

# Loud & Clear

SUMMER 2009 • Volume 21, No. 3

## Fairfax County Budget Information

As you have probably heard, due to an estimated budget shortfall of \$650 million, Fairfax County agencies will be altering many of their services when the new fiscal year begins July 1, 2009. The Fairfax County Public Library (FCPL), as a county agency, and its customers will notice some of the effects of the new budget. There will be fewer hours of branch operations and fewer staff members to conduct library business as well as longer waiting periods for best-selling material. Access Services will maintain its current hours of operation but will be affected by the other changes mentioned. It is our goal to continue to provide you with excellent service and to keep you reading. We do ask for your patience as some new procedures and processes are implemented. We thank you in advance for your consideration.

– Janice Kuch, Branch Manager, Access Services

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## Read Around the World – Summer Reading Program 2009

FCPL encourages students to continue reading this summer with “Read Around the World,” the 2009 Summer Reading Program, open to all children. There is one set of reading goals for children in preschool

**Fairfax  
County  
Public  
Library**

### Access Services

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FAX 703-324-8386 • e-mail: [access@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:access@fairfaxcounty.gov)

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

through the sixth grade and another for teens.

Participants who register at any branch of the library beginning June 18 will receive a pass to a local baseball or soccer game. Participants who complete their reading goals and return their log to the library before September 5 will receive a coupon book featuring awards from a variety of sponsors. For example, coupons can be redeemed for free ice cream, a free donut or discounts to a local water park.

The Access Services staff hope all of our younger customers will register at their local library, call us at 703-324-8380 or e-mail us at **access@fairfaxcounty.gov** to register here. Throughout this issue there will be author or title recommendations for our younger readers. We want to keep you happily reading this summer.

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## **A Troublesome Tape or Machine**

Is your cassette machine working well? If not, please call us at 703-324-8380. We will send you another one at no charge. We ask that you use the replacement's packaging to return your malfunctioning machine.

If a cassette is not working, please place a rubber band on one of the straps on the green plastic mailer. This will notify us that something is wrong.

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## **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

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line or cover letter. For more information, contact Access Services or call the foundation at 703-324-8300.

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## **Books, Books, Books for Kids, Kids, Kids (And Adults Who Are Young at Heart)**

Calling all children. Do you need some suggestions for reading material this summer? A great place to begin, no matter what reading level, is at the National Library Service for the Blind and Visually Handicapped (NLS) Kids Zone Web site, <http://www.loc.gov/nls/children/index.html>. Along with lists of children's award winners there is a bibliography of children's classics, <http://www.loc.gov/nls/children/bibliographies/classics.html>. On the classics list there are four general reading levels: The Very Young, Picture Books, Beginning Readers and Stories (older elementary and early middle school readers). The following are just some of the books you will find:

### **For the Very Young (For preschool-grade 2)**

**Goodnight Moon** by Margaret Wise Brown. **RC 24603**

As a little bunny settles into bed, he bids good night to familiar objects in his room and even some outside.

### **The Very Hungry Caterpillar**

by Eric Carle. **RC 24609**

A hungry caterpillar eats his way through so much food that he has a stomach ache. When he builds a small house for himself, something wonderful happens.

## **Picture Books**

**(For grades 2–4)**

### **George and Martha: The Complete Stories of Two Best Friends**

by James Marshall. **RC 49973**

This single volume contains all seven of Marshall's books — 35 stories — about two hippopotamuses, George and Martha. By sharing their humorous adventures and forgiving each other's failings, George and Martha demonstrate how to be true friends.

### **Make Way for Ducklings**

by Robert McCloskey. **RC 42913**

Five helpful Boston policemen stop busy city traffic so that Mrs. Mallard can move her family of eight ducklings from their island in the Charles River to their new home in the Public Garden.

### **Green Eggs and Ham**

by Dr. Seuss. **RC 34056**

In this rhyming story, Sam-I-am follows his companion everywhere, begging him to taste a dish of green eggs and ham.

### **Frog and Toad Are Friends**

by Arnold Lobel. **RC 51143**

Five stories about the adventures of two best friends. Frog and Toad are always there for each other, whether they are telling stories, finding lost buttons or swimming in the river.

**Wear the old coat and buy  
the new book.**

**— Austin Phelps**

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## **Stories – Older Children (middle school)**

### **The Borrowers**

by Mary Norton. **RC 51409**

Pod, Homily and Arrietty are a family of tiny people who live beneath the floors of an old country house, borrowing what they need from humans. When Arrietty encounters a human boy, the endangered Borrowers must relocate.

### **The Complete Chronicles of Narnia**

by C.S. Lewis. **RC 50083**

Seven stories presented in the chronological order in which C.S. Lewis intended them to be read. The first is **The Magician's Nephew**, telling how the journeys between the two worlds began and how the wardrobe came to be a doorway leading into Narnia.

**Books worth reading once  
are worth reading twice; and  
what is most important of  
all, the masterpieces of lit-  
erature are worth reading a  
thousand times.**

**– John Morley**

## **Staff Suggestions**

Access Services staff fondly remembers a few favorite titles...

### **Cloudy With a Chance of Meatballs**

by Judi Barrett **RC 50751 JK-2**

### **Day the Dinosaurs Died**

by Charlotte Brown **RC 64074 JK-2**

### **Coyote Steals the Blanket**

by Janet Stevens **RC 38478**

### **Al Capone Does My Shirts**

by Gennifer Choldenkop **RC 58456**

### **The Goose Girl**

by Shannon Hale **RC 58713**

### **The Thief Lord**

by Cornelia Funke **RC 55343**

... and a few favorite series and authors that you might want to explore this summer. To make your requests please call us at 703-324-8380 or e-mail **[access@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:access@fairfaxcounty.gov)**.

