

Fall Newsletter

Northumberland Public Library

September—December 2024

As I've shared before, fall is my favorite time of year. With the season comes cooler temperatures, gorgeous changes in color and a sense of coziness that settles in my soul.

We are planning so many wonderful family events so be sure to check out the info scattered throughout this newsletter. Upcoming seasonal events like the community Boo Bash, the Tree Lighting in front of the Old Courthouse and so much more promise a place for everyone.

We are slowly making progress on our Pocket Park behind the Library. There will be more news to come and I am including a separate article on the next page with pictures. Projects like this remind me that we are always searching for ways to make our services better and more accessible to the entire community. I am proud of the wonderful staff here at NPL and know that they put serving you first.

Is there a service or some other way you think would enhance what is already offered at NPL? Take a minute to let me know your thoughts, either via email or when you are here ask to speak with me. We also have suggestion forms you can fill out any time, ask for one at the front desk.

Thank you for your support and enjoy your fall.

Happy reading!

Jane

jblue@nplibraryva.org



FAMILY FEUD COMING TO NPL FRIDAY OCTOBER 11TH

If you are like me you've likely tuned into the Price is Right, Wheel of Fortune, Jeopardy or Family Feud. You might even have given thought about participating in one of these popular game shows. Northumberland Public Library would like to invite you and your family or friends this **October 11th, from 5 to 7 pm** to play Family Feud. We will need five indi-

viduals for both sides to have a successful feud. You can play as a family, friends, workmates, teammates or whatever combination you choose. We will play three rounds and a tie breaker. If you would like to be a part of this exciting event please sign up at the circulation desk now. We are also welcoming audience members to cheer their favorite team to victory. Of course there will be food, drinks and prizes.

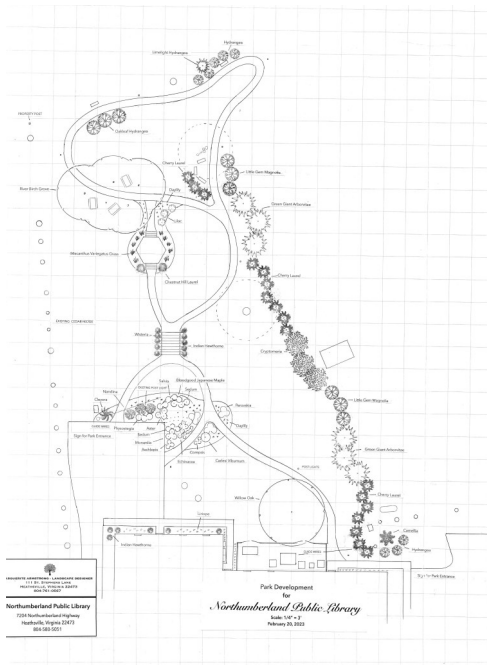
Pocket Park Ground Breaking



Signing the contract with Jim Landrum and Tyler Fryman from Bennett Facilities and Fleet LLC

On a muggy July morning, local community leaders, members of the library boards and library staff met to break ground for the Pocket Park. The park, taking up less than an acre, thus the name Pocket Park or Parkette, will be directly behind the library. The walking path, about a quarter of a mile long has already been poured as has the pad for the Gazebo. Next we will have fencing installed around the utilities, the arbor and the gazebo installed. Plants will undoubtedly have to wait until spring, although an irrigation system as well as preparation for those plantings will take place as the months progress.

Be sure to stop by and check out this new space for our community. Our hope is that a year from now we are having some amazing programs out there, including concerts and movies. This space is a reflection of moving the library beyond its four walls. We hope to offer opportunities for wellness, fellowship and relaxation. Donations are gladly accepted toward the cost of the project.



Ground breaking July 24th



Side walks are formed



And poured



An Aerial View

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!

No classes will be held Monday Sept 2nd, 9th, and Oct. 14th, due to Holidays and some much needed time off for the instructor.

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

Story Time! Every Tuesday morning at 10 AM.
Featuring stories, songs and crafts. Hometown Heroes each month.



Bibliomania Teen Book Club for grades 9-12. Come discuss your favorite books, plus, a group read now and then. The 1st Friday of the month 3:30 to 5:30, coffee, tea and snacks served.

