

Loud & Clear

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Vision Technology Fair: Save the Date

The next Access Services technology and resources fair is scheduled for mid-May. Co-sponsors of the 2008 tech fair are AS and the Fairfax County Public Library system, the Hollin Hall Senior Center and the Prevention of Blindness Society of Metropolitan Washington. This year's fair will concentrate on technology, equipment and resources for individuals with low vision or blindness.

In response to many customer requests, we are taking the fair on the road this year to a location in the southern part of Fairfax County. The fair will take place at the Hollin Hall Senior Center. For information on directions, parking and local dining, please call the Hollin Hall Senior Center at 703-765-4573, TTY 711.

More information will be coming your way. For now, mark your calendars and arrange transportation for:

VISION TECH FAIR

DATE: MONDAY MAY 12, 2008

TIME: 10 A.M. - 2 P.M.

PLACE: HOLLIN HALL SENIOR CENTER

1500 SHENANDOAH ROAD

ALEXANDRIA, VA 22308



Access Services

Fairfax County Public Library • 12000 Government Center Pkwy., Suite 123 • Fairfax, VA 22035-0012 703-324-8380 • TTY 703-324-8365
FAX 703-324-8386 • e-mail: access@fairfaxcounty.gov

www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library

Calling All Internet Users We need your help

We are in the process of redesigning the layout and re-examining the content of the Access Services Web page on the Fairfax County Public Library Web site. We want to make it more useful and accessible. If you haven't seen or used the site before you can find it at **www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/branches/as**.

We would appreciate your thoughts on the following questions:

- Did you know that Access Services had a Web page?
- If you have used the site, did you find what you were looking for? If not, what were you looking for?
- Was the page easy or difficult to navigate?
- Did you find the content useful?
- What would you like to see added or changed?

Please respond by e-mailing Access Services at access@fairfaxcounty.gov, calling Ken Plummer at 703-324-8389 or writing to Access Services 12000 Government Center Parkway, Suite 123, Fairfax, VA, 22035. Send us your comments and suggestions by March 1, 2008. Thank you for your time and assistance!

***"Writing books is the closest
men ever come to childbearing."
– Norman Mailer***

Preparing For Emergencies Special Needs Registry

The following information is from the Fairfax County Special Needs Registry <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/specialneeds/>.

Fairfax County has created the Fairfax County Special Needs Registry. The Special Needs Registry allows residents with medical needs and organizations who assist those with social needs an opportunity to provide information to Fairfax County so that agencies can communicate emergency preparedness, response and recovery resources to our vulnerable, at risk and hard-to-reach residents.

Fairfax County defines a person with medical needs as a person who has a high-risk health condition that is either temporary or chronic who cannot manage for themselves in a shelter or evacuation center and will require assistance in performing the activities of daily living and/or will require care for and the monitoring of a health condition.

The social needs registry will register organizations that serve people with social needs. People with social needs are considered to be vulnerable, at-risk or hard to reach in the event of an emergency, but are not medically dependent. This group may need specialized communications and/or transportation. The social needs population may consist of people who are: older adults or young children; economically disadvantaged; reliant on public transportation; or living in or attending licensed facilities.

This group also includes people who have:

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household pets or service animals; limited English proficiency; and disabilities.

The information collected will only be shared with Fairfax County agencies and partner agencies and organizations to improve their ability to serve and will not be available to the public. For further details and to register, visit the Fairfax County Special Needs Registry <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/specialneeds/>.

Donating Or Receiving Used Medical Equipment In Northern Virginia

This article is from the Sept. 2007 issue of Caregiver's Corner Online, a county e-publication.

The Foundation for Rehabilitative Equipment and Endowment of Northern Virginia (FREE), a non-profit volunteer-based organization, provides equipment to adults and children who are uninsured or do not have the resources to purchase needed equipment. FREE accepts donations of durable medical equipment including hospital beds, wheelchairs, scooters, power wheelchairs, bath/shower chairs, walkers, canes, assistive devices and more.

