



Keeping You “In the Know...” 7/12/19

A Note from Ohio Secretary of State Frank LaRose:

-CSC’s Executive Office received a note from Ohio Secretary of State Frank LaRose this week reflecting on the Secretary’s visit to the agency a few weeks ago and the work of the Call Center team. The letter reads:

Larry,

It was great meeting with you at the Cleveland Sight Center and learning more about the organization. The level of service provided by the employees is exceptional. I was particularly impressed when I listened in on one of the customer service calls and realized the complexity of the calls that come into the Sight Center. I look forward to coming back and learning more from the employees about the ways our customer support can continue to improve.

Yours in Service,

Frank LaRose

A handwritten message included read: “Thanks to you and your team for their great work!”

Strengthening Partnerships and Educating the Community:

-The Outreach Team had a busy week, giving a “Blindness Basics” training to staff members of the production company Bohemian Films who are writing and producing a film featuring a main character who is blind. The producer of the film then spent the rest of the week under blindfold. On Tuesday, Tom Sawyer represented CSC at the Ohio Library for the Blind

and Physically Disabled Annual Family Fun and Learning Day. The featured speaker was retired broadcaster and newsperson Dan Coughlin and CSC was the only vendor who received applause in the vendor introduction segment of the event. The Outreach Team attended the Medina County Senior Services Network meeting on Wednesday and closes out the week attending the ADA Cleveland meeting today in preparation of the ADA Day awareness event as part of the Wade Oval Wednesday evening festivities on July 17th.



A filmmaker, while blindfolded, works with Annette Jakse to bake cookies

-Cleveland Sight Center and the Outreach team will attend the upcoming ADA Day Resource Fair at University Circle's Wade Oval Wednesday event on Wednesday, July 17th. Stop by and check out the action! As part of the evening, there will be a concert by "The RockNRoll Chorus" A Capella group at 6:00 p.m. and the Disney movie "Ralph Breaks the Internet" will be shown at 9:00 p.m.

Join Us!



ADA DAY 2019

WEDNESDAY, JULY 17, 2019
WADE OVAL | UNIVERSITY CIRCLE
RESOURCE FAIR FROM 4 TO 7:30 PM

WOW! CONCERT AT 6 PM
DISNEY'S "RALPH BREAKS THE INTERNET" AT 9 PM
ADACLEVELAND.ORG | ADAINCLE@GMAIL.COM



Graphic of ADA Day 2019 information at Wade Oval Wednesday

-Teachers and school personnel are offered various opportunities to expand their knowledge regarding students who are blind or visually impaired throughout the year at Cleveland Sight Center. The 2019 "See What's Possible" workshop for educators, teachers and staff will be Friday, August 9, 2019. For program information, [click here](#).

-Cleveland Sight Center will be the host site for a Greater Cleveland Regional Transit Authority (RTA) Question and Answer Forum on Tuesday, September 17th. The forum will be from 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. and RTA representatives will be present to answer questions about Paratransit, fixed route buses, trains and other public transportation questions. Contact Scott Williams-Riseng (216-791-8118) with any questions.

-Cleveland Sight Center will be the featured agency at the City of Cleveland Department of Aging's Annual Disability Awareness Day in October. Stay tuned for more details as the Outreach team plans specifics with the Department of Aging on this community showcase event.

This Week at Highbrook Lodge:

-This week at Highbrook Lodge the staff is hosting the first-ever Outdoor Adventure Camp! Campers are spending the majority of their time deep in the Highbrook Forest. All programming is centered around nature and the great outdoors. For this 3-day/2-night session, campers are sleeping in tents and cooking most of their meals over the fire. Additional activities as part of this exciting program include heading out to a local park for canoeing, fishing and hiking.

-The team at Highbrook Lodge welcomes eight families with campers ages 0-10 who experience vision loss and blindness for Bright Futures Weekend. The theme for this sold-out camp is "Under the Sea" and each family will spend a night in one of the cabins while spending quality time with one another and meeting new friends. Activities will include yoga, arts and crafts, swimming and a pirate-themed scavenger hunt!

