

November 28, 2024

Dear Listeners,

Happy Thanksgiving. All of us at the MWE are thankful for your support and wish you a safe and meaningful holiday.

As I noted last week, current and back issues of the MWE Updates are now available on our website. The updated link to access them is

[**https://washear.org/listener-newsletters**](https://washear.org/listener-newsletters).

The MWE is pleased to offer congratulations to Kathryn Hodgdon and Rachel Schreiman for their Public Service Awards from the Fairfax County Public Library (FCPL) Access Services branch for their work with the Reston and Vienna VIP groups.  The VIP groups are under the auspices of FCPL Access Services.  Every year the FCPL branch libraries may nominate volunteers, who often work behind the scenes, for a Public Service Award.  Both Kathryn and Rachel work hard in ways you may not be aware of, to keep Reston VIP and Vienna VIP running smoothly.  They both share a lot of information through emails, help organize meetings, and give new members a warm welcome including leads to many low vision resources.

If you read these MWE Updates regularly, you are familiar with the Reston and Vienna VIP groups and applaud this well-deserved recognition. And, thanks to Sandy Neuzil for sharing this news.

Cheers,

Sylvia

Here are the links to all the items below:

* [**FCC Reminds Broadcasters of Expansion of Audio Description to Additional TV Markets**](#FCC)
* [**FCC Seeks Comment on Petition for Rulemaking and to Extend Waiver of Accessible Emergency Information Requirement**](#FCC2)
* **[Theater Update](#Theater)**
* **[Calendar](#Calendar)**
  + **[Replay POB Events](#Replay)**
  + **[Sight Tech Global Virtual Conference](#Global)**
  + [**Funding Home Modifications in Maryland**](#Fund)
  + **[Virtual Blind Health Expo 2024](#Expo)**
  + [**Reston VIP Meeting In-Person**](#Reston)
  + **[Mr Sun Plays Ellington’s Nutcracker](#Sun)**
  + **[DBVI Virtual Public Comment Meeting](#DBVI)**
  + **[Martha Glennan Disability Inclusion and Equality Awards](#Awards)**
  + **[ACB Virginia Meeting](#ACBVA)**
  + [**2024 in Review: Assistive Technology Innovations, Web Accessibility & Reddit /r/Blind**](#Review)
  + **[U.S. Access Board Presents Preliminary Findings on Artificial Intelligence (AI) For Disability Community and AI Practitioners](#AI)**
  + **[TUG Meeting](#TUG)**
  + **[ACB of Virginia Book Group Meeting](#ACBVABook)**
  + **[ACBVA's Holiday Party](#Party)**
  + **[“My Favorite Things: Singing the Songs of the Season” with Shana Tucker](#Songs)**
  + [**LBPD Tactile Tour: The Feel of Nature** **In-Person:**](#LBPD)

###

**FCC REMINDS BROADCASTERS OF EXPANSION OF AUDIO DESCRIPTION TO ADDITIONAL TV MARKETS**

On November 21, 2024, the FCC released a Public Notice (PN) reminding broadcast television stations about the audio description requirements adopted in its October 17, 2023, Report and Order.  The Report and Order expanded the audio description requirements by phasing them in for an additional 10 designated market areas (DMAs) each year until all DMAs are included.

The PN reminds television broadcasters that the audio description rules will extend to DMAs 101 through 110 on January 1, 2025.

Public Notice:

URL: [**https://www.fcc.gov/document/reminder-audio-description-rules-phase-dmas-101-110-1125**](https://www.fcc.gov/document/reminder-audio-description-rules-phase-dmas-101-110-1125)

For general information about audio description, please visit the FCC’s webpage**:** [**https://www.fcc.gov/audio-description**](https://www.fcc.gov/audio-description).  For specific questions about this Public Notice, please contact Diana Sokolow, Policy Division, Media Bureau, at (202) 418-0588, or [**Diana.Sokolow@fcc.gov**](mailto:Diana.Sokolow@fcc.gov).

###

**FCC SEEKS COMMENT ON PETITION FOR RULEMAKING AND TO EXTEND WAIVER OF ACCESSIBLE EMERGENCY INFORMATION REQUIREMENT**

Comments Due:  December 26, 2024

Reply Comments Due:  January 9, 2025

On November 25, 2024, the FCC’s Media Bureau released a Public Notice seeking comment on a petition to amend section 79.2(b)(2)(ii) of the Commission’s rules, known as the “Audible Crawl” rule.  The rule currently requires broadcasters to provide an aural representation of visual, non-textual emergency information, such as radar maps or other graphics, on a secondary audio stream.  The petition, filed by the National Association of Broadcasters (NAB), would amend the rule to state that the requirement is met if a station provides aurally-accessible textual crawls that convey emergency information duplicative of or equivalent to the visual, non-textual information.

