

12061 Tech Road, Silver Spring, Maryland 20904 – 301-681-6636

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

April 25, 2025

Dear Listeners,

We hope you are doing well and enjoying the pleasant change in the weather. Of particular interest this week is a proceeding at the FCC related to NextGen TV [**here**](#FCC). Note too, that the American Council of the Blind is working with the three major credit bureaus to ensure accessible reports [**here**](#Credit) and with the FAA to address aviation complaints [**here**](#FAA).

Cheers,

Sylvia

Here are the links to all the items below:

* [**2025 National Survey on Health and Disability**](#Survey)
* [**FCC Seeks Comment on Petition for Rulemaking and NAB Report about NextGen TV**](#FCC)
* [**Accessible Credit Reports**](#Credit)
* [**Message from the FAA’s Office of Aviation Consumer Protection**](#FAA)
* [**Engage with Arington on Safety for Neighborhood Intersection Projects**](#Arl)
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	+ [**ACB Cooking with The Blind Kitchen**](#ACBCook)
	+ [**TUG Meeting: Resources for Tech News, Live Assistance**](#TUG)
	+ **[The Washington National Eye Center At MedStar Washington Hospital Center Low Vision Support Group Virtual Meeting: Open Mic Session—It’s Healthy Vision Month-Are You Making the Most of Your Ophthalmology Appointments?](#Medstar)**
	+ **[FFB Mental Health Webinar](#FFBWeb)**
	+ **[Jazz In The Garden: Lao Tizer Band](#Jazz)**
	+ [**FFB DC Metro Vision Walk**](#Walk)

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**2025 NATIONAL SURVEY ON HEALTH AND DISABILITY**

The University of Kansas Institute for Health and Disability Policy Studies is looking for adults with disabilities who are at least 18 years old to take this survey. More information is at [**2025 National Survey on Health and Disability**](https://kusurvey.ca1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_737aJXFFSjDzpBA). You can also visit[**https://ihdps.ku.edu/nshd**](https://ihdps.ku.edu/nshd). If you would like information about the results after the NSHD closes, the website will also have that information or you can email them directly at **healthsurvey@ku.edu**.

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**FCC SEEKS COMMENT ON PETITION FOR RULEMAKING AND NAB REPORT ABOUT NEXTGEN TV**

Comments Due: May 7, 2025

Reply Comments Due: June 6, 2025

On April 7, 2025, the FCC released a Public Notice seeking comment on a Petition for Rulemaking filed by the National Association of Broadcasters (NAB).  In the Petition, NAB proposes that the Commission mandate a specific timeline for broadcasters to transition to the NextGen TV standard, also called ATSC 3.0.  NextGen TV was developed by the Advanced Television Systems Committee (ATSC) with the intent to eventually replace the current digital television standard, TSC 1.0.  NextGen TV is currently being broadcast by many stations across the country alongside their ATSC 1.0 signals.  The timeline being proposed for the transition is February 2028 for the top 55 television markets, and February 2030 for all other markets.

FCC also seeks comment on a report, filed by NAB on January 17, 2025, that summarizes the discussions and progress made through the Future of Television Initiative (FOTVI).  FOTVI is a group of consumer and industry participants led by NAB to guide the next steps of the transition to NextGen TV.

The FCC's existing accessibility requirements will apply to NextGen TV.  The FOTVI Report discusses on pages 31-32 NextGen TV's potential accessibility-related enhancements, such as:

* Multiple audio tracks so that audio description does not compete with other language tracks
* Improved audio quality for audio description
* Improved captioning with more options for viewers who prefer abbreviated captions, e.g., children and those whose first language is not English
* Access for those whose first language is American Sign Language (ASL) through the incorporation of ASL for televised programming
* ASL access, multiple captioning options, improved audio quality for audio description, and the availability of multiple audio tracks so audio description does not compete with other language tracks.

Link to the Public Notice:

[**https://www.fcc.gov/document/mb-seeks-comment-petition-rulemaking-nextgen-tv-proceeding**](https://www.fcc.gov/document/mb-seeks-comment-petition-rulemaking-nextgen-tv-proceeding)

Link to the NAB Petition:

**https://www.fcc.gov/ecfs/search/search-filings/filing/10226086607681**

Link to the FOTVI Report:

**https://www.fcc.gov/ecfs/search/search-filings/filing/10117024732259**

For additional information, contact Evan Baranoff, Media Bureau, Policy Division, at (202) 418-7142, or via e-mail at **Evan.Baranoff@fcc.gov**.

