

Loud And Clear

Winter/Spring 2012 Vol.24 Issue 1

Vision-Technology Programs

Access Services announces the first two in a series of programs that will highlight vision and technology. The programs will feature services and vendors that are available locally. Janice Kuch, Branch Manager of Access Services, said that this series of programs will take the place of the bi-annual tech fair, and “Our hope is that people will be able to attend at least one of these events and learn about some of the latest vision technologies, have the opportunity to see equipment demonstrated and talk face-to-face with vendors or service providers.”

Please reserve these dates on your calendars now.

Can You Imagine It?: Vision Through Technology. Thursday, April 12. Government Center Room 2/3, 10:00 a.m. until 12:00 p.m. You will receive hands-on experience with assistive technology from the staff of the Virginia Department for the Blind & Vision Impaired. They will also discuss the services available from their organization.

Assistive Technology Demo and Free Vision Screening. Saturday, May 19, George Mason Regional Library, 11:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m. Learn about the latest devices available to assist people with low vision or blindness. Free on-site glaucoma and visual acuity screening will be presented by representatives from the Prevention of Blindness Society and TCS Associates. The program will be conducted on an informal basis so please drop by during the posted times when it fits your schedule.

Sharing Local Resources

The following organizations have a newsletter and/or a list of upcoming events that you might find interesting. This is not meant to be a complete list, rather a possible beginning.

Prevention of Blindness Society of Metropolitan Washington

"Your Eyes Today" is a monthly large-print newsletter sponsored by the Macular Degeneration Network. It features a calendar of events, and the latest information on eye disease research and community resources. Go to: <http://youreyes.org/resources>. Click on NEWSLETTERS to see current and past issues.

ENDependence of Northern Virginia

ENDependence Center of Northern Virginia, Inc. (ECNV) publishes a monthly calendar and quarterly newsletter featuring disability-related meetings and events in the community. Please see: <http://www.ecnv.org/calendar/calendar.html>.

Disability Services Planning and Development, a division of the Department of Family Services of Fairfax County

"Disability Services E-News" A weekly publication featuring the latest on legislative information, community events, resources, and job opportunities for people with disabilities living in the Fairfax area. To sign up for Disability Services E-News visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/email/lists_ Sign up for "Disability Resources and News" in the Health and Human Services section.

Fairfax Family Caregiver Support Program, a program of the Department of Family Services, Fairfax Area Agency on Aging.

"Caregiver's Corner Online" is a monthly newsletter that contains information to support a family caregiver. The National Family Caregiver Support Program provides funding for this newsletter. For current and past issues follow this link:

<http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dfs/olderadultservices/cconline.htm>

Loud and Clear Goes Digital

With the recent purchase of blank cartridges and the corresponding mail containers we are able to distribute a digital copy of Loud & Clear. More and more people are relying almost exclusively on their digital player and we wanted our customers to have the newsletter in a digital format. The newsletter is published three times a year Winter/Spring, Summer and Fall. As always, if you do not want to receive this newsletter please let us know.

Access Services gratefully acknowledges all those who have contributed to the Access Services Gift Fund which enabled us to purchase the initial order of cartridges and mail containers.

If you are interested in contributing to this fund, 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 Roundup

These are some of the non-fiction titles that the Friends of Access Services have recently recommended.

Thunder Dog by Michael Hingson **DB 73300**

The true story of a blind man, his guide dog, and the triumph of trust at Ground Zero.

Too Big To Fail by Andrew Ross Sorkin **DB 69800**

New York Times reporter chronicles the near-destruction of Wall Street institutions in September of 2008. Discusses the roles of financial firms--including Lehman Brothers, AIG, and Merrill Lynch--and the federal

government in allegedly contributing to both the breakdown and recovery of the U.S. economy.

Always Looking Up by Michael J. Fox **DB 69147**

The movie and television star Fox discusses his work, politics, faith, and family. An advocate for stem-cell research, Fox describes the impact his Parkinson's disease has had on his life.

Unbroken by Laura Hillenbrand **DB 72129**

The life of Louis Zamperini (b. 1917), an Olympic runner and World War II bombardier, who survived a plane crash and forty-seven days adrift at sea only to become a POW in Japan. Relates Louis's later religious awakening under Billy Graham's ministry.

W.C. Handy: The Life and Times of the Man Who Made the Blues by David Robertson **DB 69060**

Biography of William Christopher Handy (1873-1958) traces his Alabama childhood during Reconstruction, his musical training, and his early career performing in ragtime and vaudeville venues. Highlights Handy's ability to write scores and publish commercially, his relocation to Memphis and then Harlem, and the accident that blinded him.

These are the most popular BARD downloads from Access Services customers from November 2011 through January 2012. (The BARD database lists all the titles that NLS (the National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped) has recorded in the digital format. If you or someone in your family has a high speed computer and an email address and a blank cartridge or a 'thumb drive', you can download your own digital titles.)

