

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

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

August 22, 2025

Dear Listeners,

Some of my best resources for these Updates are MWE listeners and friends. Thanks this week to Paul D’Addario for sharing information about BARD 2.0 office hours [**here**](#NLS), and Sandy Neuzil and Sharon Paynes for sharing information about the Beep Baseball weekend [**here**](#Beep). If you know of items that would be of interest to our community, please send them to me at [**sylvia@washear.org**](mailto:sylvia@washear.org).

Cheers,

Sylvia

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

Here are the links to all the items below:

* [**Announcing New NLS Program: BARD 2.0 Office Hours**](#NLS)
* [**Applications Open for Regional Grants to Disability Groups Serving Arlington Residents**](#Grants)
* [**Stay Prepared with Fairfax Community Connect**](#Connect)
* **[Theater Update](#Theater)**
* **[Calendar](#Calendar)**
  + **[Replay POB Events](#Replay)**
  + **[Baltimore Clayworks](#Clay)**
  + **[Intro to Ballet for Blind and Low Vision Participants In-Person](#Ballet)**
  + **[Insights Forum Call](#Forum)**
  + **[Building Inclusive Outdoor Recreation Programs – A Virtual Webinar](#Build)**
  + **[Montgomery County Commission on Aging to Highlight Services and Resources for Older Adults at Free Event](#MOCO)**
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  + **[Preservation Hall Jazz Band to Headline 2025 Silver Spring Jazz Festival](#Jazz)**
  + **[LBPD Live: Sabor y Tradición: Virtual Cooking with the Artesanas](#Sabor)**
  + **[Section 508 Best Practices Webinar: A Journey Through Global Accessibility Laws](#Laws)**
  + **[America InSight](#InSight)**
  + [**FFB Quarterly Vision Webinar - Focusing on** **Thyroid Eye Disease (TED)**](#FFB)
  + [**Beep Baseball All-Star Weekend**](#Beep)
  + **[ACB of Virginia State Convention 2025 – "Together Again: Reconnect, Recharge, and Rise!"](#ACBVA)**
  + **[2025 American Foundation for the Blind Leadership Conference](#AFB)**

###

**ANNOUNCING NEW NLS PROGRAM: BARD 2.0 OFFICE HOURS**

Forwarded by Paul D’Addario

The Patron Engagement Section of the National Library Service is offering a new program to assist patrons using the new BARD 2.0 website. BARD 2.0 Office Hours will be held each Tuesday night from 8:00 p.m. until 9:00 p.m. Eastern Time, starting September 16, 2025, and ending November 25, 2025. Each session will be informal in structure, specifically designed to assist patrons as they learn to use the new BARD website.

Sessions will not begin with a presentation and will not be recorded. Patron questions will be addressed on a first come, first served basis. Staff will share their screen reader sound for the patrons as they answer patron questions and demonstrate features.

This program is a limited series as they roll out new products. The Zoom link for this program will remain the same. The session can be joined by going to

[**https://loc.zoomgov.com/j/1614022132?pwd=dXpMb93HfrUi17rM3a8UNd3d8OSwtY.1**](https://urldefense.com/v3/__https:/loc.zoomgov.com/j/1614022132?pwd=dXpMb93HfrUi17rM3a8UNd3d8OSwtY.1__;!!EDx7F7x-0XSOB8YS_BQ!f1DAOulTc__uT4LQ-9YzeexILKsPougg740kq996kJEZ3weRrSkyRQ8cXyj8Mehq0RJk3LGL-7FzLPsQDSWCg2CajBH2$)

More information is at [**BARD Office Hours - National Library Service for the Blind and Print Disabled (NLS) | Library of Congress**](https://www.loc.gov/nls/news-and-updates/bard-office-hours/).

###

**APPLICATIONS OPEN FOR REGIONAL GRANTS TO DISABILITY GROUPS SERVING ARLINGTON RESIDENTS**

Regional Grants to Disability Groups are awarded to non-profit groups providing services to Arlington residents with physical and sensory disabilities. Successful projects increase or maintain independence and community integration through empowerment focused services.  These grant awards are for two fiscal years FY2027 and FY2028. Average grants are approximately $20,000, but vary depending on the project.