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**ACCESSIBLE CREDIT REPORTS**The American Council of the Blind (ACB) remains in the window of a settlement agreement it has with the three major credit bureaus: Experian, TransUnion, and Equifax. Through the agreement, the providers must make your credit review in an accessible format: braille, large print, or audio. You can make a request for the credit report by calling 1-877-322-8228.While they remain in this window, ACB hopes to learn from their members about the experiences you are all having with the credit companies. Please share your experiences at **advocacy@acb.org**. If you have not used any of the services before, they encourage you to request an accessible version and tell them about your experience. If you have any questions, please contact Claire Stanley at **cstanley@acb.org**.###**MESSAGE FROM THE FAA’S OFFICE OF AVIATION CONSUMER PROTECTION**The American Association of the Blind (ACB) received this message from their contact at the FAA On April 24.*Dear Advocates:**I am pleased to announce that the Department’s Office of Aviation Consumer Protection will launch the first phase of the “Aviation Complaint, Enforcement, and Reporting System” (ACERS) at****9 am EST on Friday, August 1, 2025****.**The first phase of ACERS will focus solely on the complaint submission and handling process.  ACERS will make it easy for consumers to file air travel service complaints. Consumers will be able to easily select the area(s) of concern (e.g., disability, refunds, flight cancellation) and provide a narrative containing specific details about their complaint.  ACERS will also provide airlines and ticket agents real time access to air travel service complaints, comments, and compliments filed by consumers. Further, ACERS will enable our office to better spot trends or areas of concern and ensure that airline passengers are treated fairly.**We look forward to working with you as we prepare to go live with first phase of ACERS in August.**Regards,**Blane*###**ENGAGE WITH ARLINGTON ON SAFETY FOR NEIGHBORHOOD INTERSECTION PROJECTS*** **The public is invited to weigh in on a concept design for the**[**Wilson Blvd & N. Rhodes Street Intersection Safety Project**](https://links-2.govdelivery.com/CL0/https%3A//publicinput.com/wilsonrhodesconcepten/1/010101966924bce1-205b47a8-1021-4ca6-8ecb-1be0ec0da10b-000000/YnUK1HdQHfcMG8fOhQnmiYfEgtL5RS4HwBdblmA73XY%3D402)**until May 4.**
* **The Neighborhood Complete Streets Program wants to make**[**S. Dinwiddie Street and 22nd Street S Intersection**](https://links-2.govdelivery.com/CL0/https%3A//publicinput.com/x34700/1/010101966924bce1-205b47a8-1021-4ca6-8ecb-1be0ec0da10b-000000/w_s1eScKgBbmhG2ZxxLh9-ZJz9cHtRchHYJ8PwwpKaE%3D402)**safer. Give your feedback by April 27.**
* **The County is drafting**[**plans to enhance safety at seven high-crash intersections**](https://links-2.govdelivery.com/CL0/https%3A//www.alexandriava.gov/transportation-planning/project/west-end-high-crash-intersection-safety-audits/1/010101966924bce1-205b47a8-1021-4ca6-8ecb-1be0ec0da10b-000000/Pgql0XVtn7JJ7FUqdLJBqSY_mNHam86cKmxkNFzV-aY%3D402)**in Arlington and Alexandria. Help identify priorities by April 28.**

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**NGA JAZZ IN THE GARDEN RETURNS BEGINNING MAY 23RD** Fridays May 23–July 11 (except July 4), 6:00–8:00 pmThe National Gallery of Art turns their Sculpture Garden into an open-air stage for jazz, R&B, Latin fusion, and more. It’s free, it’s vibrant, and the perfect way to spend a Friday evening. Enter their weekly lottery to register. Not selected? Come early—limited walk-up passes are available at 5:00 p.m. before each concert.See the lineup at [**Jazz in the Garden**](https://www.nga.gov/calendar/concerts/jazz-in-the-garden.html?utm_source=National+Gallery+of+Art&utm_campaign=5028ed6b6c-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2024_11_11_COPY_01&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_2085ff9475-5028ed6b6c-346649933&mc_cid=5028ed6b6c&mc_eid=e212df64e6).### |

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**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.

