



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

November 2025

Director's Update



Christopher Pote,
System Director

With policies and procedures in place, we began training people how to use our MakerSpace in November. We are hopeful that it will be open to the public by the end of December. The MakerSpace will provide patron access to a 3D printer; sewing machine; button press; art tablet; and a crafting cutter. The MakerSpace, located in the Regional Library & Heritage Center in Parksley, will be open during our normal hours and available to all those with your library card. Proper training by library staff is required for most of the equipment, and this will be offered on a rolling basis. We look forward to seeing you and your projects!



Upcoming December Highlights Eastern Shore Public Library System

- **4th: Evening Storytime - NFL**
- **5th: Makerspace Button Press Class - ESRL**
- **6th: Santa Visit - ESRL**
- **9th: Polymer Clay Earrings - ESRL**
- **9th: Women Supporting Women - ESRL**
- **10th: LIBRARIES CLOSED for In-Service**
- **11th: Telehealth Talk - ESRL**
- **17th: Jane Austen Tea Party - ESRL**
- **18th: Family Movie Night - ESRL**
- **18th: Teen Creative Writing - ESRL**
- **24th: LIBRARIES CLOSED**
- **25th: LIBRARIES CLOSED**
- **31st: Early Closing - 3PM**
- **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; (757) 787-3400

CIL = Chincoteague Island Library

CCML = Cape Charles Memorial Library

ESRL = ESVA Regional Library & Heritage Center

NFL = Northampton Free Library



EASTERN SHORE OF VIRGINIA

Heritage Center

esplheritage.org

Jazmine Collins, Reference Manager & Local History

Milliner Intern Ethan Ross finished his work with the Heritage Center at the end of November. He started the semester by learning the delicate work of processing archival collections. This generated three linear feet of properly stored letters, documents, and photographs from the Zillah Mapp Winn Collection, a sub-collection of the larger Mapp-LeCato Collection. Once most of the collection was processed, Ethan turned his focus to cataloging and learning the Heritage Center's archival management software, Proficio. Ethan cataloged what he processed and worked alongside Archivist Luke Kelly to identify fields in the software that will be required for future catalog entries. Ethan was prepared with questions about the software and joined staff in watching training videos to learn Proficio. One of the results of his internship is a new living document detailing what he has learned while using the software. This is a great resource for future interns and volunteers that will expediate the process of learning Proficio and can be built upon as we incorporate more aspects of the software. It will also be a great guide as we standardize the cataloging process. The Heritage Center is appreciative of Ethan's work and we wish him well as he continues his studies.



The Heritage Center also received an interesting tapestry from the now closed Melfa United Methodist Church that was created between 1936-1937. The tapestry features the names of church members embroidered in a flower design.

The Heritage Center hosted the Virginia Folklife Program's "Food, Community, and Climate on Virginia's Eastern Shore" exhibit reception and listening party on November 15th. In 2023, researchers from the project began interviewing people working in agriculture, seafood, restaurants, and markets about their culinary traditions, cultural continuity and changes, and how they adapt to the Eastern Shore's changing landscape. A two-part audio documentary, which was played at the event, can be found at [https://](https://www.virginiafolklife.org/sights-sounds/now-streaming-eastern-shore-foodways-audio-doc/)

www.virginiafolklife.org/sights-sounds/now-streaming-eastern-shore-foodways-audio-doc/.

The Heritage Center has also created a cookbook display to accompany the food culture exhibit as well as to highlight some Eastern Shore holiday recipes this season. The exhibit, which includes an interactive timeline, will run until April 2026.



Adopt-a-Book and Help the Library's Collection Grow!



As the end of the year approaches, our thoughts begin to turn toward giving. Gifts may be shared with those near and dear to our hearts, but also with our local community. To help celebrate the gift of reading, the Eastern Shore Public Library (ESPL) offers the **Adopt-a-Book Program**, which is a perfect way to share one's love of books with their Shore neighbors.

