

## **DIGITAL BOOKS AND PLAYERS**

We are now sending out more digital books than cassette books every day. The current maximum number of books you can borrow in the digital format is 10. If you don't have that many books in rotation and would like more please call us to request more books be sent.

Our regional library in Lansing will be assisting us in sending your requested books. It's more important than ever now to be sure you are sending the correct cartridge back in the correct box to avoid any interruption in your digital service.

On October 21<sup>st</sup> NLS posted new software for the digital players, version 2.1.7. This update allows all conventional USB flash drives can be used to play books and includes a new user guide that covers the use of the bookshelf feature. You may download the update from the BARD website or call the library to borrow the update on our cartridge.

Some of you may have noticed there are two different colors of books and boxes. The only difference between a white cartridge sent in a blue box and a green cartridge sent in a grey box is ownership. White cartridges in blue boxes are owned by NLS and green cartridges in grey boxes are owned by the lending library.

Institutions may now borrow the new digital players and Talking Books. They are allowed to have up to two players, for demonstration or to let residents try out before signing them up for individual service. Institutions may now also sign up to use the BARD download site to help residents get their books. Libraries will be restricted to only being able to download a couple of books for demonstration purposes. Please contact the library if you want to take advantage of the new Digital Talking Books.

Please contact the library immediately if you find any stray cartridges that you don't have the box for. Chances are we have the empty box either here or at our regional library in Lansing. We will be happy to send you the empty box to be reunited with its book.

## VISIT OUR WEB SITE

The LBPH has an all new website. Please visit us at: [www.sccl.lib.mi.us/lbph.aspx](http://www.sccl.lib.mi.us/lbph.aspx) . We are happy to announce that you may now see or listen to this newsletter from our website. You may also let others know that if they would like to apply for library service there is a fill in PDF format application on the web site. Once the individual or institution has filled in their information just print it out and have it certified before sending it to us.

We hope you will find the information on the new web site useful. In the Collections section you will find links to BARD, Web Braille, NLS Voyager Catalog, and Sources for purchase of cartridges and cables, to name a few.

## BOOKTALKERS BOOK CLUB

The next selections for the book club are The Pumpkin Rollers by Elmer Kelton DB43160 and The Body in the Sleigh by Katherine Hall Page DB70790. The next meeting will be December 16<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 pm, at the Carriage House.

The book club is open to anyone who would like to join. Stop by the next meeting or call Mary at the library at 982-3600 for more information.

## BI-ANNUAL SURVEY

Please look for the short survey that is included in this issue of the newsletter. Your responses are important to us and let us know which areas we need to improve on and where we are providing good service to you.

**Quotable Quote:** “There is a wonder in reading Braille that the sighted will never know: to touch words and have them touch you back”, by Jim Fiebig.

## **DONATIONS**

The staff wishes to thank the following people for their generosity by sending donations to the library: Leigh Decker, Noreen and Eric Hinchon, Friends of the Library – St. Clair County Library, Kyle and Mari Lowe, Barbara Yuengert, Michael and Ilene Schechter in memory of Thomas Donohue, and in memory of William Lutz donations were made by James and Dorothy Meissner, Patricia Blocker, Eunice Lutz, Barbara Weil, and Paul Lutz.

Your donations were used to purchase additional digital cartridges and boxes so that we can add more books to the Talking Book collection that are normally only available as downloads from BARD.

If you would like to make a tax deductible donation to the library please note St. Clair County LBPH on the memo line of the check and send it to St. Clair County LBPH, 210 McMorran Blvd., Port Huron, MI 48060. When a gift is made in memory of someone it should include the name of person being honored and the name and address of the family member to be notified of the gift.

## **VOLUNTEERS OF VACAVILLE**

This non-profit organization began in 1960 between staff and inmates at the California Medical Facility. They are supported by Lions Club International. Today they provide audio and Braille transcription service as well as Perkins Braille Repair at economical prices to individuals, schools, and universities all over the U.S. Their standard price for Braille repair is 39.99 plus parts, shipping is free.

To get more information about the VOV go to their website at: [www.volunteersofvacaville.org](http://www.volunteersofvacaville.org) or call the program director Patrick Sahota at (707) 448-6841 ext. 2044.