**NEW - Fake It Until You Make It**

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

Described **Friday, May 2nd at 8:00 pm**

**Kimberly Akimbo**

National Theater – 1-800-514-3849

Described Saturday, May 24th at 2:00 pm and Sunday, May 25th at 7:30 pm

**Untitled Tarell Alvin McCraney Play**

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

Described Saturday, May 31st at 2:00 pm

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**CALENDAR**

**Replay POB Events**

**Listen and watch replays of recent webinars and other POB events at**[**www.youreyes.org/replays**](http://www.youreyes.org/replays)

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| **West End Live! - Celebrating the Legacy of the One Step Down**Sunday, April 27th from 1:30 to 3:00 pm[**West End Neighborhood Library**](https://dclibrary.libnet.info/event/13393654#branch)2301 L Street, NW, Room 1 (25-80 Person Capacity)Join West End Neighborhood Library for a celebration of West End's historic jazz club, One Step Down. Come hear about it from folks who were there! In this event, local historian Bertrand Uberall and Bassist/Band Leader David Jernigan will discuss this storied venue's legacy with other DC musicians who performed at the One Step Down. Following the discussion, Mr. Jernigan's quartet will perform repertoire from their time in the One Step Down's house band. Closed in 2001, One Step Down was a hotspot for both local and international Jazz in Washington DC. During its heyday, attendees could hear jazz luminaries such as Freddie Hubbard, Roy Haynes, and DC's own Shirley Horn in addition to local luminaries such as keyboardist Lawrence Wheatly.###**Vienna/Falls Church VIP Assistive Technology Fair – In Person Only**Monday April 28th from 2:00 to 4:30 pmThomas Jefferson Library Conference Room7415 Arlington Blvd., Falls ChurchThis is an opportunity for visually impaired members and friends to see many types of assistive devices all in one place! Three vendors who sell a wide variety of assistive technology have been invited and are listed below along with the types of technology that will be displayed. \*\*\*IMPORTANT\*\*\* Advance sign-ups are requested In order to provide an organized and positive experience for everyone. Participants will rotate through each of the vendors in small groups at assigned times. Any participant desiring individual time with any of the vendors will be able to connect with them privately by scheduling a future appointment. Please email Rachel Schreiman @ **rachel.schreiman@gmail.com** to sign up. In your e-mail, please let them know if you prefer a 2:00 PM or 3:15 PM start time.Vendors:1. Atlantic Low Vision (Phil Linz); Website [**atlanticlowvision.com**](https://atlanticlowvision.com/)
2. Eschenbach (Louise Yi); Website [**eschenbach.com**](https://eschenbach.com/)
3. ITG Accessibility Solutions Group (Michael Batista) Website [**accessibilityproducts.net**](https://accessibilityproducts.net/)

Types of Technology Carried by the Vendors:* + Desktop Video Magnifiers: Ideal for extended reading, some include text-to-speech
	+ Portable Video Magnifiers: Many the advantages of a desktop, with the ability to pack up to take with you.
	+ Handheld Video Magnifiers: 4” - 10” Screens
	+ Tablet Based Magnifiers: A video magnifier with internet capability and Apps
	+ Wearable Magnifiers: Hands free digital magnification
	+ Wearable and handheld OCR and Artificial Intelligence (AI) devices
	+ Scanning & Reading Devices: these will scan documents & read aloud
	+ Handheld and wearable Optical (non-electronic) magnifiers
	+ Color filter glasses (fitover or wrap around)
	+ Braille Notetakers & Displays
	+ Software: ZoomText, JAWS, Fusion

 If you signed up at the last meeting, they ask that you still e-mail them. The sheet was very hard to read, and they want to ensure that everyone is properly registered. Please direct any questions to Ann Koch **akkoch710@gmail.com**. or Rachel Schreiman **rachel.schreiman@gmail.com**.### **U.S. Access Board Meeting**Wednesday, April 30th from 1:30 to 3:00 pmAll are welcome to attend the public session of the next meeting of the U.S. Access Board, which will be open to the public. The agenda for the meeting includes the election of officers, brief reports from standing and ad hoc Board committees, federal agency updates, and a report by Executive Director Sachin Pavithran.Members of the public may attend and listen to the session through theZoom.gov platform ([**Launch Meeting - Zoom**](https://www.zoomgov.com/j/1612477358#success)), or in-person at the Board’s Washington D.C. Conference Space. For further information, contact Rose Marie Bunales at **events@access-board.gov**.Learn more at [**U.S. Access Board Meeting on April 30**](https://www.access-board.gov/news/2025/03/21/u-s-access-board-meeting-on-april-30/).###**2025 AAPD Virtual National Community Event** |

Wednesday, April 30th at 6:30 pm

Join AAPD to celebrate our community's collective progress and power at the 2025 AAPD National Community Event.

This event is open to all in the disability community, and any ally who cares about advancing disability rights and inclusion.

Tickets are completely free, and the event is virtual.

Register at [**2025 AAPD National Community Event Tickets, Wed, Apr 30, 2025 at 6:30 PM | Eventbrite**](https://www.eventbrite.com/e/2025-aapd-national-community-event-tickets-1245268554769).

