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

August 15, 2025

Dear Listeners,

Of special note this week is an article about the golden apple snail that can regrow its eyes, a trick that might one day help heal people’s eye injuries and diseases. The article is located [**here**](#Snail).

Cheers,

Sylvia

[**sylvia@washear.org**](mailto:sylvia@washear.org)

Here are the links to all the items below:

* [**This Snail May Hold a Secret to Human Eye Regeneration**](#Snail)
* [**Describing Video using Google's Gemini 2.5**](#Video)
* [**How States Are Using New Data to Boost Accessibility**](#States)
* [**AFB Survey Open on Artificial Intelligence Use by People With and Without Disabilities**](#Survey)
* [**Emirates Joins Be My Eyes to Offer Support When You Fly**](#Fly)
* [**Be My Eyes and InnoSearch Join Forces to Make Online Shopping Easier**](#Shop)
* **[Theater Update](#Theater)**
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  + **[America InSight](#InSight)**
  + **[ACB of Virginia State Convention 2025 – "Together Again: Reconnect, Recharge, and Rise!"](#ACBVA)**
  + **[2025 American Foundation for the Blind Leadership Conference](#AFB)**

###

**THIS SNAIL MAY HOLD A SECRET TO HUMAN EYE REGENERATION**

From Science News, By[**Tina Hesman Saey**](https://www.sciencenews.org/author/tina-hesman-saey)

Forwarded by MWE Volunteer Evelyn Jemionek

The golden apple snail can regrow its eyes, a trick that might one day help heal people’s eye injuries and diseases.

Golden apple snails (*Pomacea canaliculata*) are freshwater snails from South America. Alice Accorsi became familiar with the species as a graduate student in Italy. “You could literally buy them in a pet store as snails that clean the bottom of the fish tanks,” she recalls. Turns out, the snails are among the most invasive species in the world. And that got Accorsi thinking: Why are they so resilient and able to thrive in new environments?

She began studying the snails’ immune systems and has now found they are not the only parts of the animals able to bounce back from adversity. These snails can [**completely regrow a functional eye**](https://www.nature.com/articles/s41467-025-61681-6)within months of having one amputated, Accorsi and colleagues report August 6 in *Nature Communications*.

A snail’s eye was surgically removed, but it grew a new one. Two months after amputation the new eye looks much like the uninjured one.

Scientists have known for centuries that some snails can regrow their heads, and research has revealed other animals can [**regenerate** **bodies**](https://www.sciencenews.org/article/sea-slug-detached-head-crawl-regenerate-grow-new-body), [**tails**](https://www.sciencenews.org/article/gecko-tail-regrow-regeneration-gene-editing-stem-cells) or [**limbs**](https://www.sciencenews.org/article/frog-leg-regeneration-new-device-regrow-amputation). But this finding is exciting because apple snails have camera-like eyes similar to those of humans. Understanding how the snails re-create or repair their eyes might lead to therapies to heal people’s eye injuries or reverse diseases such as macular degeneration.

Accorsi, now a developmental biologist at the University of California, Davis, used the [**molecular scissors called CRISPR/Cas9**](https://www.sciencenews.org/article/nobel-prize-chemistry-gene-editing-tool-crispr-wins)to genetically disable certain key genes involved in eye development and established lineages of snails carrying those mutations. Those are big steps toward making snails laboratory stand-ins for studying human eye development. Developing such model organisms can take decades, but Accorsi accomplished the feat in just a few years.

Read the full article at [**This snail may hold a secret to human eye regeneration**](https://www.sciencenews.org/article/snail-human-eye-regeneration?utm_campaign=website&utm_medium=email&utm_source=nautilus-newsletter).

###

**DESCRIBING VIDEO USING GOOGLE’S GEMINI 2.5**

From the AFB Blog

AFB blogger Aaron Preece has been raving about the capabilities of Gemini 2.5, specifically its ability to provide detailed descriptions of videos. For this blog post, he wanted to share detailed information on how this process works and what you may encounter when using it. At the time of writing, the most recent test version—and the one used for testing in this post—is Gemini 2.5 Pro Preview 06/05 (June 5th). The model is updated frequently, though at the moment, older versions are still available.