## **IRS TAX HELP**

As the year comes to a close, the tax season will soon be upon us. In preparation of that time, here are some helpful tips for you. Visit the web site [www.irs.gov](http://www.irs.gov) and click on accessibility to get tax forms and publications in audio and Braille formats. These are also accessible to screen reading and voice recognition software and refreshable Braille displays. To place orders for forms and publications in Braille or large print by phone call 1-800-829-3676.

Publication 907, Tax Highlights for Persons with Disabilities, explains the tax implications of certain disability benefits and other issues.

People who are unable to complete their tax return because of a physical disability may get assistance from an IRS office or through the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance Program (VITA) by calling 1-800-906-9887.

## **AT THE REGIONAL LIBRARY**

In July the first digital issue of Michigan History magazine was sent from the regional library in Lansing. Remember this is just like our newsletter, before you will be sent the next issue, you **MUST** return the previous one you have. If you would like to receive this magazine call the LBPH at 1-800-272-8570 to request it.

Volunteer narrators are needed at the regional library in Lansing. If you, or someone you know is looking for a volunteer opportunity and has transportation to the library in Lansing, please give them a call at 1-800-992-9012 to get more information about being a narrator.

The regional library supplements our collection with their books because the collection is still small. Be sure to show your appreciation for their support by promptly returning all books with the correct cartridges in the correct boxes. Others may be waiting for something you have not returned yet.

## **BLIND VETERANS**

Serotek announced that in recognition of Veteran's Day this year it will kick off a new program on December 15, 2011 where all blind veterans will be offered a lifetime subscription to its popular System Access Mobil Network. For more information go to their website at: [www.serotek.com](http://www.serotek.com) or call 612-246-4818 ext. 104

## **HOLIDAY GREETINGS**

All of us here at LBPH, Barb, Beth, Linda and Mary want to wish each of you a happy holiday season and a wonderful new year. It's been a pleasure to help you with your reading selections. Always remember that if there is anything you want to change about the materials that are being sent to you all you have to do is call and we will be happy to assist any way we can.

## **LIBRARY CLOSINGS**

The LBPH will be closed the following days:

- Thursday and Friday, November 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup>, for Thanksgiving.
- Friday thru Monday, December 23<sup>rd</sup> to the 26<sup>th</sup>, for Christmas.
- Friday thru Monday, December 30<sup>th</sup> thru January 2, for New Year's.
- Monday, January 16<sup>th</sup>, for Martin Luther King, Jr. Day.
- Monday, February 20<sup>th</sup>, for President's Day.

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](mailto:lbph@sccl.lib.mi.us)



**VISIT OUR WEB SITE AT:**

[www.sccl.lib.mi.us/LBPH.aspx](http://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

# St. Clair County LBPH

## Library Service Survey 2011

It's time for the library to do our bi-annual survey about the service we provide to you. Your responses are important to us and let us know if we are providing the best service possible. If you are unable to use the print format to fill in the survey and would like to call the library, we will be happy to mark your answers on a blank form here at the library.

This is an anonymous survey, but if you have concerns or questions about the library service being provided to you please call the library at: **1-800-272-8570**. We can't fix something if we don't know that something is wrong.

Please take a few minutes to answer the following 15 questions. When you have completed marking your answers, simply fold this sheet so that the Library's return address is showing on the outside and tape it closed. No postage is necessary.

As always, it's a pleasure to serve you,

Barb, Beth, Linda, and Mary

# 2011 LBPH Patron Survey

1. How much time do you spend per week using our materials?

- less than 1 hour                       6-12 hours  
 1-3 hours                                 more than 12 hours  
 3-6 hours

2. What is your age group?

- 1-18                                         40-49                                         70-79  
 19-29                                        50-59                                        80-100  
 30-39                                        60-69                                        100+

3. Why do you use the LBPH service? Choose one.

- pleasure                       work                                         independence  
 school                                 other (specify)

4. Which materials do you use most?

- Braille                                         Cassettes                                         Digital Books  
 Magazines                                 Described Videos                                 Newspapers  
 Large Print Books

5. Do you receive the right amount of books?

- too many                                         too few  
 just right                                         not applicable

6. How often do you contact St. Clair County LBPH?

- daily                       weekly                                         monthly                                         never

7. How do you rate our service?

- excellent                       good                                         fair                                         poor

8. In what format do you prefer getting your newsletter on?

- Braille                                         Large Print                                         Cartridge  
 Email                                         Web site PDF file                                         Web site MP3 file  
 don't read the newsletter

\*\*\* Please call the library if you want to change the format that you are currently receiving.



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