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>



After School Club Starts September 4th

(Wednesday 3:30 – 5:00): Starting the first Wednesday after Labor Day, we will resume our After School Club program. This is a program where kids can relax after school while engaging with crafts, STEM, as well as books. We also provide homework assistance. Please be sure to register before sending your child to After School



Club! Registration Forms can be found at the front desk of the library. Transportation should be coordinated with the schools bus service. We hope to see you there!

Saturday, October 26, 2024 **FREE!**
Annual
10am-2pm
Resource Family Fun Fair
SPOOKY EDITION
 PRESENTED BY NORTHUMBERLAND DEPT. OF SOCIAL SERVICES
 AT NORTHUMBERLAND FAMILY YMCA

FREE BOXED LUNCH | GAME TRUCK! | HAY RIDE! | COSTUME CONTEST!

Come celebrate Halloween and learn about community resources!
Lots of fun for the whole family!

NORTHUMBERLAND FAMILY YMCA
 6348 Northumberland Highway
 Heathsville, VA 22473
 For more information, please call 804-580-3477

PONY RIDES! | DOOR PRIZES! | CONNECT 4 BASKETBALL! | BOUNCE HOUSES!

Save the Date for the Community Resource Fair and the Community Boo Bash

Our Mobile Library will be at both of these events

NORTHUMBERLAND COUNTY
HALLOWEEN BOO BASH!

Save the Date Mrs. Claus wants to have dinner with you!

December 6th 5-7 PM



Back again this year, Mrs. Claus will visit the library to read to our young ones and enjoy a wonderful meal! Be sure to save the date so you can tell her how good you've been this year! She'll certainly let Mr. Claus know what wonderful children we have here in the Northern Neck! Wear your PJ's and come for lite fare. This is a family event and all ages are welcome. Sign ups will be required closer to the event.

Save the Date for Golden Village and the Tree Lighting. Two amazing Heathsville events on **Saturday Dec. 7th**. Look for more details to come, closer to the event.

MUSIC, CAROLING, CHRISTMAS READINGS, AND REFRESHMENTS!

COME JOIN THE COMMUNITY IN CELEBRATING THE HOLIDAYS!!

ATTENTION FAMILY HISTORY RESEARCHERS

BY ANDREA TRESCOTT



We have exciting news for family and regional history research enthusiasts. Our library now offers access to Newspapers.com

While I have accessed numerous newspapers on the Chronicling America website, Newspapers.com provided me with speedier results. My personal family history database (after almost 40 years of research) includes 8000+ persons, along with more than 22,000 support documents and photographs. Like most genealogists, I have “brick walls” on some family lines. Recently, I purchased a 6 month subscription to Newspapers.com, for home use. (At one time Ancestry.com subscriptions included access to such articles.) During the first 3 or 4 weeks of use I shared 400+ newspaper clippings with my sister. I “found” two of our extended family members who had been “lost” to us, for whom we’d fruitlessly searched for hours. One of the two was a young man, Winfield Scott, who was killed in less than 1 year, after enlisting to fight with the Union during the U.S. Civil War. That “find” came from an article and photograph of Winfield’s brothers who had come together for the first time in 30 years. Other family historians will appreciate our excitement about these finds.

So, our library has even more to offer those genealogists who aren’t able to travel far to search for relevant documents and records. Our patrons may also use Ancestry Library Edition, for access to genealogical and historical sources on-line. That source includes billions of indexed names and thousands of databases, which cover the United States, Canada, United Kingdom, Europe, Australia, and other areas.

Fold3, another resource available at NPL, provides patrons with access to 640 million military records. You have convenient access to U.S. military records, including stories, photos and personal documents of the men and women who served their country. Included are the American Revolutionary War through the U.S. in the Afghan War, along with some records of soldiers from other countries.

Your library is also a Family Search Affiliate. Affiliate libraries have access to Family Search’s digital genealogical collections, which are otherwise only accessible through a Family Search Center. Local affiliates may be a public or higher education library, archive, museum, cultural center, or genealogical or historical society.

Whether you have done much family history research, or you’re new to this “obsession” you can make a ½ hour appointment with me on the 1st or 3rd Thursday each month, or on Friday afternoons, between 1:30-4:30 P.M. Call or email me at 804-580-5051 or atrescott@nplibraryva.org to get started.

