

Loud & Clear

FALL 2009 • Volume 21, No. 4

Digital Machine Update

Access Services Distributes First Digital Players

The initial shipment of digital players has been distributed to our first group of veterans. Mr. Parker Calvert, a 100-year-old veteran, received the first digital machine when the Outreach Manager, **Ken Plummer**, delivered it to his home in late September.

In July 2009, the National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped (NLS) successfully completed its prelaunch test. NLS was convinced that the players, cartridges and mailers were appropriately designed and produced. All the manufacturers are proceeding on schedule.



Mr. Parker Calvert receiving his new digital player.

Keep Your Cassette Player

We remind everyone that the number of titles available in the digital collection will grow slowly. All our customers will want to keep their Talking Book cassette players for use with magazines and older book titles. Customers will be able to order either cassettes or digital books.

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**Fairfax
County
Public
Library**

Access Services

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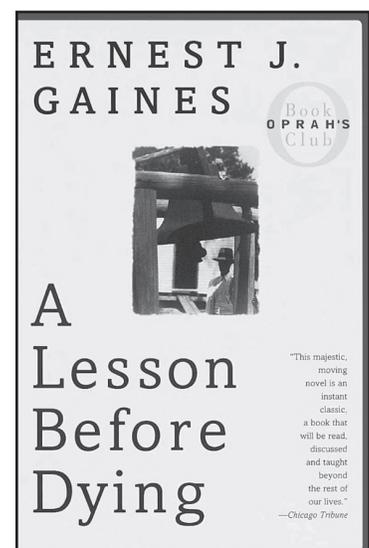
Advantages and Future Distribution

The digital player weighs less than the cassette player – two pounds compared to seven pounds. It has better sound quality and control and the battery life will last for 20-plus hours. Veterans will receive the machine first, followed by those customers who are 100 years of age or older. Other Talking Book customers who responded to a short survey as “interested” or “very interested” in the transition to the digital players will be the next ones to receive a machine. If you would like to contact Access Services and let us know that you are interested in a digital machine, please call 703-324-8380 or contact us via e-mail at access@fairfaxcounty.gov.

The Big Read/All Fairfax Reads

The selected book for the community-wide reading program is **A Lesson Before Dying** by Ernest Gaines. Fairfax County Public Library is partnering with the Virginia Foundation for the Humanities and many communities throughout the Commonwealth on this program.

“A Lesson Before Dying (1993) is set in Louisiana in the 1940s. The novel poses one of the most universal questions literature can ask: Knowing we're going to die, how should we live? **A Lesson Before Dying** is the story of an uneducated young black man named Jefferson, accused of the murder of a white storekeeper, and Grant Wiggins, a college-educated native son of Louisiana, who teaches at a plantation school. In a little more than 250 pages, these two men named for presidents, discover a friendship that transforms at least two lives.”



The book is available at Fairfax County Public Library branches in regular print, CD or cassette format. It is available through the National Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped (NLS) either digitally or as a recorded cassette, **#36694**.

Can You Hear Me Now?

Are you one of the 200,000 people who are deaf or hard of hearing that live in the Northern Virginia metro area? The Northern Virginia Resource Center for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (NRVC) is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization and may be able to help. In their demonstration room, one can test assistive technology equipment such as several different voice amplifiers for the telephone. There are several fact sheets (also available online), a bulletin board with information for all and a chance to meet with experienced staff for advice and peer mentoring. For more information or to set up an appointment call 703-352-9055 or visit NRVC's Web site at **<http://www.nvrc.org>**.

2010 Tech Fair

Our biennial Technology Fair will take place in May 2010 at the Fairfax County Government Center. The details for the fair are still being formulated. At past fairs, there has been a main speaker and several low vision vendors have displayed and demonstrated their latest products. Fairfax County agencies, as well as other senior resources that serve the elderly or disabled, have had information booths. We anticipate these activities will take place in 2010 also. More details will be available in the Winter 2010 issue of Loud & Clear.

Enhance Your Library

Please consider the Access Services library 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.

