

WINTER/SPRING Newsletter

Northumberland Public Library

January—April 2024

Winter is upon us and we are snuggled in with books, hot cocoa and cookies as we wind down 2023 and soar in 2024. There is so much we have planned here at the Library, so come enjoy the warmth in the Library and check out a good book or join us at one of our programs. Most of them are highlighted on the following pages but I wanted to bring to your attention the Family Murder Mystery Night on Friday January 19th. I am so excited about this program. Arthur and Nicole wrote the script. The entire family will be sleuthing to figure out who killed Jack and stole the Golden book. Invite your friends to this free event and come enjoy heavy appetizers, mocktails and sparkling cider as you solve the mystery. We hope to see you here at the library at 5 PM on the 19th.



Also, check out the new reading challenge coming for February. Cozy up with a few books and play Bingo or accept the challenge. Readers can enter to win a cozy basket that will be sure to keep you warm and toasty.

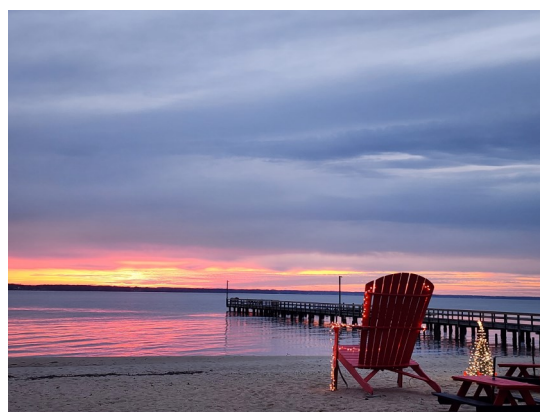
I thought I would share the wonderful picture on the bottom right with you. I took this at Willaby's over the Christmas break. Though the restaurant was not open we had the wonderful opportunity to see this beautiful sunset across the Rappahannock . It was so stunning and just made me pause to appreciate what a beautiful place we call home.

I pray you have a wonderful 2024 and keep us in mind for all your reading, listening and watching interests.

Happy reading!

Jane

Jblue@nplibraryva.org



Check out our social media pages:

YouTube [@northumberlandpubliclibrary](https://www.youtube.com/northumberlandpubliclibrary)

Instagram at <https://www.instagram.com/northumberland.library/>,

Or like us on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/northumberlandlibrary>



Monthly Happenings at the Library

Computer Classes Every Monday 3-5 PM

No sign up required, bring your own computer or use one of ours, phone and iPad help too!

There will be no classes on Monday January 15th or February 19th due to holidays.

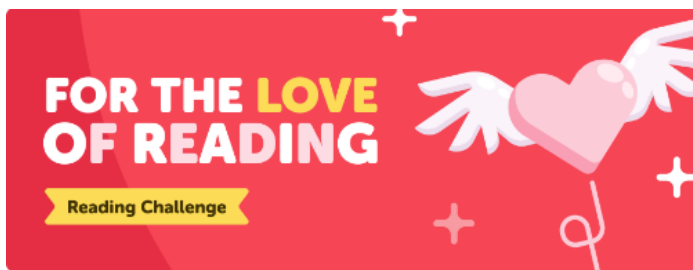
Questions? Contact Arthur Newman.



Make your **Genealogy Research Appointment** today. 30-minute appointments can be made with Andrea Trescott on the 1st and 3rd Thursday of the month or Friday afternoons from 1:30-4:30 PM. Call 804-580-5051 or email atrescott@nplibraryva.org for more information.



COMING FEBRUARY 1-29



For the Love of Reading 2024 reading challenge and Cozy Winter Library Bingo Challenge.

Winners for the For the Love of Reading 2024 challenge will get a coupon for a free book at YOBS and for those that complete a Bingo in the Cozy Winter Library Bingo Challenge they will be entered into our drawing for 1 of 3 cozy baskets.





ADVENTURE IS OUT THERE!!

Ellie Fredricksen (Disney's "Up")

By Nicole Carrington Children and Youth Supervisor

While the winter chill may be seeping into our bones, that means the warm summer sun is just around the corner! Here at Northumberland Public Library, we are preparing for summer sun and fun with our Summer Reading Program!

Summer promises us some trailblazing adventures both here at the library and at home! We will kick off the Summer Reading Program on May 21st, so join us for adventures through the worlds that books can take us too! There is no stopping the journeys we'll be going on!



Reading is all about the adventure, we hope you will track those adventures in your logs and tell us of the wonderful places you visited! Collect those brag tags!!