The full blog post is at [**Describing Video using Google's Gemini 2.5 | American Foundation for the Blind**](https://afb.org/blog/entry/video-description-gemini-2-5)**.**

###

**HOW STATES ARE USING NEW DATA TO BOOST ACCESSIBILITY**

From the GovTech Today newsletter

As the Americans with Disabilities Act turns 35, states are conducting surveys to better understand the experiences of people with disabilities as well as the size and makeup of their disability populations.

State governments are [**increasingly prioritizing accessibility**](https://www.govtech.com/gov-experience/state-and-local-govts-boost-accessibility-in-digital-services) by working to better understand this population and the unique needs of its members. One goal is to ensure government remains accessible in a digital age, in part to meet the 2026 deadline, but also to deliver effective public service — to all members of the public.

The full article is at [**https://www.govtech.com/spotlight/how-states-are-using-new-data-to-boost-accessibility**](https://www.govtech.com/spotlight/how-states-are-using-new-data-to-boost-accessibility).

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**AFB SURVEY OPEN ON ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE USE BY PEOPLE WITH AND WITHOUT DISABILITIES**

As artificial intelligence (AI) chatbots and apps become more commonplace, the American Foundation for the Blind wants to hear from you! They invite you to fill out their survey to tell them whether or not you’ve been using AI, what you use it for, what you think about AI, and any problems you have had with AI systems. They want to learn how AI experiences differ between people with and without disabilities. AFB will use what it learns to inform AI companies and policymakers, so they can make AI as accessible as possible to everyone. Anyone in the United States who is at least 18 years old can fill out the survey. You do not have to have a disability to take the survey.

The survey should take about 30-45 minutes to complete. You can take breaks while completing the survey. They invite people with any type of disability to take the survey. The survey is screen reader accessible. They offer a Certified Deaf Interpreter or a scribe who can record your spoken answers if you wish. You can also take the survey with your own ASL interpreter or communication assistant.

The survey is available at [**Exploring Artificial Intelligence Use by People With and Without Disabilities | American Foundation for the Blind**](https://afb.org/research-and-initiatives/take-action/exploring-artificial-intelligence-study)**,** andwill close on **September 30, 2025.**

If you have any questions or need more information please contact Dr. Arielle Silverman, AFB Director of Research, at [**asilverman@afb.org**](mailto:asilverman@afb.org) or 202-469-6832.

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**EMIRATES JOINS BE MY EYES TO OFFER SUPPORT WHEN YOU FLY**

Forwarded by Sandy Neuzil

Now you can use Be My Eyes when you travel with Emirates. The Emirates team is available around the clock to help you plan and book flights, travel through the airport, and support you on your flight. The partnership with Be My Eyes is an integral part of a range of services that Emirates offers to make the journey accessible, inclusive and more comfortable for passengers who are visually impaired.  
###

**BE MY EYES AND INNOSEARCH JOIN FORCES TO MAKE ONLINE SHOPPING EASIER**

Forwarded by Sandy Neuzil

Be My Eyes and InnoSearch AI have worked together to bring a seamless, accessible online shopping experience directly to the largest community of blind and low vision people. It’s a partnership built on accessibility, independence, and innovation – with 2% cashback for all Be My Eyes users who shop through InnoSearch.

More information is at [**https://www.innosearch.ai/shop?ref=bemyeyes**](https://www.innosearch.ai/shop?ref=bemyeyes).

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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.

