

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

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

June 12, 2025

Dear Listeners,

I hope you find all the items in this week’s MWE Update interesting and useful. Of special interest is THE PIVOT, an 8-week virtual series designed to support federal employees, contractors and nonprofit professionals navigating career transitions [**here**](#Pivot) and information on the annual Smithsonian Folklife Festival, including accessibility information [**here**](#Folk).

Cheers,

Sylvia

Here are the links to all the items below:

* [**Fairfax County Cooling Assistance**](#Cool)
* [**THE PIVOT. Series: Your Next Chapter Starts Now**](#Pivot)
* [**POB Survey**](#Survey)
* [**Virginia 2025 Senior Retreats: Live Active, Live Healthy, Live Modern**](#Retreats)
* [**POB Resource Guide**](#Guide)
* [**Smithsonian Folklife Festival**](#Folk)
* [**Stay Safe This Hurricane Season**](#Safe)
* **[Theater Update](#Theater)**
* **[Calendar](#Calendar)**
  + **[Replay POB Events](#Replay)**
  + **[Wheaton Summer Concert Series: The Nighthawks (Blues)](#Wheaton)**
  + **[TUG Meeting - ReBokeh Vision Technologies, Inc. & HumanWare](#TUG)**
  + **[Columbia Pike Blues Festival](#Pike)**
  + [**Virtual Tech Talk Tuesday: Android Vision Accessibility Features**](#Talk)
  + **[Hadley Resource Roundtable - Medication Management and Safety Tips](#Med)**
  + [**Low Vision Town Hall: Aging in Place or Making a Move (Virtual Event)**](#Hall)
  + **[NFB CENA Virtual Access Boutique Series: Advocating for Accessibility Refresh](#CENA)**
  + **[Hadley Tech It Out Discussion - Is a Smart Watch Right for You?](#Tech)**
  + **[Karaoke Night](#Karaoke)**
  + **[Hadley What's Cooking? - Not Your Same Old Sandwich](#Cook)**
  + **[Accessible Board and Card Game Night](#Game)**
  + **[U.S. Access Board Webinar: From Standards to Support: Understanding the Access Board's Role in Accessibility](#Board)**
  + [**The 2025 American Council of the Blind Conference and Convention**](#ACB)
  + [**2025 American Foundation for the Blind Leadership Conference**](#AFB)

###

**FAIRFAX COUNTY COOLING ASSISTANCE**

**Applications will be accepted from June 16–August 15.**

|  |
| --- |
| The Cooling Assistance program helps people in Fairfax County stay cool during the summer. To get help, at least one person in your home must be 60 years or older, 5 years or younger, or disabled as recognized by Social Security, Medicaid, or the Veteran's Administration.  The program can help with:   * Paying electric bills to run cooling equipment. * Paying security deposits for electricity when you might lose service or need to start a service. * Fixing central air conditioning or heat pumps. * Buying a whole-house fan, ceiling fan, or attic fan when there is no other way to cool the home. * Buying and installing, or picking up yourself, a window or portable air conditioning unit when there is no other cooling equipment in the home. |

Learn more at [**Cooling Assistance | Family Services**](https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/familyservices/cooling-assistance?utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery).

###

**THE PIVOT SERIES: YOUR NEXT CHAPTER STARTS NOW**

The Northern Virginia Economic Development Alliance (NOVA EDA) is launching The Pivot series, an 8-week virtual series designed to support federal employees, contractors and nonprofit professionals navigating career transitions. Through expert-led sessions, hands-on workshops and entrepreneurial insights, The Pivot equips participants with the tools to explore new paths, build confidence and take control of what comes next. For more details and to register go to [**THE PIVOT. Series: Your Next Chapter Starts Now Arlington, Virginia**](https://www.arlingtoneconomicdevelopment.com/News-Resources/Events/THE-PIVOT.-Series-Your-Next-Chapter-Starts-Now)**.**

###

**POB SURVEY**

You’re invited to share your experiences with low vision services in our region. The Prevention of Blindness Society of Metropolitan Washington is conducting [**a survey**](https://youreyes.us14.list-manage.com/track/click?u=939b8acf4b5eb247b7120bcd9&id=0810d72076&e=59825d4dc8) to better understand your experiences and find ways to better serve our community.

