

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

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

August 7, 2025

Dear Listeners,

August is usually a quiet month, but there are still lots of interesting events and opportunities in this week’s Update. Of special note is the partnership of Be My Eyes and Amtrak to pilot innovative visual interpretation technology for blind and low vison passengers [**here**](#Pilot).

Whether you are traveling or staying home, we wish you a happy and meaningful week ahead.

Cheers,

Sylvia

**sylvia@washear.org**

Here are the links to all the items below:

* [**Food Assistance Resources Available in Montgomery County**](#Food)
* [**Applications for Arlington Regional Grants to Disability Groups Now Open**](#Grants)
* [**Be My Eyes and Amtrak Partner to Pilot Innovative Visual Interpretation Technology for Blind and Low Vision Passengers**](#Pilot)
* [**Justice Department Opens Investigation into Flix North America, FlixBus, and Greyhound for Disability Discrimination**](#DOJ)
* **[Theater Update](#Theater)**
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	+ **[Replay POB Events](#Replay)**
	+ **[TUG Meeting - BARD Website and DA2 Release](#TUG)**
	+ [**iBUG Cafe on the AGIGA Echo Smart Glasses**](#iBug)
	+ [**ACBVA Meeting**](#ACBVAM)
	+ **[Publishing Online – Hadley Virtual Writers' Circle Discussion Group](#Publish)**
	+ [**Arlington County Fair Live Music and Entertainment**](#Fair)
	+ **[Classroom Classics – Hadley Virtual Book Nook Discussion Group](#Nook)**
	+ [**Webinar: Your Right To Access for Immigrants with Disabilities**](#AAPD)
	+ **[DBVI State Rehabilitation Council](#DBVI)**
	+ **[Access in Chromebooks Webinar](#Chrome)**
	+ **[LBPD Event: Intro to Ballet for Blind and Low Vision Participants](#Ballet)**
	+ **[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)
	+ **[Accessible Board and Card Game Night](#Game)**
	+ **[Accessibility Lab Monthly Presentation](#Lab)**
	+ **[Fiddle and Guitar Duo: Dana Lyn and Kyle Sanna](#Duo)**
	+ [**Preservation Hall Jazz Band to Headline 2025 Silver Spring Jazz Festival**](#Jazz)
	+ [**Section 508 Best Practices Webinar: A Journey Through Global Accessibility Laws**](#Laws)
	+ **[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)**

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**FOOD ASSISTANCE RESOURCES AVAILABLE IN MOTGOMERY COUNTY**

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If you or someone you know needs food, there are free resources available across Montgomery County. Check the Montgomery County food distribution calendar for upcoming events offering meals, groceries and household essentials. New events are added regularly, and many sites offer walk-up service with no ID required.

View the events at [**Food Resources - Office of Food Systems Resilience, Montgomery County, MD**](https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/ofsr/food/index.html#events).

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**APPLICATIONS FOR ARLINGTON REGIONAL GRANTS TO DISABILITY GROUPS NOW OPEN**

The 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** or **csales@arlingtonva.us** for further information or assistance.

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**BE MY EYES AND AMTRAK PARTNER TO PILOT INNOVATIVE VISUAL INTERPRETATION TECHNOLOGY FOR BLIND AND LOW VISION PASSENGERS**

From David Goldfield’s news summary

[**Be My Eyes**](https://www.bemyeyes.com/), a globally recognized and award-winning access technology provider for people who are blind or have low vision,

announced a partnership with [**Amtrak**](https://www.amtrak.com/home.html)to launch a pilot program that brings on-demand visual interpretation to blind and low vision passengers at key Amtrak stations.

The initiative will allow passengers to access live, real-time assistance from trained visual interpreters via the [**Be My Eyes mobile app**](https://www.bemyeyes.com/download-app/?_gl=1*gofryz*_up*MQ..*_ga*MTI1NTM5OTUxMS4xNzU0Mzg5NTA0*_ga_L3S1LV4KMF*czE3NTQzODk1MDQkbzEkZzAkdDE3NTQzODk1MDQkajYwJGwwJGgxODE1NTczNzEy), providing support with navigating station environments, finding gates, reading signs, and more—all through the user’s smartphone camera.

The three-month pilot, launching this summer, will deploy the service at 16 stations in the Northeast Corridor, including high-traffic hubs such as **New York Penn Station, Philadelphia 30th Street Station, Boston South Station**, and **Washington Union Station**. These locations were selected to provide data across a range of environments.

The project itself is part of a wider initiative within Amtrak to enhance the travel experience for blind and low vision passengers, and to make Amtrak a more equitable and independent travel option for passengers preferring greater autonomy rather than solely relying on staff assistance.

The service will be provided at no cost to passengers and will be accessible via the Be My Eyes app on iOS and Android devices. Agents responding to requests through the Be My Eyes software platform are trained professionals who deliver high-quality visual interpretation through secure, real-time video connections. Upon opening the app, customers will be able to select the service directory option and look for Amtrak under Travel & Transportation.

Pending the results of the pilot—which will be assessed through usage metrics, rider feedback, and operational performance—Amtrak and Be My Eyes may expand the program nationwide across Amtrak’s network of stations.

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**JUSTICE DEPARTMENT OPENS INVESTIGATION INTO FLIX NORTH AMERICA, FLIX BUS, AND GREYHOUND FOR DISABILITY DISCRIMINATION**

The Justice Department's Civil Rights Division announced that it has launched an investigation into FlixBus and Greyhound bus lines to determine compliance with the ADA.

The Department opened this investigation after receiving complaints that FlixBus and Greyhound violated the ADA rights of people with disabilities. Complaints alleged that FlixBus and Greyhound refused to allow service animals to accompany passengers with disabilities or improperly asked for documentation, failed to properly maintain lifts on buses, refused to assist passengers with disabilities with using lifts, abandoned customers with disabilities between legs of their journey, and failed to allow and assist passengers with disabilities to leave and return to the bus at rest stops, among other allegations.

If you believe you have been a victim of disability discrimination by FlixBus or Greyhound, please file a complaint with the Civil Rights Division online at [**https://www.ada.gov/file-a-complaint/**](https://links-1.govdelivery.com/CL0/https%3A//www.ada.gov/file-a-complaint//1/0100019876e45186-2f82e618-5783-4c84-a96a-6baba86a0128-000000/k88ra-DjLS1_da-a6H3-Qevy_Jm_KHATYPDk7dvqSTc%3D416)**,** or by calling the Department's toll-free ADA Information Line at 1-800-514-0301 (1-833-610-1264 (TTY)).

Full details are available at [**Office of Public Affairs | Justice Department Opens Investigation into Flix North America, FlixBus, and Greyhound for Disability Discrimination | United States Department of Justice**](https://www.justice.gov/opa/pr/justice-department-opens-investigation-flix-north-america-flixbus-and-greyhound-disability).

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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

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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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|  **TUG Meeting - BARD Website and DA2 Release**Saturday, August 9th from 10:00 to 11:00 amThe DA2 will soon be going out to qualified patrons who can utilize the player's advanced options. Learn what the DA2 can do well, what's different from the previous player, and what may surprise you.BARD 2.0 is the new NLS website for NLS's Maryland patrons. Many changes have occurred, and these new features will be showcased.Who should attend?* Current BARD patrons, especially those who use the BARD website.
* Individuals who have the current NLS advanced player, aka the DA1.
* Curious tech enthusiasts.

The Technology User Group (TUG) profiles recent changes to the NLS website and equipment.Call in Number:1-301-715-8592Meeting ID: 656 203 7293​#One tap mobile[**+13017158592,,6562037293#**](https://links-1.govdelivery.com/CL0/tel%3A%2B13017158592%2C%2C6562037293%23/1/01000198526f14aa-eb6b2871-733c-43a8-b542-467dfc53c6f3-000000/e81WYfTR2mRRgI4fOziOAgL76YAVCjB4N8jDhAGqP1E%3D415)**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/1/01000198526f14aa-eb6b2871-733c-43a8-b542-467dfc53c6f3-000000/utGAJenu9vUu-rHkU9GP31nu7_VeDZJP6ylcXxzGW_8%3D415)###**iBUG Cafe on the AGIGA Echo Smart Glasses**Sunday, August 10th at 5:00 pm The iBUG Cafe will be offering a complimentary demonstration of the AGIGA Echo Smart Frames. The leadership team from AGIGA will provide a demonstration and address any inquiries you may have regarding these smart glasses.These glasses were specifically developed for individuals with visual impairments.The following topics will be covered during the presentation:* Who and what is AGIGA
* A brief overview of Kevin Chow
* The AGIGA Echo Frames
* The advantages of the Echo Frames over the Ray-Ban Meta Frames
* Currently supported applications: Aira, be my eyes, and their own built-in application
* A review of the application installation process
* Pre-recorded demonstrations
* An overview of the glasses
* A review of privacy settings