The FCC also seeks comment on the petition’s request for an 18-month extension to NAB’s existing waiver of the Audible Crawl rule, which is currently set to expire on November 26, 2024.

Public Notice:

[**https://docs.fcc.gov/public/attachments/DA-24-1184A1.pdf**](https://docs.fcc.gov/public/attachments/DA-24-1184A1.pdf)

NAB petition:

[**https://www.fcc.gov/ecfs/search/search-filings/filing/111566262500**5](https://www.fcc.gov/ecfs/search/search-filings/filing/1115662625005).

Interested parties may file comments by accessing the FCC’s Electronic Comment Filing System at [**https://www.fcc.gov/ecfs/filings**](https://www.fcc.gov/ecfs/filings).  All filings must reference MB Docket No. 12-107.  People with disabilities who need assistance to file comments online may request assistance by email to [**FCC504@fcc.gov**](mailto:FCC504@fcc.gov).

For additional information, contact Diana Sokolow, Media Bureau, Policy Division, at (202) 418-0588 or [**Diana.Sokolow@fcc.gov**](mailto:Diana.Sokolow@fcc.gov).  Individuals who use videophones and are fluent in American Sign Language (ASL) may call the FCC’s ASL Consumer Support Line at (844) 432-2275 (videophone).

###

**THEATER UPDATE**

The following performances will be described by an 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 10, Branch 11.

**A Hanukkah Carol or Gelt Trip! The Musical**

Round House Theatre Bethesda - 240-644-1100

Described Saturday, November 30th at 2:00 pm

**Data**

Arena Stage Kogod Cradle at the Mead Center - 202-488-3300

Described Saturday, November 30th at 2:00 pm

###

**Six**

National Theater – 1-800-514-3849

Described: Sunday, December 1st at 7:30 pm

**Death on the Nile**

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

**Note Date Change**:

Described Saturday, December 28th at 2:00 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)

###

**Sight Tech Global Virtual Conference**

Wednesday, December 4th and Thursday, December 5th

**Join a real autonomous journey through the streets of San Francisco.**Ride along ... and follow two blind Vista Center staff members on their very first Waymo ride. Learn about the accessibility features available for blind and low-vision riders, such as turn-by-turn audio navigation to the car, as well as descriptive audio cues describing what's happening during a ride, and where to find controls.

This isn't just another ride – it is a real, unscripted look at autonomous    
transportation that's giving independence to people who cannot drive!

Watch the audio described video to hear how features like wayfinding assistance, screen reader compatibility, and audio cues are making autonomous rides accessible and independent in San Francisco, with more cities to come.

Waymo has autonomously driven over 22 million miles on public roads and 20 billion miles in simulation, across the country, making this technology today's reality!

**Registration is at** [**2024 Conference Registration - Sight Tech Global**](https://sighttechglobal.com/conference-registration/?mc_cid=ab81e4c2e5&mc_eid=9b3185f9e7)**.**

###

**Funding Home Modifications in Maryland**

Wednesday, December 4th from 2:00 to 3:00 pm

Home Modifications often go hand-in-hand with independence for someone with a disability. From structural modifications like ramps and grab bars to high tech solutions like smart home devices and remote monitoring- the right solutions can ensure greater access to home, community, and services!

﻿Join the Maryland Department of Disabilities AT Program as they explore tax incentives & credits, get familiar with state & nonprofit programs to help cover the costs, and identify solutions that make homes live-able for longer!

Presented by Nora Walker, AT & Public Health Coordinator.

**Register at** [**https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\_Dsxat52uTOKvipy-3zBGnA#/registration**](https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_Dsxat52uTOKvipy-3zBGnA#/registration) **.**

###

**Virtual Blind Health Expo 2024**  
Friday, December 6th from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm

The 3rd annual Blind Health Expo is the world’s largest virtual expo of healthcare information, products, and services for individuals, organizations, and companies in the blindness, and disability communities.

Hundreds of exhibitors!