One last note. NPL is exploring the possibility of hosting a “scanning event” as one facet of the NNK 250th independence celebration. So, please let me know if you’re interested in having historical/old documents, letters, ledgers, church or store records scanned to preserve them digitally. Such digital records may then be saved at the historical society or at the Library of Virginia in Richmond, where they will be available for viewing by researchers. A scanning event will need support and interest from the community in order for us to proceed in planning it.



NPL News Group

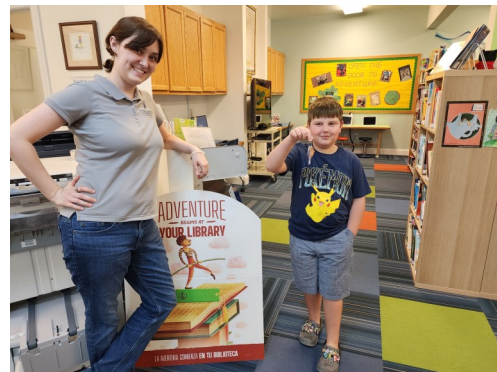


Building on the successful breaking news event for the teens, we are adding more dates to meet the request to do more news casts from the teens who participated. We are happy to invite them back and any who want to join them for the next three episodes. We will be calling this group the NPL News Group. All teens are invited to attend **September 27th, October 25th, and November 22nd**. If you haven't seen our teens in action checkout our youtube or facebook site for NPL Broadcasting Episode 1.

Have a flare for delivering the latest updates? Interested in news anchor work? Join us at the Northumberland Public Library every 4th Friday of the month from 3:30 - 5:30, for our news group! Help deliver the news about what is happening in the area, in the country, and even the world! Open to teens ages 12 - 18! Snacks and drinks included!!

Thank you to our amazing summer interns.

We honored them with a luncheon on Friday, August 9th. Pictured here are Nicole Carrington, our Children and Youth Services (CYS) Coordinator; Maddie Jones, our CYS assistant; and our summer interns Mila O'Bier, Gabby Burnett, and Angel Butler. We hope they come back next summer and that somewhere this summer the seed has been planted to pursue librarianship as a career. Thanks for a GREAT summer!



Have you turned in your reading logs?

Brag tags are a great way to get credit for reading 10 books and you can collect all 10 tags, that's 100 books for the summer.

Congratulations to Reggie McNees who came in to collect all 10 of his brag tags. He was thrilled to claim his tags and could not wait to turn in his log at school.

Way to go Reggie!

Tech Tips

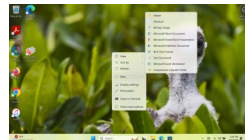
By Arthur Newman

Let's talk about organization. Not just any organization but organizing those pesky electronics. Maybe your desktop or laptop's main screen is cluttered with folders, documents, pictures, music and other digital litter. Okay not litter, paraphernalia. Or, perhaps you have taken the plunge and all of your technical needs are completed on your smartphone or tablet. They too need to be decluttered. Let's start with the desktop, first we need to create a new folder.

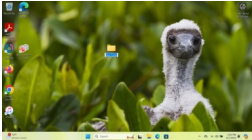
Creating a New Folder



Step 1 Right click anywhere on your desktop, this will display the options menu.

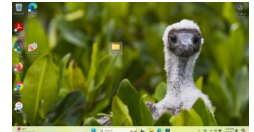


Step 2 Choose (new folder), this will create a new folder.



Step 3 Name the folder appropriately (let's use pictures for example)

Step 4 Drag and drop pictures from your desktop into your new folder called pictures



You can do this with your documents also. (Pictures Inserted for each step)

If you would like to see how this process works with your phone or tablet please plan to visit our computer class on **Monday's from 3 to 5**. In our class we discuss and teach practical computing for our everyday electronics needs.

Note: If you are running out of storage on your phone or you get the notification your cloud drive is full, you can use the tips you learn in class to save all of your important data to your computer or an external storage device.

1000 Books Before Kindergarten



Do you have a newborn? Want to get them started on the path to a great reading future? Sign them up for 1000 books before Kindergarten. You can start the day they're born. Read a book every day and log that book either in Beanstack, our online program, or manually. When you reach 100 books come on in and claim a prize. Reach 1000 books and receive a certificate of completion and a few other prizes. Talk about a great way to instill the love of reading at an early age. Need more info, contact Nicole, our Children and Youth Services Coordinator or ask anyone at the front desk.



