

September 27, 2024

Dear Listeners,

Good news! Thanks to MWE Technical Manager Dave Warren and MWE Webmaster Annette Carter, the new MWE website is up and running at [**https://washear.org**](https://washear.org)**.**

You are invited to a Zoom Website Reveal Presentation of our improved Website [**https://washear.org**](https://washear.org)on Thursday, October 3rd at 12:30 pm. Full details with a link to the presentation are [**here**](file:///C:\Users\annet\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\INetCache\Content.Outlook\MSD9Y76R\Zoom%20presentation%20of%20website.pdf).

You will now be able to access current and previous MWE Updates on the website. Just click on [**https://washear.org/listener-newsletters**](https://washear.org/listener-newsletters/)and scroll down to the link for each issue.

Other features include the radio broadcast schedule [**https://washear.org/radio-broadcast**](https://washear.org/radio-broadcast/), a list of Dial-in categories [**https://washear.org/dial-in-categories**](https://washear.org/dial-in-categories) , the schedule of described theater performances [**2024-25Theater-Season-AD-list.doc (live.com**)](https://view.officeapps.live.com/op/view.aspx?src=https%3A%2F%2Fwashear.org%2Fwp-content%2Fuploads%2F2024%2F09%2F2024-25Theater-Season-AD-list.doc&wdOrigin=BROWSELINK)), and much more.

Also, of note this week is the White Cane Safety Awareness Day Expo on Tuesday, October 15th sponsored by the Metropolitan Washington Ear. Full details are [**here**](#MWE).

Cheers,

Sylvia

Here are the links to all the items below:

* [**Montgomery County Residents Quality of Life and Services Survey**](#MCSurvey)
* [**Montgomery County ‘Active Aging Week’ Celebration**](#MCAging)
* [**Smart Speaker Integration for BARD Open BETA Testing**](#BARD)
* [**Listen to Maryland LBPD Podcasts**](#Podcast)
* **[Theater Update](#Theater)**
* **[Calendar](#Calendar)**
  + **[Replay POB Events](#Replay)**
  + **[Arlington County Festival Latinoamericano](#Latino)**
  + [**Baltimore Clayworks**](#Clay)
  + [**2024 Voter Engagement Campaign: Saturday Service Day**](#Voter)
  + **[6th Annual Janet Morrison Memorial Low Vision Symposium and Device Expo (Virtual Event)](#Expo)**
  + **[Cantaré, Mucha Música!](#Mucha)**
  + [**Montgomery Hills Street Fest & Georgia Avenue Safety Advocacy**](#Fest)
  + **[Vienna VIP](#Vienna)****[Kick Off In-Person](#Vienna)****[Meeting](#Vienna)**
  + **[Kensington Park No Pressure Audio Book Club - Virtual](#Audio)**
  + **[Fairfax County Library All Access Book Club: The Thursday Murder Club by Richard Osman](#Book)**
  + [**Reston VIP Open Meeting: Let’s Get Reacquainted**](#Reston)
  + [**Maryland LBPD TUG Meeting: iOS 18**](#TUG)
  + **[Montgomery County Hispanic Heritage Month Festival and Health Fair](#Fair)**
  + **[Alexandria Low Vision Resource Group: Low Vision Technology Demo](#Demo)**
  + [**Salón Mexicano Concert with Jorge Federico Osorio**](#Salon)
  + **[American Council of the Blind of Virginia](#ACBVA)** [(](#ACBVA)**[ACBVA) Virtual Meeting: Judy Dixon Discusses AI](#ACBVA)**
  + [**MWE National White Cane Safety Awareness Day Expo**](#MWE)
  + **[FCC Disability Advisory Committee (DAC) Meeting](#FCC)**
  + [**Accessible Board Games Meet-up**](#Games)
  + [**State Convention of the National Federation of the Blind of Virginia**](#NFBVA)

###

**MONTGOMERY COUNTY RESIDENTS’ QUALITY OF LIFE AND SERVICES SURVEY**

Montgomery County residents can participate in the 2024 resident survey regarding quality of life and services in the county through September 30th.