(Many of the synopses have been edited from Kidsreads, [www.Kidsreads.com](http://www.Kidsreads.com). Kidsreads provides reviews of the newest titles, interviews with the coolest authors, special features on great books and fun reading games and trivia. It is a part of The Book Report Network, a group of Web sites founded in 1996 that share thoughtful book reviews, compelling features, in-depth author profiles and interviews and more with readers every week.)

**The Henry and Mudge** series by Cynthia Rylant.

Henry is a little boy, who has no one to play with until he gets a

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dog. Mudge grows from a tiny puppy into an 180-pound loveable companion.

**The Junie B. Jones** series by Barbara Parker.

No matter how hard she tries, Junie B. Jones keeps getting into all kinds of scrapes. But no matter the trouble she gets into, Junie B. will make you laugh as you follow her adventures through kindergarten and first grade.

**The Sixth Grade Alien** series by Bruce Coville.

Pleskit Meenom is the son of the first alien ambassador to Earth and a new student in Tim Thompkin's class. Follow the adventures of Pleskit and Tim as they make new (and often extraterrestrial) friends, investigate each other's cultures and save the world!

**Matt Christopher** – a writer of sports books for boys and girls of all ages. Christopher's books cover a wide range of sports from traditional selections like baseball, football and basketball to more contemporary ones like inline skating, dirt biking and skateboarding.

**The Little House** series by Laura Ingalls Wilder.

Ms. Wilder was born in 1867 and lived in a log cabin, traveled across the country in a covered wagon and shared the story of her life in the Little House book series. Through sorrow and pleasure, danger and celebrations, the Ingalls faced hardships and fortunate times united in grace, humor, love and hard work.

**The Sammy Keyes** series by Wendelin Van Draanen.

Who is Sammy Keyes? Sammy is not a boy, but a girl, a feisty 13-year-old. Sammy lives with her grandma in a senior citizens complex while her mother is off finding her true calling in Hollywood. Sammy is a self-proclaimed tomboy, mystery-solver and one tough cookie!

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**The Harry Potter** series by J. K. Rowling.

The Harry Potter books describe a boy coming of age and the power of good versus the power of evil. Unbeknownst to Harry, Harry is a wizard. He will need to study and learn magic to prepare for the adventurous journey that will engulf him and his friends. Each book chronicles a year in Harry's new wizardly life.

**Agatha Christie** – who is best remembered for her detective novels featuring detectives Hercule Poirot or Miss Jane Marple.

See why the "Queen of Crime" is an important and innovative writer in the development of the mystery genre.

**And Finally For Our Adult Fiction Readers**

If you like crimes, conspiracies or thrills you might want to try some titles by these authors:

Susan Brockman

Lee Child

Harlan Coben

Lisa Gardner

James Grippando

Brian Haig

David Ignatius

Greg Iles

Dennis Lehane

Laura Lippman

Ridley Pearson

Robert Parker

George Pelecanos

Ruth Rendell

James Rollins

Lisa Scottoline

...Or call your friendly AS staff at 703-324-8380 for more new-to-you authors.

**The first time I read an excellent book, it is to me just as if I had gained a new friend. When I read a book over I have perused before, it resembles the meeting with an old one.**

**– Oliver Goldsmith**

## More Digital Questions and Answers

Max Bassett, a former president of the Friends of Access Services, and an initial user/tester of the digital prototype player continues to answer basic questions about the upcoming conversion to the digital format.

### **Q. Must I have a computer to participate in the new NLS digital talking books (DTB) program?**

A. No, but you must have an NLS compatible digital player to listen to the book. You may request and receive a book in digital format from Access Services.

### **Q. How will I learn to use the new digital player?**

A. At the time you receive the machine from Access Services there will be large print and recorded instructions accompanying the player. Also, you may request a brief tutorial from a staff member at Access Services.

### **Q. If I have questions during the months before I receive my new digital player who shall I call?**

A. Please call Access Services at 703-324-8380 if you have any questions. You may also contact us via e-mail at **access@fairfaxcounty.gov**. Please remember the roll out of the players will take many months. Veterans and customers who are a 100 years young will have the opportunity to receive the new players first.

**Editor's note:** Further information was released by NLS on the digital transition process. These are some brief highlights:

- Prelaunch libraries will receive the digital machines shortly;
- the cartridges have been approved;
- digital books are being manufactured and shipped;
- mailing containers have been approved and will be shipped.

## Staff News

AS staff honored our volunteers with a luncheon on April 28. The luncheon was catered by the Chantilly High School Culinary Arts program and sponsored by the Friends of the Tysons-Pimmit Regional Library. Our volunteers help in many support capacities. If you are interested in our volunteer opportunities please contact **Beena Pandey** at 703-324-8388.

We have had to say good-bye to two members of our page department, **Ting Tang** and **Pat McGill**. They will be missed and we wish them well.

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## All Fairfax Reads

The Fairfax Library Foundation and other organizations will be working together this summer to present All Fairfax Reads, the library's one book/one community reading initiative. Check the library's Web site for more details over the summer and look for materials and free programs this fall.

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## Calling all DJs

In July, Fairfax Public Access will conduct a radio production workshop for the visually impaired. The course emphasizes a hands-on approach. A few short projects will be presented live "on the air." There will be four two-hour classes. The starting date is still to be determined. For more information, please contact **Meena Gupta** via telephone at 571-749-1116 or e-mail [mgupta@fcac.org](mailto:mgupta@fcac.org).

The shows you hear are conceived, created, procreated, produced and broadcast by volunteer radio producers who want to share their love of music and ideas with you.

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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 us at **access@fairfaxcounty.gov**.

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

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