The adventure is not limited to the kids though! We will need a little help! We are looking for three high school interns to help us make this adventure possible! If you have a passion for creativity, the heart of an adventurer, and a love for reading, please apply! We'd greatly appreciate having more friends along for our journeys!

We hope you take a trek to the Northumberland Public Library for some Summer Reading fun and join us for the adventurous programs we'll have in store!! Watch for more info in our spring newsletter!



NEW!!



Boundless is a new Kids and Teens e-book and audiobook platform! Completely free, the Boundless app allows Kids and Teens to check out e-books, audiobooks, educational videos, and so much more!

Divided into sections, Boundless also allows the parent/guardian to be the host of the account and see what their children are checking out. Parents/Guardians can set up parameters for their children too! It also provides educational resources for at home learning!

With new books entering the system, and with our curated lists, this is a great app for kids and teens to use for their own personal reading or any assignments for school!

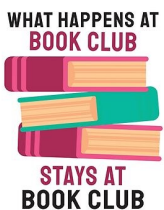
This is reading for the tech savvy age!

Look for this app in your app store and download for free! Just use your library card number to register with the Northumberland Public Library and begin your reading adventure!!



Story Time for children ages 0-5 happens every Tuesday morning at 10 AM. Bring your children for stories, songs and crafts as well as play. Different themes weekly and a hometown hero once a month. Check out the website for more information.

After School Club happens every Wednesday from 3:15 to 5 PM. Grades 1-5 are welcome to come explore, play and read with us. We watch videos, have time built in for homework and more. Snacks are provided. This activity requires registration. Parents can arrange for transportation from the school to the Library by talking with the school transportation department.



Are you in 9th through 12th grade and just love to read but can't find fellow readers who want to talk books? Well, look no further. We have the book club for you. We are still searching for a name but until we all agree on one we are just calling ourselves "The Book Club". We meet at Northumberland Public Library the first Friday of every month at 3:15 and drink tea, eat snacks and talk books. We would love for you to

join us. We are currently reading "The Ballad of Songbooks and Snakes" by Suzanne Collins. Come read with us!



OUR FAVORITE BOOK COVERS OF 2023

YOU CAN JUDGE THESE BOOKS BY THEIR COVERS!

By Alison Towles, Librarian

The common wisdom is that you shouldn't judge a book by its cover, whether literally or figuratively. That being said, some covers catch the eye and draw in the reader with an invitation to explore and experience their contents. Some of the best covers of 2023 were also some of the best reads.

Weyward, by Emilia Hart, has an intricately illustrated cover that matches its story. The winner of two Goodreads Choice Awards (Best Debut Novel and Best Historical Fiction), it is a spellbinding tale of three generations of women with a legacy of witchcraft and an unusual connection to the natural world. Weaving together the stories of these three extraordinary women across five centuries, it is an astonishing debut and an enthralling novel of female resilience.

Let Us Descend, by Jesmyn Ward, has a cover with beautiful artwork that alludes to the main character's affinity for bees. Ward, a two-time National Book Award winner, is a lyrical writer and her prose is compelling. *Let Us Descend* tells the heart-wrenching but ultimately freeing story of Annis, a young slave sold south by her sire and owner. In her travels, she finds comfort in memories and in connections with spirits.



Neil deGrasse Tyson's **To Infinity and Beyond: A Journey of Cosmic Discovery** draws on mythology, history and literature to take the reader on an entertaining journey to the farthest reaches of the cosmos. Along the way, science greets pop culture as Tyson explains the triumphs - and bloopers- in Hollywood's blockbusters.

The Ghost Ship, by Kate Mosse, is the third installment in a series but can easily be read alone. In the early 1600's, the mysterious vessel of the title has hunted pirates to liberate those enslaved by corsairs along the Barbary Coast. It is a thrilling novel of adventure and buccaneering, love and revenge, stolen fortunes and hidden secrets on the high sea.



Read all about it Northumberland Public Library is offering Free Computer Classes

By Arthur Newman NPL Community Outreach Supervisor

What does the Information Age have in store for us in 2024?

More practical uses for Artificial Intelligence, we can expect Generative AI to skyrocket. Cloud storage and its applications will continue to dominate the information landscape. Smartphones will continue to add features the majority of users will never use. Virtual reality headsets and displays will dominate digital learning.

What will not change in 2024?

I.T. or information technology. I.T. is the use of software and hardware to manage communications which include data, audio and video. Specifically your personal data that is being collected and disseminated to third parties.

