November Election 2016

Upcoming Holiday Schedule

Friends Helping Friends

Low Vision Town Hall Meeting

NLS – Here for You

Reading Roundup:

Staff News

Enhance Your Library

Web Corner: Community Resources

Web Corner: One for Fun

Talking Book Topics

Contact Us

November Election 2016
Election Day is Tuesday, November 8, and on some days that seems like it will never be here. But it will be here before we know it and there are a few tips and deadlines to be aware of in this election season.

While the Presidential election will take top billing, every seat in the U.S. Congress is on the ballot, with one hotly contested race in Northern Virginia. In Fairfax County, voters will decide whether to enact a four percent meals tax. Bond questions include $120 million in transportation bonds for Metro; $107 million in bonds for parks; and $85 million for building and renovating senior and community centers, and homeless shelters. More information is available at Fairfax County bonds on the November 2016 ballot.

Turnout is expected to be high, perhaps, record breaking. One can vote absentee because of a disability or illness or if one is primarily and personally responsible for the care of a disabled/ill family member. There are several other reasons one can vote absentee. Please see Vote.Virginia.gov for more details.

In person absentee voting began on September 23 and there are several locations throughout Fairfax County. Saturday and evening hours are included at the Fairfax County Government Center and the satellite locations. For more election information please visit Fairfax County November 2016 elections or phone 703-222-0776. You can also email questions to voting@fairfaxcounty.gov

The highlights:

Voting Information:

A valid photo ID is required for voting. Acceptable forms of ID are listed at the following website: elections.virginia.gov.

Voter Registration Deadline:

In Person: October 17th at 5:00 p.m.
By mail: Postmarked by October 17 at 5:00 p.m.
Online: October 17 at 11:59 p.m.
To confirm and/or register online: VOTE.Virginia.gov
Absentee Application Deadlines:

Request by mail, fax, email, or online from now through November 1 at 5:00 p.m. Send completed applications to Email: absenteeballot@fairfaxcounty.gov, FAX: 703-324-3725, Online: Vote.Virginia.gov. PLEASE NOTE: Absentee ballots must be received by The Office of Elections on Election Day by 7:00 p.m. in order to be counted.

Election Day, Tuesday, November 8

Polls are open from 6:00 a.m. until 7:00 p.m.

Upcoming Holiday Schedule

Please note that for both the Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays the library will be closed for four days (including weekends). Please make sure you order plenty of reading material to get you through these extended periods where the library staff will be unavailable.

Veteran’s Day  Friday, November 11, 2016
Thanksgiving Holiday  Thursday, November 24, 2016
Friday, November 25, 2016
Christmas Holiday  Friday, December 23, 2016
Monday, December 26, 2016
New Year’s Holiday  Monday, January 2, 2017
Martin Luther King Day  Monday, January 16, 2017
Inauguration Day  Friday, January 20, 2017
George Washington’s Day  Monday, February 20, 2017

Friends Helping Friends
The Friends of Access Services is a group of customers and other interested parties who serve as an advisory panel for Access Services (AS). Members exchange practical and helpful information and believe that this information may also benefit other AS customers and/or Loud and Clear readers. In this continuing column, 'Friends Helping Friends', the Friends share helpful tips and experiences from the viewpoint of a user.

In this issue the Friends look at an essential component of many of your lives, two sides of the same valuable coin, volunteering.

Volunteers: A Valuable Resource
Submitted by Nancy Riley
Member, Friends of Access Services

As you well know, the onset of vision loss means that a multitude of everyday tasks can become challenging or downright impossible to accomplish. I am writing this to encourage you to explore a tried-and-true resource available to you for getting those tasks done: volunteers.

For some people, requesting help can be difficult or awkward. Many of us instinctively avoid inconveniencing others. But as a volunteer myself, I want to urge you to go ahead and ask. You may be doing someone a tremendous favor!

I am a retiree in my sixties, and I have been volunteering for a friend for several years. Some of the things I’ve done for her are: reading through her mail with her; helping her do research on her computer; reading aloud book passages and articles; driving her to meetings and appointments; and helping out at low vision support group meetings which she facilitates.

That is what I’ve done for her; now let me tell you about the things she has done for me! Through all the meetings I attend and the reading and research that I do, I am learning new things all the time. That’s really good exercise for my brain. I am also getting to know people I admire and making new friends. I am challenged to be good at what I do, whether it’s driving safely and navigating to new places, reading a difficult passage or taking thorough notes at a meeting. And finally, volunteering helps me feel
that I am doing something useful and relevant to the world around me. That’s important to me as I age, and it’s also important at any age.

