner not only donated his personal papers to the Heritage Center, portions of his estate were the seed funding for the endowment. The endowment, once fully vested, will allow for the Heritage Center to employ a full-time, professional archivist to manage the Heritage Center in perpetuity and is vital to its success.

The Heritage Center is also home of the Curtis J. Badger Papers. A lifelong photographer, naturalist, and author, Badger has donated over hundreds of slides, negatives, photographs, and manuscript to date. Curtis and his family's support of the Heritage Center is an exemplar of the promise of the Heritage Center as we strive to build the repository of record for the Eastern Shore of Virginia. Thank you Badger family!



ESRL & HC Staff Transitions

The following staff transitions become effective September 1st:

Jazmine Collins is transferring to the Heritage Center full time as Reference Manager and Local History. As Reference Manager, Jazmine will be responsible for assisting all visitors to the Heritage Center and with library patron reference questions as well as advising and assisting on reference services. Her personal and professional experience in local history is vital to the position and will benefit researchers greatly. The Heritage Center is lucky to be adding someone as knowledgeable, enthusiastic, and competent as Jazmine to the Heritage Center as it begins to grow. Thank you to Jazmine for all you did for ESPL as Circulation Manager.

Jamie Johnson is being promoted to Circulation Manager. Admittedly hard shoes to fill, Jamie is filling the role and duties previously performed by Jazmine and will supervise all aspects of circulation services. Jamie's initiative and attention to detail as Administrative Assistant were very impressive, and her prior time as circulation staff and working closely with the director has prepared her well for this role. Jamie has the advantage of taking over a department with an outstanding staff, and we'll strive to maintain the excellent customer service the circulation team already provides. She is a great addition to the team as we aim to be even better.

Maria Burns will be taking on some administrative assistant responsibilities, in addition to her role in Circulation, to aid the director in this transitional time. Maria is a hard worker with a positive attitude and possesses many of the requisite skills for the position. She is not afraid to take on new challenges, and we hope to utilize her creative side more, as well.



EASTERN SHORE OF VIRGINIA

Heritage Center

esplheritage.org

Jazmine Collins, Reference Manager & Local History

The Heritage Center hosted the Eastern Shore Climate Equity Project Workshop on August 21st at 6PM. The Climate Equity Project, led by the University of Virginia and a local Community Advisory Committee is focused on developing strategies to improve the information about and response to climate change challenges in our rural coastal communities. The Workshops, which will now be held semi-annually, offer an opportunity for residents to identify concerns such as how ES communities or areas will be affected differently, what are the potential dangers for septic systems, and soil and water salinization, and what groups may be most affected. The project identifies and promotes the resources that are already available on the Shore and ways for continual participation. Two of the project's goals that are of significance to the Heritage Center has been to collect oral histories relating to local culture and the environment to be preserved as well as the creation of a "timeline" of Eastern Shore history relating to the environment and climate. Documents from the workshops will be added to the Heritage Center's archives.

On August 24th, Heritage Center staff helped organize and participated in the First Annual Samuel D. Outlaw Memorial Blacksmith Shop's Shoebox Lunch Festival fundraising event. Attendees enjoyed decorating their boxes before getting a traditional lunch catered by Black Water Soul Food and Sea Food enjoyed picnicking under the shade. Blacksmith Dale Morse, from Waynesboro, gave live demonstrations onsite, and community partners such as Shore History and The Nature Conservancy, as well as the Heritage Center, set up local history and culture exhibits. The United Order of Tents annual lodge records from 1976, from the Frances Bibbins Latimer Collection housed here in the Heritage Center, was extremely popular.



On September 18th, the Heritage Center will host a workshop and the unveiling for the Braver Lens Heritage and Legacy Photo and Storytelling Exhibit. Funded by the Braver Angels national organization, the project will show how participants shared photographs and personnel connections to them as an impetus to foster civil conversation among individuals with differing political views.



Learning with Librarians

Libraries serve as centers of learning for the whole community, and librarians themselves participate in this learning through professional development and continuing education throughout their careers. ESPL Collection Management Librarian, Charle Ricci, recently participated in two learning opportunities provided by the Library of Virginia (LVA) and the Virginia Partnership for Out-of-School Time (VPOST).