[**Click Here to Register to Attend**](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSedZ-pjdWivnuuOpXx0uuNaIRiH0nNSPg-s-Vf6HI9jjiW4jg/viewform?usp=sharing)

###

**Reston VIP Meeting In-Person**

Friday December 6th from 2:00 to 4:00 pm   
Reston Regional Library

11925 Bowman Towne Drive, Reston

Sandy Neuzil will lead a discussion on InnoSearch AI, Sight Tech Global, and Blind Health Expo 2024

* **InnoSearch.AI** [**https://www.innosearch.ai/**](https://www.innosearch.ai/)  is an All-In-One shopping site that recently added shopping for Flights.  It is designed for shoppers who have blindness and vision impairments (BVI) and open to all.  The site is visually uncluttered, pulls up comparison sources and prices for items, highlights bargains, and lets you ask questions that AI will answer.  There are no shipping fees.

* **Sight Tech Global**  [**https://sighttechglobal.com/**](https://sighttechglobal.com/)  4th annual conference will be held virtually Dec. 4 & 5, (several hours each day) " ... your gateway to a world where innovation and inclusion intersect, creating a brighter future for people with blindness or visual impairments."  Register Free ASAP [**https://sighttechglobal.com/conference-registration/**](https://sighttechglobal.com/conference-registration/)  to attend live.  "*P.S. Curious about last year's conference? Go to*[**youtube.com/@SightTechGlobal**](https://98jlih6ab.cc.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=001yWMMx--FqEMNNaYs1uvXUazLLlkLjpO1MGsF2APGK1HCnebBW2WN7L5u8lRD8HPEvFu6n4PkPUvpWlME5d4i6hoYpYD5TtSSZYzn8EeSVfsW2gan0HSV5JOLaJcW65Fu5iUdJCM-b2ne34jZ2Vb32tqPkDvJpNlFZCT6v7ekQ6I=&c=s0i7_hGqJx0Rcqp4mGImqVrhCQ7AgDwWNxfKqiLzs_p6s9iHAd4Avw==&ch=exQ8iYQGQnOetmF5JyxXwSKk2tqffwVapGpFBTLs6ufPXXWpJeS4qQ==)*and prepare to be inspired!*"

* **Blind Health Expo 2024**  [**https://accessiblepharmacy.com/blind-health-expo-2024/**](https://accessiblepharmacy.com/blind-health-expo-2024/)   Free Virtual Event Dec. 6 at 10:00 - 4:00 EST.  "... is the world's largest virtual expo of healthcare information, products, and services for individuals, organizations, and companies in the health, blindness, and disability communities."  Visit the website for updates, a list of exhibitors, and scroll down to the button to **Register ASAP**.

Questions, suggestions, or compliments for Reston VIP?

Please contact any of the following by a phone call, text, or email:

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

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

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

###

**Mr Sun Plays Ellington’s Nutcracker**

Sunday, December 8th at 1:00 and 3:00 pm

National Gallery of Art West Building, West Garden Court

6th and Constitution Avenue, NW

Registration Required at [**Mr Sun Plays Ellington’s Nutcracker — National Gallery of Art**](https://tickets.nga.gov/events/0191a3e1-b94f-071d-056c-50aeedfae0de).

Discover a new take on the holiday classic *Nutcracker Suite* with the acoustic Americana group Mr Sun. Based on the beloved melodies of Tchaikovsky’s *Nutcracker Suite* and its re-interpretation by Duke Ellington and his life-long musical partner Billy Strayhorn.  Mr Sun salutes and re-invents this multi-faceted work through the lens of the American string band.

In this performance, based on the recording *Mr Sun Plays Duke Ellington’s Nutcracker Suite,* selections range from close interpretations of Billy Strayhorn’s original charts to intense extrapolations based on the spirit of the material.

###

**DBVI Virtual Public Comment Meeting**

Monday, December 9th from 5:00 - 6:00 pm

The Virginia Department for the Blind and Vision Impaired (DBVI) wants to hear from you!

**Join virtual:**[**Zoom link**](https://links-2.govdelivery.com/CL0/https:%2F%2Fdsa-virginia.zoomgov.com%2Fj%2F1608030691%3Fpwd=HiP9TI438aRHZtKmPmKPAh56ynt7oC.1%25C2%25A0%26utm_medium=email%26utm_source=govdelivery/1/010101934026606c-c838c619-be23-4ee8-b8e1-9746db7aea18-000000/652m1SJwyiSPs_FB-TCLy1-lRHn4Q6LR9eInPFaFHJg=379)**Passcode:** 511801