-Help Highbrook Lodge end their summer session with a bang by attending the End-of-Summer BBQ. This event will take place on Sunday, August 11th from 12:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. During this special event, Highbrook Lodge will provide delicious picnic foods, activities for 'campers' of all ages (including swimming), and an amazing atmosphere with incredible company. The cost is only \$5.00 per person, which can be paid at the Eyedea Shop. You can either make your own way up to Chardon or ride with Highbrook Lodge staff departing from Cleveland Sight Center. If you are riding with staff, plan to arrive at CSC by 10:30 a.m. and be prepared to be dropped back off at CSC at 4:00 p.m. To RSVP, call Jenny at 216-658-4596 or email jschaeffer@clevelandsightcenter.org.

What's Happening at CSC:

-CSC's Executive Committee of the Board of Trustees meets at CSC on Monday, July 15th.

-The Summer Youth Work Experience participants have wrapped up their final week at CSC. Today marks the conclusion of the program as they head home. This week, the group continued their work at local organizations and had the opportunity to participate in a Job Fair held at CSC. Thanks to CSC staff members Rosalie Daley, Marcia Houston, Kevin Krencisz, David Magyar, Susie Meles, Ali Thomas, Judith Weyburne and guests Courtney Byham (Hyland Software) and Richard Snyder for providing valuable time and feedback to the participants during these mock interviews. The participants also entertained during the ever-popular SYWE Talent Show held at CSC on Thursday afternoon. Talents ranged from composing and singing original songs, a cello performance and hula hoop performance!



Group photo of interviewers and interviewees in the 2019 SYWE Job Fair

-The ABCs Summer Day Camp for children ages 5 – 8 began this week in Children & Young Adult Services.

-The Career Exploration program begins Monday, July 22nd and is designed for the student 14 -16 years old who is blind or has low vision. Program aspects include:

- A career interest survey
- Determination of strengths and needs
- Job shadowing

- Tours of Cleveland-area businesses
- Discussions and presentation from employers
- Learning work-related “soft skills”

Disclosure of disability to a potential employer, time and money managements, problem solving on the job and workplace ethics and behavior are also covered. This is a “career exploration” option through Bureau of Services for the Visually Impaired (BSVI) of Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities (OOD).

Click [here](#) for more program information.

Eyedeas Shop's Product of the Week: Fun and Games!

-Summer is the time for fun and games. The kids are out of school and looking for "stuff" to do indoors and out. The Eyedeas Shop carries basketballs and soccer balls with bells to aid a visually impaired player "locate" the ball. Even if you're not visually impaired they are fun to play with! On the rainy days, games for inside are available as another option to keep 'em "busy". The store has Tic-Tac-Toe, dominoes, bingo boards, dice and even Uno. If cards are their thing, the Eyedeas Shop carries Pinochle and straight deck playing cards. Keep them sharp while school's out with games like Chess and Scrabble. Call the Eyedeas Shop (216-791-8118) for pricing or just stop in to check out the fun!



A variety of balls and games on display in the Eyedea Shop

Items of Note:

-As you may know, it is the responsibility of the Ohio Legislature to create and pass a budget for State of Ohio business. It is the responsibility of the Ohio Governor to veto or sign a budget once it's passed.

The state's fiscal year begins July 1st and the budget runs for two years.

Unfortunately the legislature was unable to pass a budget by the July 1st deadline this year, but they did pass a temporary budget extension (and the governor signed it) to keep the government running through July 17th. If they aren't able to get it done by the 17th, it's possible they extend a temporary budget for more time.

CSC's major funders, OOD (Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities) and various customers of the Call Center, have informed us to keep working on their behalf. That is, the lack of a 2-year budget at this point will not affect our revenue sources (and thus our staff and clients). We are following their instructions and continuing business as usual.

CSC remains in frequent contact with our advisers in Columbus and several elected officials in the last few days. We are optimistic this will be resolved soon. In the meantime, we keep working as usual.

-The Cleveland Scrappers are a blind and visually impaired baseball team that competes all around the United States against other blind and visually impaired baseball teams. They are hosting a fundraiser on Saturday, July 13th and will be playing a game against members of The Greater Cleveland Senior Softball League. The game is at 2:00 p.m. at 21410 Lunn Road in Strongsville, across from Volunteer Park. No admission will be charged to this game but donations are welcome. Drinks and snacks will be sold and a raffle will be held with all proceeds going to The Cleveland Scrappers team. For more information, contact Cathy Javorsky (216-791-8118).