

LOUD & CLEAR

Summer 2013 Volume 25, Issue 2

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Access Services Open House

A Brief Reminder:

Access Services will have an Open House on Thursday, June 20 from 11:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m. at the Fairfax County Government Center, Suite 123. The opening remarks by Kara Zirkle, the Information Technology Accessibility Coordinator from the Assistive Technology Initiative at George Mason University, will take place in Conference Room 2/3.

Ms. Zirkle's presentation, "Accessibility Tools and Features in Computer and Mobile Devices" will begin at 11:00 a.m. After the presentation, please visit Access Services, speak with staff members, pick up some digital cartridges, or most importantly, schedule an appointment

for a one-on-one BARD (Braille and Audio Reading Download) demonstration for you or a family member or a friend. By utilizing this resource you will have access to recorded books 24 hours a day, seven days a week, and have the quickest access to the most recently recorded books and magazines. You will be able to see a list of the items you have previously downloaded.

Schedule an appointment for BARD today by calling 703-324-8380 or email us at access@fairfaxcounty.gov. We look forward to meeting you.

Summer Reading Program

“Dig Into Reading” is the title of the 2013 Summer Reading Program at the Fairfax County Public Library. You will be able to register online or in person at your local library beginning June 18.

Preschoolers through sixth graders read 15 books and those entering 7th through 12th grades read eight books. Everyone who is registered, completes their reading, and goes to their local library by August 31 will earn a coupon book with great prizes including many free and discounted items.

Activities are planned for families, preschoolers, school-age youngsters, teens and adults throughout the summer at all of our branches. Pick up a copy of the Summer Reading Program calendar at your local library or go to the website, <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/events/> and click on ‘Calendar of Events’.

Enjoy your summer and keep reading!

Magazines on Cartridge--Questions

NLS (the National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped) began shipping magazines on cartridge to their customers in

late March. Since that time we have received many questions about this service and how it differs from receiving the cassettes. The most frequently asked questions are compiled here.

I just received a phone call asking me to please return the magazine cartridge. I never had to return it before, so why do I have to return it now?

It is important to return the cartridges so your subscriptions are not interrupted. The cost of a cartridge is far greater than the cost of a cassette. The cartridge is a resource that can be used again and again.

I recently received a cartridge in the mail. It said it had two magazines on it. I've played it and I only hear one magazine. What do I have to do to hear the second one?

This is where one has to use the 'bookshelf' feature on your digital player. First, insert the cartridge into the player, then depress the 'play/stop' button until you hear the word 'Bookshelf'. At this point you can navigate between magazines (or books). Since you could not hear the 2nd magazine, tap the Fast Forward button and the 2nd title will be listed, then press the play/stop button again and you will be ready to listen to the 2nd magazine. If you have advanced to the 2nd or 3rd magazine and want to listen to the first magazine you have to use the rewind button to 'go back' to the earlier magazines (books) on the cartridge.

I don't listen to the magazines as often as I used to or at least not all the magazines I used to. How do I cancel some of my subscriptions?

Please contact Access Services at any time if you want to change your subscriptions. We can add magazines to your account or remove them. Please contact us via telephone at 703-324-8380 or online at access@fairfaxcounty.gov. Our office hours are 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday, but you may leave a message at any time and we will return your call.

**I love the magazines but I feel like I have to rush to read them.
What can I do?**

If you, a friend, or someone in your family has a computer with high speed internet, and a storage device or a blank cartridge you can download magazines from the BARD database. You have access to the most recently recorded books and magazines as well as the entire catalog of recorded material that NLS has. You are then able to read and enjoy the magazines at your own pace.

One more note on magazines is that if you have an advanced player you can navigate between the articles in a particular magazine by using the the 'next' or 'prev' buttons. ('Prev' stand for previous.) If you use the 'prev' button to listen to earlier articles remember that the first time you tap it, you will be taken back to the beginning of the article that you are currently listening to. A second tap will take you to the previous article.

Enjoy and keep those questions coming.

Access Services Friends of the Library

Did you know that your Access Services Branch Library, like the other Fairfax County libraries, has a Friends group? It certainly does.

Michael Eaton, President of the AS Friends Group says that The Friends of the Access Services Library don't engage in book sales but they do provide support, encouragement and advice to the Access Services Branch and its manager. The group meets quarterly.