The Friends of the Library always have wonderful event's planned. This fall join us for an English Tea on Sunday November 3rd as well as the Books Alive event on October 4th. The Friends will also take part in the Community Boo Bash and the Community Resource Fair mentioned elsewhere in this newsletter. The Friends are looking for volunteers and Board members, if you are interested please talk to any staff member.



The Friends recently hosted a Books alive event with author Cheryl Reed. Cheryl wowed the crowd with her new book "Map of My Escape" which launched in June of this year. The thriller was written over a 7 year period and takes place on a small island off the coast of Michigan. Be sure to check it out from the library, it will be available in September or purchase your own copy.



Thank you to the Friends for sponsoring our Summer Reading Interns. We enjoyed a wonderful end of year luncheon where the Interns, Gabby Burnett, Angel Butler and Mila O'Bier received some thank you gifts, and their stipend checks. "It is always the hope that someone who interns will eventually choose the path of Library Science, shared Library Director Jane Blue. We could not provide this opportunity without the support of the Friends!"



FOL sponsored dinner for NPL staff

The Friends also sponsored a wonderful dinner for the staff and their families. This event, a way to say thank you to the staff for all they do, is sponsored at the end of summer reading rather than in April during National Library worker day. The Friends serve a wonderful meal and we enjoy some time unwinding from all of the summer busyness. Thank you FOL for your support and encouragement.

Come Join Us
for

Books Alive!
Sponsored
by Friends of
the Library

Col. L. Scott Lingamfelter, USA (Ret.), began his twenty-eight-year military career as a field artilleryman. He served in the Virginia House of Delegates from 2002 to 2018. His commentaries have been published in the Richmond Times-Dispatch and the Washington Times. His books include *Desert Redleg* and *Yanks in Blue Berets*.

**Friday, October 4th 5-7 pm at
Northumberland Public Library**

English Tea

Menu

- tea service with milk or lemon
- homemade scones with cream
- egg sandwiches
- cucumber sandwiches
- sweets

**Sunday, Nov. 3rd
3 p.m. - 5 p.m.**

Tickets are \$25 each
only 50 tickets available

sponsored by the Friends of Northumberland Public Library

**SAVE THE DATE FOR
THESE TWO SPECIAL
EVENTS!**





good
NEIGHBOR DAY

September 28th is National Good Neighbor Day

“I’m convinced of this: Good done anywhere is good done everywhere. For a change, start by speaking to people rather than walking by them like they’re stones that don’t matter. As long as you’re breathing, it’s never too late to do some good.”

Maya Angelou

Have you noticed how our culture has redefined what a good neighbor looks like? It used to be a good neighbor was someone you could count on. Today, many people consider a good neighbor as someone who is quiet and leaves you alone. That has led to more isolation, fewer friendships, and a loneliness epidemic. In 2023, the United States Surgeon General declared loneliness a public health crisis. **We think it’s time to change that.**

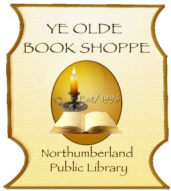
Unlike National Pretzel Day, National Miniature Golf Day, or even April Fools Day, National Good Neighbor Day is an actual holiday. It was created in the early 1970s by Becky Mattson of Lakeside, Montana. In 1978, United States President Jimmy Carter issued Proclamation 4601:

“As our Nation struggles to build friendship among the peoples of this world, we are mindful that the noblest human concern is concern for others. Understanding, love and respect build cohesive families and communities. The same bonds cement our Nation and the nations of the world. For most of us, this sense of community is nurtured and expressed in our neighborhoods where we give each other an opportunity to share and feel part of a larger family...I call upon the people of the United States and interested groups and organizations to observe such day with appropriate ceremonies and activities.”

Let’s reverse the epidemic of loneliness in our country. It starts with a simple act of neighboring on September 28.

It only takes a small act of neighborliness to make a big difference in the life of a neighbor. Acts of kindness among neighbors have become rare enough these days that being neighborly stands out as a special event for most people, and it can open the door to further connections and neighborhood involvement. But where should you start? Reaching your neighbors does not mean you host a block party with inflatables first thing. It is better to start small by reaching out to your eight closest neighbors with an act of kindness. As you get to know your neighbors and they get to know you, the next step could be a food event. Just make sure your focus is always on building connections, not just entertaining.