The County's 2024 online resident survey is now accessible on the County’s website. It aims to gather feedback on local government services and the perception of overall quality of life in the County. The survey will remain open until 11:59 p.m. on Monday, September 30th.

Read more at [**https://montgomerycomd.blogspot.com/2024/09/2024-online-community-survey-of.html**](https://montgomerycomd.blogspot.com/2024/09/2024-online-community-survey-of.html).

###

**MONTGOMERY COUNTY “ACTIVE AGING WEEK” CELEBRATION**

Montgomery County will join in the celebration of “Active Aging Week” (AAW) from Monday, September 30th through Sunday, October 6th as part of an international effort to highlight the benefits of maintaining healthy, active lifestyles—physically, mentally and socially—for older adults. During the week, various free programs, events and activities for residents 50 and over will take place throughout the County.

Read more at [**https://montgomerycomd.blogspot.com/2024/09/active-aging-week-celebration-will-have.html**](https://montgomerycomd.blogspot.com/2024/09/active-aging-week-celebration-will-have.html).

###

**SMART SPEAKER INTEGRATION FOR BARD OPEN BETA TESTING**

NLS will soon open beta registration for the new My Talking Books skill on Amazon Alexa-enabled smart speakers. NLS patrons who register for open beta will be onboarded on a rolling basis beginning September 25, 2024. Patrons who wish to register for the open beta should fill out the Patron Registration Form at [**www.surveymonkey.com/r/mtb-open-beta**](https://links-1.govdelivery.com/CL0/http:%2F%2Fwww.surveymonkey.com%2Fr%2Fmtb-open-beta%3Futm_medium=email%26utm_source=govdelivery/1/0100019229b3e223-db055743-434f-4412-abf2-a24360c0395f-000000/GWYYZrapr9-xFevnJCoQ6Cwi51eTkrB0xXNDxjnSvOU=372)**.**

###

**LISTEN TO MARYLAND LBPD PODCASTS**

Listen to the latest podcast from the Maryland Library for the Blind and Print Disabled at [**https://open.spotify.com/show/4b1bV4eAiuBFvPfi1NRVWR?utm\_medium=email&utm\_source=govdelivery**](https://open.spotify.com/show/4b1bV4eAiuBFvPfi1NRVWR?utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery).

###

**THEATER UPDATE**

The following performances will be described by a MWE volunteer. Note that recorded program notes will be available at the theater just prior to the actual performance and on Dial-In before and after the performance at Publication 8, Category 12, Branch 11.

**Jaja’s African Hair Braiding**

Arena Stage Kreeger at the Mead Center - 202-488-3300

Described Saturday, September 28th at 2:00 pm

**Comedy of Errors**

Shakespeare: Klein Theatre: 202-547-1122

Described Saturday, September 28th matinee

**Eisenhower: This Piece of Ground**

Olney Theatre Center – Mulitz-Gudelsky Theatre Lab 301-924-3400

Described Wednesday, October 9th at 7:30 pm

###

**CALENDAR**

**Replay POB Events**

**Listen and watch replays of recent webinars and other POB events at**[**www.youreyes.org/replays**](https://youreyes.us14.list-manage.com/track/click?u=939b8acf4b5eb247b7120bcd9&id=21719989f4&e=59825d4dc8)**.**

###

**Arlington Festival Latinoamericano**

**Friday, October 4th** from 5:00 to 9:00 pm

**Rescheduled due to a rainy weekend forecast**

[**Arlington Mill Community Center**](https://www.arlingtonva.us/Government/Departments/Parks-Recreation/Locations/Indoor-Facilities/Arlington-Mill-Community-Center)

909 S Dinwiddie Street, Arlington

Arlington County's Festival Latinoamericano is dedicated to celebrating the vibrant and diverse cultures that enrich the community. The mission is to showcase the rich tapestry of Latin American art, food, and culture in Arlington County, providing a platform for local artists, chefs, and performers to share their talents and traditions with the public. By supporting small businesses and entrepreneurs, they aim to foster economic growth and community spirit. This free event is designed to be inclusive and educational, offering attendees of all backgrounds a chance to experience Hispanic Heritage firsthand.