Participants in the Adopt-A-Book program select an upcoming bestseller, or a specific author, title, or subject area, and ESPL then purchases that item. The adopter's tax-deductible donation can be acknowledged with a bookplate inscription that can include the donor's name, or the name of the person for whom the book was purchased to honor or memorialize. Additionally, a letter of acknowledgement can be sent to the recipient of their choice.

An added perk of adoption is that the donor, or the individual honored through the adoption, can be the first to read their adopted book – even if there is a waiting list for it! Adopters can jump to the top of the list for their favorite author's newest release and know that their donation will benefit all who enjoy the book in the future.

Books can be adopted at all four ESPL library locations in Parksley, Chincoteague, Nassawadox, and Cape Charles. Books, DVDs, and audiobooks are available for \$25. Children's and Young Adult books are available for \$20. Multiple month or year-long adoption subscriptions are also available for those who would like to extend their giving over time.

The Adopt-a-Book program is available during the holidays and also year-round, and is an excellent way to celebrate birthdays, anniversaries, and other special occasions. Some readers choose to celebrate the everyday instead and adopt a book just because they love to read. No matter the reason, consider helping the library's collection grow, and making a difference by supporting Shore literacy!

To participate, visit or call your local Eastern Shore of Virginia public library to find out more! Adopt-a-Book information can also be found at <https://espl.org/adopt-a-book-program/>.



Programs & Outreach Report

Tiffany Flores, Programs and Outreach Librarian



November was a busy month for making huge progress on projects that have been in the works for a while, the biggest among them being the Makerspace. This month Tiffany worked with Jamie to finalize the procedures and systems in place that'll help staff keep everything functional. In addition to finalizing procedure, Jazmine provided training for the Brother ScanNCut to patrons who were both engaged and fascinated by the technology. Training for staff has also begun. Each front desk staff members filled out a form to indicate which equipment they would like to learn and will be or have received training for it. Overall, November programming has gone well! Saturday Story Times have ramped up a

bit, with eighteen participants between four sessions. Teen Nights have become really popular. We have noticed that more female teens attend and do crafts/activities than male teens attend and play games. Dinosaurs have entered the library! In celebration of Dinovember, the library has purchased small, medium, and large foam dinosaur bones to be used in the library and at outreach. Currently, the large bones have been set out in the kids' space for independent play. This has resulted in kids playing and building dinosaurs, going on 'adventures,' and being archaeologists!



During October both the Hare Valley Headstart located in Exmore and the Hallwood Head start reached out to the library to coordinate bringing their students to the library. This culminated in four field trips scheduled throughout November. Almost every week, Tiffany led groups of students through the library for a tour then ended with Story Time in the kid's space. In total eighty-six students and teachers attended the library. Many of the teachers indicated they would be contacting the library for more tours. In addition to the field trips, Tiffany has made plans with the Hallwood Headstart to attend their parent meeting in January to educate parents on library resources and tools available through the library card.

Finally, the tank has piqued curiosity in the children who visit the library with many wonderful guesses about what our new friend can be! Guesses have included: snakes, fish, turtles, rabbits, sharks (oh my), and DINOSAURS. While there is still more that has to be done to the tank to ensure the success of the project, the library is almost ready to bring in the creature. This month, Tiffany learned a vital lesson about bioactive tanks: they can and will CRASH. Due to a mix of temperature issues and contaminated substrate, Tiffany's snail bioactive located in her office began to exhibit signs of a crash. Signs include bad odors, uneven moisture control, pests and mold in the tank, and creatures dying. Fortunately, Tiffany caught and re-balanced the tank before it got dire but the process required a full tank restore. The result is much happier snails (yes, you can tell) and a very crucial lesson. Preventative measures have been set in place to ensure that the new tank will not crash as easily.



Northampton Free Library

Connor Buyn, Branch Manager



November was a quiet month at Northampton Free Library, with several holidays breaking up the schedule. However, the library still offered a full range of public programs to our patrons. On November 6th we hosted our monthly children's story time and snack, and on the following Thursday we hosted our adult craft. This month, we made bracelets inspired by Taylor Swift songs. On November 20th we celebrated Dinovember with a Mesozoic craft night. Kids were invited to stop by and make their own paper plate dinosaurs. On November 26th we thanked our patrons for another year of supporting Northampton Free Library by serving hot apple cider and snacks all day long. Finally, Tech Help was offered to patrons on every Wednesday. Tech Help was very popular in November, as it was our best attended program for this month.