The AAPD National Community Event is rooted in the disability community's advocacy and culture: they will bring you engaging conversations with national leaders, hear reports from across the nation about the critical work disabled people are doing across the country, celebrate disability representation in film and the arts, and more! Also celebrate and learn more about the work of the incredible 2025 Paul G Hearne Emerging Leader Award recipients.

Throughout the evening, they will also connect you to opportunities at the national, state, and local level to advocate for disability equality, accessibility, and inclusion.

Audio description will be provided and streaming links will be sent out to all who register.

###

**Reston VIP Support Group In-Person Meeting: Transportation Services in Fairfax County**

Friday, May 2nd from 2:00 to 4:00 pm

Reston Regional Library

11925 Bowman Towne Drive, Reston

The speaker will be Valesca Maldonado.

Join the meeting to learn about Fairfax County's transportation services, Mobility Management and Travel Training programs for seniors and people who have disabilities.  There are several county and non-profit programs available that can provide transportation for medical appointments and more. Each service has specific eligibility requirements, procedures for making ride reservations, and associated costs. Come to explore the latest options, as services do evolve in response to communities' needs and funding availability.

VIP enquiries?  Contact:

Sandy Neuzil at 703-989-1821  **sandy.neuzil@gmail.com**

Stan Gowin at 703-470-6633  **sgowin@verizon.net**

Kathryn Hodgdon at 703-608-5817  **ahodgdon@aol.com**

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**Being the Light: Friends and Family Connection Event**
**Keynote: When and How to Ask for Support from Family and Friends** Saturday, May 3rd from 12:00 to 2:30 pm
Collington Life Care Community
10450 Lottsford Road, Mitchellville

You, your friends, and your family are invited to join the Prevention of Blindness Society of Metropolitan Washington (POB) for a luncheon panel discussion moderated by Suleiman Alibhai, O.D**.**, a low-vision specialist.

This POB special luncheon event will give your friends and family a unique opportunity to learn about low vision and its challenges. Ample free parking on-site.

Vendors will showcase their valuable resources, tools, and technologies, including the Prevention of Blindness Society Low Vision Resource Center and VOMA Technologies & Training (list subject to change).

**Tickets: $22 per person**
To purchase tickets, visit[**beingthelightpob.org**](https://youreyes.us14.list-manage.com/track/click?u=939b8acf4b5eb247b7120bcd9&id=1ed36ead1e&e=59825d4dc8)or contact **Tara Aziz at (202) 234-1010, ext. 233,** or email**taziz@youreyes.org**

###

**ACB Cooking with The Blind Kitchen**
Wednesday, May 7th at 1:00 pm

Chef Debra will be discussing Principles of Seasoning with the ACB group. Here are ways you can join:
Ways to join:
[**Listen on ACB Media 5**](https://theblindkitchen.us12.list-manage.com/track/click?u=96db097b4e6eda54cc0ffb211&id=33c12cb9e8&e=ea48b302bf)
Say to your Amazon device, "ask ACB Media to play 5."
[**Join in Clubhouse**](https://theblindkitchen.us12.list-manage.com/track/click?u=96db097b4e6eda54cc0ffb211&id=169584bfc3&e=ea48b302bf)
Join the call:
[**The Dwelling Place**](https://theblindkitchen.us12.list-manage.com/track/click?u=96db097b4e6eda54cc0ffb211&id=72433d6d4c&e=ea48b302bf)
One tap mobile: +13126266799,,84302300091#
Phone: 312-626-6799
Meeting ID: 843 0230 0091
Passcode: 3614
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**TUG Meeting: Resources for Tech News, Live Assistance**

Saturday, May 10th from 10:00 to 11:00 am

The Technology User Group (TUG) will highlight resources for technology news and information and where to find live, human assistance.  They will focus on all aspects of tech: getting assistance for the newly blind, technical assistance for products, resources for finding assistive technology tools, as well as examples of what assistive technology products can do and updates on what's happening in the world of assistive technology.  In addition, TUG turns 18!  Come and learn the history of the group and hear about some of their milestones along the way.

Who should attend?

* Assistive technology enthusiasts.
* Caregivers and service providers for the blind in Maryland.
* Individuals with print disabilities.
* Newly blind patrons.