Friends of Access Services

The Friends of Access Services was formed in 2005. In part, their mission is to "encourage and support library services which are accessible to disabled persons." The Friends provide assistance and advice to the branch manager of Access Services. They are currently seeking new members. Anyone interested in supporting the library resource needs of disabled persons is welcome to become involved in the Friends of Access Services. Please call Access Services at 703-324-8380, TTY 703-324-8365 or send an e-mail to access@fairfaxcounty.gov.

Reading Roundup

The subject of health care is on everybody's mind. It certainly is the topic of many items on television and in the newspaper, at least as of this writing. Access Services takes an extremely broad view of the subject with a look at some recently recorded nonfiction titles, classic "doctor" stories, and a list of our favorite doctor authors or characters.

Focus on the Good Stuff: The Power of Appreciation

by Mike Robbins **RC 66114**

Robbins offers strategies for overcoming negative influences to improve relationships, find success and fulfillment and experience an overall gratitude for life. Includes exercises.

The Last Lecture

by Randy Pausch **RC 66601**

Carnegie Mellon computer professor Pausch provides personal lessons and stories for his young children to learn from as they go through life. Continues the message of his widely circulated taped lecture on achieving childhood dreams, delivered after he learned he was dying of pancreatic cancer. Available through FCPL branches in CD format.

Medical Myths That Can Kill You: And the 101 Truths That Will Save, Extend and Improve Your Life

by Nancy Snyderman **RC 66890**

Physician and NBC News chief medical editor dispels seven common myths regarding health, medical care and longevity. Covers the three leading causes of death — cancer, heart disease, stroke — and the importance of adult vaccinations and annual checkups. Includes medical truths and tips, such as laughing is good for your heart.

Out of My Mind

by Andy Rooney **RC 66172**

Candid essays by the “60 Minutes” television show commentator discuss daily living, politics, sports, money, work, war, food and the English language.

Heal Your Aching Back: What a Harvard Doctor Wants You to Know about Finding Relief and Keeping Your Back Strong

by Jeffrey N. Katz and Gloria Parkinson **RC 66352**

Describes the anatomy of the back, numerous causes of back pain, factors that put some people at greater risk, tests and specialists that may be involved when getting a diagnosis. Discusses ways to control pain and manage a back condition.

Doctor Zhivago

by Boris Pasternak **RC 29532**

Russian doctor falls in love again during Russian revolution. Available through FCPL branches in CD format.

Dr No

by Ian Fleming **RC 58875**

James Bond, 007, in the Caribbean, battling a maniacal doctor with an array of fantastic weapons and dreams of unlimited conquest. Some violence and some strong language.

Frankenstein

by Mary Shelley **RC 25835**

Doctor Frankenstein and his misunderstood creation. Available through FCPL branches in CD and cassette format.

A real book is not one that we read, but one that reads us.

– W. H. Auden

Doctor Authors and Their Latest Publications

(RC numbers listed when known. Call Access Services at 703-324-8380 to see what formats are available through FCPL):

Michael Palmer, medical thrillers

The Second Opinion (2009)

The First Patient (2008) **RC 66323** (in process)

The Fifth Vial (2007) **RC 64358**

Robin Cook, credited with adding the word "medical" to the thriller genre.

Intervention (2009)

Foreign Body (2008) **RC 67405** w/ Jack Stapleton/
Laurie Montgomery (in process)

Critical (2007) **RC 65469** w/ Jack Stapleton/
Laurie Montgomery (in process)

Tess Gerritsen, the "medical suspense queen," according to *Publishers Weekly*.