[**Register Now!**](https://www.eventbrite.com/e/festival-latinoamericano-tickets-995553857387) at [**Festival Latinoamericano Tickets, Fri, Sep 27, 2024 at 5:00 PM | Eventbrite**](https://www.eventbrite.com/e/festival-latinoamericano-tickets-995553857387)**.**

Festival Latinoamericano is FREE. Registration is not required, but heavily encouraged to allow an accurate count of anticipated attendance.

###

**Baltimore Clayworks**

Saturday, September 28th from 10:00 am to 12:00 pm

Maryland State Library for the Blind and Print Disabled

415 Park Avenue, Baltimore

Baltimore Clayworks will host a tactile educational experience with library patrons, including instruction in hand building coil and pinch pots. The experience will also include samples of clay in various states for the participants to touch. An Instructor, representing Baltimore Clayworks, will teach up to 12 students, ages 8 to Adult.

To register: 410-230-2424 option 4, or [**reference.desk@maryland.gov**](mailto:reference.desk@maryland.gov)

###

**2024 Voter Engagement Campaign: Saturday Service Day**

**Saturday, September 28th from 11:00 am to 1:00 pm**

[**Rockville Memorial Library**](https://mcpl.libnet.info/event/11832882#branch)

21 Maryland Avenue, Rockville

Customers will be able to register to vote, and/or apply to vote a Mail-in ballot in person. Information about how to sign up to become election workers will also be provided.

[**Montgomery County Board of Elections**](https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/Elections/index2.html) staff will be present in the lobby of the Rockville Memorial Library to assist with voting services. Customers will be able to register to vote, and/or apply to vote a Mail-in ballot in person. Information about how to sign up to become election workers will also be provided.

Questions about this program? Contact the branch at 240-777-0140

**Accommodation Requests**

Contact the Assistant Facilities and Accessibility Program Manager at 240-777-0002 with accommodation requests.

###

**6th Annual Janet Morrison Memorial Low Vision Symposium and Device Expo (Virtual Event)**  
**Saturday, September 28th from 12:00 pm to 1:00 pm**

Tune in to a virtual conference and hear from different low vision aid and device vendors who will demonstrate their products and applications. Each person's vision is different, so this is a great chance to learn about the various aids that may be useful for you! POB's Low Vision Resource Center will also attend to demonstrate what they can do to help. This program is presented in partnership with Washington National Eye Center.  
To RSVP, call Tara at **(202) 234-1010, ext. 233**, or email [**taziz@youreyes.org**](https://youreyes.us14.list-manage.com/track/click?u=939b8acf4b5eb247b7120bcd9&id=c5c2551a1d&e=59825d4dc8).  
###

**Cantaré, Mucha Música!**

**Saturday, September 28th from 2:30 to 3:30 pm**

[**Damascus Library**](https://mcpl.libnet.info/event/11009021#branch)

9701 Main Street, Damascus

In honor of Hispanic Heritage Month, join an exciting musical performance by dynamic duo Cantaré! All ages, no registration required.

Cantaré introduces audiences to the beautiful songs and rhythms of Latin America in an exciting interactive performance. Drawing from the musical heritage of the Caribbean, Central and South America, Cantaré performs songs in Spanish and Portuguese, while sharing the music’s cultural and historical background.

You'll learn about the history of Latin America and the different cultures that shaped their music – Native American, European and African - while becoming familiar with the languages, rhythms and musical instruments from the different countries.

**Questions about this program?**Contact the Damascus branch at 240-773-9444.

###

**Montgomery Hills Street Fest & Georgia Avenue Safety Advocacy**

Saturday, September 28th from 3:00 to 7:00 pm

Columbia Boulevard and Seminary Road, Silver Spring

Join neighbors, local restaurants, businesses, and community organizations to enjoy food, craft beer, games, and music at the [**Montgomery Hills Street Fest**](https://links-1.govdelivery.com/CL0/https:%2F%2Ffriendsofmontgomeryhills.org%2Fstreet-fest%2F/1/010001920172a338-5da84ef5-8d00-4320-bf9e-41d9748390f9-000000/wLXZirvb5LlcjS1Q9of3rFwXTY_MuK5EtZqlnyOkwLY=370)**.**