If the previous two paragraphs have you scratching your head with a question mark floating above your head, then you are not alone. But as a judge once told me ignorance of the law excuses no one in my court.

In the past 25 years you might have said I will never use the internet, I will never have an email, I will never use online banking, I will never get a smartphone, I will never use social media, stop me now because this list can go on and on, like this sentence.

If you have ignored the changing world around you, you still cannot ignore this fact. The rules have changed. In effect, ignoring the way information is being used is no excuse if you do not know “what the world has come to.” Or, “what in the world is going on.”

What can you do?

Here at the Northumberland Public Library we have the answer. We teach practical computing skills which include all forms of technology. Most importantly we teach you how to be safe in this ever evolving world of I.T..

The last two months we have been learning the intricacies of word processors. In 2024 we will crack the shell and start exploring the world of spreadsheets. This doesn't mean we will abandon the practical skills that we need to use everyday to navigate this new frontier which is now more than 30 years old for some and for others 70 years old.

For example if you still think a menu only refers to the pamphlet that is handed to you to order food. If you think swiping right, left, up and down is what you do with your credit card. If you think tap, double tap, right and then left is a dance move with special shoes. Then you're probably navigating the world of technology with great difficulty.

Please come by from 3 to 5 every Monday besides holidays. There is a seat available for you and if you need extra help come in between 1 and 3 for a little more personal help with your I.T..



Do you like to solve mysteries?

Come to Northumberland Public Library on
Friday January 19th 5:00 PM
and help us solve the crime of the century.

The clues will be plentiful,
the food will be wonderful.

Bring the whole family and help us find the missing
Golden Book!

There may be murder and mayhem but the best
detectives will be on the case.

Appropriate for all ages, this is one adventure you and
your family don't want to miss!

Brush up on your crime solving skills and come help
us find out the secrets of the Golden Book!

POCKET PARK STARTS TO TAKE SHAPE

We're raising money for a pocket park.

Your giving can be designated toward this project,
just indicate this on your check.

Need more info, stop in to check out the design by
Marguerite Armstrong.

Get to know your Library Staff:

Jane Blue: Library Director

Cate Land: Customer Service Supervisor

Arthur S. Newman: Community Outreach
Supervisor

Alison Towles: Librarian

Nicole Carrington: Children & Youth Services
Coordinator/Outreach Assistant

Maddie Jones: Children's Program Assistant

Andrea Trescott: Library Assistant

Vicky Davis: Library Assistant

Karen Whelan: IT Specialist

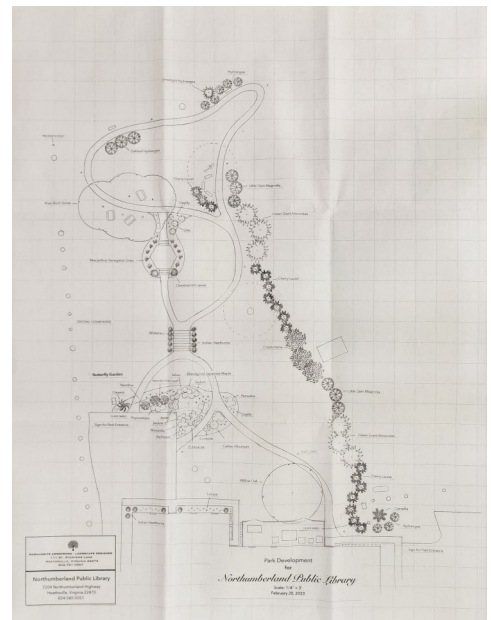
Kathy Lewis: Bookkeeper

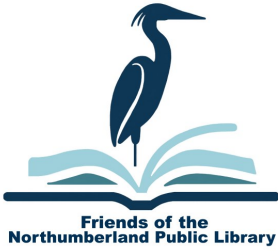
Gay Posey: On Call-Library Assistant



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Heathsville, VA 22473

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Friends of Northumberland Public Library
News and Coming Soon!
By Jane Blue

The Friends of the Library had a busy fall which culminated in a wonderful celebration at the Old County Courthouse as we lit the tree and celebrated the holidays with hot-chocolate, hot apple cider and cookies. Our thanks to everyone who made this special event possible. Now we are planning 2024 with some fundraisers and special events.

We will once again be bringing back the ever popular English Tea. Mark your calendars now for Sunday, April 28th and watch for more information. Tickets will go on sale the beginning of April and will be limited to the first 50 purchasers.