December will once again see a full roster of festive public programs for our library patrons. On Thursday, December 4th we will start off with our monthly story-time and snack for kids at 4:30 PM. The following week, our adult patrons are invited back to learn how to make their own polymer clay earrings! This program is free, but space is limited and sign up in advance will be required. We'll get started at 6:00 PM. Please keep an eye on our Facebook page or ask at the front desk for more information. Finally, Northampton Free Library will host an art and snack night for kids on Thursday, December 18th starting at 6:00 PM. Stop by and make your own Christmas ornament to take home and hang on the tree! This program is free and no sign up is required. Finally, Tech Help will continue to be offered on every Wednesday throughout the month of December.

Northampton Free Library will be closed on Wednesday, December 10th for staff training, and on Wednesday, December 24th and Thursday, December 25th in observance of the Christmas holiday. The library will also close at 3:00 PM on Wednesday, December 31st and be closed all day on January 1st to celebrate New Year's.



Cape Charles Memorial Library

Sharon Silvey, Library Manager



November celebrations at Cape Charles Memorial Library began with a passive craft for visitors to create a tissue paper cempasúchil (marigold) in honor of Dia de Los Muertos (or Day of the Dead). Dia de Los Muertos originated in Mexico and is traditionally celebrated on November 1 and 2. Cempasúchil flowers are recognized for their brightly colored petals



and distinctive fragrance and are believed to guide spirits back to their families, creating a bridge between life and death.



We continued celebrating November 3—9 with Children's Book Week and a "Get Caught Reading" giveaway. CCML was one of many libraries across the country to receive a "Power Up with Reading: Dog Man and Friends Epic Event Kit" in conjunction with Scholastic and author Dav Pilkey (author and illustrator of the ever popular Dog Man series). The kit included a poster, activity books, and 5 hard-back books by Pilkey. Patrons were invited to enter the giveaway when they were caught reading in the library. CCML contributed a few extra Dog Man books and we were able to giveaway 7 books to 7 very excited readers!

Later in the month, staff at CCML upcycled an old book and created a "Thankful Turkey". Friends and guests were invited to write on a "feather" what they are thankful for and add it to the turkey's plumage.



We are delighted to have received a notification of approval for a Department of Environmental Quality FY26 non-competitive Litter Prevention and Recycling Program grant.

We are grateful to have been invited to Family Literacy Night at Kiptopeke Elementary School, where we had over 100 students and parents visit our table and 18 individuals signed-up for their first library card.

We are full of gratitude for the 85 children who attended a story time or STEM program this month at CCML.

We are thankful to be a part of the Eastern Shore Public Library System and to serve our wonderful community.

Festive Fridays in Cape Charles have started! Cape Charles Memorial Library will be participating on December 5 and December 12 from 5:30 pm until 7:30 pm. We will have crafts and activities for children of *all* ages. Come celebrate the season with us!

Programs are FREE and OPEN to ALL!





Chincoteague Island Library

Teresa Wright, Library Manager



The month of November was all things fall with Tales-4-Tots, the Writers group, and both book clubs being very well attended. Holiday decorations have been going up in preparation for the community "Christmas Tree Lighting" and library visit with Santa and Mrs. Claus on the 29th.

Tales-4-Tots: The kids learned all about Library Day, Kindness, and Thanksgiving. The group was even joined by preschoolers from Chincoteague Elementary School for the Thanksgiving Tales-4-Tots.



Events:

A book art class was given on Saturday November 22 for all ages to learn to make Christmas angel ornaments and Christmas trees from old books.



The library has decorated a tree and is participating in the "Christmas Tree Village" at the Museum of Chincoteague where as a fundraiser for the museum the trees are decorated by local businesses and voted on by visitors.