**Harry Potter and the Cursed Child**

National Theater – 1-800-514-3849

Described Saturday, August 16th at 1:00 pm

**The Inheritance Part One**

Round House Theatre Bethesda - 240-644-1100

Described Saturday, September 27th at 1:00 pm

**Merry Wives**

Shakespeare: Harman Hall: 202-547-1122

Described Saturday, September 27th at 2:00 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)

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| **Arlington County Fair Live Music and Entertainment**  August 13th – 17th  Thomas Jefferson Community Center  3501 Second Street South  From soulful vocals to '90s alt-rock, the Arlington County Fair's live music and entertainment lineup is stacked. Performances are scheduled across three stages. A full performance schedule is at [**Events from August 18, 2021 – August 19, 2021 – Arlington County Fair**](https://arlingtoncountyfair.us/schedule/).  ###   |  | | --- | |  |   **DBVI State Rehabilitation Council**  Friday, August 15th from 10:00 am to 1:00 pm  397 Azalea Avenue, Richmond  Attendance in-person or virtual  Join virtual: [**Zoom link**](https://links-2.govdelivery.com/CL0/https:%2F%2Fdsa-virginia.zoomgov.com%2Fj%2F1618761637%3Fpwd=z4XKF9HSc4QWBwqDJmzqEJqfWDATh5.1%26utm_medium=email%26utm_source=govdelivery/1/010101985bb5ba3b-d5ea51f4-1add-4498-bb87-b8cbf7b95f88-000000/7Tygw9e1r1ehKwT7bgifaF9b16t1bitOGaeYc3kE7Wo=416)  Password: 310251  Or Telephone: Dial: (646) 828 - 7666 (US Toll)  Meeting ID: 161 876 1637 Password: 310251  Public comments will be received at 10:10 am.  Agenda will be announced soon.  ###  **Access in Chromebooks Webinar**  Wednesday, August 20th from 1:00 to 2:00 pm  Sponsored by the Maryland Department of Disabilities  This training focuses on optimizing Chromebooks for enhanced accessibility. They will explore both the integrated tools (such as the screen reader, dictation, and display options) and various extensions available through the Chrome Web Store. Participants will acquire the knowledge to configure their Chromebooks to accommodate diverse user needs effectively.  Register at [**https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\_uFYA0xV7RVynaZ9kk9BWlA#/registration**](https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_uFYA0xV7RVynaZ9kk9BWlA#/registration) .  ###  **Baltimore Clayworks**  Friday, August 22nd from 12:00 to 3:00 pm  [**5707 Smith Ave, Baltimore. MD**.](https://links-1.govdelivery.com/CL0/https:%2F%2Fwww.google.com%2Fmaps%2Fsearch%2F5707%2BSmith%2BAve,%2BBaltimore,%2BMD%2B21209%3Fentry=gmail%26source=g%26utm_medium=email%26utm_source=govdelivery/1/01000198a4408dda-40e526ef-7c72-456c-9cb6-391e91a1871e-000000/UM4LQHnZzKAG-DEeb2hJosW9DvJ2CK840Q6ZOZYleN0=418)  Baltimore Clayworks will host a tactile educational experience for patrons of the Maryland Library for the Blind and Print Disabled (LBPD), including instruction on hand-building coils and pinch pots. The experience will also include clay samples in various states for the participants to touch. An Instructor representing Baltimore Clayworks will teach up to 20 students, ages 8 to Adult. **Note that this program will not be at LBPD and transportation arrangements should be made to and from Baltimore Clayworks.**  **Register here:**  [**LBPD Event: Baltimore Clayworks - LibCal - Maryland State Library Agency**](https://marylandlibraries.libcal.com/calendar/ExternalCalendar/BaltmoreClayworks25?utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery)**.**  ###  **Intro to Ballet for Blind and Low Vision Participants In-Person**  Saturday, August 23rd at 11:00 am  In-Person at 415 Park Avenue, Baltimore  **Registration required. A minimum of four people are needed for the class to proceed. The class is capped at 10 people.