

# Loud and Clear

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## Release of BARD App for Apple Products

On Friday, September 20 the Braille and Reading Audio Download (BARD) Mobile app became available. This 'app' or application enables

NLS patrons to download audio and braille books, magazines, and music scores to their personal Apple devices such as the iPhone, iPad or iPod touch. You have to be a registered BARD user in order to use the BARD Mobile app. The app is free of charge.

With the 'app', there is no need to extract or 'unzip' the items you download. The BARD Mobile app does everything for you. Just click the download button and in a few minutes you will be able to enjoy your selection.

## **Basic Operation**

The BARD Mobile application is available for free download by going to the online Apple App store and searching for 'BARD Mobile' or 'NLS'. One of the nice features of the app is once you log in using your BARD login information, you will not need to log in again. The BARD Mobile app will remember your user credentials.

When you have successfully downloaded and opened the application there are four function related choices. They are: Bookshelf, Get Books, Settings, and Now Reading.

'Get Books' connects you to the BARD catalog. When you find books that you want, you click on 'Add to my wish list' instead of 'download.' The title will then appear on your wish list. Once a title is on your wish list then you can download it to your 'bookshelf'. When a book or magazine is on your bookshelf you can begin enjoying your selections. Books can be added to your wish list either through the BARD mobile app or through your computer.

## **Cautions**

At this time, the application will only work with Apple products. It will not work on Android devices.

Remember, particularly if you have a limited data plan, that books and magazines can be quite large to download (50MB - 200MB), so be

sure to manage your downloads carefully. It is possible to set BARD Mobile to only download over wi-fi.

If you have questions we will do our best to answer them, please contact us at the Access Services general telephone number at 703-324-8380 or via email at [Access@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:Access@fairfaxcounty.gov).

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## Absentee Voting

The Nov. 5 General Election will include elections for governor, lieutenant governor, attorney general, Fairfax County sheriff and the House of Delegates, as well as a School Bond Referendum. The Fairfax County Office of Elections wants to ensure that you have the opportunity to vote and has asked us to share the following information. The following chart contains very basic information:

<b>SUBJECT</b>	<b>DEADLINE</b>	<b>CONTACT NUMBER</b>
Absentee Voting By Mail	<b>Mailed, e-mailed or faxed back to the Office of Elections no later than 5 p.m. on Tuesday, Oct. 29.</b>	703-222-0776 (TTY 711) or e-mail <a href="mailto:voting@fairfaxcounty.gov">voting@fairfaxcounty.gov</a> .
In-person Absentee voting, Government Center/ Satellite locations	<b>Saturday November 2 5:00 p.m.</b>	703-222-0776 (TTY 711) or e-mail <a href="mailto:voting@fairfaxcounty.gov">voting@fairfaxcounty.gov</a> .

## Absentee Voting

A registered voter who is unable to go to the polls on Election Day because of a disability or illness or a registered voter who is the primary caretaker of a confined family member may vote by absentee ballot in person at the Office of Elections or a satellite location, or may apply to have an absentee ballot mailed to them.

Absentee ballot application forms are available online at [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/elections](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/elections). To request the application form be mailed to you, call 703-222-0776 (TTY 711) or e-mail [absenteeballot@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:absenteeballot@fairfaxcounty.gov). All applications to vote by absentee ballot by mail must be mailed, e-mailed or faxed back to the Office of Elections no later than 5 p.m. on Tuesday, Oct. 29.

In-person absentee voting is available at the Fairfax County Office of Elections, 12000 Government Center Parkway, Suite 323, and at seven satellite locations. The satellite locations are: the Franconia Governmental Center, the Mason Governmental Center, the Dolley Madison Library, the North County Human Services Building, the Sully District Government Center, the West Springfield Governmental Center, and the Mount Vernon Governmental Center. Call 703-222-0776 (TTY 711) or e-mail [voting@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:voting@fairfaxcounty.gov) if you have other questions.

In-Person Absentee Voting Hours:

### **Fairfax County Government Center**

NOTE: The office is closed Monday, Oct. 14 for Columbus Day

HOURS Oct. 15 to Nov. 2

Monday – Friday: 8 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Saturday Schedule: Sept. 28 to Nov. 2, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

NOTE: (Nov. 2 is last day to vote absentee in-person)

### **Satellite Locations:**

Weekday Schedule Oct. 15 to Nov. 1

Monday – Friday: 3:30 to 7 p.m.