English Tea

We are also planning some events surrounding the NNK250 initiative. The celebration of the 250th signing of the Declaration of Independence occurs in July of 2026. Leading up to this event all of Virginias counties are being encouraged to plan events that touch on their own history. Look for an opportunity in March to celebrate the 45th birthday of the Northumberland Public Library and learn more about our history. In May we plan to feature Northumberland County History with guest speaker Wyatt Garland. Check out the Friends Facebook page and the Library website for more information.

If you would like to know more about the NNK250 initiative check out the website <https://www.nnk250.us/>

Interested in getting involved with the Friends of Northumberland Public Library events and activities? You can join as a board member or just volunteer at events by contacting President Sandy Heath at Sandyheath1975@gmail.com. We would love to see you at our events this spring.





November Reading Challenges Come to a Close

By Cate Land Customer Service Supervisor

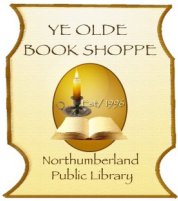
November has come and gone and we have closed out the reading challenges for the year. We had a reading challenge to read ten books with Read Grateful. We also had the Heart of the Home Library Bingo Challenge. This challenge was a fun one for me to create and one I put together from scratch...no pun intended. Ok, maybe a little pun. I was inspired by this cozy time of year being in the kitchen with my children. One of my family traditions is the Tuesday before Thanksgiving is Pie Night and we bake all the pies for after Thanksgiving dinner. I have within the last two years inherited the family pie board and rolling pin that belonged to my great grandmother that was used in a family restaurant in Pennsylvania. Sometimes I wish these items could talk. Oh the stories they could tell me. I have so many memories as a child baking with my grandmother and now I share that very joy with my own children. So with that in mind, I created the Bingo challenge for all ages to enjoy. Centering it around a warm meal, around family and friends, and celebrating the joy of togetherness. I can only imagine the memories that families made with the challenge and I look forward to running it again next year. After all I heard it said that family is the heart of the home, or is it the kitchen? I don't know, I guess it depends on the heart or the stomach. Or maybe a combination of the two.

Congratulations to our three Heart of the Home Library Bingo Challenge Winners: Portia Novak, Maris Owen, and Jessna Knowlton (pictured below in the order mentioned), thank you for playing.

Stay tuned with us for more reading challenges to come in the New Year. I'm looking forward to creating more of them. They will be available digitally on Beanstalk and paper challenges that you can pick up at the front desk.

Seasons Readings! Happy Holidays! And I wish you love, joy, and happiness for the New Year.





NEWS FROM YE OLDE BOOK SHOPPE FROM RICHARD BECKER

Since YOBS reopened the last week of July, retail sales have been spectacular. The four months we were closed have generated significant pent-up demand for Heathsville’s favorite bookstore. August was particularly noteworthy, with the bookshop’s retail sales exceeding \$2,000 for the month and averaging over \$500 per sales week. And, thanks to Friends of the Library operating cash donation and the latest insurance settlement, total revenue for the first six months of the fiscal year exceeded \$15,000, the highest total for that period in the ten-year history of YOBS. Donations of books, too, have been robust. Inventory has never looked fresher and first-class books are shelved weekly. Mary Frazier and Dana Nicholas should receive a special salute and thank you for their seasonal decorations and displays. The Philosophical Society, which meets on Friday afternoons regularly, comments on the ever-changing cheerful and timely ornamenting schemes present in the shop. Bravo and thank you one and all who make YOBS such an ongoing success!

Of special note is the opportunity to vote for the Best Book Store in Virginia Living Magazine. We already know Ye Olde Book Shoppe is one of the best in Virginia, but let’s not keep it a secret! Help us make it official by voting in Virginia Living’s Best of Virginia 2024. Go to the link below, choose Book Store category, select Ye Olde Book Shoppe, then sign-in with your email, and click vote when done. <https://bov2024.capefear.com/eastern>
Thank you for your support!

Congratulations to the Library Employees of the Quarter:

Starting in June of 2023 each quarter the Library staff chooses a peer to be honored as Employee of the Quarter. Board of Trustees members Dana Nicholas and Roxsey Dameron receive the nominations and though they all look great, their task is to narrow it down to one employee to be honored. The EOQ receives a certificate, balloons or flowers, a free lunch from the Library Director and one paid day off during the quarter. Our first honoree was Alison Towles. The 2nd quarter we honored Cate Land and this quarter we honored Arthur Newman,. Congratulations to all three employees of the quarter, we are thrilled to honor you and have you as part of the staff at Northumberland Public Library.