On August 15th, Ricci and System Director Christopher Pote traveled to Norfolk to attend a workshop organized by LVA, "Confidently Equipping your Library for Content Challenges". With the significant increase in book challenges across the nation in both school and public libraries, this workshop encouraged a proactive approach through concrete measures that can be carried out prior to a challenge.

After considering the principle of intellectual freedom as defined by the American Library Association's Code of Ethics and the Library Bill of Rights, workshop participants carefully analyzed their own library's Mission and Vision Statements, Collection Development Policies, and Processes for Reconsideration for challenged materials. Workshop attendees then collaboratively identified aspects of their library's policies and processes that were lacking or would benefit from revision.

During the second portion of the workshop, librarians participated in a valuable role play exercise where they enacted the parts of a library patron, a circulation staff member, a library director, or a general member of the public during a content challenge. This activity provided tremendous insight into the importance of communication, problem-solving abilities, de-escalation techniques, empathy, and body language when participating in high-stakes conversations.

On August 20th, Ricci traveled to Newport News to attend VPOST's Annual Conference, "Paving the Way: Connecting Out-of-School Time Locally and Across Virginia". In 2023, ESPL received a grant from VPOST to provide STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) learning activities, programs, and circulating materials for elementary-aged children.

Throughout the past year, library staff have attended monthly VPOST Community of Practice meetings, created programming and takeaway kits, and are now hard at work ordering, assembling, and preparing circulating STEM kits for all four Shore libraries. The Annual Conference served to wrap up the grant and to provide additional content to those working with children outside of school.

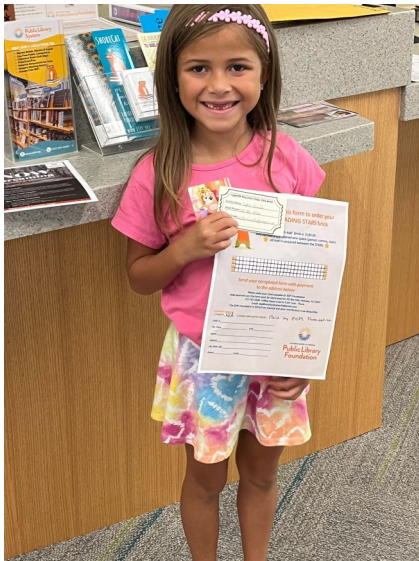
With sessions focusing on building connections between children, their families, and the organizations offering STEM learning, increasing family engagement, developing community partnerships, and the importance of play, VPOST brought together experts in the field of education with those who work directly with young people.

Both the LVA and VPOST assemblies made it possible for people in similar fields to gather, share their experiences (both positive and negative), and learn not only from experts, but also from each other. Meeting and collaborating with fellow librarians about collections, policies, and programming provided new ideas and insights that can be applied to the everyday work of the ESPL, which will result in increasing learning opportunities for library patrons.



Programs & Outreach Report

Tiffany Flores, Programs and Outreach Librarian



August programming brought in a lot of collaboration from outside organizations. The Nature Conservancy visited for a Nature Show and Tell. They brought various marsh life such as crabs, oysters, snails, and dragonfly larvae. The 6 participants enjoyed interacting with the creatures and discussing their role in the local ecosystem. One of the crabs even carried a cluster of eggs. Karen Crumb, who runs the Makers Collective at ESCC, and Jazmine Collins hosted a craft supply swap program at the library. This was hugely successful! The attendees expressed interest in more programming like this. August brought the end of the 2024 Adventure Begins at Your Library Summer Reading Program. The Regional Library celebrated the end with ice cream and Northampton Free Library celebrated with a Pizza Party. The winners for the final drawings were pulled. The Regional Library's winner was excited about having a Reading Star Brick outside the library.

Exciting things will be happening this Autumn. September will bring the return of regularly occurring story times on Saturday mornings which has been a need expressed by many community members. The pre-k STEM Play program will also begin in September. This program has been made possible due to a generous donation from the Friends of the Eastern Shore Public Library. Tiffany is excited to encourage STEM Literacy in ages 0-5 by encouraging sensory STEM play.

ESPL had a very successful outreach season totaling five different events with high attendance. The month began with the Be Well Block Party in Parksley which had roughly 300 participants. This kicked off the National Health Center Week events sponsored by Eastern Shore Rural Health. The library participated in two of the events and saw about 300 attendees. The library also participated in the ESAAA/CAA Community Outreach Health Fair and the Samuel D. Outlaw Blacksmith event which saw about 100 attendees each.





