

# Loud & Clear

FALL 2008 • Volume 20, No. 4

## Digital Update and Forthcoming Survey

The National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped (NLS) continues the transition to the use of digital machines and books. The digital format is replacing the current cassette format, which has been in use for nearly 40 years.

The new digital players will have a better sound quality, be more portable and each recorded title will fit onto a single cartridge. Cartridges will only go into a machine one way. The improved design of the machine will prevent the need of extension levers.

NLS has awarded contracts to manufacturers for the digital player, for the digital cartridges and for the new shipping containers. It is anticipated that the Talking Book libraries will receive players and cartridges for demonstration purposes by late 2008 or early 2009. It is also projected that some digital players will start to become available for customer use in the spring 2009. NLS has stated that veterans will be offered the new machines first, then customers that are 100 years old or older.

Access Services (AS) wants to determine everyone's level of interest

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**Fairfax  
County  
Public  
Library**

### Access Services

Fairfax County Public Library • 12000 Government Center Pkwy., Suite 123 • Fairfax, VA 22035-0012 703-324-8380 • TTY 703-324-8365  
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[www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library)

in acquiring this new player, and will distribute a five-question survey to our Talking Book customers in October 2008. Please respond by returning your pre-paid form to AS via the U.S. mail, by calling us at 703-324-8380 or via e-mail at **access@fairfaxcounty.gov**.

If you would prefer to complete the survey form online and submit it electronically, you will be able to access the form on the Internet at **<http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/branches/as/talkingbooksurvey.htm>**.

The transition process will be phased in slowly, depending on the level of funding that is approved by the United States Congress. Cassette players will be available beyond the transitional process but titles eventually will not be produced on cassettes. Customers will continue to use cassette players for magazines and for titles which may only be available on cassette.

As always, the staff at Access Services will continue to provide you with excellent service and keep you reading.

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## **Absentee Voting Reminder**

Registered voters, who will be away from Fairfax County on any Election Day, or who are unable to go to the polls because of illness or disability, including people with vision and mobility issues, may vote by absentee ballot.

Eligible voters may vote in-person prior to Election Day or apply to have an absentee ballot mailed to them. The absentee voting schedule, including in-person times and locations for the General Election on November 4, 2008 is available at: **<http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/eb/absentee.htm>**. You can also receive information by calling the Office of Elections at 703-222-0776.

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## Online Library Resources at Your Fingertips

Have you visited the Fairfax County Public Library Web site lately?

**<http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library>**

In addition to title, author and location of material one can find business information databases, explore age related interest pages from tots to older adults and locate additional reading choices for book groups or individuals.

To locate additional reading material, follow these steps:

Go to the library Web site.

Click on "Good Reading" on the left hand column.

Click on "Web Sites for Readers."

There you will find several choices; "Bestsellers List", "Book Awards," "Book Reviews", "Book Discussion Guides" and a list of Web sites devoted to romance, science fiction, or mystery readers.

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## Generous Donations

Access Services has recently received two new assistive technology products, which can be used for demonstrations and in-branch use.

AS now has a Victor Reader Stream player. The Victor Reader is a state-of-the-art DAISY and MP3 player. It allows navigation by chapter, section, page and bookmarks, among many other advanced features. This player is able to replay downloaded NLS digital titles. It was donated by Martina Murphy in honor of her mother.

The Friends of the Reston Regional Library have purchased a new auto-reader system called "myReader2." The product is similar to a CCTV print magnifier but there is no need to manipulate one's original

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copy while reading the text. When the desired image is captured, the text can be displayed and read in a column or a row or appear one word at a time, whatever best fits the comfort level of the user. Up to 10 pages of copy can be stored at one time and the text can be advanced automatically.

Please contact us for more information about either of these products at 703-324-8380 or via e-mail at **access@fairfaxcounty.gov**.