Saturday Schedule

Sept. 28 to Nov. 2, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

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## **Be Prepared: Employment Strategies for People with Disabilities**

Join the Fairfax County Disability Services and Development Office on November 15, 8 a.m. - 3 p.m. at the Fairfax County Government Center for **Be Prepared: Employment Strategies for People with Disabilities**. The event will feature educational sessions on marketable skills, federal employment, reasonable accommodations, assistive technology, managing benefits while working, and overcoming barriers. This event is designed for job seekers, their family members, vocational rehabilitation professionals, and employers. Pre-registration is required. Click the following link to register online ([registering online](#)) or call Alison Kron at 703-324-5414.

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## **Web Corner: Two to Treasure**

[www.icanconnect.org](http://www.icanconnect.org) National Deaf-Blind Equipment Distribution Program (NDBEDP). The goal of NDBEDP is to ensure that every person with combined hearing and vision loss has access to modern telecommunication tools and the training necessary to use them, granting every individual the opportunity to interact with the world as an involved, contributing member of society. If you meet income requirements, you can receive FREE communications technology.

[www.fairfaxcounty.gov/OlderAdults](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/OlderAdults) Fairfax County Services for Older Adults. Everything Fairfax County, for the older adult population.

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## **Talking Book Reminders**

All digitally produced magazines need to be read and then promptly returned. The magazine cartridges are light blue in color and come in a red container. The digital cartridges are reused again and again. This may cause a readjustment of your reading patterns but if the magazines are not returned then your subscription will cease. Talking Book Topics is included in the magazines that need to be returned.

In order for us to provide you the best service, you need to help us help you. Please let us know if you have changed your email address, your phone number or your mailing address.

You are our best ambassadors for the Talking Book and Access Services programs. If you meet or talk with someone who loves to read but can no longer go to the library or has difficulty seeing print, remember to share our phone number, 703-324-8380. We want to keep you reading!

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## Reading Roundup

In this issue the Access Services staff suggests their favorite or recent reads.

From Beena Pandey: "The tension never stops."

### **Gone Girl** by Gillian Flynn **DB 74888**

Nick and Amy alternate telling the story of their troubled marriage, their move from New York to Nick's Missouri hometown, and Amy's disappearance on their fifth wedding anniversary. As clues begin to implicate Nick, he learns more about Amy. Strong language, some violence, and some explicit descriptions of sex. Bestseller. 2012.

From Carol Jones: "Here are a few books I have enjoyed and am glad to recommend:"

### **The Beautiful Mystery** by Louise Penny **DB 75464**

Chief Inspector Armand Gamache and his protege Jean-Guy Beauvoir travel to the remote monastery of Saint-Gilbert-Entre-Les-Loups, where twenty-three cloistered monks mourn the recent murder of the twenty-fourth, Choirmaster Brother Mathieu. Mathieu had recruited the best singers to join the monastery for its main focus--singing Gregorian chants. Some strong language. 2012.

**The Shipping News** by Annie Proulx **DB 37883**

National Book Award-winner by the author of **Postcards (DB 35489)**. The story centers around Quoye, a lowly newspaper reporter. When his wife, Petal Bear, runs off with another man and gets killed, Quoye's aunt convinces the distraught man to move with his two daughters to an abandoned family home in Newfoundland. Quoye goes to work for a sleazy paper covering the shipping news and learns to fit right in. Strong language.

**The Brothers Karamazov** by Fyodor Dostoevsky **DB 50370**

The melodramatic tale of Fyodor Karamazov and his sons: Alyosha, Dmitri, Ivan, and the illegitimate Smerdyakov. The death of the father and conflicts of faith are key themes in this panorama of nineteenth-century Russia. Acclaimed 1990 translation by Richard Pevear and Larissa Volokhonsky of the 1879-1880 original Russian publication. 1992

From Janice Kuch

**Wild** by Cheryl Strayed **DB 74646**

Author recounts the three-month, 1,100-mile solo hike she took on a whim in 1995, after years of devastating personal losses. Describes her encounters with rattlesnakes, locals, fellow hikers, and her own thoughts during her trek from Los Angeles to Washington State on the Pacific Crest Trail. Strong language. Bestseller. 2012.

**Black Fridays** by Michael Sears **DB 76131**

Jason Stafford finishes a two-year prison stint for illegal trade accounting, fails to reconcile with his ex-wife, and decides to take custody

of their young autistic son. When a firm hires Jason to examine the books of a young trader who died, Jason finds deep-reaching irregularities. Strong language. 2012.

**Ghostman** by Roger Hobbs **DB 76281**

An armored-car heist goes bad when one thief is shot and the other takes off with the loot. The crime boss calls in a favor from Jack, a master of disguises. Jack must find the money before an ink bomb packed in it explodes. Violence and strong language. Bestseller. 2013.