Or

**Telephone:** Dial: (646) 828 - 7666  
**Meeting ID:** 160 803 0691  
**Passcode:** 511801

Public meetings are held to give stakeholders an opportunity to make comments about DBVI programs and services. DBVI especially wants to get input regarding agency strategic planning, development of agency policies and procedures, and implementing services and supports to potentially eligible and eligible individuals who are blind, vision impaired, or deafblind. DBVI is particularly interested in comments regarding the following programs, services, and divisions:

* Independent Living/Rehabilitation Teaching
* Education Services
* Low Vision Services
* Deafblind Services
* Virginia Rehabilitation Center for the Blind and Vision Impaired Programs
* Rehabilitation Technology Services
* Vocational Rehabilitation and Workforce Services
* Library and Resource Center Services
* Virginia Industries for the Blind
* Virginia Enterprises for the Blind
* Services to Students and Youth including year-round programming and special Academies

Individuals requiring interpreters or other special accommodations should contact Deborah Collard (800-622-2155) at least two weeks prior to the meeting to request the preferred accommodation.

Written and e-mail comments may be submitted prior to December 31, 2024:

Deborah Collard, Senior Program Analyst  
Department for the Blind and Vision Impaired  
397 Azalea Avenue  
Richmond, VA, 23227

[**Deborah.Collard@dbvi.virginia.gov**](mailto:Deborah.Collard@dbvi.virginia.gov), 804-371-3140/1-800-622-2155 (Voice/TTY)

###

**Martha Glennan Disability Inclusion and Equality Awards**

Monday, December 9th from 6:30 to 8:30 pm

Fairfax County Government Pennino Bldg., Rooms 200/206, 12011 Government Center Parkway, Fairfax

The Fairfax Area – Disability Services Board's Martha Glennan Disability Inclusion and Equality Awards are presented annually to recognize people, businesses, nonprofits, government agencies, and others that excel in demonstrating a commitment to promoting equal rights and community inclusion for people with disabilities.

This year they will recognize Patricia Beech and Brain Injury Services, for their commitment to the full inclusion of people with disabilities in all aspects of community life.

For reasonable accommodations or questions contact Ann Kim at [**Ann.Kim@FairfaxCounty.Gov**](mailto:Ann.Kim@FairfaxCounty.Gov) or by calling 703-324-7486

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**ACB Virginia Meeting**

Monday, December 9th at 7:00 pm

Theresa Breeden will be leading a simple crafting project that everyone can enjoy. If you wish to do the craft along with Theresa during the meeting, please let RoseAnn Ashby know ([**beachrose9@verizon.net**](mailto:beachrose9@verizon.net)). Theresa needs to mail you the kit of supplies you will need for the project, and she wants to put everything in the mail by December 1.

In addition, Debra Hill will grace everyone with a medley to get in the holiday mood. And finally, there will be a sharing of holiday memories or traditions that are particularly meaningful—either funny or poignant. If you wish to share a memory, please let them know so that they can allot sufficient time for sharing.

To get the Zoom information, either join the ACBVA email list (directions below) or write to [**info.acbva@gmail.com**](mailto:info.acbva@gmail.com).

For your reference, please mark your calendar for future monthly program  
meetings:

Monday, January 13, 2025

Monday, February 10, 2025

To join the ACB of Virginia (ACBVA) list serve, send a blank email to:  
[**acbva+subscribe@groups.io**](mailto:acbva+subscribe@groups.io)  
you will receive an e-mail message asking you to confirm your subscription.

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.  
###

**2024 in Review: Assistive Technology Innovations, Web Accessibility & Reddit /r/Blind**

Tuesday, December 10th from 3:00 to 4:00 pm

Online via Zoom

Sponsored by Lighthouse Guild

Register at [**https://lighthouseguild.org/events/2024-in-review-assistive-technology-innovations-web-accessibility-reddit-r-blind/**](https://lighthouseguild.org/events/2024-in-review-assistive-technology-innovations-web-accessibility-reddit-r-blind/)

**Speakers**: Bryan Wolynski, an Optometrist and the Chief Technology Officer at Lighthouse Guild, Shanell Matos, an assistive technology consultant and advocate, and special guest Norbert Rum, a seasoned expert in UX Design and Accessibility. He is also a web accessibility specialist and the founder of the /r/Blind community on Reddit.

Join them for an insightful webinar that will review the developments in assistive technology for people who are blind or visually impaired over the past year. They will discuss advancements that happened in 2024, including the growth of AI-powered tools and wearables, the ongoing impact of emerging technologies, and how mainstream technology is enhancing assistive devices.