Call in Number:

1-301-715-8592

Meeting ID: 656 203 7293​#

One tap mobile
[**+13017158592,,6562037293#**](https://links-1.govdelivery.com/CL0/tel%3A%2B13017158592%2C%2C6562037293%23/1/0100019658b94d44-54461b87-c344-4dd7-b603-fdb7db8172fc-000000/aU2seSF2x9b-m0fHLGx918x4o98XbLLWx5bb1Xz6FKo%3D401)

Webcast:

[**https://marylandlibraries.zoom.us/j/6562037293?omn=94648805523**](https://links-1.govdelivery.com/CL0/https%3A//marylandlibraries.zoom.us/j/6562037293%3Fomn%3D94648805523%26utm_medium%3Demail%26utm_source%3Dgovdelivery/1/0100019658b94d44-54461b87-c344-4dd7-b603-fdb7db8172fc-000000/eSW02-kgj2O8CKRhWSUcCCW7lKJGjWyLdKQWMPzT-m4%3D401)

###

**The Washington National Eye Center At MedStar Washington Hospital Center Low Vision Support Group Virtual Meeting: Open Mic Session—It’s Healthy Vision Month-Are You Making the Most of Your Ophthalmology Appointments?**

Tuesday, May 13th from 11:30 am to 12:30 pm

Guest Speaker: Gwen Jeong, MD Ophthalmology Resident VIRTUAL ZOOM MEETING: You can join via computer or phone or both—email Penny at **penelope.a.helfgott@medstar.net** to receive an electronic link to the program. If you have any questions, please call Penny Helfgott at 202-877-5329 and leave a message or call the POB number below. Co-sponsored with the Prevention of Blindness Society of Metropolitan Washington, DC.

For further information, please call 202-234-1010.

Note that THIS IS THE LAST MEETING UNTIL SEPTEMBER!

###

**FFB Mental Health Webinar**

Saturday, May 17th at 12:00 Noon

Join the Foundation Fighting Blindness (FFB) quarterly vision webinar focused on mental health, coinciding with Mental Health Awareness Month this May. Navigating vision loss can deeply affect mental health, but finding tailored resources is often difficult, so they're here to support you.

They will cover:

* The emotional impact of vision loss
* Coping strategies and resilience
* Mental health resources
* Building community support

This is a valuable opportunity to connect, learn, and find support.

**Registration Page:**

[[**Quarterly Vision Webinar-Mental Health**](https://u35158275.ct.sendgrid.net/ls/click?upn=u001.TwpWPek5144WRusuAV3MCTdZC3CLpGZUbwF8eVUqbM5kJ0p3uSBqBAikYDlVywGXK3-2F-2B-2FyqFmVKwtOi1PEASoMtAnWy1TyED4KCtIPSKnJQ5QJdeqc54wnSli0ktZz2xobtu3-2FnbTxkATSjIWM8K5Jmzafh6onvozStnaQpJWxJn-2B7Y9ZgWIhI0kxT1G-2FV2trh01oTEC8TPY3IyLyxT5CPpoTpuXkqNDpC3ALq0NnxU-3DE2Jq_Gm0wzphATd0uQbd-2FHpE-2Bv2F-2Bbf-2FGTiacR0j91njw5-2FjfRZxe-2BoZli-2FhmBhdBrzrPopBbkowQ2JxxZVrvxYo-2FOLkgeNNESkQ4z9uHwY9XcqziyBD3BQ0zP7BNrLAV-2B5ZisD9UhcYe4xKsBHigzevJ657-2FOpKuNtxjsradsuMDXf8-2BXApFZg-2BNCn-2BZsbYSYUK746Qxp-2FO63JT4Q1B8A9YNMzHUDoBaJzOkEtQglYEdiWlTaLDkC3R4KWBjrETbXIX-2F4O2j3j71fizQrCztRJMGPJdTY1J8ptt8Hv7jPEN43z4-3D)]

For more information, please reach out to Bailey Bostelman at**BBostelman@FightingBlindness.org.**

###

**Jazz In The Garden: Lao Tizer Band**

Friday, May 23rd from 6:00 to 8:30 pm

National Gallery of Art Sculpture Garden

7th Street and Constitution Ave., NW

Jazz R&B fusion

Kick off the season with the Lao Tizer Band, an Oasis Jazz Award nominee for Jazz Group of the Year.

Registration Required at [**Jazz in the Garden**](https://www.nga.gov/calendar/concerts/jazz-in-the-garden.html) beginning May 12rh at 10:00 am.

They have a free lottery system so that anyone interested in attending Jazz in the Garden has an equal chance to participate.

**Lottery Dates**

*Lottery opens: Monday, May 12, 10:00 a.m.
Lottery closes: Friday, May 16, noon
Results announced: Monday, May 19, 10:00 a.m.*

###

**FFB DC Metro Vision Walk**

Saturday, May 18th at 10:00 am

Yards Park Washington, D.C.

Join your VisionWalk community! Together, we step closer to fighting blinding diseases.

For more information, contact Lauren Meltzer at 443-539-8547 or **LMeltzer@FightingBlindness.org**

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