## **Spotlight on the Fairfax Area Agency on Aging**

The Fairfax Area Agency on Aging (AAA) serves older adults, caregivers and people with disabilities in Fairfax County and the City of Fairfax and Falls Church. The goal of the AAA is to improve quality of life and promote independent living for older adults. The AAA serves as a focal point for aging advocacy and leadership.

This agency plans, coordinates and funds many programs and services. Two timely program notes will be highlighted here but please visit their Web site at **<http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/aaa/>** or call them at 703-324-5411 for further questions about their services and programs.

One upcoming program is a series of free seminars for family caregivers presented by the Fairfax Caregiver Seminar Consortium. The seminars include such topics as "Legal Tools for Family Caregivers" and "Navigating the Medicaid Maze: Waivers, Eligibility and Documentation" and will be held at various locations throughout the county from September to November. For complete information on the seminars please visit **<http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/aaa/pdf/cgsemfall2008.pdf>** or call 703-324-5205.

The Virginia Insurance Counseling and Assistance Program (VICAP)

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also operates under the Fairfax Area Agency on Aging. Trained counselors assist customers over 60 years of age in resolving Medicare, Medicaid or medical claims, provide customers with basic Medicaid information, long-term care insurance needs and help with understanding other Medicare issues. There is no charge for this service.

Mr. Howard Houghton, VICAP's program manager, reminds all that the open season for changing your Medicare drug plan is November 15 through December 31. In order to determine which Medicare prescription drug plan best suits your need, Houghton has compiled a list of "15 Tips to Help You Find a Medicare Part D Drug Plan." To view the "15 Tips" go online at <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/aaa/vicap.htm> or call him at 703-324-5851.

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## Enhance Your Library

Please consider the Access Services library branch as part of your charitable giving. Private donations are critically needed to maintain high-quality library services. Contributions in any amount are welcome and are tax deductible.

Checks may be sent to Access Services, made payable to the Fairfax Library Foundation with "for Access Services" specified in the memo line or cover letter. For more information, contact Access Services or call the foundation at 703-324-8300.

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## Upcoming Conference

The Mid-Atlantic American Council for the Blind (ACB) Affiliate Convention will be held on November 21-23 at the Holiday Inn, Rosslyn at Key Bridge. The theme will be "Short on Sight, Long on Vision" and will feature seminars and speakers. Vendors will demonstrate their latest

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products. Sponsoring ACB affiliates are: The American Council of the Blind of Maryland (ACB-M), the District of Columbia Council of the Blind (DCCB), the Old Dominion Council of the Blind and Visually Impaired (ODCBVI) and the National Capital Citizens with Low Vision (NCCLV).

For further information, see any of the host affiliate representatives, visit <http://www.acb.org/olddominion> or contact Doug Powell, steering committee chair (ODCBVI), [oldjock1@cox.net](mailto:oldjock1@cox.net), 703-573-5107; or Barbara Milleville (NCCLV), [BarbMill1@verizon.net](mailto:BarbMill1@verizon.net), 703-645-8716.

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## Staff News

### Access Services welcomes new staff members

Branch Manager **Janice Kuch**, Reader Advisor **Yadira Fernandez** and Access Services Assistant **Naseema Ahmed**.

All have worked for the Fairfax County Public Library (FCPL) and bring many years of customer service to their new positions here at Access. Please welcome them if you have an opportunity.

New FCPL committee members: **Daniel Ramos**, Talking Book manager, represents Access Services on the FCPL Diversity Committee. **Susan O'Boyle**, reader advisor, now serves on the Collection Development Team and **Ken Plummer**, outreach manager, will serve on the Older Adult Customer Focus Team.

The Little River Glen support group has a new leader, **Kesavan Govindarajan**.

