



indow to the World

Winter, 2003

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Newsletter of the Tennessee Library for the Blind & Physically Handicapped

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Upcoming State Holidays

The year is quickly coming to an end, and with it, the holidays. As you know, there are many state holidays at the end of each year and at the beginning of the following year. The post office very kindly picks up mail twice on the day BEFORE a state holiday, but if you need extra reading material to "tide you over" the holidays, be sure and call your reader advisor 1-2 weeks before a scheduled holiday to let them know how many books you need. Also, call your reader advisor if you have too many holiday activities to do much reading and would like to have books put on "hold" until you have more time.

The Tennessee Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped, like most state agencies, will be closed on the following days for holidays:

November: Library closed on Thursday, November 27 and Friday, November 28, re-opening on Monday, December 1, 2003.

December: Library closed on Wednesday, December 24 through Friday, December 26, re-opening on Monday, December 29, 2003.

January: Library closed on Thursday, January 1, 2004, re-opening on Friday, January 2, 2004.

Library also closed on Monday, January 19, 2004, re-opening on Tuesday, January 20, 2004.

February: Library closed on Monday, February 16, re-opening on Tuesday, February 17, 2004.

Braille Calendars

The Tennessee Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped provides braille calendars free-of-charge through the American Action Fund for Blind Children and Adults. Ann Jones, the library's Administrative Assistant maintains a listing of people who want to receive these calendars. We have mailed calendars to all of the braille readers who requested one last year. If you did not receive one and would like a braille calendar for 2004, or you know someone who needs a braille calendar, please call Ann at (800) 342-3308 to be added to the list.

Tennessee Council of the Blind

The Tennessee Council of the Blind (TCB) is a nonprofit membership organization offering social opportunities, resource information and encouragement to newly blinded individuals. An affiliate of the American Council of the Blind, a national consumer and advocacy organization, the TCB has several chapters throughout the state. Membership is open to blind and visually impaired people, their family, friends and anyone interested in issues related to blindness and vision loss. For more information, please contact: Brenda Dillon, TCB President, 313 Overridge Cove, Hermitage, TN 37076; phone: (615) 874-1223; e-mail: brendan0@bellsouth.net

Newsline for the Blind

The Newsline for the Blind Service is made available in Tennessee by Services for the Blind and Visually Impaired in the Department of Human Services through a contract agreement with the National Federation of the Blind. This service enables a blind person to access several national and local newspapers via a standard touchtone telephone. The subscriber can listen to the papers being read using computer generated synthetic speech. The service is free to those subscribers who have signed up and been approved. Terry Smith, Director of Services for the Blind and Visually Impaired, says that the decision on whether or not to renew the contract in July will hinge in large part on utilization. If it isn't being used extensively, it will be hard to justify the expenditures when state budgets are so tight. Anyone interested in applying for Newsline for the Blind Service or learning more about it should contact the local office of Services for the Blind and Visually Impaired or call the Tennessee Library for the Blind & Physically Handicapped.

Service Reminders

Ordering Books in a Series:

Reading books in a series in chronological order can be tricky. Perhaps the best way to do this is to ask for a list of the titles in the series and the order in which they should be read. When you receive the first book in the series, even before you start reading it, call the library staff to request the second book. By the time you finish reading the first book, perhaps the second one will be on the way to you. Then, when you receive the second book, order the third, etc. In this way you can receive each title in order they are meant to be read. Don't have us put the titles in your request file, as our automated system will mail them in random order. Be sure to return each title as you finish reading it so someone who may be reading the same series can receive it in a timely fashion.

“Request Only” versus “Auto-Select:”

Many new patrons sign up for “Request Only” service, which means the library sends only the titles they request. But, if the titles you request are very popular and are already on loan to others, you will not receive any books until one of those titles becomes available. If you forget to request titles, we cannot send you anything. If you forget to request titles and we don't send anything within a year, we will ask that you return the player. If this is how you want your library service to work, that is fine.

However, if you want to have a continuous supply of something to read, we recommend asking for the library staff to choose titles for you, which we call “Auto-Select.” This means you tell us the types of books you like, whether it is best-sellers, mysteries, or classics, etc. We will put your profile into our system and run the auto-select program, so titles matching your profile are added to your request file. You can still order specific titles and they will be sent to you before the auto-select titles, if they are available. However, if none of the titles you request are available, they will be added to your request file and a title matching your profile will be sent to you, so you will have something to read.

Fast Ordering:

All of the materials in the library's collection have a unique “number” such as RC 12345, BR 12345, LP 12345, or DV 12345. If you see one of these numbers next to a title in a catalog, this number is all you need to order the item from us. RC stands for Recorded Cassette; BR stands for a braille title; LP stands for a Large Print title; and DV is for a Descriptive Video. However, if you're interested in a title or books by an author that you have not found in any of our catalogs, please do not hesitate to contact us with that information. Our catalogs are issued annually or semi-annually and only include items that were added in the years listed on the cover. We do have many other titles, so please don't hesitate to call us with the title of any book you would like to read—maybe we have it!

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**Free Matter for the Blind
and Handicapped**