So the next time you’re feeling frustrated by a job that used to be easy, I hope you’ll ask a volunteer for help. That person could be a friend, a neighbor, a high school student earning community service credits, or a member of an organized volunteer program. You’ll be thanking them, but you’ll also be doing something wonderful for them.

Volunteers: A Valuable Resource, Part 2

Learning to Ask for Help

A vision-impaired member of Friends of Access Services

When I had a major vision loss and was no longer able to do so many of the things I had done before, I needed to depend upon the assistance of others. It is very hard to lose some sense of independence and to rely on others. One of the hardest things to learn is to ask for help. When there was an event I wanted to go to, I used to dread having to call people to see who was going and could give me a ride.

It took me a long time to learn that asking others for help does not mean you are imposing on them. Most people actually ENJOY helping others and derive satisfaction from it. It took me a VERY long time to realize that, and to stop feeling like I was imposing.

But now, in addition to my wonderful, supportive husband, I have a great circle of friends and acquaintances to call upon and I know which one to contact depending on what I want to do.

Being a volunteer and receiving the help of a volunteer makes for a win-win situation. It does take a village….

For more information on the Friends of Access Services please call 703-324-8380 or visit Access Services Friends.
Low Vision Town Hall Meeting

The Prevention of Blindness Society of Metropolitan Washington (POB) will hold a town hall meeting on Saturday, October 22 from 10:00 a.m. – Noon at the Sibley Medical Building, Conference Room 2 which is located at 5215 Loughboro Road, NW, Washington, DC. The public is invited to attend this event and there will be a “free light breakfast”.

Dr. Suleiman Alibhai, O.D., Director of the Prevention of Blindness Society of Metropolitan Washington (POB) Low Vision Learning Center will deliver a progress report on new planned low vision rehabilitation opportunities at the POB new headquarters location on Capitol Hill. Dr. Alibhai will be joined by Wendy Gasch, M.D. ophthalmologist and Stephanie Chen, O.D. low vision optometrist for an "ASK THE DOCTOR" Q&A.

To register for this program, please call the Sibley Senior Association at 202-364-7602.

NLS – Here for You

The National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped (NLS) offers many aids and services to enhance your experience as a library user/reader such as BARD, reference guides and even a blog entitled NLS Music Notes. Do scroll through the NLS Home page and see what other resources are available. For more information please call us at 703-324-8380 or visit the NLS home page for more details.

BARD

No, I am not talking about the William Shakespeare. The BARD (Braille and Audio Reading Download) is a web-based service that provides access to thousands of special-format books, magazines, and music scores.

If you, a family member, or a friend has a computer with a high speed Internet connection and an email address you can take advantage of the
BARD database. You will have access to all of the 70,000 plus books and magazines that are available digitally 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. You can place several books onto one cartridge and the cartridges can be reused multiple times.

Access Services will provide a free cable and blank cartridge if you have not previously received one. If you have questions, please call us at 703-324-8380 or send us an email at access@fairfaxcounty.gov.

A Reference Guide for Accessible Mobile Reading Apps

This reference publication describes accessible software applications (apps) for smartphones and other mobile devices, which can be used by those who are visually impaired to read books, newspapers, magazines, and other print material. These apps convert digital text to speech or provide braille output to a compatible braille device. In addition, some of the apps listed provide books in audio formats. Many of these apps can be downloaded through the standard channels, such as the App Store for iOS devices or Google Play for Android devices. While several of the mobile apps may be downloaded free of charge, content may have to be purchased separately.

The categories for the apps are listed as they appear in the App Store or Google Play in order to facilitate organization and searching. They are: Reading Apps, Books and Magazines, News and Newspapers, Reference Apps, and Braille. Except where explicitly noted, items listed in this reference guide are not part of the free library program provided by the National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped, Library of Congress, and their listing does not imply endorsement.

For assistance, please call us at 703-324-8380, send an email to access@fairfaxcounty.gov. or visit the NLS home page.

A Reference Guide on Assistive Technology Products for Information Access

The products listed in this reference guide are designed to assist people who have visual or physical disabilities in accessing printed information. They convert digital text or print into synthetic speech, braille,
or enlarged text. Most are available from multiple vendors. This reference guide lists both price points and vendor contact information and were current when the guide was published.

Please note that the list is not comprehensive. A partial list of the equipment covered includes: fully functional screen readers, screen readers with screen reading capabilities, voice recognition software, reading machines and scanners, ‘wearables’ (items worn over the face covering the eyes and either modifying the user’s vision or transmitting information to the user), and portable video magnifiers. Items listed in the reference guide are not part of the National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped, Library of Congress, free library program and their listing does not imply endorsement.