Visit <https://www.hopefulneighborhood.org/> to get started today. Come in and tell us how you plan to get involved.



Ye Olde Book Shoppe News

By Richard Becker

As predicted in a previous newsletter, **Ye Olde Book Shoppe** enjoyed a record-breaking fiscal year ending June 30th. Not only did YOBS generate gross revenue of over \$24,000 for the year, but net income (revenue after expenses) was also an annual record at over \$14,000. This number represents the actual external cash injected into the Library's operating budget from the year's activities at the bookstore. Monthly retail sales from our storefront are averaging \$1,175 for the year. Thrift Books and eBay Sales were also strong. Additionally, there was a substantial contribution from an insurance settlement and a generous donation from the Friends of the Library. These numbers are incredibly satisfying for the **All-Volunteer** workforce since they quantify the volunteers' time and efforts needed to run our Library successfully. As one of the "old-timers" who has participated in this decade-long exercise, I find it an excellent example of sustained community service for the greater good. We should all be proud of what we have accomplished. YOBS has indeed woven itself into the fabric of Heathsville and Northumberland County. Thank you, one and all!

Fall Reading Challenges Coming Soon

By: Cate Land

Oh my, fall is just around the corner! A big hooray to the season of pumpkin spice and everything nice. Cooler weather cannot come soon enough. Don't get me wrong, I like the summertime, but it has been Too....Hot....To....Function. I am currently adding the finishing touches on the Fall Reading Challenges set to roll out on Monday, September 23 and run through Saturday, November 2. The challenges will be open for all ages to enjoy.



The Read Grateful 2024 Reading Challenge: Take the time to read and record 10 books this cozy season. Upon completion of the challenge, you will earn a coupon for a free book at our bookstore, Ye Olde Book Shoppe.

The Fall Into Reading 2024 Bingo Challenge! Tackle the reading and activity challenges on our 4 x 4 Bingo Board. There are fun activity challenges planned, like picking out a pumpkin, hiking a trail in the beautiful Fall foliage, getting creative with a cup of cocoa, and baking pie just to name a few.



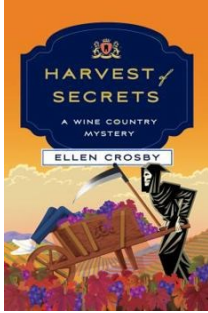
(Mmmm, pie!) Kiddos, safety first. Any of the challenges involving potentially hot food, be sure to have a parent/grandparent nearby to lend a hand. Completed Bingos will earn you a coupon for a free book at Ye Olde Book Shoppe and an entry into the drawing for a Cozy Basket. One Bingo entry per person please.

Both challenges will be available digitally on Beanstack and paper copies will be available to pick up at the front desk. Happy Fall y'all!

FALL INTO THE SEASON WITH THESE AUTUMN READS!

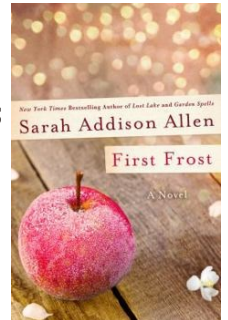
By Alison Towles

Autumn is a time of harvest, holidays and family. All these books feature the season in either the setting, the plot, or the themes.



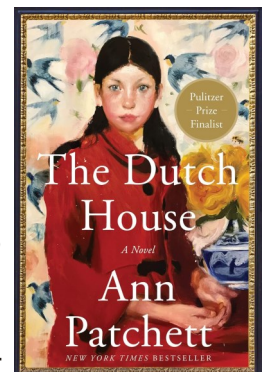
Harvest of Secrets, by Ellen Crosby, is the ninth book in the Wine Country mystery series featuring Lucie Montgomery and her 500 acre Virginia vineyard. It's harvest season, the busiest time of the year for wine makers. In this book, the search for the killer of an aristocratic French winemaker puts Lucie on a collision course with a murderer. Set in the historic heart of Virginia's horse and hunt country, this cozy mystery series is filled with fascinating details about the science and alchemy of wine making and endearing characters.