Donated items can be dropped off at many convenient locations throughout the county. Pick up can be arranged for larger items. Donated items are listed in FREE'S database. FREE is always looking for volunteers, board members, committee members, etc. For more information or to volunteer, contact Tia Marsili, The ARC of Northern Virginia, via e-mail at tmarsili@thearcofnova.org or telephone at 703-532-3214, extension 105. More information is also available at www.free-foundation.org.

Digital Talking Books - Update

The National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped (NLS) continues to make progress on the transition to the digital format for the Talking Book Program. Toward the end of 2008 it is expected that NLS will have 5,000 digital players available for library demonstrations and a limited number available for selected customers in eight specific states. Virginia is not included in the eight states. Depending on available funding, the transition is scheduled to take four years, during which both cassettes and digital formats will be available. If you have further questions on the transition to digital, please call Access Services at 703-324-8380 or contact us via e-mail at **access@fairfaxcounty.gov**.

Foundation Fighting Blindness VISIONWALK

(Article submitted by Jo Adams)

The Foundation Fighting Blindness is a national research organization that is dedicated to finding treatment and cures for retinal and other eye diseases. The VISIONWALK program is the organization's fundraiser. There will be a VISIONWALK fundraiser in Northern Virginia that will take place May 17, 2008, at the Northern Virginia Community College Alexandria Campus. For more information, contact Jillian Goedeke by telephone at 410-568-0140 or via e-mail at **JGOEDEKE@FightBlindness.org**.

Staff News

Jyoti Shirke and **Vijaya Gollamudi**, AS pages, were promoted to library aide positions at the Oakton Library. Both have resigned their page positions. Congratulations, Ladies!

Patricia McGill and **Sol Hernandez** are new members of the AS page department. Pat worked as a federal employee for many years. Sol brings library experience from Colombia and is pursuing her MLS degree at Catholic University.

Ken Plummer, **Susan O'Boyle** and **Sandra Japiske** attended a three-day orientation at the NLS headquarters in Washington DC.

New Friends of Access Services officers. **Max Bassett**, **Gloria Sussman**, and **Beav Bassett** will step down as Friends officers after more than three years of service. They were instrumental in re-establishing a Friends group for AS. Max and Gloria will remain as members of the Friends, but Beav will be withdrawing from participation. Beav will resume her earlier volunteer position with AS. New officers were elected to two-year terms as follows:

President: **Katherine Bond**

Vice President: **Michael Eaton**

Secretary: **Kathleen Tozer**

Web Corner

www.afb.org/seniorsitehome.asp

The American Foundation for the Blind (AFB) created AFB Senior Site to help older Americans and their family members cope with age-related eye diseases. A virtual community that seniors, their concerned loved ones, and the dedicated professionals who serve them can use to find critical resources and connections to local services they need to live independently.

American RadioWorks: An Imperfect Revolution [Real Player]

<http://americanradioworks.publicradio.org/features/deseg/>

For those who experienced federally-mandated school desegregation in the 1970s and 1980s, it was something many of them will never forget. American RadioWorks sent Kate Ellis and Catherine Winter to Louisville and Charlotte to talk with people about their experiences with school desegregation. Visitors can listen to the complete radio program here, read a transcript and also offer their own recollections with this process as well.

From The Scout Report, Copyright Internet Scout Project 1994-2007. **<http://scout.wisc.edu/>**.

<http://www.ncd.gov/>

The National Council on Disability (NCD) is an independent federal agency making recommendations to the President and Congress to enhance the quality of life for all Americans with disabilities and their families.

NCD's overall purpose is to promote policies, programs, practices and procedures that guarantee equal opportunity for all individuals with disabilities, regardless of the nature or severity of the disability; and, to empower individuals with disabilities to achieve economic self-sufficiency, independent living and inclusion and integration into all aspects of society.

Reports such as "Issues in Creating Livable Communities for People with Disabilities: Proceedings of the Panel and Empowerment for Americans with Disabilities: Breaking Barriers to Careers and Full Employment" are posted online in PDF or HTML format and can be found at

<http://www.ncd.gov/newsroom/publications/2007/publications.htm>

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.