For assistance, please call us at 703-324-8380, send an email to access@fairfaxcounty.gov. or visit the NLS home page.

NLS Music Notes

NLS Music Notes is a blog for and about those who want, need or provide the special format music of braille, audio, and large print offered by the NLS Music Section. The authors showcase this collection, which covers both classical and popular music, with posts of new titles added, along with interviews of and articles about blind and low vision musicians, music braille transcribers, as well as features about current music events and activities.

For more information visit the NLS home page.

Reading Roundup:

Book Awards  Every year organizations representing literary genres and interests have awards for books published in their respective fields. They often have awards in several areas. Let’s view some of the prizes awarded in 2015. (I apologize if I did not include your favorite award. There are many to choose from.) Enjoy!
And two notes….The Access services staff is glad to help you find other award winners or finalists in any of these categories or help you find stories that you want to re-read from your past, award winners or those personal best-loved favorites, Call us today at 703-324-8380.

**PULITZER PRIZE.** This award is for distinguished fiction published in book form during the year by an American author, preferably dealing with American life.

**All the Light We Cannot See** by Anthony Doerr  DB 79182

When Paris is invaded by the Nazis, Marie-Laure LeBlanc's father evacuates her to St. Malo to stay with her great-uncle. Blind since the age of six, Marie-Laure must learn the town by the scale model her father has left. Then, the Germans arrive. Violence and some descriptions of sex. Bestseller. 2014.

**MAN BOOKER PRIZE.** The Man Booker Prize for Fiction is a literary prize awarded each year for the best original novel, written in the English language, and published in the UK.

**A Brief History of Seven Killings** by Marlon James  DB 79940

Fictitious oral history that explores the events and individuals surrounding the attempted assassination of Bob Marley during the political turmoil in Jamaica during the late 1970s. Violence, strong language, and descriptions of sex. 2014.

**NATIONAL BOOK AWARD.** The mission of the National Book Foundation and the National Book Awards is to celebrate the best of American literature, to expand its audience, and to enhance the cultural value of great writing in America.

**Fiction-Fortune Smiles: Stories** by Adam Johnson, DB 82453

Non fiction  
**Between the World and Me** by Ta-Nehisi Coates  
DB 82201

Columnist and editor for the Atlantic Monthly examines the history of contentious race relations in America. He reflects on the ways racial inequality plays out in his personal past and in the twenty-first century, and imagines the world his teenage son may inherit. Unrated. Commercial audiobook. Bestseller. 2015.

**THE EDGAR ALLAN POE AWARDS (THE EDGARS)**

**Mr. Mercedes** by Stephen King  
DB 79570

Job-fair applicants are mowed down by a man in a stolen Mercedes—and eight die. The killer later sends a letter to ex-cop Bill Hodges, who—with the help of two others—is determined to find him before he strikes again. Violence, strong language, and some explicit descriptions of sex. Bestseller. 2014.

**THE AGATHA AWARDS** honor the traditional mystery — books best typified by the works of Agatha Christie.

**Long Upon the Land** by Margaret Maron  
DB 82192

Judge Deborah Knott's father, Kezzie, makes a shocking discovery on a remote corner of his farm: the body of a man bludgeoned to death. Investigating this crime, Deborah's husband, sheriff's deputy Dwight Bryant, soon uncovers a long-simmering hostility between Kezzie and the slain man over a land dispute. Unrated. Commercial audiobook. 2015.

**RITAs** The purpose of the RITA award is to promote excellence in the romance genre by recognizing outstanding published romance novels and novellas. The award itself is named after RWA's (Romance Writers of America) first president, Rita Clay Estrada, and has become the symbol for excellence in published romance fiction.

Best Contemporary Romance  
**Baby, It's You** by Jane Graves  
DB 83468

Two romances set in Texas. In **Cowboy Take Me Away**, Shannon runs an animal shelter that's struggling, until a handsome cowboy comes to the rescue. **Baby, It's You** has runaway bride Kari Worthington looking for
work at a Hill Country winery and finding love. Some explicit descriptions of sex. 2014.

Best Historical Romance.  **Fool Me Twice** by Meredith Duran  **Rules for the Reckless. Books 1-4 DB 83721**

Four romances, written between 2013 and 2015, featuring heroes and heroines with shady pasts in Regency England. Includes **That Scandalous Summer**, **Fool Me Twice**, **Lady Be Good**, and **Luck Be A Lady**. Some strong language and some explicit descriptions of sex. 2015.

Staff News

**Jerry Herrera** and **Rob Harsher** will be attending their official NLS orientation later this month. Three days to learn more of the intricacies and details of the Talking Book program. Congratulations in advance, gentlemen.