To take the survey, go to [**Low Vision Resources and Services Survey – Prevention of Blindness Society of Metropolitan Washington**](https://www.youreyes.org/low-vision-survey/).

The survey takes about five to ten minutes and responses will remain anonymous unless you elect to share your name or contact information.

Your survey response is extremely valuable to help inform POB, in order to provide a continually improving experience to our community.  
###

**VIRGINIA 2025 SENIOR RETREATS: LIVE ACTIVE, LIVE HEALTHY, LIVE MODERN**

Forwarded by Sandy Neuzil

You can brush up on your blindness skills. Take part in the activities you love. Get out and about. Do more for yourself. If you are 55+ and experiencing vision loss, this retreat is for you.

**When & Where?**  
Choose a session and you can even bring one adult loved one, family member or friend too!

Sunday – Thursday, August 10 - 14, 2025

Sunday – Thursday, August 17 - 21, 2025

Virginia Rehabilitation Center for the Blind and Vision Impaired  
401 Azalea Avenue, Richmond VA 23227

**For More Information**Contact your Lloyd Dunnavant, VRCBVI Program Recruitment & Outreach Specialist, at (804) 371-3204

###

**POB RESOURCE GUIDE**

“Your Eyes and Low Vision,” a resource guide published by the Prevention of Blindness Society of Metropolitan Washington, is available in a large-print book format and on their website, [**www.youreyes.org**](http://www.youreyes.org), under the “Resources” tab.

###

**SMITHSONIAN FOLKLIFE FESTIVAL**

Forwarded by Sandy Neuzil

July 2nd through July 7th from 11:00 am until 5:30 pm

National Mall between 7th and 12th Streets.

The Festival is FREE to attend and is open daily, with additional featured concerts and events on Thursday – Sunday evening.  A full [**schedule of events**](https://festival.si.edu/schedule) is available on their website, [**Smithsonian Folklife Festival**](https://festival.si.edu/).

During the Festival there will be audio described events, sighted guides on request, visual description tours, braille, and large-print materials. Learn more about [**accessibility information**](https://festival.si.edu/accessibility) on their website, [**Accessibility Services | Smithsonian Folklife Festival**](https://festival.si.edu/accessibility).

###

**STAY SAFE THISHURRICANE SEASON**

|  |
| --- |
| From the Fairfax County Department of Family Services  Here are a few important steps to keep you and your family safe:  **Check your insurance coverage:** Now is the time to review your insurance coverage and contact your insurance agent for any changes. If you are not insured against floods, talk to your insurance agent, shop for private flood insurance, or visit [**floodsmart.gov**](https://links-1.govdelivery.com/CL0/https:%2F%2Fwww.floodsmart.gov%2F%3Futm_medium=email%26utm_source=govdelivery/1/010001975f14a3fa-f39ca921-10d8-42c4-91f0-e3c86d756b61-000000/OU5PqdRzMas5nJboZAe4jFhTMfKDYnpSXPETC-PVIx0=409).  **Know your zone:** You might need to evacuate depending on the path and strength of the storm. Review Virginia's evacuation zones at [**KnowYourZoneVA.org**](https://links-1.govdelivery.com/CL0/https:%2F%2Fva-know-your-zone-vdemgis.hub.arcgis.com%2F%3Futm_medium=email%26utm_source=govdelivery/1/010001975f14a3fa-f39ca921-10d8-42c4-91f0-e3c86d756b61-000000/QzpOc99Q92puRGGU8rMzTkDu-K8y7fZ1yQ6emxXNEfc=409). Users can enter their address in the search bar of the website to see and confirm their evacuation zone.  **Complete a family communication plan:** Plan how you will meet and communicate with your family and loved ones. Decide on meeting locations and think about where you will go. The Federal Emergency Management Agency's guidance on family communication plans is available at [**ready.gov/plan-form**](https://links-1.govdelivery.com/CL0/https:%2F%2Fwww.ready.gov%2Fplan-form%3Futm_medium=email%26utm_source=govdelivery/1/010001975f14a3fa-f39ca921-10d8-42c4-91f0-e3c86d756b61-000000/wWEpJuIrLzPbOtWYW07rP3VnHot3023hf-anbXZrzWc=409).  **Make an emergency kit:** Put together an emergency kit with nonperishable food, water, medication, sanitary supplies, radios, extra batteries, and important documents. Learn more about building an emergency supply kit at [**ready.gov/kit**](https://links-1.govdelivery.com/CL0/https:%2F%2Fwww.ready.gov%2Fkit%3Futm_medium=email%26utm_source=govdelivery/1/010001975f14a3fa-f39ca921-10d8-42c4-91f0-e3c86d756b61-000000/Wwz3HFbAS6tBkbUBO4Uz1xK7DK34vY39v7_9856lIMo=409).  **Stay informed:** Find out where to get trusted information during emergencies. Check with your local emergency management office to sign up for alerts sent to your phone or email. Make sure to watch local news for warnings in your area and follow the directions of local officials.  Learn more about preparing your family and your property against hurricane threats and other disasters by visiting [**Hurricanes | VDEM**](https://www.vaemergency.gov/threats/hurricanes?utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery).  ### |