Reading Round Up

Winter, a chance to discover some favorite authors or some new ideas.

Hearts Divided

by Debbie Macomber. **RC 62858**

Three stories featuring war brides and their granddaughters. In "Liberty Hall," professor Chloe Abbott relies on her grandmother's World War II code-breaking experience. In "5-B Poppy Lane," Ruth Shelton learns about wartime romance. In "The Apple Orchard," Elizabeth Winslow returns to the family farm with a broken heart. 2006.

The Talbot Odyssey

by Nelson DeMille. **RC 62461**

New York City. Lawyer Patrick O'Brien, a former spy for the Office of Strategic Services, tracks a World War II-era Russian mole, code-named Talbot. The trail leads to murder and a Talbot-engineered Soviet plot to topple the U.S. government with a nuclear weapon. Violence and strong language. 1984. Also available as a CD from library branches.

Watch Your Back! A Dortmund Mystery

by Donald E. Westlake. **RC 62499**

Fence Arnie Albright returns from Club Med with information that millionaire Preston Fareweather left valuables in his unguarded New York penthouse. Thief John Dortmund and his crew gather to plan a heist, only to learn that their favorite bar has been taken over by the Mafia. Strong language. 2005. Also available as a CD from library branches.

Born to Be Wild

by Catherine Coulter. **RC 63175**

Believing someone is trying to kill her, Malibu soap opera star Mary Lisa Beverly returns to her Oregon hometown. She attracts the amorous attention of both police chief Jack Wolf and district attorney John Goddard—her sister's ex-boyfriend—who are investigating a local murder. Some explicit descriptions of sex. Bestseller. 2006. Also available as a CD and in large print from library branches.

Crisis

by Robin Cook. **RC 63197**

When Boston doctor Craig Bowman's wealthy, hypochondriac patient Patience Stanhope dies, her husband sues for malpractice. Bowman's brother-in-law Jack Stapleton, a New York medical examiner, recommends an autopsy but soon realizes someone will do anything to prevent the body from being exhumed. Some violence and some strong language. Bestseller. 2006. Also available as a CD, large print and an e-book from library branches.

Feathers in the Fire

by Catherine Cookson. **RC 62877**. (Reissue)

England, late 1800s. Young Davie Armstrong labors on a farm ruled by a cruel master, Angus McBain. Eventually Davie confronts both his love for Angus's daughter, Jane, and the murderous scheme of Angus's legless son, Amos, to inherit the estate. Some descriptions of sex and some violence. 1972.

A Cold Day for Murder: A Kate Shugak Mystery

by Dana Stabenow. **RC 63065**

Kate Shugak has retired from the Anchorage district attorney's office after surviving a murder attempt. But when a park ranger and his rescuer disappear, she searches for them in the wilderness. Some violence and some strong language. 1992. Also available as a CD and two-track cassette from library branches.

Cassettes Nonfiction

The Promise: How One Woman Made Good on Her Extraordinary Pact to Send a Classroom of First Graders to College

by Oral Lee Brown. **RC 62383**

Author chronicles the mission she began in 1987 to finance higher education for 23 disadvantaged East Oakland, Calif., students if they graduated from high school. Every one did. Describes how she raised funds, established a foundation, helped college applicants get accepted and decided to adopt future classes. 2005.

Spies: The Secret Agents Who Changed the Course of History

by Ernest Volkman. **RC 62416**

Biographies of nearly 50 people involved in espionage in the 20th century, including moles, spymasters, defectors and others. Covers Kim Philby, Dusko Popov (the real James Bond), Markus Wolf, Mata Hari and K'ang Sheng as well as writers with undercover experience: Ian Fleming, Graham Greene, Ernest Hemingway, and W. Somerset Maugham. 1994.

