



# 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



## Upcoming July Highlights Eastern Shore Public Library System

- **4th: Independence Day - LIBRARIES CLOSED**
- **10th: Adult Craft Night - NFL**
- **16th: Memory Café - ESRL**
- **17th: Kids' Craft Night - NFL**
- **17th: Kids' Stuffie Sleepover - ESRL**
- **22nd: Teen Stuffie Sleepover - ESRL**
- **23rd: Smash Brothers Competition - ESRL**
- **24th: "Fraud for Seniors" Talk - CIL**
- **24th: Teen Creative Writing - ESRL**
- **26th: Adult Crafternoon - ESRL**
- **31st: Family Movie Night: *Diary of a Wimpy Kid* - ESRL**
- **Tech Help: Every Wednesday - NFL**
- **Ancestry Help: Every Wednesday - ESRL**
- **Heritage Center Reference Assistance: Every Thursday - NFL**
- **Storytime Anytime: Every Monday & Wednesday - NFL**

For times & more information: [espl.org](https://espl.org); (757) 787-3400

CIL = Chincoteague Island Library

CCML = Cape Charles Memorial Library

ESRL = ESVA Regional Library & Heritage Center

NFL = Northampton Free Library

June 2025

## Director's Update



**Christopher Pote,**  
**System Director**

June marks the end of the fiscal year and my first year as System Director. It takes a lot of hard work from dedicated staff to make such an endeavor successful. I am happy to report that ESPL finished the year in the black with 100% staff retention. We hired one new full-time and one new part-time position; we continue to see growth in patron visits and materials usage; and the new Regional Library & Heritage Center is being utilized by a plethora of community groups and organizations. The state of the Library is strong. Thank you to our patrons and all of you that make it happen.



EASTERN SHORE OF VIRGINIA

# Heritage Center

[esplheritage.org](http://esplheritage.org)

Jazmine Collins, Reference Manager & Local History

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A reorganization project has been completed in the Archives which involved large framed and unframed artwork, posters, maps, and documents. Seventy-four items from the Kirk Mariner Collection, twenty-eight Found in Collection (FIC) items, twelve items that were hung in the Eastern Shore Room in Accomac, twenty-two rolled maps and charts, and seven archival boxes of oversized manuscripts were included in the project. These items were previously spread across multiple shelves in multiple rows of the archives.

The goal of the project was to maximize room for future additions, specifically for large framed and unframed materials. Room for growth is not an immediate concern in the archives. However, it is always good to think ahead of how to maximize space without compromising the preservation of the collection. As a result of this project, the seventy-four items in the Mariner Collection are stored solely across three columns of shelves, the FIC items are limited to two shelves, and twelve shelves were freed up and designated for future collections of oversized manuscripts and artwork made by local artists.

Heritage Center staff attended the Accomack NAACP's Juneteenth celebration on June 14<sup>th</sup> at Mary N. Smith Cultural Center. The Accomack organization began hosting the annual event less than 5 years ago and it has been gaining popularity steadily. Northampton's NAACP's Community Unity Day and Juneteenth celebration took place the following weekend on June 21<sup>st</sup>, which, despite being larger than Accomack's event, received lower turnout than in previous years, possibly due to the recent heat wave. Gerald Boyd, this year's Grand Marshall of the parade was in attendance and spoke to the crowd, as did Betsy Mapp, Northampton County Board of Supervisor, and Janet Martin, Superintendent of Northampton County School system. Several community vendors were in attendance as well as two food vendors and two live bands.



The Heritage Center started a series of MilesFiles user tutorial videos with M.K. Miles discussing the different features and capabilities of MilesFiles. A series of videos for editors will also be recorded. The user videos, once edited will be featured on the Heritage Center's YouTube channel, website, and used for promoting MilesFiles on social media. The Heritage Center is planning a reception in honor of the 25th year of having MilesFiles on the library's website on September 30th. Save the dates will be going out this month, and a MilesFiles logo is being designed to coordinate with the Library and Heritage Center logos.