**  Join a joyful, movement-filled hour designed primarily for individuals who are blind or have low vision! Taught by experienced dance instructor Robyn Hughes, this introductory ballet class focuses on body awareness, graceful movement, and creative expression. No prior dance experience is needed, just the ability to move your arms and legs comfortably.  Robyn will guide students through basic ballet positions and flowing routines with clear verbal instructions, while trained assistants provide optional physical guidance through gentle touch. This supportive and encouraging environment is perfect for anyone looking to explore movement in a new and inclusive way.  Class size is limited to ten participants to ensure personal attention and a safe, welcoming experience.  Register here: [**https://marylandlibraries.libcal.com/event/14855965**](https://links-1.govdelivery.com/CL0/https:%2F%2Fmarylandlibraries.libcal.com%2Fevent%2F14855965%3Futm_medium=email%26utm_source=govdelivery/1/01000198a4408dda-40e526ef-7c72-456c-9cb6-391e91a1871e-000000/4qIYuYZzl4NZ91TT4q6FPf2KjQZTyy3KEggnrHAufIQ=418)  Robyn Hughes, a lifelong patron of the MLBPD, is an adult ballet student at the Baltimore Ballet School and recently performed the Firebird Pas de Deux at Goucher College with internationally renowned dancer Cem Catbas. She has trained through elite, disability-inclusive programs such as American Ballet Theatre and New York City Ballet's Access Workshops. Robyn has taught introductory ballet classes to students with visual impairments at the National Federation of the Blind and the Maryland School for the Blind. In addition to her arts background, she holds advanced degrees in Jewish Studies and History, and is training in audio description and braille transcription.  ###   |  | | --- | | **Insights Forum Call**  Wednesday, August 27th from 11:00 am to 12:00 pm  The Foundation Fighting Blindness is pleased to invite you to the upcoming [**Insights Forum**](https://u35158275.ct.sendgrid.net/ls/click?upn=u001.TwpWPek5144WRusuAV3MCTdZC3CLpGZUbwF8eVUqbM5kJ0p3uSBqBAikYDlVywGXBfydvqu74Ruie7ftIB-2FczWSl3sX3Y-2F3X2e1OGdNkAdDTclOdnACdY7-2BmgRUKWhVHbpxwzwCv8RS3-2FRngbSiNy-2Fr70GDKyhM82BgHmTbj7vFd5A3RW8sFPqIPz0YIANuZ3UXq_Gm0wzphATd0uQbd-2FHpE-2Bv2F-2Bbf-2FGTiacR0j91njw5-2FjfRZxe-2BoZli-2FhmBhdBrzrP8uiJD-2Ffr1Hkax9aypk1Y-2BPDenaGCKCK9-2BOtBua67wyi4TTC5rjCJ-2Bk-2Bp-2Fhbe-2Fl9HUV0sMbMvnP9NX22U5BVgVJdFgo9WyQtVDqY4uBBeJ5sDxHeWZtSkXa9kpHQKsBaULLmC7DxHYHg1d0FE9PZ9BXl9r5B6HjoX4-2BmbSTVX0exr76-2BZR6p2adGD32Fnuvj0GTjjR6cpGW-2BFvfsgj-2Bob0PICorTwn0X5VDeh7PfTHHI-3D)**,** their quarterly conference call providing updates to the blinding disease community. The focus of this call is to report progress on the Foundation's mission-related initiatives, highlight recent developments and provide scientific and research updates.  Register at [**Insights Forum | Wednesday, August 27, 2025 — Foundation Fighting Blindness**](https://www.fightingblindness.org/events/insights-forum-aug-27-2386?vcrmeid=UlzHRDowE06viTwmDqIgmQ&vcrmiid=i6L4Vi8sRUeDB-hq9uAE5Q).  ### |   **Building Inclusive Outdoor Recreation Programs – A Virtual Webinar**  Wednesday, August 27th from 2:00 to 3:30 pm  The Mid-Atlantic ADA Center is excited to welcome Amanda Espinoza and Jennene Blakely from the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission, Montgomery County Parks, as their featured speakers. They’ll share insights and strategies on how to create outdoor recreation opportunities that are welcoming and accessible to all.  More details and registration information coming soon!  ###  **Montgomery County Commission on Aging to Highlight Services and Resources for Older Adults at Free Event**  Tuesday, August 28th from 2:00 to 3:30 pm  Poolesville Presbyterian Church (Speer Hall)  17800 Elgin Road in Poolesville   |  | | --- | |  |   Montgomery County's [**Commission on Aging**](https://links-1.govdelivery.com/CL0/https:%2F%2Fgcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com%2F%3Furl=https%253A%252F%252Flinks-1.govdelivery.com%252FCL0%252Fhttps%253A%25252F%25252Fwww.montgomerycountymd.gov%25252FHHS-Program%25252FADS%25252FCOA%25252FCOAindex.html%252F1%252F010001939259d216-50836f93-70b7-43f3-825b-77ab4e662c72-000000%252Fp0GG07PySa8RfG8RiGMsN2SRxgka1VqH3m0ZmQUsEYA%253D382%26data=05%257C02%257CJennifer.Garfinkel%2540montgomerycountymd.gov%257Cb9cd794416ce4a281a5f08dd147acc94%257C6e01b1f9b1e54073ac97778069a0ad64%257C0%257C0%257C638689239853676215%257CUnknown%257CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJFbXB0eU1hcGkiOnRydWUsIlYiOiIwLjAuMDAwMCIsIlAiOiJXaW4zMiIsIkFOIjoiTWFpbCIsIldUIjoyfQ%253D%253D%257C0%257C%257C%257C%26sdata=%252FgSI1hmt5g5yfAP%252BdO0Z1Ts9JxveC98RhnHyrCw3EQc%253D%26reserved=0/1/010001986800b96e-0c072126-77e1-4d1d-a857-4e1824832088-000000/yX4xoG7nZsNwKcezQwS1cv9hlvtQobhVgi3MK5PQDiw=416) will host a free community event to highlight County programs and services that help support older adults remain active, healthy and independent. Topics include wellness and recreation activities, caregiving resources, meal programs, transportation options and lifelong learning and employment opportunities.  Attendees will have an opportunity to meet members of the Commission on Aging and share feedback on issues affecting older adults in Montgomery County. Registration is required. To register, visit [**Commission on Aging Ambassador Presentation – Poolesville Seniors**](https://poolesvilleseniors.org/event/commission-on-aging-ambassador-presentation/) or call 301-875-7701.  ###  **Accessible Board and Card Game Night**   |  | | --- | | Thursday, August 28th from 4:00 to 6:00 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! |   ###  **Accessibility Lab Monthly Presentation**   |  | | --- | | Saturday, August 30th from 1:00 to 2:30 pm Virtual on Zoom  Speaker: Peter L. Stephan, Attorney Advisor, DC Office of Disability Rights (ODR)  In this role as Attorney Advisor, Mr. Stephan provides legal counsel on disability rights and ensures compliance with relevant laws and regulations.    Before joining ODR, Mr. Stephan served as a staff attorney at Disability Rights DC (DRDC) at University Legal Services. In this role, he advocated for the rights of individuals with disabilities in Washington, D.C.    Mr. Stephan's dedication to disability rights and his extensive legal experience underscore his commitment to advocating for individuals with disabilities in Washington, D.C.    The Accessibility Lab Speaker Series is a monthly event bringing together the disability, assistive technology, and accessibility communities to share information and network. These presentations will build a network of accessibility advocates, raise awareness of the issues of importance to the community, empower patrons with disabilities, promote inclusive practices and professional development, and inspire innovation.    The presentation will be virtual on Zoom.  Automatic captioning will be provided.   To request other reasonable accommodation, email DCPLaccess@dc.gov or call 202-727-2142.  Join the presentation at [**Launch Meeting - Zoom**](https://dc-gov.zoom.us/j/87231565167?pwd=UDFmK8WT3WDpGLU15TDtFfBzQEYfRi.1#success).  ### |   **Rosslyn Jazz Fest**  Saturday, Sept. 6th from 1:00 to 7:00 pm  Gateway Park  1300 Langston Boulevard, Arlington  Experience Arlington, Virginia’s most popular **free** outdoor music festival! Join the Rosslyn Business Improvement District and Arlington Arts at the 33rd [**Rosslyn Jazz Fest**](https://www.eventbrite.com/e/rosslyn-jazz-fest-2025-tickets-1458630566289?aff=oddtdtcreator) for an afternoon of music, community, food trucks, yard games, and more. Read the full press release [**here**](https://www.rosslynva.org/press-release/rosslyn-bid-and-arlington-arts-announce-lineup-for-rosslyn-jazz-fest-2025)!  Register at [**Rosslyn Jazz Fest 2025 Tickets, Sat, Sep 6, 2025 at 1:00 PM | Eventbrite**](https://www.eventbrite.com/e/rosslyn-jazz-fest-2025-tickets-1458630566289?aff=oddtdtcreator).  ###  **Fiddle and Guitar Duo: Dana Lyn and Kyle Sanna**  Saturday, Sep 6th from 2:00 to 2:50 pm  National Gallery of Art East Building Mezzanine  4th Street and Constitution Avenue, NW  Hailed as “a top-notch fiddle-and-guitar duo” by *The New York Times*, Dana Lyn and Kyle Sanna connect the dots between their experience as composers and improvisers and their deep admiration for traditional Irish music. They will perform music from their environmentally themed projects, *The Great Arc* and *The Coral Suite*.  ###  **Preservation Hall Jazz Band to Headline 2025 Silver Spring Jazz Festival**  Saturday, September 6th from 3:00 to 10:00 pm  Veterans Plaza in downtown Silver Spring  Mark your calendars for one of Montgomery County's biggest music events of the year, with the headliner taking the stage at 8:30 p.m. Enjoy a full lineup of jazz performances, food vendors, a beer garden, and fun for all ages.  Read the press release at [**Preservation Hall Jazz Band to Headline Silver Spring Jazz Festival on Saturday, Sept. 6**](https://www2.montgomerycountymd.gov/mcgportalapps/Press_Detail.aspx?Item_ID=47389).  ###  **LBPD Live: Sabor y Tradición: Virtual Cooking with the Artesanas**  September 15th at 6:00 pm  Hosted by the Maryland Library for the Blind and Print Disabled (LBPD)  Get ready for a flavorful evening in the kitchen. Join [**Creative Alliance**](https://links-1.govdelivery.com/CL0/https:%2F%2Fcreativealliance.org%2Fabout%2F%3Futm_medium=email%26utm_source=govdelivery/1/01000198a4408dda-40e526ef-7c72-456c-9cb6-391e91a1871e-000000/2xmLTCL8RYSFSgXtZaH4FEahHyDQQX1D8fXT1t9izWE=418)'s Artesanas for a live, interactive virtual cooking class from the Creativity Center community kitchen. In this hour-long, step-by-step session, you will learn how to make **tacos de pollo (chicken)** and **fresh salsa** in real time, cooking along with one of their talented Artesanas.  This special program marks the start of **Hispanic Heritage Month** (September 15 to October 15), which honors the cultures, histories, and contributions of Hispanic and Latinx communities. While this is LBPD’s only live celebration this year, they invite you to continue exploring and learning through their curated Hispanic Heritage Month reading list, available on their website.  **Register Here:**  [**https://marylandlibraries.zoom.us/meeting/register/gJjhCSX6SBGlUvhbbfkMAQ**](https://links-1.govdelivery.com/CL0/https:%2F%2Fmarylandlibraries.zoom.us%2Fmeeting%2Fregister%2FgJjhCSX6SBGlUvhbbfkMAQ%3Futm_medium=email%26utm_source=govdelivery/1/01000198a4408dda-40e526ef-7c72-456c-9cb6-391e91a1871e-000000/81eTnDUAP9NSBmdVbElvXW64AspSavPpGhGMBLviBb8=418).  If you need help registering or have questions, please reach out to:  [**Ashley Biggs**](mailto:ashley.biggs1@maryland.gov)  410-230-2430  ###  **Section 508 Best Practices Webinar: A Journey Through Global Accessibility Laws**  Tuesday, September 16th from 1:00 to 2:30 pm  Join the US Access Board as they explore the world of accessibility laws! They will travel across the globe to discover how different countries are promoting ICT accessibility through legislation. The itinerary includes stops in the United States, Canada, and Europe, where they will highlight Section 508, ADA Title II Web Accessibility, the Accessible Canada Act, and the European Accessibility Act.  