**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.

**Frankenstein**

Shakespeare: Klein Theatre: 202-547-1122

Described Saturday, June 14th at 2:00 pm

**Ain’t Too Proud – The Life and Times of the Temptations**

National Theater – 1-800-514-3849

Described, Saturday, June 21st at 2:00 pm and

Sunday, June 22nd at 7:30 pm

**Duel Reality**

Shakespeare: Harman Hall: 202-547-1122

Described Saturday, July 19th at 2:00 pm

###

**A Wrinkle In Time**

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

Described Saturday, July 5th at 2:00 pm

**Kim’s Convenience**

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

Described Wednesday, July 9th at 7:30 pm

**A Midsummer Night’s Dream**

Olney Theatre Center – Roberts Mainstage 301-924-3400

Described Wednesday, July 23rd at 7:30 pm

###

**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)

###

**Wheaton Summer Concert Series: The Nighthawks (Blues)**

Friday, June 13th

Happy Hour 5:00 pm

Performance 6:30 to 8:30

The Marian Fryer Town Plaza

2424 Reedie Drive

###

**TUG Meeting - ReBokeh Vision Technologies, Inc. & HumanWare**

Saturday, June 14th at 10:00 am

The Technology User Group (TUG) will have two guest speakers.  First will be Rebecca Rosenberg, an engineer, who is Founder and CEO of ReBokeh Vision Technologies, Inc.  Creator of the ReBokeh See Your World app, she will talk about its functionality and future plans.  This app is designed for people with low vision, allowing them to enhance their visual experiences in real-time using their smartphone cameras.  It offers customizable filters to adjust contrast, color, brightness, and other visual elements, helping users see more clearly.

Next, Michael Battista from HumanWare will talk about the Prodigi software for Windows.  The paid software features adjustable magnification, text-to-speech, and customizable contrast modes.  The software is designed to be intuitive and user-friendly, allowing individuals to personalize their experiences.

The presentation will begin at 10 AM and last sixty minutes.

Who should attend?

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

Low vision patrons.

This program will be recorded.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| |  | | --- | | 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%23/1/010001970d5ca639-0476764b-ac85-4c69-aa83-6ec7e365dd83-000000/sH-j1NU8EYN11NvILj_nhw4rZ8pxbb2fV_tLAYtAmOw=406) | | 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/1/010001970d5ca639-0476764b-ac85-4c69-aa83-6ec7e365dd83-000000/g1sGqqB-0SNOpw5WXYOUVg8jN5fOe9cNFUp3hInYm5A=406) | |

###

**Columbia Pike Blues Festival**

Saturday, June 14th from 1:00 to 8:30pm

This festival is a high-energy summer celebration that brings music, community, and culture to the heart of Arlington’s most vibrant corridor. Presented by the Columbia Pike Partnership in collaboration with Arlington Arts, the festival showcases the best of the DMV’s musical talent while honoring the rich diversity and spirit of Columbia Pike.

Each year, thousands gather to enjoy a day filled with live blues music, local vendors, food and drink, and family-friendly fun. From legendary performers to neighborhood favorites, the festival lineup reflects the community’s creative heartbeat. More than a music event, the Columbia Pike Blues Festival is a tribute to the people, stories, and sounds that make the Pike a place like no other.