**Samar Mayberry**, page, has accepted an opportunity to work full time. We will miss her and wish her well.

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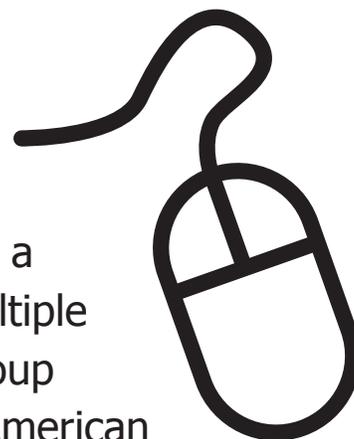
## Three to See: Web Sites of Interest

**<http://www.loc.gov/rr/program/bib/poetryaudio>**

A guide to selected online resources for audio recordings of poets reading and discussing their work.

**<http://www.familyconnect.org>**

This is a community for parents and guardians of children with visual impairments and a place to find comprehensive resources and support 24 hours a day. The site also features sections dedicated to multiple disabilities, technology, education and every age group from infants to teens. The site was created by the American Foundation for the Blind (AFB) and the National Association for Parents of Children with Visual Impairments (NAPVI).



**<http://www.teachingbooks.net/pronunciations.cgi>**

A fun site. You can hear dozens of children's book authors pronounce their own names and occasionally tell a little story about the name.

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## READING ROUNDUP

### Non-Fiction Books for Adults

#### **The Bradbury Chronicles: The Life of Ray Bradbury**

by Sam Weller **RC 62137**

Biography of fantasy and science fiction writer Ray Bradbury, author of **Fahrenheit 451** (RC 34963) and **The Martian Chronicles** (**RC 26787**). Based on interviews with Bradbury and private archives, Weller's book describes the author's childhood in Illinois, his early success, and his feud with Michael Moore.

## **The Colonel and Little Missie: Buffalo Bill, Annie Oakley, and the Beginnings of Superstardom in America**

by Larry McMurtry **RC 62785**

Portrays Buffalo Bill Cody (1846–1917) as America's first superstar. Proposes sharpshooter Annie Oakley (1860–1926) as the second. Discusses the signature exploits of Cody's legendary life and the showmanship that promoted an enduring image of the West. Available at FCPL branch libraries as a CD.

## **The Secret**

by Rhonda Byrne **RC 63764**

Author draws on literature, religion and philosophy to demonstrate the power of positive thinking and the laws of attraction. Profiles 24 people — doctors, authors, ministers, teachers and entrepreneurs — who offer advice on applying the "secret" to all aspects of life to overcome challenges and find success and happiness.

## **Catch a Wave: The Rise, Fall, and Redemption of the Beach Boys' Brian Wilson**

by Peter Ames Carlin **RC 63773**

Using first-person interviews and unreleased recording-session transcriptions, the writer analyzes the life of Beach Boys songwriter Brian Wilson. It describes the Wilson brothers' emotional abuse at the hands of their father, Brian's descent into depression and his comeback with the 2004 album "Smile." Some strong language.

## **Firstlight: The Early Inspirational Writings of Sue Monk Kidd**

by Sue Monk Kidd **RC 63842**

Inspirational stories and essays by the author of *The Secret Life of Bees* (**RC 55533**) that first appeared in "Guideposts" and other magazines. Includes pieces on her childhood, marriage, children and everyday events. Shares examples of compassion, letting go and being reborn to love. Available at FCPL branches in CD format.

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## **The Pursuit of Happiness**

by Chris Gardner **RC 63857**

African-American philanthropist recalls his life, from a harsh Milwaukee upbringing to a successful career as a stockbroker. Discusses his homelessness as a single father in San Francisco and stresses the discipline, self-motivation and community help that saved him. Strong language, some descriptions of sex and some violence. Available at FCPL branches in eAudiobook format.

## **FICTION**

### **The Once and Future King**

by T.H. White **RC 63195**

Four novels retelling the Arthurian legend from Arthur's birth through the end of his reign: **The Sword in the Stone, The Queen of Air and Darkness, The Ill-Made Knight,** and **The Candle in the Wind.** 1958.

### **Next**

by Michael Crichton **RC 63691**

Cancer survivor Frank Burnet and his daughter and grandson are targets of an unscrupulous drug company that wants to profit from their unique disease-fighting genes. Meanwhile other genetic-engineering experiments involving a boy/chimpanzee hybrid and a talking parrot have gone awry. Strong language and some descriptions of sex. Available at FCPL branches in eBook, eAudiobook, CD and LP formats.