**The grant period closes Monday October 6, 2025.** The Disability Advisory Commission will review proposals and make funding recommendations to the County Board in early 2026. The grant application and budget worksheets may be downloaded below.

[**Regionals-RFP-FY-2027-AND-2028-Application-Packet.docx**](https://www.arlingtonva.us/files/content/public/v/9/government/commissions-and-advisory-groups/disability-advisory-commission/regional-grants-to-disability-groups/regionals-rfp-fy-2027-and-2028-application-packet.docx)

[**NP-Budget-form-2027-2028-Application.xlsx**](https://www.arlingtonva.us/files/content/public/v/9/government/commissions-and-advisory-groups/disability-advisory-commission/regional-grants-to-disability-groups/np-budget-form-2027-2028-application.xlsx)

Contact Courtney Sales at [**703-228-3559**](tel:7032283559) or [**csales@arlingtonva.us**](mailto:csales@arlingtonva.us) for further information or assistance.

###

**STAY PREPARED WITH FAIRFAX COMMUNITY CONNECT**

From Access Fairfax, the Fairfax Family Services newsletter

**Community Connect** is a free, secure, and easy to use platform that allows you to share critical information about your household that will aid first responders and emergency response personnel when responding to your residence. By providing information about your household (pets, children, access and functional needs) that you feel is important for them to know about at the time of an emergency, they can ensure you and everything you care about is protected to the best of their ability.

Any information you provide through Community Connect is completely voluntary and based on what you are comfortable with sharing. The platform has made it easy for you to know what may be important by organizing your secure portal into buckets of information you can enter! **Data that you provide in Community Connect is secure and is used only for the purpose of better serving you during emergency situations.**

Learn more and register at [**Fairfax County Community Connect**](https://www.communityconnect.io/info/va-fairfax-county?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.

**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

**The Inheritance Part Two**

Round House Theatre Bethesda - 240-644-1100

Described Saturday, October 4th at 1:00 pm

**Damn Yankees**

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

Described Saturday, October 4th at 2:00 pm

**Red Pitch**

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

Described Wednesday, October 8th 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)