###

**U.S. Access Board Presents Preliminary Findings on Artificial Intelligence (AI) For Disability Community and AI Practitioners**

December 12th from 2:00 to 3:30 pm

As part of the Developing Artificial Intelligence (AI) Equity, Access & Inclusion for All Series, the Access Board will [**present its preliminary** **findings**](https://links-1.govdelivery.com/CL0/https:%2F%2Fwww.access-board.gov%2Fnews%2F2024%2F11%2F07%2Fu-s-access-board-presents-preliminary-findings-on-artificial-intelligence-ai-for-disability-community-and-ai-practitioners%2F/1/010001932c2a3468-0dc4c9ba-7d11-4653-8845-b5b4aab38d62-000000/mh1xFR6oUKvFAifbG8Zp3e4khBEQfN6Z-xph6Oakg6w=379) on the risks and benefits of AI for people with disabilities. The findings are based on the outcomes of three recent AI hearings held in August 2024, independent research and engagements, as well as comments received from the public. The presentation will take place virtually.

* **Zoom Link:** [**https://www.zoomgov.com/j/1601731944**](https://links-1.govdelivery.com/CL0/https:%2F%2Fwww.zoomgov.com%2Fj%2F1601731944/1/010001932c2a3468-0dc4c9ba-7d11-4653-8845-b5b4aab38d62-000000/38RFQG8bzTZ0X2Fq2JQUhgirXE8H8FLEedgri2Ao0D8=379)
* Meeting ID: 160 173 1944
* Passcode: 524293

Learn more about this series and the partnership with the [**American Association of People with Disabilities (AAPD)**](https://links-1.govdelivery.com/CL0/https:%2F%2Fwww.aapd.com%2F/1/010001932c2a3468-0dc4c9ba-7d11-4653-8845-b5b4aab38d62-000000/ygQdZ4gefNTSsGZ_6bGRXmzs8sroOWUuksIVwhhsasw=379)and **the**[**Center for Democracy & Technology (**](https://links-1.govdelivery.com/CL0/https:%2F%2Fcdt.org%2F/1/010001932c2a3468-0dc4c9ba-7d11-4653-8845-b5b4aab38d62-000000/SlMGfkzsGQUQT5Z-PZOP8HnZD9qmR7E5Ramn7kexxqI=379)CDT) at [**U.S. Access Board Presents Preliminary Findings on Artificial Intelligence (AI) for Disability Community and AI Practitioners**](https://www.access-board.gov/news/2024/11/07/u-s-access-board-presents-preliminary-findings-on-artificial-intelligence-ai-for-disability-community-and-ai-practitioners/).

###

**TUG Meeting: BARD on Alexa**

Saturday, December 14th from 10:00 to 11:00 am

The Technology User Group (TUG) will demonstrate the BARD Alexa skill.  In addition, some of this year's best new apps and websites will be discussed.

Who should attend:

* Individuals who want to read books on their Alexa-driven devices.
* Existing Alexa BARD skill users who may be encountering issues.
* People wanting to learn about new apps and websites benefitting low vision and blind users.

Call in Number

1-301-715-8592

Meeting ID: 656 203 7293​#

One tap mobile

[+13017158592,,6562037293#](https://links-1.govdelivery.com/CL0/tel:%2B13017158592,,6562037293%23/1/010001933faad628-b626b3c5-35c3-411d-9d8a-a4433d79170f-000000/p1HJWkL-AmVJUXx65pm-1d8I11A_38VN5aEHGXPFiOs=379)

Webcast

[**https://marylandlibraries.zoom.us/j/6562037293?omn=94648805523**](https://links-1.govdelivery.com/CL0/https:%2F%2Fmarylandlibraries.zoom.us%2Fj%2F6562037293%3Fomn=94648805523%26utm_medium=email%26utm_source=govdelivery/1/010001933faad628-b626b3c5-35c3-411d-9d8a-a4433d79170f-000000/VI5sJzV9Gs2CFTrmHRHMs2h15b6Q_67BKq_aor63AZo=379)

**Upcoming TUG Programs**

January 11:  Columbia Lighthouse for the Blind and an Update from the Maryland Accessible Telecommunications Program

February 8: Bookshare App, Alexa Skill and more.

If you would like to listen to previous TUG recordings, please click here:

[**https://msla.maryland.gov/Pages/Technology-User-Group.aspx**](https://msla.maryland.gov/Pages/Technology-User-Group.aspx).  You may also listen on the Maryland State Library Agency podcast channel at [**https://anchor.fm/mdstatelibrary**](https://links-1.govdelivery.com/CL0/https:%2F%2Fanchor.fm%2Fmdstatelibrary%3Futm_medium=email%26utm_source=govdelivery/1/010001933faad628-b626b3c5-35c3-411d-9d8a-a4433d79170f-000000/xTUq6FIW6y3CEi9zH6C0yjcA0s98IPdK1JBsqgGTNzA=379) or wherever you get your podcasts.