More details and a schedule of performances is at [**Columbia Pike Blues Festival – Columbia Pike Partnership**](https://www.columbia-pike.org/bluesfest/)**.**

###

**Tech Talk Tuesday: Android Vision Accessibility Features (Virtual Event)**

Tuesday, June 17th from 1:00 to 2:00 pm

Join the Prevention of Blindness Society of Metropolitan Washington (POB) to discuss Android phones accessibility features. Learn how to set up Android’s vision accessibility features and shortcuts with Edlyn Jordan, POB Low Vision Resource Navigator.  
**Call (301) 951-4444 to register.**

###

**Hadley Resource Roundtable - Medication Management and Safety Tips**

Tuesday, June 17th at 2:00 pm

Finding the right medication and taking the correct dose doesn’t have to be tricky with vision loss. Join us as they share tips and strategies for managing medication safely.

Sign up to join at [**Resource Roundtable | Hadley Discussion Group for the Visually Impaired**](https://hadleyhelps.org/discussion-groups/resource-roundtable).

###

**Low Vision Town Hall: Aging in Place or Making a Move (Virtual Event)**

Wednesday, June 18th from 11:00 am to 12:00 pm  
Deciding whether to stay home or move is one of the most important choices older adults and their families face. Join Steve Gurney, founder of the Positive Aging Community and creator of the Positive Aging SourceBook, for an informative and interactive discussion designed to help you navigate this decision with confidence and clarity.  
**Call (301) 951-4444 to register.**

###

**NFB CENA Virtual Access Boutique Series: Advocating for Accessibility Refresh**

Tuesday, June 24th from 2:00 to 3:30 pm

Whether in school, the workplace, or everyday life, we often encounter products or services which are not accessible. While lawsuits get most of the attention, many products and services are made accessible through the efforts of their users. This session will cover:

* What information you need and how to gather it
* Getting through to the right department or person at a company
* How to compile a detailed issue report
* What you can try when a company doesn’t respond
* The [**National Federation of the Blind inaccessibility tracker form**](https://lj79tucab.cc.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=001zMSuiIZYqKM6nkaeoiI7Y1UImexR53v_955Sxi80m4qH7wpu3bjzTpLlLxjjwyj6zudxuxXmefRRZ9NwFnOnLYeBuOX5bizvD5Jz7APnOEyA1vLBcAQOBH__iVo3HWAQ_8wsvjdo2yXbtR0Jl2vs_Ctl0d_rapG79z1OuHO6L2pBkn3UP0HQQF5WM_im67QfmWQOzBAqCABKWHQhXxIuKu2aR10I8aqh-qmmxxbRDt6mhiBF5QlxNBh9wIACSGwygYsQT-xSx2M=&c=Ci_8Z4ofkQwSM1o5XAWQqbPOX3OK55lggkcD96NnFk2NK-RqLxvLnw==&ch=3ZkOMq_tqnN4jmfVIxewaBnfi7vugZyXu8pO3-bkB-9Gg6bu-URlDw==)where you can share your experiences.

Register at [**Accessibility Boutique Registration | National Federation of the Blind**](https://nfb.org/programs-services/center-excellence-nonvisual-access/events/accessibility-boutique-reg).

###

**Hadley Tech It Out Discussion - Is a Smart Watch Right for You?**

Tuesday, June 24th at 2:00 pm

Thinking about getting a smart watch? Or maybe you’ve got one and aren’t sure you’re making the most of it. Join to chat about what they can do, how accessible they really are, and what to keep in mind before diving in.

Sign up to join at [**Tech It Out | Hadley Discussion Group for the Visually Impaired**](https://hadleyhelps.org/discussion-groups/tech-it-out).

###

**Karaoke Night**

Wednesday, June 25th from 4:00 to 7:00pm

[**Benning (Dorothy I. Height) Neighborhood Library**](https://dclibrary.libnet.info/event/13249172#branch)

700 Pennsylvania Ave SE

Meeting Room 1 (25-100 Person Capacity)

Come perform your favorite tunes every last Wednesday of the month from 4-7.