There will also be advocating for the long-planned[**safety improvements to Georgia Avenue.**](https://links-1.govdelivery.com/CL0/https:%2F%2Fmdot-sha-md97-md390-to-md192-mo2242115-maryland.hub.arcgis.com%2F/1/010001920172a338-5da84ef5-8d00-4320-bf9e-41d9748390f9-000000/R6vee_EXlDtiooODSsmSTWZ0QmEdG3f_k56RFEMD23k=370)

Learn more at

[**2024 Street Fest – Home (friendsofmontgomeryhills.org)**](https://friendsofmontgomeryhills.org/street-fest/)

###

**Vienna VIP** **Kick Off In-Person** **Meeting**

Monday, September 30th from 2:00 to 4:30 pm

New Location: Thomas Jefferson Library conference room

7415 Arlington Boulevard, Falls Church

From Rachel Schreiman - [**Rachel.schreiman@gmail.com**](mailto:Rachel.schreiman@gmail.com)

This will be a Meet & Greet with refreshments: a chance to get reacquainted and welcome new friends! They will share ideas for topics and speakers for this coming year, field questions and share resources and ideas.

The location has changed because the Patrick Henry Library in Vienna is doing a major tear down and rebuild over the next two to three years!

While RSVPs are not required, it will help to know if you are coming. So please email Ann Koch at [**Akkoch710@gmail.com**](mailto:Akkoch710@gmail.com) to let them know you will attend.

###

**Kensington Park No Pressure Audio Book Club - Virtual**

**Monday, September 30 from 6:30 to 7:30pm**

[**Virtual Branch**](https://mcpl.libnet.info/event/10781897#branch)

Audiobook lovers, drop in for an informal and wide-ranging discussion without the pressure of reading an assigned title. All readers are welcome whether you read with ears or eyes.

Tell them about a book title that you really enjoyed.

Join Zoom [**https://us06web.zoom.us/j/85480395484**](https://us06web.zoom.us/j/85480395484)

**Or Dial In**: 301 715 8592; **Meeting ID: 854 8039 5484**

**For security reasons, this program session may be locked 10 minutes after it begins. Please log in promptly.**

###

**Fairfax County Library All Access Book Club:** [**The Thursday Murder Club**](https://fcplcat.fairfaxcounty.gov/search/searchresults.aspx?ctx=1.1033.0.0.1&type=Browse&term=The%20Thursday%20Murder%20Club&by=TI&sort=RELEVANCE&limit=TOM=*&query=MTE=%27374036%27&page=0&searchid=0) **by Richard Osman**

Thursday, October 3rd at 11:00 am

The All Access Book Club meets on the first Thursday of each month at 11:00 a.m. via free conference call.

To join the event:

* Call **703-324-1800**or toll-free number **1-877-862-8112**
* At the prompt, enter the code **389887**

For more information, contact Access Services Library at 703-324-8380 or [**email**](mailto:libas@fairfaxcounty.gov).

###

**Reston VIP Open Meeting: Let’s Get Reacquainted**

Friday, October 4th from 2:00 to 4:00 pm In-Person

Reston Regional Library - In the ELL Area

(In the far back right corner, ask at the information desk.)

11925 Bowman Towne Drive, Reston

Leader: Stan Gowin

Speakers: All who Attend

Welcome back to the freshly refurbished Reston Regional Library. At this in-person meeting there will be a chance to get reacquainted and welcome new attendees. Share your ideas for topics for more in-depth discussion at a future meeting. Do you have a gadget, app, or device to bring or talk about? Icebreaker - Stan will bring his AwareWolfGear Urban Xplorer cane.

Please come and share your ideas, suggestions, questions, and concerns. We can all learn from each other.