Northampton Free Library

Connor Buyn, Branch Manager



Northampton Free Library finished off the summer strong with a diverse set of fun public programming. On the first day of the month, the library hosted a make-your-own banana cream pie program. Patrons were able to learn how to make a cool, sweet treat to beat the heat for free. On the following Thursday, library staff offered a special evening story time and snack to our younger patrons. The highlight of August's programming was the Summer Reading pizza party on the 15th. Eight kids and three parents joined library staff for a pizza dinner and a raffle for the program's final grand prize. This month's final program was the embroidered bookmark adult craft hour held on the 29th. As a thank you to library patrons who have joined us for so many fun programs over the last month, Northampton Free Library will draw a winner from among the month's program attendees in the first week of September for a special back-to-school gift basket.



September will see more public programs for all ages. Tech Help will continue on every Tuesday throughout the month. Just ask any time at the front desk for help with your personal device or with a library computer. Northampton Free Library will host a children's STEM night on Thursday, September 5th at 6:00 PM – join us to learn how to build a working water or wind mill out of K'NEX blocks! On the following Thursday, September 12th, library staff will offer a special after-school story time and snack at 4:30 PM. Finally, September's adult craft will be held on Thursday the 26th at 6:00 PM. Attendees will learn how to make their own name plate bookmarks. Space is limited for this program and registration in advance will be required. Ask at the front desk or watch our Facebook page for more information. As always, Northampton Free Library's public programs are offered free of charge.

There was more exciting news outside the library building in August. A brood of monarch caterpillars have been chowing down on the milkweed plants in Northampton Free Library's pollinator garden, maintained by the Eastern Shore Master Gardeners. The Friends of Northampton Free Library have also generously provided a hummingbird feeder, located in the pollinator garden, and a songbird feeder visible from the coloring table in the children's section of the library. Both feeders have already been popular with the library's winged patrons.





Cape Charles Memorial Library

Sharon Silvey, Library Manager



The first half of the month of August continued to be busy with a story time for older children, a STEM Dino Dig, Cascading Carlos the Juggler, a Creature Catch, ID, and Release program and our Summer Programs Wrap-Up Party.



For our Summer Programs Wrap-Up Party we invited the PBS Literacy Van, American Water, and the American Legion. Each partner had activities and great giveaways for the over 100 people who attended. It was a wonderful way for the community to come together and celebrate the love of reading at their local library. This was the first time we have hosted an end of the summer party and we look forward to hosting many more in the future.



Cape Charles Memorial Library also hosted a program by the National Alliance for Mental Illness (NAMI). The NAMI Coastal Virginia presentation focused on helping families learn about warning signs of mental health conditions and what steps to take if their child or loved one need help or support. Should you or a loved one have questions, you can reach out to NAMI at NAMICoastalVirginia.org or by telephone at 757-499-2041.

Though the business of the summer season is fading, staff is busy preparing for the fall and winter. Story Time for ages 0 to 4 will resume on September 3 at 10:30 a.m. We are also in the process of researching and creating STEM programs, a mini Fall Festival and a Dungeons & Dragons teen group. (Interested in participating in D&D? Call the library at 757-331-1300 or reach out at library@capecharles.org.)

The staff at Cape Charles Memorial Library would like to send happiness and wishes for an amazing school year to all Accomack and Northampton students!



Chincoteague Island Library

Teresa Wright, for the Board of Directors



August was a busy month for visitors and patrons--Tales 4 Tots, Young Explorers, wrap-up of the summer reading program, school supply bags, kindle raffles, and a grant from the ESPL Foundation.

Tales 4 Tots and Young Explorers started with a field trip to the Museum of Chincoteague Island, a behind-the-scenes tour of the Island Theatre for the Young Explorers, and shell painting.



Summer Reading Challenge Wrap-up Party was held on Thursday, August 22. Students who turned in their Summer Challenge Reading Logs were each given a bag of school supplies and entered a drawing for two Kindle Fires, and gift certificates from Sundial Books. Cupcakes were provided by Mister Whippy.



ESPL Foundation Grant: The first item purchased after receiving the grant was a bilingual learning system for children ages 2 to 8 that includes over 4,000 activities focusing on Science, Technology, Reading, Art, Music, and Math.



We are looking forward to a busy fall. Tales 4 Tots begins September 19 when the children will get a chance to board a school bus after story time.