###

**Hadley What's Cooking? - Not Your Same Old Sandwich**

Wednesday, June 25th at 5:00 pm

Skip the usual "bread and meat" sandwich—try wraps, quesadillas, pitas, or go breadless. Sandwich making is great for practicing skills like spreading, slicing, and peeling. Share favorite recipes and tips!

Sign up to join at [**What's Cooking? | Hadley Discussion Group for the Visually Impaired**](https://hadleyhelps.org/discussion-groups/whats-cooking).

###

**Accessible Board and Card Game Night**

|  |
| --- |
| Thursday, June 26th at 4:00 pm MLK Library Center for Accessibility 901 G Street, NW, Room 205-H  Play accessible Scrabble, Monopoly, Bingo, Uno, and more! Boards and cards are tactile and include braille and large print labeling. All are welcome! |

###

**U.S. Access Board Webinar: From Standards to Support: Understanding the Access Board's Role in Accessibility**

Thursday, July 3rd from 2:30 to 4:00 pm

Have you previously attended U.S. Access Board webinars or reached out with questions and training about accessibility? You might be surprised to learn that some questions may be outside the scope of the U.S. Access Board's Office of Information and Technical Services (OTIS). Join this informative to explore the U.S. Access Board's crucial role in creating, training, and enforcing accessibility standards for everything from buildings and public spaces to transportation and information and communication technology. Plus, they will explain areas in which other federal agencies lead and enforce specific accessibility standards. Don't miss out on this opportunity to understand the full landscape of accessibility!

For more information or to register, visit the [**Great Lakes ADA Center's webinar webpage**](https://links-1.govdelivery.com/CL0/https:%2F%2Fwww.accessibilityonline.org%2Fao%2Fsession%3Fid=111172/1/01000197404be0cb-f5fda0d1-58d0-462d-a1c8-9ec9affd346b-000000/t_y6qZf28dErjnHdNmhrpo_pGEFQjpMrVaHRDykez4o=408). All webinars include video remote interpreting (VRI) and real-time captioning. Questions can be submitted in advance of the session or can be posed during the live webinar. Webinar attendees can earn continuing education credits. The webinar series is hosted by the [**ADA National Network**](https://links-1.govdelivery.com/CL0/https:%2F%2Fwww.accessibilityonline.org%2Fao%2F/1/01000197404be0cb-f5fda0d1-58d0-462d-a1c8-9ec9affd346b-000000/fPiVV6ZwCxe4v7n_8874L7tuQHp7vxY7y4YEYhGfwUo=408) in cooperation with the Board. [**Archived copies**](https://links-1.govdelivery.com/CL0/http:%2F%2Fwww.accessibilityonline.org%2Fao%2Farchives%2F/1/01000197404be0cb-f5fda0d1-58d0-462d-a1c8-9ec9affd346b-000000/ud8krX83Rkeu4IKFaaa_HRsl5T7ZyYXDGIkYt2nKvxg=408) of previous Board webinars are available on the site.

More information is at [**From Standards to Support: Understanding the Access Board’s Role in Accessibility**](https://www.accessibilityonline.org/ao/session?id=111172).

###

**The 2025 American Council of the Blind Hybrid Conference and Convention**

July 4th through July 11th

Hyatt Regency Hotel

300 Reunion Blvd, Dallas, Texas

ACB will be holding a hybrid conference and convention offering virtual only sessions, in-person only sessions, and virtual and in-person sessions together.

Browse Conference and Convention Sessions at [**Convention Home Page 2025**](https://acbconvention.org/?p=108).

###

**2025 American Foundation for the Blind Leadership Conference** (AFBLC),

November 12th to 14th

Crystal Gateway Marriott Hotel in Crystal City, Virginia,

Registration is open for this year’s conference, **Leading Together: Leveraging Change to Advance Our Vision**.

Learn more at [**2025 AFB Leadership Conference | American Foundation for the Blind**](https://afb.org/get-involved/events/2025afblc)**.** The registration page is at [**Personal Information - American Foundation for the Blind Leadership Conference 2025**](https://web.cvent.com/event/652243c3-9ee8-4834-8728-dfb8daa07ba4/regProcessStep1?RefId=Default%20Registration)**.**

###