The Library of Virginia's *Strong Men and Women* traveling exhibit has been on display in the Heritage Center's main hallway and is scheduled to come down on July 12<sup>th</sup>. The display of smoking pipe heads from the Francis Bibbins Latimer Collection will also end in July and be replaced by artifacts and documents from several of our collections related to Farming on the Eastern Shore.

In July, Heritage Center staff will attend the Eastern Shore Museum Network quarterly meeting. The Heritage Center Advisory Committee and Bibbins Latimer Working Group quarterly meetings are scheduled for this month as well.



## **An Inventory Project at the Main Library: Aligning the Catalog with the Shelves**

During the COVID pandemic in 2020 while the library building was open for limited hours, library staff at the Accomac location carried out two major projects. The first of these projects was a complete inventory. Each item in the library's collection was scanned by hand with a barcode reader into the inventory module of our library software to identify which items were present on the shelves and which items were missing or lost. As you may imagine, with over 100,000 items in the collection, this process was time-consuming and tedious.

One of the customer service-related benefits of an inventory is that items that are not physically present at the library will no longer appear in the catalog, which helps to avoid patron frustration and needless searching by library staff. An additional benefit is that the Collection Management Librarian can review the inventory results and select new items to replace those that have gone missing.

The second major project carried out during 2020 involved the application of an RFID (Radio Frequency Identification) tag onto each collection item. The tags were programmed to include details about the item, such as title and author, along with barcode information and circulation status. With the planned technology and equipment that would be available in the yet to be completed library facility in Parksley, the RFID tags would allow for efficient checkin and checkout activities at the circulation desk, plus a much more streamlined way to manage the collection materials.

Fast forward to 2025, when the Accomac library collection has moved and been in place at the Main Library in Parksley for almost two years. Thanks to the foundational work laid during the inventory and RFID tagging projects in 2020, library staff are now able to use a nifty combination of devices to carry out a new inventory project accurately and efficiently.

Utilizing a handheld wand that detects RFID tags (see image to the right) and a tablet, staff can quickly scan the library shelves and create a data file of scanned items. This file is then uploaded into the library software and a report of only the items that were not scanned is generated.

This report can then be taken to the collection areas and used to search for the unscanned items. In some instances, the metal shelves could have interfered with the RFID tag signal. To correct this, all that is required is a scan of the item's barcode into the inventory module of the software using a barcode reader and a laptop. Sometimes, there is another type of issue with the item, like a mistyped spine label or a status of lost, which can also be resolved easily.



After this second round of searching, all items that still remain unscanned will be classified as "Missing" in the library catalog and will no longer appear in ShoreCat search results for patrons. When the inventory project is complete, the library catalog will mirror the physical collection on the shelves, and both patrons and staff will experience more fruitful searching in the library catalog and on the library shelves.





# Programs & Outreach Report

Tiffany Flores, Programs and Outreach Librarian



On June 14<sup>th</sup>, the Regional Library hosted its second annual SummerFest at Eastern Shore Community College. This year we had over 300 attendees who participated in the activities. Due to popular demand, the library provided additional activities, crafts, and performers such as Rodney Raptors, Mr. Mike with balloon animals, and DJ Set-It-Off for

music. Tiffany has heard many compliments aimed at the entertainment provided. Patrons and staff alike were very impressed with Mr. Mike's balloon creations and Rodney's birds. They also enjoyed all the craft activities, face painting, and bounce houses. Finally, in order to encourage participation, the library held a drawing for every attendee who attended SummerFest. After the event, the library pulled for a winner who excitedly claimed their basket full of summer activities.

Due to SummerFest, this year's Summer Reading Program is off to a great start. Within the first 2 weeks 124 children have signed up for this year's challenge. There is also more active participation. Tiffany has already witnessed multiple children come in and retrieve their prizes for the first challenge. Parents have also expressed how excited their kids are. As part of the Summer Reading Kick-Off, Mike Klee came to the Regional Library and Northampton County Parks and Recreation to perform! In total 84 patrons attended and saw his show. After his show, Mr. Mike stayed to make balloon animals for the children. Every attendee gave his performance glowing remarks.