For more details or to register, visit the [**Great Lakes ADA Center's webinar webpage**](https://links-1.govdelivery.com/CL0/https:%2F%2Fwww.accessibilityonline.org%2Fcioc-508%2Fsession%3Fid=111180/1/0100019884bb4571-1053e569-9752-4067-998e-f8a4cff7acf4-000000/fOdQnM1n0BY6gQiOusvDcWKRY1gDQpOsJnUQhdEoCA4=417).  Learn more at [**A Journey Through Global Accessibility Laws**](https://www.accessibilityonline.org/cioc-508/session?id=111180).  ###  **America InSight**  Thursday, September 18th at 5:30 pm  Join the Smithsonian American Art Museum for a docent-led virtual tour designed for participants who are blind or have low vision. Discover highlights from the collection through rich verbal descriptions that invoke a multisensory experience. If you have any questions, please feel free to email them at [**SAAMAccess@si.edu**](mailto:SAAMAccess@si.edu).virtual America InSight tour for visitors who are blind or have low vision at the Smithsonian American Art Museum and Renwick Gallery.  ###  **ACB of Virginia State Convention 2025 – "Together Again: Reconnect, Recharge, and Rise!"**  October 17th to 19th  Hilton Garden Inn, Fredericksburg, Virginia  After too many Zooms and not enough hugs, ACB of Virginia is absolutely thrilled to announce their first in-person state convention since the pandemic!  **Registration $50 per person**:  View the **full agenda** here: [**acbva.org/convention-program-2025**](https://acbva.org/convention-program-2025/).  **Register** online at [**acbva.org/convention-2025**](https://www.acbva.org/convention-2025)  Register by **September 1st** to be entered into a drawing for a **$25 gift card**!  Have questions about registering or paying online? Reach out to Theresa Breeden – [**teeelynn68@**](https://email.db-fishbowl.com:2096/cpsess8343071094/3rdparty/roundcube/?_task=mail&_caps=pdf%3D1%2Cflash%3D0%2Ctiff%3D0%2Cwebp%3D1%2Cpgpmime%3D0&_uid=4174&_mbox=INBOX&_framed=1&_action=preview#NOP)[**gmail.com**](http://gmail.com/)**.**  **Transportation Help**  Need a lift? ACBVA is coordinating carpool options and train station pick-up/drop-off. Contact [Roseann](https://email.db-fishbowl.com:2096/cpsess8343071094/3rdparty/roundcube/?_task=mail&_caps=pdf%3D1%2Cflash%3D0%2Ctiff%3D0%2Cwebp%3D1%2Cpgpmime%3D0&_uid=4174&_mbox=INBOX&_framed=1&_action=preview#NOP) at [**beachrose9@verizon.net**](mailto:beachrose9@verizon.net) to discuss.  **Financial Assistance**  They don't want cost to keep you from joining them. If you'd like to be considered for financial aid, contact Roseann at  [**beachrose9@verizon.net**](mailto:beachrose9@verizon.net)for a private conversation.  ###  **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. This year's theme, **Leading Together: Leveraging Change to Advance Our Vision,**  highlights the power of collective leadership in a time of rapid technological and societal transformation.  Explore the ideas and strategies driving progress for people who are blind or have low vision at the [**American Foundation for the Blind Leadership Conference (AFBLC)**](https://click.everyaction.com/k/111411352/557137265/1778005460?sourceid=1091814&nvep=ew0KICAiVGVuYW50VXJpIjogIm5ncHZhbjovL3Zhbi9FQS9FQTAwMy8xLzcyODI3IiwNCiAgIkRpc3RyaWJ1dGlvblVuaXF1ZUlkIjogImYzNzA1ZjEzLWZhNWYtZjAxMS04ZGM5LTYwNDViZGZlOGU5YyIsDQogICJFbWFpbEFkZHJlc3MiOiAic3lsdmlhQHdhc2hlYXIub3JnIg0KfQ%3D%3D&hmac=BVno3VWtjHw93ew6Wm_BDI9YFEWPYBhrM96xZafwH8Q=&emci=30ead0a6-e75c-f011-8f7c-6045bda9d96b&emdi=f3705f13-fa5f-f011-8dc9-6045bdfe8e9c&ceid=13729989) 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)**.**  ### |