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| **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**  Thursday, 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, September 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.  ###  **FFB Quarterly Vision Webinar - Focusing on** **Thyroid Eye Disease (TED)**  Saturday, September 20th at 12:00 pm  Location: [**Online**](https://u35158275.ct.sendgrid.net/ls/click?upn=u001.TwpWPek5144WRusuAV3MCTdZC3CLpGZUbwF8eVUqbM5kJ0p3uSBqBAikYDlVywGXK3-2F-2B-2FyqFmVKwtOi1PEASoLhv11wjdzTGPr0lT3u7t-2FhsM99DIOqZJ-2FRaDKQnuMdpREWniW5MIOsJ-2FWXovdK2OmdkF5VLzb8Ct2DG1IBjgzB0-2BM-2BQpBdBMYcxPpy6FVPAR1yLe6-2Fzl9WIkC-2BL5Kb71TC6HQzrTM-2BxNmrrNDWfM5Y-3DAbPb_Gm0wzphATd0uQbd-2FHpE-2Bv2F-2Bbf-2FGTiacR0j91njw5-2FjfRZxe-2BoZli-2FhmBhdBrzrPv8LXdEdJU5yXEgXb5CVYB226kVK9YDjnedhMGokylZpMdB9j-2BBy-2Fp7mU-2BNFrZGW9HzvzsU4cYKH4uDqKBr3n6AZCb4yIPR3zgxicPiw7Pjz-2FzXZRD5fGLieZoggM7-2Fo7koVL1Qf1iaPmyJ-2FQAfsahc-2BMU00x6OjJbatMLjJutlixU8v7H1DQzYzrw6cDuUnofK-2FVtbSLtFVxx1YeWB3diA0S5DU-2B-2BYItsmXmvkl-2Fsq8-3D) via Zoom (Registration required at: [**Quarterly Vision Webinar – Thyroid Eye Disease (TED) — Foundation Fighting Blindness**](https://www.fightingblindness.org/events/quarterly-vision-webinar-thyroid-eye-disease-ted-4465?vcrmeid=u1BtPByE0qCyL2RRl5qA&vcrmiid=i6L4Vi8sRUeDB-hq9uAE5Q).)  This free webinar will feature a dynamic discussion moderated by Ben Shaberman and a panel of experts:   * **Dr. Sonalika Khachikian** (Endocrinologist) * **Dr. Maja Kostic** (Neuro-Ophthalmologist) * **David Brint** (Newly Diagnosed TED Patient)   What You’ll Learn:  The connection between thyroid conditions and eye health.   * How to recognize the signs and symptoms of TED. * The impact of TED on vision and quality of life. * Insights into diagnosis and treatment options.   For more information, please reach out to Bailey Bostelmanat [**BBostelman@FightingBlindness.org.**](https://email.db-fishbowl.com:2096/cpsess0712959091/3rdparty/roundcube/?_task=mail&_caps=pdf%3D1%2Cflash%3D0%2Ctiff%3D0%2Cwebp%3D1%2Cpgpmime%3D0&_uid=4671&_mbox=INBOX&_framed=1&_action=preview#NOP)  ###  **Beep Baseball All-Star Weekend**  Forwarded by Sandy Neuzil and Sharon Payne  Friday, October 3rd from 3:30 to 5:30 pm and Saturday, October 4th all day beginning at 8:00 am  George Mason University, between Field 3 and Field 4 4605 Rapidan River Road, Fairfax  George Mason University, in partnership with MindsEye Radio and the National Beep Baseball Association, will host a Learn to Play beep baseball clinic for the local community on Friday, followed by the All-Star Single Elimination Tournament on Saturday.  The tournament features four teams made up of top blind and visually impaired athletes from across the United States. All games will be live streamed with play-by-play commentary from MindsEye Radio. A link to the stream will be posted before the first game begins.  **Friday, October 3 – Learn to Play Clinic**  This free hands-on clinic welcomes participants who are new to the sport and those with experience. Instruction is provided by All-Star athletes and experienced coaches.  **Schedule:**   * Field setup: 3:30 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. * Participant check-in: 4:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. * Clinic and scrimmage: 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.   **Saturday, October 4 – All-Star Tournament**  Four elite teams, each made up of ten players, will compete for the 2025 NBBA All-Star title. Players were selected throughout the summer of 2025 based on their performances at regional qualifying tournaments and at the Beep Baseball World Series in St. Louis. Coaches for each team were also chosen for their outstanding leadership and performance at these events.  **Schedule:**   * Field setup: 8:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m. * Fields open for pre-game warmups: 9:00 a.m. * Opening ceremonies: 10:35 a.m. (National Anthem, team introductions, welcome, first pitch) * Game 1: 11:05 a.m. – Team 1 vs. Team 4 * Game 2: 11:05 a.m. – Team 2 vs. Team 3 * Third place game: 3:00 p.m. * Championship game: 6:00 p.m.   **About Beep Baseball**  Beep baseball is an adaptive form of baseball for athletes who are blind or visually impaired. A beeping ball and buzzing bases provide audio cues that enable hitting, fielding, and running with speed and skill.  **Learn More About the Sport**  Learn more and register at the event website at: [**https://recreation.gmu.edu/adaptive-sports/beep-baseball/**](https://recreation.gmu.edu/adaptive-sports/beep-baseball/)  For more information on the rules, history, and community of beep baseball, visit the National Beep Baseball Association at: [**https://www.nbba.org**](https://www.nbba.org/)  ###   |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | |  | |   **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.  Access the agenda at [**2025 AFBLC Agenda | American Foundation for the Blind**](https://afb.org/get-involved/events/2025afblc/agenda?sourceid=1091814&emci=cf264fbc-2179-f011-b481-6045bdfe8e9c&emdi=ac7b87e4-f079-f011-b481-6045bdfe8e9c&ceid=13729989).  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).  Learn more at [**2025 AFB Leadership Conference | American Foundation for the Blind**](https://afb.org/get-involved/events/2025afblc)**.**  ### |