As part of this year's programming the Community Service Board is collaborating with the library to bring back 'The Hive'; a story time that focuses on social emotional development. Every Monday, Tiffany reads the story and CSB provides the craft and lessons that connect to the story. This program has returned with an active participating group of kids with about 9 participants per session. This is only one of the many communities organization collaborations Tiffany has been able to foster this summer. Next month, the library will be collaborating with Accomack County's 4-H through the Virginia Cooperative Extension, Chincoteague Bay Field Station, and community members to bring in a variety of programs.





# Northampton Free Library

Connor Buyn, Branch Manager



Northampton Free Library kicked off the summer with a series of public programs and themed book displays. The monthly children's afternoon story time was hosted on June 5th with a big-foot story and snack. The following week, adult patrons were invited to a relaxing beach-themed craft. Attendees strung together and painted seashells and bead necklaces. Finally, kids were invited back on the 26th of June to build and paint their own birdhouses for our local feathered friends. Everyone had a blast. Tech Help also continued to be offered on demand on every Wednesday through the month of June. June was one of our busiest months yet, with almost 20 library patrons receiving help with their personal devices over the course of the month.



Tech Help Wednesdays will continue at Northampton Free Library throughout July. On Thursday, July 3rd, library staff will host our monthly children's story time and snack starting at 4:30 PM. Stop by and enjoy an American history story in honor of Independence Day! No sign-up in advance is required. July's adult craft night will be held on the following Thursday, July 11th starting at 6 PM. Attendees will learn how to make their own loom woven coasters to take home. This program is free, but sign-up in advance will be required. Finally, July's craft for kids at Northampton Free Library will be an open ended painting craft on Thursday, July 17th at 6 PM. Kids can join in to paint on a real stretched canvas! This program is free and no registration 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.

Northampton Free Library will be closed on Thursday, July 4th in honor of Independence Day. Enjoy the fireworks!





# Cape Charles Memorial Library

Sharon Silvey, Library Manager



**2025 SUMMER READING KICK-OFF**  
**COLOR OUR WORLD 6.18.2025**  
**CAPE CHARLES MEMORIAL LIBRARY**



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# Chincoteague Island Library

Linda Ryan, for the Board of Directors



Summer is officially here and brings with it many seasonal visitors as well as heat, humidity and mosquitos! During this past week, the library has been an oasis for families looking to read, relax, and stay cool. Visitors and patrons alike have dropped by to register for library cards, borrow books, use the public computers, print or scan copies, and work on our community puzzle.

## Adult Programs:

**The American Sign Language class** led by Robin Carpenter and her husband, Ron, began on June 5th. They began by teaching the alphabet to build the foundation for communication. This class will run for 6 weeks and was filled within hours of publicizing it.



**Virginia Spaceport Authority Field Trip** was very well-received by all who attended. The first stop was the launch site where the Antares rocket is launched. Next stop was the Unmanned Aircraft Systems Airfield dedicated to drone research.

**Our monthly book clubs** continue to grow. This month, 11 participants of the Thursday book club read and discussed the modern retelling of classic books.

## Children's Programs:

**Summer Reading Challenge** began on Saturday, June 14 and will run through August 9. This program is for students entering Kindergarten through 12th grade. Students may sign up online or in person at the library. At the end of the program, a raffle drawing is held and school supplies are handed out to each student who completes their reading logs.

**Tales 4 Tots & Young Explorers programs** resume July 3 and continue until August 14.



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## Reading Awards:

The final reading awards for this school year were handed out by board member, Diane Fisher to one student from each class at the Chincoteague Elementary School. These awards are given by our library at the end of each marking term to the students who show effort and improvement in reading. In addition to the reading award certificate, each student received a gift card to Sun Dial Books.



## Fundraising:

The library's "Beginning of summer" Sunset Cruise was held this year on June 19. Captain Scott Landolt, owner of Daisey's Island Cruises, donates his time and provides the boat for this annual event. More than 50 people enjoyed the live music of Troy, Clara, and John. The buffet was catered by AM PM Wine & Gourmet Market. In spite of the unpredictable weather forecast, we were able to stay out for our scheduled cruise. The captain got us back to the dock before the storm hit. Our annual basket raffle, the sunset cruise, and the fall newsletter appeal provide the funds for our library to provide our programs and maintain our building and grounds.