To join the Zoom conference using a computer or the app, click the following link:[**https://zoom.us/j/7428486329?pwd=M003RmZaa3pTbWRlZ00xbSs4YTlmUT09**](https://zoom.us/j/7428486329?pwd=M003RmZaa3pTbWRlZ00xbSs4YTlmUT09)Or, use the one tap mobile link from a smartphone:  **+13462487799,,7428486329#**,,,,\*369978#Or, type in the Meeting ID and Password below:Meeting ID: 742 **848 6329**, Password: 369978To dial from a phone, call:  **+1 3462487799** US###**ACBVA Meeting**Monday, August 11th at 7:00 pm on Zoom

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| The American Council of the Blind of Virginia (ACBVA) invites you to attend their next program meeting. Get ready for a lively and inspiring program! The guest speaker is Cindy Labon, president of CAGDU (Capital Area Guide Dog Users). She'll be joining the meeting with her second guide dog, a charming black lab named Mr. Goodman.Cindy and Mr. Goodman have tackled everything from conventions and cruises to the Polar Bear Swim! And if that's not impressive enough, one of Mr. Goodman's puppies has daughters who attended Harvard—and yes, he even spent a semester there himself! |

Cindy will talk about whether a dog is right for you, what to do around a guide dog, what to say or not to say to the dog, etc. She will also discuss how to handle challenging situations that occur, with emphasis on some of the ride share issues guide dog owners encounter.Don't miss this engaging session filled with heartwarming stories, helpful insights, and a few laughs along the way. And be prepared to ask questions.For additional questions and to get the Zoom information, contact RoseAnn Ashby at 703-403-0226 or **info@acbva.org**.In addition, please be aware that ACBVA has a new website with increased functionality. Check it out at: [**https://acbva.org**](https://links-2.govdelivery.com/CL0/https%3A//acbva.org%3Futm_medium%3Demail%26utm_source%3Dgovdelivery/1/01010198853a8205-e64d9f4f-c440-4612-8885-3f2675360c93-000000/w-2YvbXJ2lf2cPUvbu_LRTlmyyBCtffKQ4g89nxv0xA%3D417). They are also redoing their distribution lists. If you are interested in being placed on the broad announce-only list, contact RoseAnn at **info@acbva.org**. They also have a new members-only list, and of course, you are always welcome to join ACBVA and will be placed on this list.###**Publishing Online – Hadley Virtual Writers' Circle Discussion Group**Tuesday, August 12th and the 2nd Tuesday of every month at 12:00 pm From blogs to Substack and beyond— look at the free and low-cost sites where we can upload and share our work.Sign up to join at [**Writers' Circle | Hadley Discussion Group for the Visually Impaired**](https://hadleyhelps.org/discussion-groups/writers-circle).###**Arlington County Fair Live Music and Entertainment**August 13th – 17th Thomas Jefferson Community Center3501 Second Street SouthFrom 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/).###

