

Talking Book News

News & Information from the Voices of Vision Talking Book Center

127 S. First St.

Geneva, IL 60134

800-227-0625

630-208-0398

email: vovinfo@dupagels.lib.il.us

website: <http://www.vovtbc.org>

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Newsletter Formats: If you would like to receive this newsletter in braille or audio, or by email, contact the Voices of Vision Talking Book Center. An Electronic Subscription Service which provides copies of each publication from all Talking Book Centers in Illinois is also available. Contact your Talking Book Center to learn how to subscribe.

Talking Book Center to Remain Open

The DuPage Library System (DLS) and the Illinois State Library (ISL) have signed an agreement to keep the Voices of Vision (VOV) Talking Book Center open in Fiscal Year 2011 (July 1, 2010 through June 30, 2011). The services will be funded with federal Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) grant funds administered by the State Library.

“I understand how important the Talking Book program is to our patrons,” said Secretary of State and State Librarian Jesse White. “I have spoken to patrons and heard their stories about how much the Talking Book program enriches their lives. For many patrons the Talking Book program is their link to the outside world. I am completely committed to the Talking Book program, and I am pleased that we will be able to keep Voices of Vision and our other Talking Book Centers open so that our print disabled patrons will continue to receive the materials they want and need.”

The Voices of Vision Talking Book Center was slated to close after July 2010 because it had not received 97% of its Fiscal Year 2010 grant, almost \$450,000, from the State of Illinois. The DLS Board of Directors held a special meeting on Wednesday, June 9, 2010, and voted to rescind plans to close the service and to accept the Fiscal Year 2011 funding proposal from the Illinois State Library.

“The DuPage Library System Board of Directors is proud of the important services that the VOV program provides and DLS has demonstrated a strong commitment to operating this program since 1992,” said Su Erickson, DLS Board President. “We are very pleased that Secretary White is providing the funds for the VOV Talking Book Center to remain open.”

The Voices of Vision program serves residents of 12 counties in northern Illinois who are unable to read print materials due to visual or physical impairments. VOV users are provided with talking books and other program materials and services, distributed postage-free via the United States Postal Service. The program is housed at and operated by the DuPage Library System (DLS) and funded through a contract with the Illinois State Library. For more information on Voices of Vision, visit <http://www.vovtbc.org>.

The DuPage Library System is one of the regional, multitype library systems in Illinois that support local library services. Organized in 1966 under the provisions of the 1965 Illinois Library System Act, the System consists of almost 140 members, including academic, public, school, and special libraries in portions of Cook, DuPage, Kane, Kendall, and Will Counties. For more information about the services and programs of the DuPage Library System, visit <http://www.dupagels.lib.il.us>.

Help us keep talking books circulating!

Take a few minutes to check over books currently on loan to you. The loan period for both cassette and digital books is 6 weeks. Returning books as you complete them helps to ensure that you will have a steady supply of books on hand.

Also, please remember to double check the mailing container for talking books, to be certain the correct book cartridge is enclosed.

Update

Digital Talking Book Transition

The Illinois State Library Network of Talking Book Centers' transition to the new talking book players is well underway! Close to 8000 talking book patrons have now borrowed the new talking book players. Reports are that the new machines are easier to use and have better sound quality. Digital books fit on one single cartridge. Patrons interested in receiving one of the new talking book players and book service should contact the Talking Book Center:

phone: 1-800-227-0625

email: vovinfo@dupagels.lib.il.us

New Statewide Newsletter

A new statewide newsletter is planned for all Illinois talking book and braille readers. You may have already received the first issue. It will take the place of the Voices of Vision "Talking Book News," and will be filled with news and information about the Talking Book and Braille program. It will continue to be available in a variety of formats, including large print, audio, braille, and via the statewide electronic subscription service.

Funding for this program was awarded by the Illinois State Library, a Department of the Office of Secretary of State, using funds provided by the U.S. Institute of Museum and Library Services, under the federal Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA).