

# LOUD and CLEAR

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## **Save the Date October 22**

Access Services is hosting a special community program entitled, “The ABCs of Low Vision Enhancement.” Participants will learn about practical solutions for living with low vision. This program will be co-presented by Dr. Suleiman Alibhai, Director of the Prevention of Blindness Society’s Low Vision Learning Center, and Burt Levy, owner of Beyond Specs and the White Cane. In conjunction with this program, the Society for the Prevention of Blindness of Metropolitan Washington (POB) will conduct free vision screenings.

The Low Vision Learning Center located in Alexandria, Virginia offers a variety of programs and services for people with low vision, including examinations and personalized rehabilitation programs. Any healthcare provider can refer an individual to the center based on evaluation or a person’s request.

The name ‘Beyond Specs’ refers to the point when an eye-care specialist tells someone that prescription lenses can no longer improve that person’s sight. Mr. Levy has knowledge of a wide variety of vision aids and appliances that make life easier for people with low-vision or blindness.

The free vision screenings test for adult glaucoma. Glaucoma cannot be reversed, but with early detection it can be treated to slow the disease’s progression. There are usually no symptoms in its early stages and that is why screening is beneficial. The POB uses visual field testing to screen for glaucoma. It is not the air ‘puff’ test. A visual field test measures an individual’s entire scope of vision, including peripheral (side) vision.

The program will take place in the meeting room of Tysons-Pimmett Regional Library, 7584 Leesburg Pike, Falls Church VA at 10:30 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. on Wednesday, October 22. Please mark it on your calendars and arrange for transportation today.

## **Summer Reading Program**

## **June 20 - August 30**

Get ready to enjoy “Paws to Read” during the 2014 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 20.

Preschoolers through high schoolers earn a coupon book with great prizes including free and discounted items by completing their reading and going to their local library branch by August 30. Preschoolers through sixth graders read 15 books. Children can have books read to them. Students in grades 7-12 read eight books.

Activities are planned for families, preschoolers, school-age youngsters, teens and adults throughout the summer. Enjoy puppet shows, a Latin music and dance program, ‘the Frisbee guy’ or ‘Reptiles Alive’ and other activities at library branches throughout the summer. Search our [calendar of events](#) or pick up a printed copy of the summer calendar at your local branch.

Remember to register for the Summer Reading Program beginning June 20 and learn all the details. Read for fun this summer!

## **Friends Helping Friends**

### **From Cheryl Piper, current president of the Friends of Access Services**

The Friends of Access Services is a group of customers and other interested parties who serve as an advisory panel for Access Services. We also exchange practical and helpful information, books and magazines we enjoy, and our experience with different types of assistive technology. We believe that this information may also benefit other AS customers and/or Loud and Clear readers. In this continuing column, ‘Friends Helping Friends’, we will share those helpful tips and our experiences, all from the viewpoint of a user.

For instance, when the digital players came out, I was very nervous about receiving one as I am not very tech savvy. Therefore, I requested the standard model, thinking the advanced player would be too complicated for me.

However, because I listen to magazines and books, and like the flexibility to jump from chapter to chapter or section to section, I became frustrated with the standard model. My reader advisor sent me an advanced player to try out. It turned out not to be complicated at all. With the use of one of three buttons, I can quickly and easily jump to anywhere in the book or magazine that I want to go. Also, the information button tells me where I am in the book or magazine and the time remaining. If these features sound good to you, call Access Services and request an advanced player. If I can do it, so can you!

The Friends of Access Services meet four times a year and our next meeting is at the Greenspring Retirement Community on Wednesday, July 30 from 10:00 a.m. until noon. All are welcome. For more information, call Access Services at 703-324-8380 or contact AS via email at [access@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:access@fairfaxcounty.gov).

## **Golden Gazette Basic Computer Assistance**

*This article is reprinted from the June 2014 issue of the Golden Gazette. (The Golden Gazette is a FREE monthly newspaper dedicated to serving persons age 60 and over in Fairfax County and the cities of Fairfax and Falls Church. It is published by the County of Fairfax, Fairfax Area Agency on Aging. The Golden Gazette is published in regular and large print. For more information on the Golden Gazette see <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dfs/olderadultservices/goldengazette.htm>).*

More and more of us are learning to use computers, tablets, and other technology products. These wonderful devices can help us stay in touch by emailing with friends near and far, visiting with grandchildren

through Skype, Face-Time, or other video-call programs; paying bills online; or ordering flowers to be delivered to a loved one in the hospital.

Using the Internet, people can find services, research any topic, listen to audiobooks, or read the latest novel in print as large as they like. However, technology can be extremely frustrating! Just when you least expect it, you can accidentally, push a button that makes everything on your screen disappear. Sometimes setting up a program like Skype can be totally confusing. What can you do? If you have tech-savvy friends or family nearby, you can call on them to help you. Many Fairfax County residents over age 60 do not have anyone to call.

The Fairfax Agency on Aging wants to help and is starting a new program, Volunteer IT On-Call, for residents age 60 or older. Sharon Lynn, Director, says, "Volunteer Solutions is recruiting volunteers who will assist with technology problems. If your computer is 'frozen', you can't figure out how to Skype, or something pops up on your screen that you don't understand, call 703-324-7948 and request the Volunteer IT On-Call program. The person on the phone will ask questions to determine if a volunteer may be able to help. A volunteer should be able to call you or visit your home within a week."

The volunteers cannot repair computers or other devices. You may have to hire someone for that level of help. Volunteers will try to fix small problems that can be resolved within an hour. They can teach you how to use email and other frequently used programs. If you don't have anyone else to help, call our technology volunteers. They like helping people who want to enjoy the benefits of 21<sup>st</sup> Century technology!

## **Returning Talking Books or Digital Magazines**

Access Services wants to remind everyone that we are a LENDING library. It is important to return the items you have borrowed in a timely manner. Your service may be interrupted if, for example, you have too

many books that have been downloaded for you and they have not been returned.

It is also important to return the regular books, the downloaded books or magazines in their proper container. We have several 'orphan' books or containers waiting to be reunited with their correct counterpart. The magazines were not sent from Access Services and need to be returned to their proper points of origin.

Help us to keep you reading. Thank you for your attention to these details.

## Upcoming County Holidays

Access Services will be closed on the following dates:

Fourth of July     Friday, July 4

Labor Day         Monday, September 1,

Columbus Day     Monday, October 13.

## Reading Roundup

This month we feature some books that have recently been recorded digitally.

For Younger Readers

**The Year of Billy Miller** Kevin Henkes **DB 77924**

Seven-year-old Billy Miller starts second grade at Georgia O'Keeffe Elementary School in Constant, Wisconsin, with a bump on his head and lots of worries. But his adventures with friends, homework, and family keep him busy all year long. For grades K-3. 2013.

**Sit-in: How Four Friends Stood Up by Sitting Down** Andrea Davis Pinkney **DB 78146**

Greensboro, North Carolina; 1960. Recounts the historic protest led by four African American friends--David, Joseph, Franklin, and Ezell--who sat down at a Woolworth's "whites only" lunch counter to challenge the injustice of segregation. For grades K-3 and older readers. 2010.

**The Boy Who Loved Math: The Improbable Life of Paul Erdos**

Deborah Helligman **DB 78173**

Biography of Hungarian mathematician Paul Erdos (1913-1996), who loved numbers--especially prime numbers--but didn't like school or following rules. Describes Erdos's practice of staying with friends all over the world who took care of him so he could concentrate on just math. For grades 3-6. 2013.

**Sky Boys: How They Built the Empire State Building**

Deborah Hopkinson **DB 78118**

In 1931, a boy and his father watch as the world's tallest building, the Empire State Building, is constructed, step-by-step, near their Manhattan home. For grades K-3. 2006.

**Escape from Mr. Lemoncello's Library** Chris Grabenstein **DB 77918**

Twelve-year-old Kyle and his friends enter a contest to win a Friday-night lock-in at the new public library created by an eccentric game maker. Little do they know that the winners will have to work together to solve puzzles in order to escape. For grades 4-7. 2013.

For Young Adults

**Taylor Swift** Liv Spencer **DB 77902**

Biography of award-winning musician Taylor Swift (born 1989). Covers her early years growing up on a tree farm in Wyomissing, Pennsylvania; her love of country music and writing; and her quick rise on the Billboard charts. For junior and senior high and older readers. 2013.

**A Beautiful Dark Trilogy: A Beautiful Dark; A Fractured Light; A Radiant Sky** Jocelyn Davies **DB 77741**

Includes **A Beautiful Dark, A Fractured Light, and A Radiant Sky**. Seventeen-year-old Skye's life changes after she meets two strangers on her birthday, Asher and Devin. She learns that the three of them are special and that their destinies are entwined. For junior and senior high and older readers. 2011.

**First Love** James Patterson **DB 78302**

Sixteen-year-old "good girl", Axi Moore, decides to run away and convinces her best friend, Robinson, to join her. The two take a road trip from Oregon to New York City and fall in love along the way. Young Adult appeal. Bestseller. 2014.

The popular DIVERGENT SERIES by Veronica Roth is also available digitally. **Divergent DB 73203, Insurgent DB 74836 and Allegiant DB 77550**

### **For Adults**

And for the child in all of us

**The World According to Mister Rogers: Important Things to Remember** Fred Rogers **DB 57115**

Words of wisdom by the late Fred Rogers--composer, writer, puppeteer, and beloved host of TV's "Mister Rogers' Neighborhood" who dedicated his life to serving children through public television. His stories, anecdotes, and insights on life ultimately speak to being yourself, understanding love, and discovering the rewards of inner discipline. Bestseller. 2003.

...And a quick look at the four most popular fiction and non-fiction titles that have been downloaded from the BARD (Braille and Audio Reading Download) database (as of May 30). If you or a family member have a computer with a high speed Internet connection, an email address and a blank cartridge or a 'flash' or 'thumb' drive you can use the BARD database. The BARD database is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

## Fiction Titles

<b>Sycamore Row</b>	John Grisham	<b>DB 77720</b>
<b>Standup Guy</b>	Stuart Woods	<b>DB 78074</b>
<b>King and Maxwell</b>	David Baldacci	<b>DB 77822</b>
<b>The Gods of Guilt</b>	Michael Connelly	<b>DB 77821</b>

## Nonfiction Titles

<b>Twelve Years a Slave</b>	Solomon Northup	<b>DB 77891</b>
<b>My Story</b>	Elizabeth Smart	<b>DB 77683</b>
<b>Killing Jesus: a History</b>	Bill O'Reilly	<b>DB 77565</b>
<b>Heaven Is for Real: A Little Boy's Astounding Story of His Trip to Heaven and Back</b>	Todd Burpo	<b>DB 72633</b>

## Summer Fun

### Our Special Harbor Spray Park

The fully accessible Chesapeake Bay-themed spray ground, Our Special Harbor, is part of the Family Recreation Area at [Lee District Park](#). The zero-depth entry spray ground features fun water activities that include a spraying osprey nest, Chessie-the sea serpent, misting sunflowers, a lighthouse, and a crab skiff. The beach is quieter with gentle bubblers and interactive water tables. A water maze and dumping crab basket provide more lively activity. Water shoes are required for anyone on the wet pad. Specific rules are posted on the website.

Our Special Harbor is located at 6601 Telegraph Road in Alexandria, VA. For information, call 703-922-9841 or visit [Our Special Harbor Spray Park](#). It is open weekends May 24 through June 29. Daily operations begin June 30 and continue through August 31.

### Beepball Program

Do you like sports and socializing? Do you enjoy some friendly competition with other visually impaired people? If you answered yes, beepball is the game for you!

This game is an adaptation of baseball with a beeping ball and bases outfitted with beeping tones. No prior experience with sports needed. Come try it!

Beepball is sponsored by the Telephone Pioneers of America and is played on Wednesday evenings from July through September from 7 to 9 p.m. at Falls Church High School. Anyone who is old enough to swing a bat at a ball on a tee (8 and above) is welcome to join in the fun. For more information, contact Mary Navarro at 571-275-7973.

## **FCPL Celebrates 75 Years**

Throughout 2014, Fairfax County Public Library will celebrate its 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary serving the citizens of Fairfax County.

### **A Brief History**

Residents of Fairfax have had a deep interest in books and reading since the 1700s. During that time “libraries” were mainly in private homes. However, town and community libraries were established throughout the county; in Vienna in 1897, Falls Church in 1899, the Herndon Fortnightly Club in 1899 and McLean before 1915.

By 1929 residents in other areas of the county began appealing to the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors for a countywide system. Plans finally began to fall into place 10 years later. In February 1939 the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors voted to establish a free countywide library system. In March they appropriated \$250. Realizing additional funding would be needed, the five-member library Board of Trustees turned to the State Library Board and the federal Works Progress Administration (WPA). The funding received was allocated for one bookmobile (on loan), a driver, a librarian, books and other personnel. By July 1940 the first bookmobile was making stops throughout the county.

Seventy-five years later, Fairfax County Public Library has 23 branches reaching every part of the county. Could early founders have imagined today's library? It grew from 4,029 users in 1942 to over 450,000 today and a collection of a few hundred to over 2.3 million. Could they imagine a computerized collection, online databases and Access Services? Could they have imagined these upcoming 'diamond' celebrations?

