

Free Talking Books

by Sarah Mahoney



What is a talking book? It is an audio book mailed for free to qualified users in both Muskegon and Ottawa Counties, by the Muskegon Area District Library for the Visually and Physically Disabled (LVPD). This completely FREE program is federally and state funded for those who cannot read regular print due to visual or physical disabilities. You qualify if you are legally blind, have a visual disability that stops you from reading standard print, have a physical disability that makes holding books and turning pages impossible, or an organic reading disability.

If you qualify, we send a digital player and talking books to your house for free through the U.S. Postal Service. The player is about the size of a hard cover book and has large colored buttons of different shapes. The players can charge from the wall via a cord or can be used with up to 29 hours of battery life. Patrons keep players for as long as needed or until a replacement is necessary.

For our talking books, the program has over 90,000 titles to choose from, including some of the newest titles, typically three to four months behind the commercial market. The book tapes are about the size of an index card and mailed individually in hard plastic cases. When you sign up, you tell us your author and genre preferences, which then help us select books for you. You can also call or email the librarian and request specific titles and authors. Then you select how often you would like to receive books. The default, called Send Return, sends out a book every time one is returned. You can also have them sent weekly, monthly, or just when you ask for them. Then when you are done, you simply flip the address card provided and stick the book in your mailbox to return.

With magazines and downloadable books via smart device apps as well, we offer a customizable way for anyone to enjoy reading. We want to make sure that we tailor our service to your needs so that you can have the most enjoyable experience possible. If you would like more information about the LVPD program, please contact us at 231-737-6310 or email the librarian at smahoney@madl.org. Please let us know if you or someone you know could qualify for this program. We work hard to embody the NLS motto, "That All May Read."

Give 'Em a Brake Safety Rides to the Rescue Again

by Jim Kauppila

Once again, our road closure signage is being provided by West Michigan's premier provider of road closure signage, Give 'Em a Brake Safety. As with past agreements, the signage is being provided at no charge, saving the Fruitport Lions Club over three thousand dollars. This money will be redirected toward our various community, state, and international projects. Give 'Em a Brake offers this option to us as a gesture of goodwill in this road construction season. They feel it may be the only time their signage is appreciated rather than scorned.

So, as you negotiate our soon-to-be-repaired roads and bridges, take some time, look at the signage, observe the name, Give 'Em a Brake. We can thank them for securing our event safely, keeping our festival goers directed and safe.

If you appreciate their service please consider adding a positive comment here:
www.gebsafety.com/contacts/

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