From Sandy Japikse

**On a Farther Shore: The Life and Legacy of Rachel Carson** by William Souder. **DB 75895**

“I always love a well-written bio about scientists I admire. Chemicals are in the news again, albeit different ones, but just as toxic and insidious.” Pulitzer Prize finalist. 2012.

**Van Gogh: The Life** by Steven Naifeh and Gregory White Smith. **DB 74364**

“Wonderfully written and very comprehensive bio of Van Gogh, one of my favorite painters.” 2011

**Jerusalem: The Biography** by Simon Sebag Montefiore. **DB 75491**

“All the important players in Jerusalem’s history tell their stories from King David to modern times. An enjoyable read and very thorough.” 2011

**Mrs. Lincoln’s Dressmaker** by Jennifer Chiaverini. **DB 76230**

A former slave, Elizabeth Keckley answers an advertisement for a seamstress and discovers it is Mary Todd Lincoln who needs help. I loved the way the author wove the personal lives of the Lincolns amid the upheaval of the Civil War. Elizabeth remains loyal to Mrs. Lincoln well after Abraham Lincoln is assassinated. Based on a true story. 2013.

From Susan O’Boyle

### **The Thin Woman** by Dorothy Cannell **DB 66292**

Ellie Simons, beautiful but overweight, hires escort Bentley Haskell to pose as her fiancée on a visit to her Uncle Merlin's imposing estate. Ellie encounters unexpected romance and a treasure hunt when Merlin suddenly passes away, leaving his fortune to her and Bentley--provided that she shed sixty pounds. 1984.

### **The Windflower** by Sharon and Tom Curtis **DB 71027**

During the war of 1812, eighteen-year-old American spy Merry Wilding is kidnapped by pirates but refuses to divulge any information. Devon Crandall, a British agent on board, resists the temptation to ravish Merry even as she falls in love with him. Explicit descriptions of sex and some strong language. 1984.

From Ken Plummer

The Song of Ice and Fire, the as of yet, unfinished series of epic fantasy novels by G.R.R. Martin. Mr. Martin has drawn inspiration from historical events such as the English period of the War of the Roses as he pens this tale filled with battles, beheadings, political intrigue, dragons and other elements of magic. The books in the series are **The Game of Thrones DB 45742**, **The Clash of Kings DB 49913**, **A Storm of Swords DB 51406**, **A Feast for Crows DB 62348** , and **A Dance with Dragons DB 73556**. Some descriptions of sex, some violence, and some strong language.

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## **Voters With Disabilities: Seven Tips for Voting in the November 5th Elections**

- All polling places are wheelchair accessible.
- Virginia requires some form of voter ID, such as your voter information card or a valid Virginia driver's license. A photo ID is not required. For additional information call 703-222-0776 (TTY 711) or e-mail [voting@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:voting@fairfaxcounty.gov).

- Every polling place is equipped with touch-screen voting machines, which are designed to provide voters with disabilities the opportunity to cast their vote unassisted.
  - The touch-screen voting machines will be set up to accommodate voters who are disabled or those unable to stand or reach the machine in the booth.
  - Each touch-screen voting machine is equipped with an audio headset that enables voters with visual impairments to cast a ballot without assistance.
  - Voters who do not vote absentee and are physically incapable of entering the polling place, or are 65 years of age and older, have the option of voting curbside. Call the number posted outside the poll or send someone into the poll to notify an election officer of your need to vote curbside.
  - Each polling place has a magnifying device available for voters who may have difficulty reading the electronically scanned ballot or touch-screen ballot. The touch-screen voting machines are also equipped with a “zoom” function that allows the voter to view a larger presentation of the ballot.
  - Accessibility problems encountered at a polling place should be reported as soon as possible to the Fairfax County Office of Elections at 703-324-4735 (TTY 711).
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## **Branch Notes**

The Access Services Open House on June 20 was well attended and enthusiastically received. Kara Zirkle and Stephanie Robbins from the Assistive Technology Initiative at George Mason University fielded many questions from the audience about the accessibility features in their personal devices. There were ten people who received one-on-one BARD training.

The branch has some new promotional material (flyers and posters) that highlight Access Services and/or the Talking Book program. Do you belong to an organization where you could help us spread the ‘Access

Services word'? If so contact Ken Plummer at 703-324-8389 or via email at [kplumm@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:kplumm@fairfaxcounty.gov).

Outreach Manager, Ken Plummer, attended the county wide Book Club Conference on September 7.

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## Spotlight on Book Clubs

Book clubs are alive and well at Access Services.