All Fairfax County Public Library (FCPL) staff members enjoyed a staff training event on Friday, September 9. In the morning sessions Miguel Figueroa, director of the American Library Association’s Center for the Future of Libraries, and new FCPL Library Director, Jennifer Hudson addressed the entire gathering. Both speakers noted that libraries nationwide face the challenges of balancing a traditional service model (books, discovering new titles by browsing, research and reference materials and resources, quiet learning spaces) with an evolving service model that adapts quickly to changing community needs, is experimental and is partnership based. In the afternoon, a variety of small group sessions were held.

On September 29, AS held its annual meeting with our colleagues from the other FCPL branches, our liaisons for Access Services. At this meeting, guest speakers educate and inform us about some aspect of the disabled community and it gives us an opportunity to share any news about the Talking Book Program or our other services. This year we were pleased to have Lee Heltzer from the Washington Metropolitan Ear and Michelle Hartlove from the Prevention of Blindness Society of Metropolitan Washington (POB) highlight their organizations.
Enhance Your Library

In recent months, Access Services has received several gifts that we are very grateful for. We use these to support our programs, outreach efforts and services. We thank you for thinking of us and for your kind generosity.

Please consider the Access Services branch as part of your charitable giving. 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.

Web Corner: Community Resources

The staff of Access Services have found these organizations/communication tools to be good sources of information. We share them knowing it is not a complete list.

Prevention of Blindness Society of Metropolitan Washington, [POB 'Your Eyes Today' newsletter](#).

"Your Eyes Today" is a free monthly large-print newsletter sponsored by the Prevention of Blindness Society of Metropolitan Washington's Macular Degeneration Network. To receive this free resource in the mail, call POB at 202-234-1010 or email your address to communications@youreyes.org. This email address is being protected from spambots. You need JavaScript enabled to view it. You may also request to receive this newsletter via email.

Fairfax County Disability Services Planning and Development, for news and events for people with disabilities see this general information page: [Fairfax County People with Disabilities Information page](#). Click on this link to subscribe to their E-news: Access Fairfax: News and Events for People with Disabilities e-News.

Golden Gazette, The Golden Gazette is a FREE 24-page monthly newspaper covering news to use for older adults in the Fairfax area.
Each month it features articles on older adult wellness, recreation, volunteering, legal issues, Medicare, financial issues, caregiving and consumer issues. It also covers important county news on issues such as public safety, services, taxation, recycling, and voting.

Click on the following links to subscribe:

Subscribe now to receive the Golden Gazette by mail. (Be sure to indicate under VERSION whether you want the regular or large print.) Or call 703-324-5633, TTY 711 and leave your full name, address, and phone number on the recording.

Subscribe now to receive the Golden Gazette by email.

Center for Accessibility, Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial Library, event announcements and workshops offered by District of Columbia Public Library. To receive email notifications call 202-747-2142 or email Patrick Timony at James.Timony@dc.gov.

Web Corner: One for Fun

Michigan State University Celebrity Lecture Series

Between 1988 and 1998, Michigan State University's College of Arts and Letters established the Celebrity Lecture Series, a series in which famous writers (and the occasional artist) were invited by Dean John W. Eadie to speak at the university. In commemoration of this popular series, the staff at MSU's MATRIX created this online archive where students, faculty, and community members may browse and listen to over 30 lectures. These lectures, which range from one to two hours in length, feature Susan Sontag speaking on illness as metaphor; Arthur Miller reading a wide variety of selections of his own work; and Maya Angelou discussing the art of poetry.

Visitors may also listen to talks by Amy Tan, Kurt Vonnegut, E.L. Doctorow, and presidential biographer David McCullough. Each
lecture is accompanied by a photograph of the speaker, taken by Douglas Elbinger.

Site visitors may also conduct a keyword search or sort through Lecture Topics to find a specific lecture of interest.

Copyright © 2016 Internet Scout Research Group – Citation for the Scout Report: https://scout.wisc.edu/report/2016/0805

Talking Book Topics

Order Forms and Cartridges Together Again

To better accommodate the needs of subscribers to the audio version of Talking Book Topics (TBT), NLS will resume circulating the magazine cartridge and the order form in the same package. This will begin with the September–October 2016 issue.

Longtime subscribers may remember that the order form used to come in the same package as the cassette magazine. That changed in August 2012 with the launch of the Magazines on Cartridge (MOC) program, when cartridges and order forms started to be mailed out separately. However, this change was not well-received by TBT subscribers.

The magazine cartridges and order forms will still need to be returned separately, with the cartridge going back to the producer in its red container and the order form sealed and mailed back to your local library.

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.