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**Classroom Classics – Hadley Virtual Book Nook Discussion Group**Thursday, August 14th and the 2nd Thursday of Every Month at 12:30 pm Did a book assigned by your high school English teacher spark your love for reading? Join us and bring the favorites that make you nostalgic for school days.Sign up to join at [**Book Nook | Hadley Discussion Group for the Visually Impaired**](https://hadleyhelps.org/discussion-groups/book-nook).###**Webinar: Your Right To Access for Immigrants with Disabilities**Thursday, August 14th at 7:00 Right now, immigrant and disabled communities are experiencing many threats to their safety and well-being. That's why AAPD is a proud partner of the documentary UNSEEN, a film that explores the intersections of immigration, disability, and mental health. UNSEEN and its partners are hosting **"Your Right to Access: What You Need to Know as an Immigrant with a Disability,"** a virtual session to review your rights as a disabled immigrant, family member, or ally upon encountering immigration enforcement authorities at home or work. Come learn from Conchita Hernandez and Qudsiya Naqui, review and practice real-life scenarios, and learn disability-specific information. Register at [**Webinar Registration - Zoom**](https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_mTL5bnS3Thav8-xZ2zYp0w#/registration).###**DBVI State Rehabilitation Council**Friday, August 15th from 10:00 am to 1:00 pm397 Azalea Avenue, Richmond Attendance in-person or virtualJoin virtual: [**Zoom link**](https://links-2.govdelivery.com/CL0/https%3A//dsa-virginia.zoomgov.com/j/1618761637%3Fpwd%3Dz4XKF9HSc4QWBwqDJmzqEJqfWDATh5.1%26utm_medium%3Demail%26utm_source%3Dgovdelivery/1/010101985bb5ba3b-d5ea51f4-1add-4498-bb87-b8cbf7b95f88-000000/7Tygw9e1r1ehKwT7bgifaF9b16t1bitOGaeYc3kE7Wo%3D416)Password: 310251Or Telephone: Dial: (646) 828 - 7666 (US Toll) Meeting ID: 161 876 1637Password: 310251Public comments will be received at 10:10 am.Agenda will be announced soon.###**Access in Chromebooks Webinar**Thursday, August 20th from 1:00 to 2:00 pmSponsored by the Maryland Department of DisabilitiesThis 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) .###**LBPD Event: Intro to Ballet for Blind and Low Vision Participants**August 21st at 11:00 am (in person)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. [**Registration required**](https://links-1.govdelivery.com/CL0/https%3A//marylandlibraries.libcal.com/event/14855965%3Futm_medium%3Demail%26utm_source%3Dgovdelivery/1/01000197cc59c185-82b13310-db62-49a3-bc8c-e705446d8394-000000/AQKFC4d8dZn-ozaF7Ys-tIK6MvCr7j_iRK_0n1mFKGo%3D412) at [**LBPD Event: Intro to Ballet for Blind and Low Vision Participants - LibCal - Maryland State Library Agency**](https://marylandlibraries.libcal.com/event/14855965?utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery)**.** **A minimum of four people is needed for the class to proceed. The class is capped at 10 people.**###**Building Inclusive Outdoor Recreation Programs – A Virtual Webinar**Wednesday, August 27th from 2:00 to 3:30 pmThe 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 pmPoolesville Presbyterian Church (Speer Hall)17800 Elgin Road in Poolesville

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Montgomery County's [**Commission on Aging**](https://links-1.govdelivery.com/CL0/https%3A//gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/%3Furl%3Dhttps%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%3D05%257C02%257CJennifer.Garfinkel%2540montgomerycountymd.gov%257Cb9cd794416ce4a281a5f08dd147acc94%257C6e01b1f9b1e54073ac97778069a0ad64%257C0%257C0%257C638689239853676215%257CUnknown%257CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJFbXB0eU1hcGkiOnRydWUsIlYiOiIwLjAuMDAwMCIsIlAiOiJXaW4zMiIsIkFOIjoiTWFpbCIsIldUIjoyfQ%253D%253D%257C0%257C%257C%257C%26sdata%3D%252FgSI1hmt5g5yfAP%252BdO0Z1Ts9JxveC98RhnHyrCw3EQc%253D%26reserved%3D0/1/010001986800b96e-0c072126-77e1-4d1d-a857-4e1824832088-000000/yX4xoG7nZsNwKcezQwS1cv9hlvtQobhVgi3MK5PQDiw%3D416) 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**

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| Thursday, August 28th from 4:00 to 6:00 pmMLK Library Center for Accessibility901 G Street, NW, Room 205-HPlay 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**

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| Saturday, August 30th from 1:00 to 2:30 pmVirtual on ZoomSpeaker: 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).### |

**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 Mezzanine4th Street and Constitution Avenue, NWHailed 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 pmVeterans 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).###**Section 508 Best Practices Webinar: A Journey Through Global Accessibility Laws**Tuesday, September 16th from 1:00 to 2:30 pmJoin 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%3A//www.accessibilityonline.org/cioc-508/session%3Fid%3D111180/1/0100019884bb4571-1053e569-9752-4067-998e-f8a4cff7acf4-000000/fOdQnM1n0BY6gQiOusvDcWKRY1gDQpOsJnUQhdEoCA4%3D417). 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 pmJoin 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**.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**: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? They are 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** 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**for a private conversation.###**2025 American Foundation for the Blind Leadership Conference** (AFBLC), November 12th to 14thCrystal 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)**.**### |