People join book clubs to connect with people, socialize and have a good time, to feed their passion for books, or to expand their book knowledge. They may join to leave their comfort zone and explore new interests. Sometimes it is to keep the idea of a story or their enjoyment of a story from ending. Sometimes people join book clubs with a narrow focus; classics or 'cozy mysteries', for example, to pursue their interests.

At the recent Book Club Conference hosted by the Fairfax County Public Library, Keynote Speaker, Mr. Will Schwalbe, author of *The End of Your Life Book Club*, remarked that he used to think that the greatest gift you could give someone was a good book. He now believes that is the second best gift. The best gift is the discussion of a book commonly read; you find areas of commonality or how much you have to learn from each other.

Mike Eaton, President of the Access Services Friends echoes some of Mr. Schwalbe's sentiments. He is a member of two book groups that meet at Reston Regional library. He has found that, with the occasional assist from his Access Services reader advisor, he is almost always able to get his book club books in a timely fashion, either from the Talking Book catalog or from FCPL's audio (CD) collection.

Each branch of the library has at least one book club that meets at that branch. Access Services obtains material for several book clubs that meet at retirement communities. If you are interested in locating a book

club near you please call us and we will try to find you one or connect you to the people who are running one. If you are interested in starting a book club we may be able assist you with some ideas.

Is a book club right for you? Well, maybe. Ms. Gay Hammerman, the co-chair of Goodwin House Retirement Community book club says, "This program fills a real need for the residents at Goodwin House. It provides a chance for intellectual growth. The vision impaired residents use the Talking Book material to participate. This program enriches our lives."

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## Enhance Your Library

Please consider the Access Services 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 Holiday Closings

The library will be closed on the following dates:

Monday, October 14	Columbus Day
Monday, November 11	Veteran's Day
Thursday, November 28	Thanksgiving Day
Friday, November 29	Day after Thanksgiving
Tuesday, December 24	Library closes at 1:00
Wednesday, December 25	Christmas
Wednesday, January 1	New Year's Day

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## Upcoming Programs- Fairfax County Services for Older Adults

Our friends at the Division of Adult and Aging Services, Department of Family Services, have many wonderful programs to help the older adult population of Fairfax County. They have programs for caregivers as well as those who need care. I have included a small listing of some of their upcoming programs here. For further information about these or other programs please call 703-324-7948 or visit [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/OlderAdults](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/OlderAdults).

The Independent Living Project is a free series of seminars and exercise classes that help older adults remain independent. The next series is scheduled on Thursdays, October 17-November 21, 1-3 p.m., Martha Washington Library, 6614 Fort Hunt Road, Alexandria. Register at [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dfs/olderadultservices/independent.htm](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dfs/olderadultservices/independent.htm), call 703-324-7210, TTY 711 or email [Jennifer.Edge@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:Jennifer.Edge@fairfaxcounty.gov).

There are free Family Caregiver Seminars throughout October and November . Upcoming topics include Behavior As Communication In Alzheimer's Disease, Legal Tools for Caregivers and Caregiving 101. For a complete list of programs or to register, visit [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/OlderAdults](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/OlderAdults) and link to *Register Now for Caregiver Seminars*, or call 703-324-5205, TTY 711.

Fairfax County is offering free Chronic Illness Management workshops. Topics include managing pain and emotions, using medication properly, communicating with health care providers, adopting exercise and nutrition goals and making informed medical decisions. Register and learn more at [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dfs/olderadultservices/chronic-disease.htm](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dfs/olderadultservices/chronic-disease.htm) or call 703-324-5489, TTY 711.

Mondays, October 21-December 2, 2013  
1-3:30 p.m.  
Reston Community Center Hunters Woods  
2310 Colts Neck Road  
Reston, VA 20191

Tuesday, October 22-November 26, 2013  
10 a.m.-12:30 p.m.  
Bruen Chapel United Methodist Church  
3035 Cedar Lane  
Fairfax, VA 22031

Thursdays, October 24-December 5, 2013  
10 a.m.-12:30 p.m.  
Great Falls Library  
9830 Georgetown Pike  
Great Falls, VA 22066

Wednesdays, October 30-December 11, 2013  
1-3:30 p.m.  
Sherwood Regional Library  
2501 Sherwood Hall Lane  
Alexandria, VA 22306

There are also many volunteer opportunities to provide support for older adults, ranging from Meals on Wheels drivers to computer instructors to quilting teachers throughout the county. Please call 703-324-5406, TTY 711 for a list of opportunities and locations or visit [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/olderadults](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/olderadults) and link to *Volunteer Solutions* or email at [VolunteerSolutions@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:VolunteerSolutions@fairfaxcounty.gov)

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## 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 him at [access@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:access@fairfaxcounty.gov).



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703- 324-8365.