



The WILL Center

Monthly News Letter for April 2020

A Note from the Director

Welcome to our April 2020 newsletter

This is a difficult time. Most of us have never had to experience this kind of difficulty. It's clear that our best bet to protect each other is to stay separated.

Our best course of action is to listen to the experts, be prudent in our activities, and remember that helping others begins with self-care. We will get through this together.

This time is a good one to remember our civic duty.

Cast your vote.

Governor Holcomb pushed the primary election in Indiana from May back to June 2. I think it is a wise decision. Right now we do not know what will be the recommendation for social distancing on that date, so consider asking for an absentee ballot.

The link below includes the application for the ballot along with a list of each county clerk's office to which it must be mailed. You must send your application to the clerk's office in your county of residence. We have until May 21 to send in these applications.

If you need help, please call us.

Make your voice heard.

<https://www.in.gov/sos/elections/files/ABS-MAIL%20PRIMARY%202020.Form%2056929.3-25-20.pdf>

The Low Vision Program

We all need a little humor right now, right?

Do you know what you get when you make a shoe out of a banana? You get a slipper.

What happens when a Frog's car breaks down? It has to be toad.

What is my source for such humor? A smart device.

Perhaps you have heard about smart apartments or smart devices. There are a couple of tools you may consider adding to your living environment. Either the Google home or the Alexa. Each of the mentioned smart devices is not very smart without an internet connection or a smart phone, but they can be added for as low as \$40 for either of the devices in their small form.

The center does have both the "A Lady" and the Google device. One of our volunteers, Ryan Bailey, can spend some time with you and the devices in the near future at The WILL Center.

The smart devices can be a companion for gathering audio from a variety of resources including music, general facts, weather, and news and of course jokes. Be smarter with a smart device in 2020.

The National Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped "BARD APP

BARD Express" is a free downloadable Windows-based software application. It is designed to simplify searching for, downloading, and transferring audio titles from the BARD website to a cartridge or external USB flash drive for playback in a digital player.

BARD Express is available for use by eligible NLS patrons. You must be legally blind, physically disabled or experience barriers with traditional reading methods be eligible to receive this service.

The use of BARD Mobile app is restricted to eligible NLS patrons who have a BARD account. If you are not currently a patron of NLS, you will need to get signed up. If you are interested in the service you can contact us to see if you are eligible.

BARD Mobile will operate on any Android, iPhone, iPad, or iPod touch with iOS 4.3 or later. Connectivity from a wireless carrier or a Wi-Fi provider is required to download material from BARD.

The Independent Living Program

The 2020 Census

So it's April and we all want spring temperatures to visit. I know we are still staying home unless we have to get the essentials we need.

As you are staying home you will be getting your 2020 Census form.

This is how the government counts you. Government uses the collected data to design and fund programs and services.

When you receive the census but are not sure how to fill out the form we are here to help. It can be completed on the computer in less than 10 minutes.

There is a code in the paperwork. Enter this code in the computer and it recognizes you. Then simply answer the questions.

By completing the survey you will have helped keep those services in place.

Please call if you need any assistance.

Hope to hear from you soon.

Fraud and Scams

Older Americans lose roughly \$3 billion to fraud each year, the U.S. Senate Special Committee on Aging reported in 2019. Scammers from around the world tend to target older Americans in particular because they have wealth, tend to be trusting and may be less sophisticated about technology.

At times, it feels like chasing a ghost, you catch one and another pops up to takes it place. In this particular time, during the COVID-19 virus, scammers may call you and attempt to tell you that you can get your economic impact (stimulus check) payment faster. Do not fall for this scam as the IRS will never call, email or text you to solicit your personal information or get your

bank account information. You may see an email or a text message with a link or attachment in it. Do not open up the links or attachments. They can contain malware that allows these criminals to get access to your personal information. Please be aware that there are many of these scams lurking about.

If you suspect a scam, please report it to the Internal Revenue Service's website at [IRS.gov](https://www.irs.gov).

Community Happenings

Turn to the River

Turn to the River is a multi-year project to reconnect downtown Terre Haute with the Wabash River through public art and design. Turn to the River's development of the government campus was supported in part by an award from the National Endowment for the Arts with additional support from the Indiana Economic Development Corporation through the Wabash River Regional Development Authority.

The focus area of Turn to the River includes the 4-square block government campus that encompasses Terre Haute City Hall and Vigo County Courthouse. A designed walking promenade will lead people through this area and the city's parking lot to the river, where a city-owned property, "One Wabash," will be redesigned as a public green space with an overlook. The City Parking Lot is envisioned as a design safe green space, with a festival/gathering space that may accommodate Farmer's Market, Arts Festivals and other community happenings.

Denise Morgan from The WILL Center is working as a member of the committee to help review the designs with a special interest in ensuring that the project includes accessibility features built in.

Taylor Siefker Williams Design Group of Indianapolis recently completed the design development for the area that forms the central civic plaza. In summer 2019, Art Spaces began the search for an artist/artist team to design the central sculpture/fountain and plans to select an artist in early 2020. As of April 2020 the Selection Committee for the central sculpture/fountain is down to three artist/artist teams.

You can access the 2012-2014 Turn to the River Plan here:

<https://wabashvalleyartspacesblog.files.wordpress.com/2016/03/turn-to-the-river-plan-web-low-res.pdf>

Click here to view the 2015 Concept Booklet:

https://wabashvalleyartspacesblog.files.wordpress.com/2016/04/turn-to-the-river_ratio_final-low-res.pdf

Click here to view additional concepts for the “Civic Plaza” area:

https://wabashvalleyartspacesblog.files.wordpress.com/2016/03/city-plaza-final-booklet_small.pdf

The Youth Transition Program

ABLE Accounts

Have you ever wanted to save money while being on public benefits? Is the fear of losing those benefits due to increased savings what might be stopping you?

The answer for some may be an ABLE Account.

ABLE accounts, short for Achieving a Better Life Experience account, offer certain individuals with disabilities the opportunity to save money for qualified disability expenses without losing their eligibility for Medicaid and Social Security benefits. Accrued interest would receive tax advantages similar to that received by 529 accounts.

Eligible ABLE account beneficiaries are individuals who became disabled prior to age 26 and have been determined disabled by either Social Security criteria or qualifying certification.

Senate Enrolled Act No. 11, signed into law on March 21st, 2016, allows people with ABLE accounts to pay for qualified disability expenses, including:

- Assistive technology
- Education

- Employment training and support
- Healthcare
- Housing
- Transportation

In general, Medicaid and Social Security recipients cannot have more than \$2,000 in countable assets. This low limit serves as a barrier for people with disabilities who want to plan for the future. By allowing people to save for expenses, ABLE accounts foster greater independence and less reliance on government benefits.

ABLE accounts enable people to control their own money, allowing for increased personal responsibility and choice. The creation of an ABLE account is also expected to cost less than the creation of a pooled or special needs trust.

For more information visit:

<https://savewithable.com/in/home.html>

Phone: (888) 609-3457