Mr. Eaton described the Friends's meetings this way: "Our small group is composed of 10 to 15 members. Most, but not all, are Talking Book users, who share a common interest in advancing the Talking Book program and the Access Services branch library. We meet four mornings a year, usually at the Government Center, but sometimes at a community or regional library, for two hours. The meetings are often followed by an informal lunch gathering at a nearby place."

"Our discussions, which include the Access Services Branch Manager, run the gamut from new developments at NLS to technology

developments and how to disseminate news about them, to interactions between Access Services and the Fairfax County Public Schools, to more general discussions of meeting the needs of Fairfax County residents with visual and other disabilities. Our common concern is helping Access Services to help you, the customers. “

Mr. Eaton extends an invitation to all who might be interested to attend the July meeting. The Friends will meet on Wednesday, July 24 at 10:00 a.m. in the Fairfax County Government Center. The meeting will be held in the Conference Room of Suite 123.

Absentee Voting for the Nov. 5 Election; You May Qualify

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.

There are a number of qualifications to vote absentee for the Nov. 5 Virginia general election, including having a disability or being the primary caretaker of a family member who is disabled. Absentee voting by mail or in-person for this election begins Sept. 20. The Nov. 5 election is for governor, lieutenant governor, attorney general and the House of Delegates.

The Fairfax County Office of Elections is dedicated to providing accessible voting to all registered voters. For more information on absentee voting or accessibility, call the Office of Elections at 703-222-0776, TTY 711, or send an email to voting@fairfaxcounty.gov

Reading Roundup

Summer Reading Program favorites:

These children’s titles are staff favorites, remembered fondly from childhood, parenting or grandparenting days. Enjoy these classics or, by

using the BARD database, download them and share them with your family.

Young readers ---

Hop on Pop by Dr. Suess **DB 44160**

Are You My Mother by P. D. Eastman **DB 22795**

Goodnight Moon by Margaret Wise Brown **DB 24603**

Amelia Bedelia by Peggy Parish **DB 40183**

Older readers ---

Boxcar Children stories by Gertrude Chandler Warner. The first book in the series is **The Boxcar Children, DB 63706**. The series has over 30 DB titles. For grades 3-6.

Rick Riordan has created two series featuring Camp Half Blood. They are Percy Jackson and the Olympians and the Heroes of Olympus. These modern day adventures feature young teenagers interacting with Greek and Roman gods (their parents!) It starts with **The Lightning Thief, DB 63443**. Grades 5-8.

...And in anticipation of the dog days of summer (you know they will be coming) we hope you enjoy some of these dog-related tails (T-A-I-L-S) Ooops , Sorry that's tales (T-A-L-E-S):

Rin Tin Tin: The Life and the Legend By Susan Orlean **DB 73776**

Relates the 1918 discovery of an abandoned German Shepherd puppy on a French World War I battlefield by American soldier Lee Duncan. Describes Rin Tin Tin and his descendants' acting roles from early silent movies to the 1950s television show. Some strong language. Bestseller. 2011.

Thunder Dog: The True Story of a Blind Man, His Guide Dog and the Triumph of Trust at Ground Zero, by Michael Hingson **DB 73300**

Michael Hingson, an executive who worked in the north tower of the World Trade Center, recounts his escape after the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks. Hingson, blind since birth, describes what he and his guide dog, Roselle, experienced as she led him down seventy-eight flights of stairs to safety. 2011.

Dog Days by Jon Katz **DB 66105**

Former New Jersey suburbanite and author of **The Dogs of Bedlam Farm (RC 62296)** relates additional adventures in upstate New York. Reflects on lessons learned from animals and people as he describes the challenges and rewards of rural life and of caring for an ever-growing menagerie. 2007.

Giant George: Life with the World's Biggest Dog by Dave Nasser **DB 74533**

Nasser chronicles life with his family's Great Dane, Giant George. Describes getting George, a runt, in 2005; George's rapid growth; Nasser almost giving the puppy away; and Guinness World Records in 2010 citing George--at nearly four feet tall and seven feet long--as the tallest dog ever. 2011.

Dog Eat Dog: A Melanie Travis Mystery by Laurien Berenson **DB 66119**

Melanie Travis--single mother, special education teacher, and amateur sleuth--attends a meeting of the exclusive Belle Haven Kennel Club and finds the body of one of the members. Melanie investigates while coping with the unexpected arrival of her ex-husband, Bob, who wants joint custody of their son. 1996.