The Keepsake (2008) **RC 67723** w/Jane Rizzoli and Maura Isles

The Bone Garden (2007) **RC 64980**

The Mephisto Club (2006) **RC 63937** w/Jane Rizzoli and Maura Isles

Some "medical characters" to dissect and enjoy:

Author: Kathy Reichs

Genre: Mystery

Character: Temperance Brennan, forensic anthropologist

Number of titles: 12

Author: Patricia Cornwell

Character: Kay Scarpetta, chief medical examiner

Number of titles: 16

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Author: Iris Johansen

Genre: Romantic Suspense

Character: Eve Duncan, forensic sculptor

Number of titles: 8

Honorable Mentions: Dr. Doolittle, Dr. Oz, Dr. Seuss

Upcoming Program, Fairfax Area on Aging

**Understanding Medicare, Medigap, and Medicare Part D.
Learn the facts about health insurance for seniors.**

Date/Time: Wednesday, Nov. 4, 2009, Noon-2 p.m.

Location: Alzheimer's Association,
National Capital Area Chapter
3701 Pender Drive, Suite 400
Fairfax, VA 22030

Directions: 703-359-4440

Speaker: Howard Houghton, Virginia Insurance Counseling
and Assistance Program, Fairfax Area on Aging

NOTE: Please register for this program by calling
703-324-5205 or going online at
www.fairfaxcounty.gov/aaa.

Web Corner

Earlier this summer the U.S. Department of Labor launched **Disability.gov**, a redesigned federal Web site that connects the more than 50 million Americans with disabilities to thousands of

trusted resources on disability-related issues, programs and services. Formerly known as **DisabilityInfo.gov**, the site has been completely redesigned and updated with new social media tools, such as a blog and a Twitter feed, to encourage feedback and interaction among visitors.

Disability.gov features comprehensive information from 22 federal agencies, as well as educational institutions, non-profit organizations and state and local governments. Topics covered on the site include: benefits, civil rights, community life, education, emergency preparedness, employment, health, housing, technology and transportation.

Abledata: <http://www.abledata.com>.

ABLEDATA provides objective consumer information about assistive technology products and rehabilitation equipment available from domestic and international sources.

Loud & Clear Publication Schedule

Loud & Clear will be published every four months instead of every three months beginning with this Fall 2009 issue. Submission dates would be mid-September, mid-January and mid-April.

Staff News

Access Services welcomes back **Sol Hernandez** and welcomes **Doris Gonzalez** to the page department. These ladies are responsible for processing the daily incoming and outgoing book orders and for keeping our material in order.

Rob Harsher now volunteers as a deposit site delivery driver.

Newsline

The National Federation of the Blind (NFB) Newsline offers free access to 300 publications, including five Spanish language newspapers, via a touch-tone telephone or computer. Individuals who cannot read regular newsprint can call and subscribe to this service. Subscribers can choose that day's paper, the previous day's paper or the previous Sunday's paper. There are national publications like the Wall Street Journal and USA Today as well as the Washington Times, Washington Post and the Washington Examiner. For more information or to subscribe to this service call 866-504-7300.

FCPL Hours of Operation

Access Services is open Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. until 5 p.m. You can always call and leave a message or request material. Other FCPL branches are open the following hours:

Regionals:	Mon., Tues., Wed.	10 a.m. – 8 p.m.
	Thurs., Fri.	10 a.m. – 6 p.m.
	Sat.	10 a.m. – 5 p.m.
	Sun.	1 p.m. – 5 p.m.
Communities:	Mon., Tues., Wed.	10 a.m. – 8 p.m.
	Thurs., Fri.	10 a.m. – 6 p.m.
	Sat.	10 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Access Services at Your Keyboard

If you have questions about Access Services we are available online 24 hours a day at fairfaxcounty.gov/library/branches/AS. There you will find the services we provide, applications for both the Talking Book program and our Home Delivery service and direct links to other low vision and disability organizations and agencies. You can also call us Monday-Friday from 8 a.m.- 5 p.m. at 703-324-8380.

Upcoming Holiday Closings

Veterans Day	Wednesday November 11
Thanksgiving Holiday	Thursday, November 27 Friday, November 28
Christmas Holiday	Thursday, December 24 (County offices close at 1 p.m.) Friday, December 25
New Year's Day	Friday, January 1
Martin Luther King Day	Monday, January 18

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**.

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www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library

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To request this information in an alternative format call 703-324-8380 or TTY 703-324-8365.

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FREE MATTER for the
Blind and Physically
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