DB	TITLE	AUTHOR
73682	Steve Jobs	Walter Isaacson

73756	V Is For Vengeance	Sue Grafton
73199	Buried Prey	John Sandford
73658	Ideal Man	Julie Garwood
47257	The Simple Truth	David Baldacci
73397	Reckless Endangerment: How Outsized Ambition, Greed, and Corruption Led to Economic Armageddon	Gretchen Morgenson
68889	The Help	Kathryn Stockett
73334	If You Ask Me (And Of Course You Won't)	Betty White
67759	Girl With The Dragon Tattoo: Millennium Trilogy, Book 1	Stieg Larsson
73315	In Fifty Years We'll All Be Chicks...And Other Complaints From An Angry Middle-Aged White Guy	Adam Carolla

Foundation Fighting Blindness VisionWalk

The Foundation Fighting Blindness Inc. will conduct their 7th Annual VisionWalk in Northern Virginia on Saturday, May 5 at Brown's Chapel Park in Reston, Virginia. Festivities begin at 8:45 a.m.

VisionWalks are the signature fundraising events of the Foundation Fighting Blindness and are held throughout the country. The mission of this organization is to spearhead the research that will provide preventions, treatments and cures for people affected by retinitis pigmentosa (RP), macular degeneration, Usher syndrome, and the entire spectrum of retinal degenerative diseases.

The Foundation relies on volunteers to publicize its programs and mission. One of those volunteers, John McKeown, is a patron of Access Services . He and his wife, Linda, are serving as Co-Chairs for this year's event and encourage you to participate with your energy, your advocacy and/or your financial support. He invites you to come and walk with him and his family.

For more information about the Foundation Fighting Blindness or this year's Northern Virginia VisionWalk please visit <http://www.FightBlindness.org/NoVAVisionWalk> or contact John at john.mckeown@cox.net.

Tell a Friend About AS

You....

And you...

And you, all of you, are the best ambassadors that we have. You may hear your neighbors and friends talk about wishing they could read or wishing they could get to the library, that they love to read but haven't for a while. At Access Services we want to KEEP PEOPLE READING and you can be that first voice of information. The Talking Book Program and the Home Delivery Service are our primary tools to help them. The best information you can give to people is to tell them to contact us at 703-324-8380 or via email at access@fairfaxcounty.gov.

And we thank you...

And you... and you for already doing that. Keep up the good work!

Staff News

Access Services is fortunate to have three volunteers who each have donated over 1000 service hours to Access Services. They have a combined total of over fifteen years of service. They will be honored at a

volunteer program in April. Congratulations and a big thank you to **Jean Bahler, Anne Lustfeldt** and **Ray Walsh**.

Questions and Answers

Along with your local library or your friendly AS staff here are two other resources that you may find useful.

The Joanne G. Crantz Geriatric Resource Center at Inova Fairfax Hospital provides information to seniors and caregivers about health topics and local services. Contact the library with any questions at **library@inova.org** or 703-776-3357, or contact Susan Heisey, Director of the Hospital Elder Life Program (HELP) at **susan.heisey@inova.org** or 703-776-6824. (The Geriatric Resource Center is made possible by a generous gift to the Hospital Elder Life Program (HELP) in honor of Dr. Joanne G. Crantz.)

Infoeyes.org InfoEyes is a question and answer service for people with a visual impairment or other print limitation. You can ask a question about anything!

InfoEyes is a cooperative project in which talking book librarians from eight states and the National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped, work together to respond to patrons' questions over the Internet. InfoEyes assists a diverse population, including students, teachers, parents who are helping children with homework, and curious general readers.

Any patron with a computer and an Internet connection can visit the Info-Eyes web site at www.infoeyes.org . Upon accessing the site, visitors may ask a question by e-mail or set up a time to chat live with a reference librarian. To e-mail a question, select that link on the web page, enter your e-mail address, question, and your state and click the submit question button. An InfoEyes librarian will respond to your question.

Digital and Service Reminders

Keep Your Account Current

Help us keep our records current. In order to remain a member in good standing of the Talking Book Program it is important that you receive either a magazine or book from us every year. Any format will keep you current; a recorded cassette, a digital cartridge, an item that you download. It can be a book or a magazine. Please let us know what we can do for you today.

Don't Forget Magazines

Did you know that you can download magazines as well as books from the BARD database? After entering your Login information on the BARD screen, scroll down to FIND MAGAZINES. You can search 'recently added magazines' or search through an alphabetical listing of over 40 titles. Quick, topical and easy.

Digital Player Upgrade

You may hear an unexpected message when a recently recorded book is inserted into your digital player. The message says "Updating your player's software; please do not power off your player or remove the cartridge from the player." With digital technology, the software in your player can be upgraded through the book cartridges. After the message, there will be a series of beeps while the machine is updating. When the update is complete, the machine announces, "Software upgrade completed; stand by while your player is restarted."

If you hear this message, please DO NOT remove the cartridge while it is updating the player's software.

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.