### **The Boleyn Inheritance**

by Philippa Gregory **RC 63762**

Following her treachery in **The Other Boleyn Girl (RC 58873)**, Jane Boleyn — Lady Rochford — becomes a lady-in-waiting to two of Henry VIII's wives, Anne of Cleves and, later, teenager Katherine Howard. The three ladies become involved in court politics and treachery that lead to death. Some descriptions of sex. Available at FCPL branches in e-audiobook, CD and LP formats.

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### **Treasure of Khan: A Dirk Pitt Novel**

by Clive Cussler and Dirk Cussler **RC 63763**

Dirk Pitt, from **Black Wind (RC 59292)**, investigates the disappearance of a survey team he rescued from a freak tsunami in Siberia. Pitt's findings lead to a murderous Mongolian who hopes to sabotage the global oil market and restore Genghis Khan's empire. Some violence and some strong language. Available at FCPL branches in CD and LP formats.

### **Peony in Love**

by Lisa See **RC 64451**

Seventeenth-century China. Already promised in marriage, sheltered and educated 15-year-old Peony becomes enamored of the opera The Peony Pavilion. After her untimely death Peony returns as a ghost to pursue her interest in the opera and haunt her betrothed's new family. Available at FCPL branches in e-audiobook, CD and LP formats.

### **D.C. Noir**

edited by George Pelecanos **RC 62948**

Sixteen short mysteries set in distinct neighborhoods of Washington, D.C. In the editor's piece "The Confidential Informant" a son tries to impress his father by selling information to the police. "The Dupe" by Jim Fusilli highlights the duplicity of politicians. Violence, strong language and some descriptions of sex. 2006.

**"Be careful about reading health books. You  
may die of a misprint."**

**– Mark Twain  
(1835-1910)**



**Baltimore Noir**

edited by Laura Lippman **RC 63674**

Sixteen short mysteries set in Baltimore, Maryland. In "Easy as A-B-C" by the editor a contractor takes revenge on his female client. Rob Hiaasen's "Over My Dead Body" takes place in gentrified Fell's Point. Violence, strong language and some descriptions of sex. 2006.

**Non-Fiction and Fiction Books for Children and Teenagers**  
**Red Kayak**

by Priscilla Cummings **RC 62764**

Maryland's Eastern Shore. After a neighbor's kayak accident, 13-year-old Brady goes from being hero-of-the-moment to dealing with the worst dilemma of his life. He must choose loyalty to his best friends, J.T. and Digger, and doing what he knows is right — telling the truth. For grades 6-9.

**The Boys of San Joaquin**

by D. James Smith **RC 63488**

California, 1951. Twelve-year-old Paolo, his little brother Georgie and their deaf cousin Billy join the search for money missing from the church collection. The boys are surprised by what they learn about their small town before they finally discover the culprit. Edgar Award.

**Vanishing Act**

by John Feinstein **RC 63662**

Eighth-grade sports reporters Susan Carol Anderson and Stevie Thomas are covering the U.S. Open tennis championships in New York City. When Russian star Nadia Symanova is kidnapped before her match, Susan Carol and Stevie track down clues and corruption. Sequel to **Last Shot (RC 60035)**. For grades 6-9. Available in FCPL branches as a CD and an eAudiobook.

### **Fire on Ice: Autobiography of a Champion Figure Skater**

by Sasha Cohen **RC 63785**

The Olympic Silver Medalist figure skater from California (born 1984) chronicles her career from the age of seven through the 2006 winter games in Torino, Italy. Highlights the hard work, injuries and adversities she overcame to achieve success in her field. For junior and senior high readers.

### **Sammy: The Classroom Guinea Pig**

by Alix Berenzy **RC 63915**

One Monday morning while Ms. B is teaching, Sammy, the class's pet, makes a ruckus in his cage. Ms. B and the students gather around their guinea pig to figure out what is the matter. For grades K-3.