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The Red Hat Society's Laugh Lines: Stories of Inspiration and Hattitude

by Sue Ellen Cooper **RC 62531**

Women's social club founder follows up the bestselling "Red Hat Society" (RC 58333) with a collection of anecdotes, poems and quotes that celebrate life, sisterhood and the aging process. Society members from across America share accounts of family, friendship, marriage, parenthood and grandparent-hood and pets. 2005

Tommy Dorsey, Livin' in a Great Big Way: A Biography

by Peter J. Levinson. **RC 62555**

The author of "Trumpet Blues" (**RC 51218**) uses anecdotes to describe the volatile personality of jazz trombonist Tommy Dorsey (1905–1956). Portrays Tommy's roots in Pennsylvania coal mining country, his formation of the Dorsey Brothers Orchestra and his promotion of Glenn Miller and Frank Sinatra. Some strong language. 2005.

Myths, Lies, and Downright Stupidity: Get Out the Shovel—Why Everything You Know Is Wrong

by John Stossel. **RC 62576**

Consumer advocate and author of "Give Me a Break" (RC 57751) continues to debunk what he says are common media myths. Investigates business, education, government and other areas, pointing out deception and bad laws. Includes "fast food makes you fat" and "antidiscrimination laws stop discrimination." Bestseller. 2006.

Books for Children

Cassettes Nonfiction

The Boy Who Drew Birds: A Story of John James

Audubon by Jacqueline Davies. **RC 59453**

Recounts how the young Frenchman who made his home in America passionately loved birds. Describes the numerous drawings and paintings he made of birds, their nests and eggs and reveals the way he determined whether migrating birds return to the same place in the spring. For grades 2-4. 2004.

The World's Greatest Elephant

by Ralph Helfer. **RC 62620**

Recounts the lifelong friendship between Bram and Modoc, a boy and an elephant, who were born the same hour in a German circus. Discusses how they grew up together, survived a shipwreck, worked in a teak forest, became successful in America and were separated and reunited. For grades 2-4. 2006.

Cassettes Fiction

The Extraordinary Adventures of Alfred Kropp

by Rick Yancey. **RC 62068**

Fifteen-year-old Alfred Kropp, living in Tennessee, is an overweight, underachieving orphan whose goal is obtaining a driver's permit. Through a series of unexpected and dangerous misadventures, Alfred becomes the protector of King Arthur's legendary sword Excalibur on a modern-day quest. Some violence. For grades

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6-9 and older readers. 2005. Also available as a CD and an e-book from library branches.

The Black Pearl

by Scott O'Dell. **RC 62509**

Baja California. Sixteen-year-old Ramón Salazar's misfortunes begin when he retrieves an enormous black pearl from a secluded lagoon, domain of a giant devilfish, Manta Diablo. Attempting to return the pearl, Ramón further imperils his life and his soul. For grades 5-8. Newbery Honor Book. 1967. Also available as a CD and a two-track cassette from library branches.

New Braille Guides for the Metro

The Washington Metropolitan Transportation Authority has a new Braille guide to the Metro system. To obtain a copy or to find out more information please contact the Metro Office of ADA Programs at

202-962-2033, TTY 202-962-2033 or e-mail at adap@wmata.com.



AS Reminders and Tips

Recorded or print copies of the revised version of the Access Services Talking Book Program Guidelines (revised December 2006) are available at the Access Services Library.

Thank you for your comments about particular books that you have enjoyed or those that you did not find so enjoyable. Please remember to sign your correspondence so we can apply the information to the correct account.

Hearing Aid Compatible Phone Information (from our friends at the Northern Virginia Resource Center)

The wireless service providers now have Web sites with information about hearing aid compatible phones. These Web sites have information such as which models of wireless phones are hearing aid compatible and explanations about the hearing aid compatibility ratings.

Check them out:

Sprint/Nextel:

http://nextelonline.nextel.com/en/about/community/hac_compliance.shtml?id16=hearing_aid_compatible

AT&T/Cingular:

<http://www.wireless.att.com/about/disability-resources/hearing-aid-compatibility.jsp>

Verizon

<http://aboutus.vzw.com/accessibility/digitalPhones.html>

T-Mobile:

http://www.tmobile.com/Company/Community.aspx?tp=Abt_Tab_Safety&tsp=Abt_Sub_TTYPolicy

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*.