VIP enquiries? Contact:

Sandy Neuzil at 703-989-1821 [**sandy.neuzil@gmail.com**](mailto:sandy.neuzil@gmail.com)

Stan Gowin at 703-470-6633 [**sgowin@verizon.net**](mailto:sgowin@verizon.net)

Kathryn Hodgdon at 703-608-5817 [**ahodgdon@aol.comm**](mailto:ahodgdon@aol.comm)

###

**Maryland LBPD TUG Meeting: iOS 18**

Saturday, October 5th from 10:00 to 11:00 am

The Technology User Group (TUG) will look at the changes made to the iPhone with iOS 18. What is new, what is accessible, and what just does not work? As always, your questions and experiences are greatly appreciated.

Who should attend this meeting?

* Individuals who own iPhones
* People who assist others with their phones
* Anyone who is thinking about switching to an iPhone.

This program will be recorded.

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**ACB of Virginia Fiber Arts Club!**

Saturday, October 5th from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm and may continue onto going somewhere afterwards for lunch

Where: Alexandria, VA

You are invited to join the first in person Meet-Up for the ACB of Virginia Fiber Arts Club. Whether you love crocheting, knitting, loom knitting, weaving, sewing, or any other fiber art, they welcome you to be a part of their vibrant community.

For further information about the meetup or directions please contact Theresa Breeden at [**teeelynn68@gmail.com**](mailto:teeelynn68@gmail.com).

###

**Montgomery County Hispanic Heritage Month Festival and Health Fair**

October 6th from 12:00 to 5:00 pm

Marian Fryer Plaza

2424 Reedie Drive, Wheaton

A celebration of health and heritage, with delicious Latin food and free health checkups. There will also be music, dance, and more. The festival is a celebration of the vibrant cultures and traditions that make the county diverse. It’s a day for the whole family to connect with the community and celebrate our vibrant culture.

Learn more at [**Hispanic Heritage Month Festival and Health Fair 2024 - The Latino Health Initiative (LHI) (lhiinfo.org)**](https://www.lhiinfo.org/hhm24/).

###

**Alexandria Low Vision Resource Group: Low Vision Technology Demo**

Friday, October 11th from 1:00 to 2:30 pm

[**Charles E. Beatley Jr. Central Library**](https://alexlibraryva.org/event/8886638#branch)

5005 Duke Street, Alexandria, Large Meeting Room

Join to experience a demonstration of low vision technology.

###

**Salón Mexicano Concert with Jorge Federico Osorio**

Sunday, October 13, 2024

1:00 to 2:00 pm and 2:00 to 3:00 pm

National Gallery of Art West Building, West Garden Court

6th Street and Constitution Avenue

Join pianist Jorge Federico Osorio as he performs pieces from his latest album, *Salón Mexicano*. This program of buried treasures from a bygone Romantic era is filled with instantly enjoyable gems of intimate “party music” by influential Mexican composers Felipe Villanueva (1862–1893), Ricardo Castro (1864–1907), Manuel M. Ponce (1882–1948), and José Rolón (1876–1945).

Register at [**https://tickets.nga.gov/events/0190e561-63cc-3bf9-c7b8-1e1158cb42fc**](https://tickets.nga.gov/events/0190e561-63cc-3bf9-c7b8-1e1158cb42fc)

###

**American Council of the Blind of Virginia** (**ACBVA) Virtual Meeting: Judy Dixon Discusses AI**

Monday, October 14th from 7:00 to 8:30 pm

For many years, Judy Dixon worked at the National Library Service, and she has written a number of books about topics of interest to people who are blind or who have low vision. She will lead a presentation about how AI can benefit people who are blind and will discuss details of applications available on a Windows computer and an iPhone.

And she’ll discuss other items that are using AI, such as smart glasses.

There will be lots of opportunities for questions and discussion.

For more information about ACBVA, please email:  
[**Info.acbva@gmail.com**](mailto:Info.acbva@gmail.com)  
and visit the ACBVA website at:  
[**www.acbva.org**](http://www.acbva.org/)to learn  more about the organization, and to find links to several resources and how to become a member.

Please contact Paul D'Addario at 703-532-9138 or RoseAnn Ashby at 703-403-0226 with questions.