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## **Magazines for Talking Book Customers**

In addition to books, Talking Book customers may receive magazine subscriptions. There are a variety of titles available, covering different ages and areas of interest. Many titles are offered from NLS at no charge to the customer and others are requested from the magazine producer and may have a subscription fee. They are also published in a variety of formats; Braille, large print, digitally and as audio cassettes. Please call AS at 703-324-8380 or e-mail us at [access@farifaxcounty.gov](mailto:access@farifaxcounty.gov) for further information.

**“I enjoy books as misers enjoy treasures, because I know I can enjoy them whenever I please.”**

**– Michel de Montaigne**



# Tips for Protecting Your Vision

## From the Perkins School for the Blind

### Strategies for Life: Perkins Outreach Services for Ages 55 +

[www.Perkins.org](http://www.Perkins.org)

1. Have a yearly vision exam by an eye care specialist.
2. Adults and children should wear sunglasses with UVA/B protection whenever working or playing outdoors.
3. Watch for any changes in your vision (flashes/floaters) and see an eye doctor immediately if you do notice any changes.
4. Polycarbonate lenses are recommended for children, protective and sport eyewear. Consult with your eye care provider for an analysis of your eyewear needs.
5. Be cautious when opening chemical containers or using spray bottles for cleaning. Be sure the nozzle is pointed away from you.
6. Don't take chances with your vision! Be sure to see a doctor anytime your eye is injured (ex: black eye).
7. Consult your eye care specialist before using any eye remedies. You could mistreat a condition and cause further harm or you could use a product that is not as effective as the doctor might recommend.
8. Read with good lighting and posture to avoid eye strain. Good posture and ergonomic considerations are also important when using a computer.
9. To further reduce eyestrain, be sure to take brief periodic breaks at least once per hour when reading or using a computer.
10. Do not switch the care system for your contacts without consulting your doctor. Use appropriate hygienic measures with contacts; wash hands before handling, do not share lenses and do not use saliva as a wetting agent as it can cause an infection.



## Health and Human Services Information? Dial 2-1-1

2-1-1 is an easy to remember phone number connecting people with free information on available community services. From food, clothing, shelter needs to questions about voting, evacuation or obtaining a GED, call 24 hours a day, seven days a week and speak to an actual person. When you dial 2-1-1, a trained professional listens to your situation and suggests sources of help using one of the largest databases of health and human services in Virginia. These same services are also available online at <http://www.211virginia.org>.

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## Attention Seniors: Fairfax County Police Want You

The Fairfax County Police Department is reaching out to county residents over 55 years of age, who are interested in serving on new Seniors & Law Enforcement Together (SALT) councils. The focus of the new councils will be to enhance law enforcement's response to crime-related issues experienced or feared by older residents. The Police Department wants to hear first-hand from older residents about any of their unmet needs and quality of life issues. It is anticipated that these councils will play an important role in helping guide police department programs and policies.

Potential members should be willing to express their concerns about crime issues and may be asked to help share police-related information with their peers. The councils will be based in local police districts, with meeting times and spaces to be coordinated with local district officers. Police plan a training component to the councils to help new



members better understand the police department and its function in the community.

The Fairfax County Police Department places a high priority on meeting needs of the senior community and welcomes them into their planning process.

For more information on SALT councils, or to volunteer, call 703-246-4564. You will be directed to your local crime prevention officer.

## Contact Us

If you have questions, comments or suggestions concerning the Loud & Clear newsletter, please call Ken Plummer at 703-324-8389. You may also e-mail us at [access@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:access@fairfaxcounty.gov).

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[www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library)

*Loud & Clear* is published quarterly  
Access Services branch of the Fairfax County Public Library,  
12000 Government Center Parkway, Suite 123,  
Fairfax, VA 22035.  
703-324-8380; TTY 703-324-8365  
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County, Virginia



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