First Frost, by Sarah Addison Allen, is the second book featuring the Waverley family by this author of *Garden Spells*. "It's October in Bascom, North Carolina, and autumn will not go quietly. As temperatures drop and leaves begin to turn, the Waverley women are made restless by the whims of their mischievous apple tree... and all the magic that swirls around it. But this year, first frost has much more in store." That beginning of the description of this book is enough to make you want to read it and find out what happens! Enjoy Allen's enchanting world and fall for her charmed characters in this captivating story that proves that a happily-ever-after is never the real ending to a story. It's where the real story begins.



Practical Magic, by Alice Hoffman, is the first book published in what later became the Practical Magic series. October - and Halloween - seem to evoke thoughts of witches and magic. In this bewitching novel from the New York Times bestselling author, the Owens sisters confront the challenges of life and love. For more than two hundred years, the Owens women have been blamed for everything that has gone wrong in their Massachusetts town. Gillian and Sally have endured that fate as well: as children, the sisters were forever outsiders, taunted, talked about, pointed at. Their elderly aunts almost seemed to encourage the whispers of witchery, with their musty house and their exotic concoctions and their crowd of black cats. But all Gillian and Sally wanted was to escape. One will do so by marrying, the other by running away. But the bonds they share will bring them back—almost as if by magic.

The Dutch House, by Ann Patchett, is a novel that also explores the family bonds that both save and twist the lives of those who share them. At the end of the Second World War, Cyril Conroy combines luck and a single canny investment to begin an enormous real estate empire, propelling his family from poverty to enormous wealth. His first order of business is to buy the Dutch House, a lavish estate in the suburbs outside of Philadelphia. Meant as a surprise for his wife, the house sets in motion the undoing of everyone he loves. The story is told by Cyril's son Danny, as he and his older sister, the brilliantly acerbic and self-assured Maeve, are exiled from the house where they grew up by their stepmother. The two wealthy siblings are thrown back into the poverty from which their parents had escaped and find that all they have to count on is one another. This compelling story takes place over the course of five decades. The audiobook, narrated by Tom Hanks as the voice of Danny, is especially rich. It makes for a great "listen".



Book Drops Throughout Northumberland County



Did you know there are various book drops throughout the county. You can drop your books in one of these book drops any time and we will pick them up.

On the North side of the county we have a book drop in Callao at Tootsies Diner. The book drop is pictured above. Books are picked up from this location on Friday mornings.

In the middle of the county you can drop your books at Lilian retail store. The book drop is located in the back of the store close to the restrooms. This book drop is checked on Tuesday mornings.

On the west side of the county you can find a book drop at the Wicomico Church Post office, inside. Just take a right inside the doors and you will see the book drop on the floor to the right. This book drop is checked on Saturdays and sometimes Sunday.

As always we have a very convenient book drop right in front of the Library, it is checked twice a day, morning and night. You can drop your books in this book drop any time we are closed. But, when we are open try to bring them inside, so we can say hello.

Get to know your Library Staff:

Jane Blue: Library Director

Cate Land: Customer Service Supervisor

Arthur S. Newman: Community Outreach Supervisor

Alison Towles: Librarian/Cataloger

Nicole Carrington: Children & Youth Services Coordinator/Outreach Assistant

Maddie Jones: Children's Program Assistant

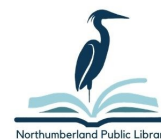
Andrea Trescott: Library Assistant

Josh Shipman: Library Assistant

Savannah Albrecht: Library Assistant

Karen Whelan: IT Specialist

Kathy Lewis: Bookkeeper



7204 Northumberland Hwy
Heathsville, VA 22473

Email us at: Library@nplibraryva.org
www.Nplibraryva.org

804-580-5051

Fax 805-580-5202

Where in the county is the Mobile Library?

Ever play *where in the world is Carmen Santiago?* Well, we love seek and find games so why not a seek and find for our Library on the Go?

You can find us at:

The Irvington Farmer's market. Every 1st Saturday of the month from 9-1, now through November.

The Heathsville Farmer's market. Every 3rd Saturday of the month from 9-1, now through October.

Reedville, parked right on Main Street. The 4th Thursday of the month from 1-4. Even in the rain, although we will take a break in Nov. and Dec. since the 4th Thursday falls on a holiday.

Look for us at other special events throughout the county this fall.