###

**ACB of Virginia Book Group Meeting**

Thursday, December 12th at 7:00 pm

As always, rather than asking everyone to read the same book, attendees are asked to report on a book or books they have read.

You do not need to be a member to attend.

You do not need to have a book on which to report.

ACBVA's book group meetings are not only a great way to learn about books you may not be aware of, but you may also learn about sources of audio books and technology others use to read.

Realizing that the time and date are not convenient for everyone, they plan to distribute information about the books attendees review following the meeting.

**Join Zoom Meeting**

[**https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83807277786?pwd=NHhqckpZRHB0dTRsSEoyNzM5Z3B5dz09**](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83807277786?pwd=NHhqckpZRHB0dTRsSEoyNzM5Z3B5dz09)

Meeting ID: 838 0727 7786

Passcode: 669550

One tap mobile

+13017158592,,83807277786#,,,,\*669550# US (Washington DC)

+13052241968,,83807277786#,,,,\*669550# US

or Dial by your location

        +1 301 715 8592 US (Washington DC)

        +1 305 224 1968 US

        +1 309 205 3325 US

Meeting ID: 838 0727 7786

Passcode: 669550

Find your local number: [**https://us02web.zoom.us/u/**](https://us02web.zoom.us/u/)

###

**ACBVA's Holiday Party**

Sunday, December 15th from 1:00 to 4:00 pm

Ledo's Pizza, 8324 Old Keene Mill Road, West Springfield

Refer to the following website for additional details:

[**https://ledopizza.com/store/va-west-springfield/**](https://ledopizza.com/store/va-west-springfield/)

In addition to pizza, Ledo's offers sandwiches, salads, pasta, soft drinks, and alcoholic drinks.

The room will be set up with tables for four. Each table will be billed separately. Please come with cash in small denominations so that you can settle up with your table mates.

There should be room to walk around and socialize with old friends and new.

A white elephant gift exchange is planned. Bring something of minimal value ($10-$15). You will have an opportunity to pick an unopened gift or "steal" someone else's gift when it is your turn to choose.

If you need to be picked up from a Metro stop, please let RoseAnn Ashby ((703) 403-0226 – cell or [**beachrose9@verizon.net**](mailto:beachrose9@verizon.net))

know, and they will do their best to arrange to have someone pick you up and return you to the station.

For questions, also contact RoseAnn Ashby.

Finally, they need your RSVP by December 8 so that the restaurant can make plans for staffing the party.

###

**“My Favorite Things: Singing the Songs of the Season” with Shana Tucker**

Sunday, December 15th from 3:00 to 4:15 pm

National Gallery of Art West Building, West Garden Court

6th and Constitution Avenue, NW

Registration Required at [**“My Favorite Things: Singing the Songs of the Season” with Shana Tucker — National Gallery of Art**](https://tickets.nga.gov/events/0193221e-6d02-b702-db8e-c2dea9478b14)**.**

Join renowned vocalist and cellist Shana Tucker as she brings her unique genre of “ChamberSoul” to your favorite holiday standards. Tucker is joined by award-winning jazz pianist and arranger Christian Tamburr and upright bassist Kenny Phelps-McKeown. Having headlined everywhere from The Apollo Theater to Lincoln Center, you can’t miss the artistry and musical collaboration these artists bring to the stage.

###

**LBPD Tactile Tour: The Feel of Nature** **In-Person:**

Thursday, December 19th from 1:00 to 2:00 pm

Outside LBPD/MSLA

Sponsored by the Maryland State Library for the Blind and Print Disabled (LPBD)

With five very distinct physiographic regions that range from mountaintops to the seashore, Maryland is often referred to as America in miniature. During this visit to the Natural History Society of Maryland, you will get to explore the rocks, minerals, fossils, plants, and animals that tell the 4.6 billion year story of this place called Maryland. Special 8-million-year-old souvenir included!

Registrations open at 1:00pm Thursday, November 21st at

[**Natural History Society of Maryland: The Feel of Nature - LibCal - Maryland State Library Agency**](https://marylandlibraries.libcal.com/calendar/ExternalCalendar/NaturalHistory24?utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery)**.**

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