

DIGITAL BOOKS AND PLAYERS

We have been getting more reports of decreased battery life with the digital players. Please keep in mind that when your player announces the “battery charge remaining”, it is actually making a rough estimate of 75% of the battery’s full capacity. When you hear the battery charge announcement of “less than one hour”, it’s time to plug your player in. You may listen to your books at the same time the battery is recharging which should take just a couple of hours. If you listen to books on a thumb drive from the USB port on the side of your player the battery life is reduced by about 10 hours.

Your player should not be replaced as long as it has at least 12 hours of battery charge remaining after being charged overnight (8-9 hours). If your player announces less than 1 hour of charge remaining after you have charged it, please check that the plug was securely in an operating outlet before calling the library for a replacement. If your player will not power on after charging and shuts down unless plugged in, call the library for a replacement.

NLS UPDATE

NLS will soon be incorporating the Web-Braille service into the BARD download site so our patrons will only have to log into one website to access books for their reading needs. In an effort to clean things up before the upgrade, any BARD accounts that have not downloaded books for one year or longer will be suspended. An e-mail will then be sent to you requesting that you contact the library to reactivate your account.

If you are currently a Web-Braille user, you will be notified when you need to register for a BARD account if you don’t already have one.

We also look forward to magazines being offered in the cartridge format soon. These magazines will include the Talking Book Topic catalog and will have to be returned to keep your subscription active.

SPREAD THE WORD

Every year we attend the Senior Fairs in Huron, Sanilac, and Tuscola Counties to tell people about the service we offer. After more than 10 years of attending these events it still amazes us that so many people don't know this service is available to them and that it's free.

We need your help in spreading the word about our library. Show your new digital player to your friends, family, and other groups you may belong to. We have plenty of players now and our selection of digital books grows daily.

Tell people this service is for **ANYONE** who can no longer read standard print whether it's due to loss of vision (not necessarily blind) or a disability that prevents them from holding a book or turning the pages. The library service can also be temporary; examples may include recovery from eye, hand, or arm surgery, or stroke survivor who is in physical therapy.

Call the library toll free at: 1-800-272-8570 and we will be happy to mail out an application or you may print an application from the library's website at: www.scccl.lib.mi.us/LBPH.aspx . Click on the link on the left side that says "How do I apply?"

IMPORTANT MAILING NOTICE

Please DO NOT use tape of any kind to secure books together to return to the library. We recently had three digital books returned that were trussed together like a Thanksgiving turkey with packing tape. Needless to say, we had a very difficult time getting all the tape residue off the mailing containers and also had to replace the barcodes that were destroyed.

If you want to bundle books together for mailing purposes please use rubber bands or string only. Thanks in advance for caring about our materials.

DESCRIBED NETWORK TV

Because of the “Communications and Video Accessibility Act of 2010” starting July 1st visually impaired viewers will be able to enjoy more primetime and/or children’s described TV shows. Some of the networks are creating logos and audio tones to indicate when a show has audio descriptions.

The top four networks (ABC, CBS, Fox, and NBC) plus the top five-rated cable networks (Disney, Nickelodeon, TBS, TNT, and USA) must provide 50 hours per quarter or four hours a week of shows that include narrations for the visually impaired to viewers who want them to be audible.

The new FCC rule will gradually expand the description obligations to other TV stations so that by July 1, 2015 descriptions will be broadcast on the major networks as well as the top 60 markets. The only programming that will not offer descriptions will be live shows and news because the time necessary to add the voice recordings.

Here are some of the shows you can look forward to enjoying:

ABC will offer Last Man Standing, The Middle, Suburgatory, Modern Family, Happy Endings and Don’t Trust the B---- in Apt. 23. In the fall they will include The Neighbors and Nashville.

CBS has been providing descriptions since 2002. Their lineup is CSI, Criminal Minds, NCIS, NCIS: Los Angeles, plus movies and miniseries.

Fox has not announced which shows will be described other than the Simpsons, which has had described audio for several years.

NBC shows will include Betty White reality show Off Their Rockers, Grimm, Saving Hope, The Office, Up All Night, and Parks and Recreation.

Library Ebook Accessibility Program

As computer technology advances your access to audio books improves. Many public libraries now offer books that you can borrow by downloading over the internet from their websites. Books offered in MP3 format will play on your NLS digital player. These books have various loan periods and at the end of that time the file will corrupt and be unreadable so the next user can download it.

Libraries that offer the OverDrive Book Download Service also have access to a new program called LEAP, the Library Ebook Accessibility Program. This program will allow print disabled users a one year free membership to Bookshare, which is another on line library. Call your local public library to find out if they offer these audio books.

If you live in St. Clair County you must have a public library card to access OverDrive and the Leap program. Even though the St. Clair County LBPH is provided by the St. Clair County Library System our service is separate from the public service and you will have to visit one of our 11 branches to set up a public library account. If you already have a public library card, call us or your local branch to find out more about to getting started with OverDrive.

LOW VISION SUPPORT GROUP

On August 16, 2012 the Blue Water League of the Blind invites you to join them for a river walk along the St. Clair River starting at the Blue Water Bridge. This event will be followed by an ice cream social at Grotto Hall. For more information contact Phyllis at 810-966-9185.

The BWL is looking for community participation. You do not need to be visually impaired to attend or help out at their functions. If you know anyone who is visually impaired and looking for camaraderie or something to do, contact the league president Gerald Clay at 810-329-0124.

MEDICARE AND YOU

The official handbook for the Medicare program is now available in accessible formats of Braille, large print, and audio. To request a copy call 1-800-633-4227.

2012 VOTE

Remember to make your vote count in the elections this year. The Michigan Primary Election was held on August 7th, 2012 and the General Election is November 6th 2012.

You will need to be registered to vote at least 30 days before the election. If you are over 65, are blind, or had your driving privileges terminated because of a physical disability you can get your state identification card free at your local Secretary of State office.

LIBRARY CLOSINGS

The LBPH will be closed the following days:

- Monday, September 3rd, for Labor Day.
- Monday, November 12th, for Veterans Day.
- Thursday and Friday, November 22nd and 23rd, for Thanksgiving.
- Monday and Tuesday, December 24th and 25th, for Christmas.
- Monday and Tuesday, December 31st and January 1st for New Years.

If you think you will run out of books, please call us a few days before the holiday to be sure we have time to get them into the mail for you.

DISCLAIMER

The LBPH does not endorse any companies, products or services referred to by this newsletter, nor does it validate any websites that may be mentioned. This information is offered as possible solutions for your needs, and it is up to you to research the topics given for accuracy.

St. Clair County LBPH
210 McMorran Blvd.
Port Huron, MI., 48060-4014

**FREE
MATTER FOR THE
BLIND OR
HANDICAPPED**

St. Clair County LBPH

Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped

SEND MAIL TO:



St. Clair County LBPH
210 McMorran Blvd.

Port Huron, MI 48060-4014

TO CALL US DIAL:



982-3600 Local Calls
1-800-272-8570 Toll Free

TO CALL THE TTY DIAL:



455-0200 Local Calls
1-866-462-2075 Toll Free



TO SEND US A FAX:

810-987-7326

SEND E-MAIL TO:

lbph@sccl.lib.mi.us



VISIT OUR WEB SITE AT:

www.sccl.lib.mi.us/LBPH.aspx

TO VISIT US:



Check in at Circ Desk

Please call ahead

Mon—Fri 8:30 am—5:00 pm