### **Talking Baseball with Grant and Danny**

Thursday, July 17, 7:30 p.m. at [Pohick Regional Library](#)

Grant Paulsen and Danny Rouhier from 106.7 The Fan (WJFK-FM) discuss the Washington Nationals' season so far and the latest Major League Baseball news. Random drawing for door prizes. Co-sponsored by the [Friends of the Pohick Regional Library](#). Adults and teens. [Please register](#) beginning June 19.

### **Mystery of the Hope Diamond**

Friday, Sept. 5, 7:30 p.m. at [Oakton Library](#) (doors open at 7 p.m.)

Dr. Jeffrey Post, Curator of the Mineral Collection at the Smithsonian's National Museum of Natural History, discusses the history and scientific importance of the famed Hope Diamond. Co-sponsored by the [Friends of the Oakton Library](#). Refreshments. Adults and teens. [Please register](#) beginning Aug. 8.

Look for other events taking place at your local libraries throughout this year.

## **Staff News-Spotlight on AS Volunteers**

We want to recognize and thank our Access volunteers who help us deliver our services to you. Collectively they perform a variety of tasks; from inputting data for new talking books to driving to our deposit site collections to leading vision support groups and everything in-between. We

are honored and grateful that these individuals donate their time and talents to Access Services.

Two of our volunteers were recently recognized with FCPL's Star Volunteer Award for Exceptional Service, **Marybeth Preisel** and **Gloria Sussman**. Marybeth has performed many duties while at AS but currently uses her computer skills and attention to detail to process the returned Talking Books that have been downloaded, enabling us to use the cartridges multiple times. Gloria has facilitated the VIP (Vision Impaired Persons) Reston support group for 30 years. With her dedication, compassion, leadership and commitment she is an inspirational advocate for people with vision loss.

The other Access Services volunteers are: **Jean Bahler, Anita Cline, Anne Lustfeldt, Chato Carter, Jim Rowland, Mary Siegler, Ray Walsh,** and **Robert Harsher**.

Access Services also benefits from several volunteers who monitor and maintain the library collections at our retirement community deposit sites. At the risk of forgetting to mention people (and I apologize in advance) raise a glass to these wonderful library-loving people.

**Cindy Wolfe**

**Gina Hill**

**Art and Mary Jane Frieberg** (former volunteers)

**Mary Ellen Ackerson**

**Judy Saulier**

**Eleanor Linkous**

**Pat Purcell**

**Tuck Wilson**

**Sue Swisher**

**Beverly Palmer**

**Adeline West**

## **Web Corner (threatening, this issue, to become a page)**

For families and students—In addition to the ‘Summer Fun’ activities highlighted earlier these sites have been gathered from primarily other Fairfax county agencies

### **Therapeutic Recreation Programs for Children, Teens, and Young Adults**

<http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/ncs/trs/ctya.htm>

### **Fairfax County Public Schools Elementary Institute for the Arts**

<http://www.fcps.edu/is/finearts/eifta.shtml>

### **Park Authority Camps**

[http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/rec/rec\\_camps.htm](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/rec/rec_camps.htm)

Web sites for all

### **Complete Guide to Services for People with Disabilities**

<http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dfs/dspd/complete-guide-to-services.htm>

### **Fairfax County Park Authority List of summer Programs, Link To SUMMER PARKTAKES**

<http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/parktakes/>

And three library notes

Loud & Clear (including past issues) is available on the FCPL webpage. It is available in both electronic and audible versions:

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

The Fairfax County Public Library offers access to current digital editions of many popular e-magazines for a variety of devices through a

service called Zinio. There are no holds, no checkout periods and no limit to the number of magazines you can download. You may keep the digital items as long as you wish. Please note: this is not in an audio format.

<http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/dbsremote/resource/zinio.htm>

Summer Reading Program/General Library Information:

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

## CVS Offering “Talking” Prescription Labels Through Its Online Pharmacy

CVS/pharmacy has announced that it will provide [ScripTalk](#) talking prescription drug labels for online prescriptions. This new effort will provide a safe and convenient way for customers who are blind or have visual impairments to know about the important health and safety information on prescription labels. Customers can also obtain a free ScripTalk reader from Envision America that will enable them to listen to the label information. The ScripTalk information can include: drug name, dosage and instructions, warnings and contradictions, pharmacy information, doctor’s name, prescription number and date.

## 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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