Dogs and Goddesses by Jennifer Crusie **DB 69363**

A dog-training school run by a Mesopotamian goddess brings together newfound friends and their pets--coffeehouse owner, Abby, and her Newfoundland, Webmaster, Daisy and her hyperactive Jack Russell,

and Professor Shar and her neurotic Dachshund. Magic and romance ensue. 2009.

The Dog Who Knew Too Much: A Chet and Bernie Mystery by Spencer Quinn **DB 75402**

Worried that her ex will bother her when they both visit their son at summer camp, Anya hires PI Bernie to accompany her, posing as her friend. But her son goes missing, turning the job into real detective work for Bernie and Chet. Strong language and some violence. 2011.

Other Fetching Tales:

White Fang, DB 51689, and **Call of the Wild, DB 49486** both by Jack London

Cujo DB 17301 by Stephen King

Old Yeller DB 47404 by Fred Gibson

James Herriot's Dog Stories DB 23911 by James Herriot

The Art of Racing in the Rain DB 66787 by Garth Stein

Holiday Closings

The library will be closed on the following dates:

Thursday, July 4

Independence Day

Friday, July 5

Day after Independence Day

Monday, September 2

Labor Day

Monday, October 14

Columbus Day

Net Corner One to Explore

A New Way to Listen

Loud & Clear (audio version) is now available on the Access Services newsletter website:

<http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/branches/as/loudandclear>. The most

recent issue appears at the top of the list. Click on 'Audio version' to hear the same recording that is distributed on the audio cartridges. And remember if you choose to listen to this format there is no cartridge to return.

Net Corner Deluxe-Beyond Websites

Movie Theaters Make Movie-going Accessible

Regal theaters now offer technology that assists blind and low-vision movie-goers (as well as deaf and hard-of hearing customers). At the theaters, customers can borrow special headsets to hear descriptive narration (DN) tracks with special narration describing the action on the screen during breaks in the film dialog or borrow lightweight eyewear to enable direct viewing of closed captioned (CC) text. DN and CC can only be accessed by use of this special equipment and is not audible or visible to other movie goers. These devices are available for all showings so viewing options are greatly enhanced. CaptionFish.com lists all movie times/theaters that have CC. According to a Regal employee, 90% of the movies listed with CC also offer the descriptive narrative track. It was mentioned that this was a fairly new service locally so calling your theater for verification would be a good idea.

Overview of Apple Accessibility Features

At the May meeting of the Reston Vision Impaired Persons Support Group (Reston VIP) personal technology devices and their assistive technology accessibility were discussed. Access Services Branch Manager, Janice Kuch, also attended and shares her notes.

The guest speaker was Mr. Matt Ater. Mr. Ater, Vice President of Strategic Programs for a local firm that provides technology service to Federal agencies, uses Apple products and could not comment on other devices. He led the attendees on a tour of some of the built-in features of the Apple Smartphone and the Apple tablet. Apple products such as the

iPhone, the iPad, and the iPod include assistive technology as standard features.

The first thing Mr. Ater noted was that accessibility has come a long way since his days as a college student when he needed the services of a human reader to complete his studies. Now appliances and personal computers as well as his iPhone and iPad, can “talk” to him as he uses them every day. VoiceOver is the built-in Apple feature that describes aloud to the user what appears on the device’s screen.

Mr. Ater demonstrated a ‘double tap’ which he used to open specific items, files or programs from the screen. He also showed how VoiceOver could be turned off so sighted members of his family could use the same devices.

Mr. Ater said he uses his Apple devices for work, to text or email family members and for fun activities like listening to a huge variety of radio stations, watching Major League Baseball games and playing card games.

Listeners had questions about how you get started and what some of the costs are. Mr. Ater noted that both the iPhone and the iPad are expensive and a beginner may be reluctant to spend so much on a product that might not be as useful as he or she hoped. He suggested that the less costly Apple iPod Touch might be a better choice for starting out. He also mentioned that other help is available for all Apple questions at all Apple stores, through online user groups and a website called AppleVis, <http://www.applevis.com/>.

Friendly Reminders

In order to maintain an active status as a Talking Book member one must check out or download one item or receive at least one magazine subscription each calendar year.

Please let us know if you are not receiving enough books or have too many books or no longer want any magazines. We are here to help meet your reading needs. Please give us a call at 703-324-8380 or contact at access@fairfaxcounty.gov.

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.



Fairfax County Public Library
12000 Government Center Pkwy.
Suite 324
Fairfax, VA 22035
www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library



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