Join Zoom Meeting  
[**https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86481244260?pwd=ekgxYldXMnlqYk16MFlua0lIQnozZz09**](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86481244260?pwd=ekgxYldXMnlqYk16MFlua0lIQnozZz09)  
Meeting ID: 864 8124 4260  
  
Passcode: 111222  
  
One tap mobile  
+13017158592,,86481244260#,,,,\*111222# US (Washington DC)  
  
Dial by your location  
+1 301 715 8592 US (Washington DC)  
Meeting ID: 864 8124 4260  
  
Passcode: 111222

###

**MWE National White Cane Safety Awareness Day Expo**

Tuesday, October 15th from 11:00 am to 2:00 pm

Hilton Garden Inn

2200 Broadbirch Drive, Silver Spring

Explore the resources and services available to the visually impaired community! Get a chance to learn about:

* Braille Classes
* Mobility Training
* Assistive Technology & much more!

Raffle drawings will be held at 12:30 pm.

Boxed lunches will be served at 1:30 pm

Contact the Metropolitan Washington Ear at 301-681-6636 for more information.

###

**FCC Disability Advisory Committee (DAC) Meeting**

Friday, October 18th at 9:00 am

​Commission Meeting Room

FCC Headquarters, 45 L Street, NE

The meeting will be open to the public and webcast with open captioning at [**https://www.fcc.gov/live**](https://www.fcc.gov/live).

Reasonable accommodations for people with disabilities are available upon request. Include a description of the accommodation you will need and tell them how to contact you if they need more information. Make your request as early as possible. Last-minute requests will be accepted but may be impossible to fill. Send an e-mail to: [**FCC504@fcc.gov**](mailto:FCC504@fcc.gov)or call the Consumer and Governmental Affairs Bureau at 202-418-0530.

The agenda for this meeting will be posted on the event page at [**https://www.fcc.gov/news-events/events/2024/10/disability-advisory-committee-meeting**](https://www.fcc.gov/news-events/events/2024/10/disability-advisory-committee-meeting).

Link to Public Notice:  
URL: [**https://www.fcc.gov/document/fcc-announces-october-18-2024-dac-meeting**](https://www.fcc.gov/document/fcc-announces-october-18-2024-dac-meeting)

For more information about the DAC, visit [**www.fcc.gov/dac**](http://www.fcc.gov/dac).  For specific questions, please contact Molly Burgdorf, DAC Deputy Designated Federal Officer, at (202) 418-2173 or [**DAC@fcc.gov**](mailto:DAC@fcc.gov).

###

**Accessible Board Games Meet-up**

Thursday, October 24th from 5:00 to 7:00 pm  
Center for Accessibility, 2nd Floor  
Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial Library

901 G Street, NW

Accessible Board Game Afternoons occur on the 4th Thursday of every month and is for all Adults!

Enjoy playing games such as Scrabble, Monopoly, Uno, Chess, and more!

Boards and cards are tactile and include braille labelling. Everyone is welcome to join.

To request a reasonable accommodation for this program, please contact[**DCPLaccess@dc.gov**](mailto:DCPLaccess@dc.gov)**or call 202-727-2142.**

###

**State Convention of the National Federation of the Blind of Virginia** Thursday, October 31st through Sunday, November 3rd

Renaissance Portsmouth-Norfolk Waterfront Hotel

425 Water St, Portsmouth, VA 23704

This action-packed weekend offers something for everyone, with opportunities to connect, learn, and have fun. Here are just a few highlights: - Adaptive Sports & Wellness Activities: From blind tennis to chair aerobics, there is something to get everyone moving, no matter your age or skill level. - Interactive Technology & Resource Fair: Explore hands-on demonstrations of the latest accessible tech, from AI tools enhancing workplace productivity to gadgets simplifying daily living, plus low-vision cell phones, audible health monitors, and more. - Professional Development & Career Support: Get real-time feedback on your resume, participate in mock interviews, and gain insights from professionals across industries. Whether you are starting your career or looking for a new opportunity, they have you covered. - Family-Friendly Fun: Kids can dive into accessible video games, create braille art, or swap books at our the Book Exchange while parents connect with each other and hear from experienced blind role models.

They have also negotiated affordable hotel and meal rates!

To find all details including the agenda and other necessary information, go to [**https://nfbv.org/convention**](https://nfbv.org/convention).

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