



THE MAYOR'S OFFICE ON AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES

ADDRESSING CITIZENS' CONCERNS

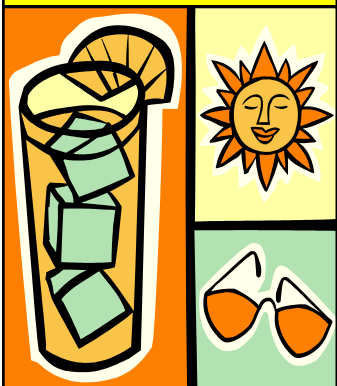
VOLUME 8 ISSUE 3 JULY 2012

City of Birmingham: An Equal Opportunity Employer

Inside This Issue:

2012 Extraordinary Arts for Extraordinary Kids	2
Birmingham to Honor Individuals and Businesses for ADA Awareness	2
Lakeshore Summer Activities for Children with Disabilities	3
News You Can Use: Senior Citizens and Disability Property Tax Exemptions	4

Summer Time Fun



The City of Birmingham is an "equal opportunity employer" and continues to encourage persons with disabilities. This is done by offering every opportunity to enter the job market to utilize their educational skills, abilities, and talents through reasonable accommodations.

On May 2012 City Hall hired one of its newest employees to the Finance Department. Through hard work, perseverance, and education, Ricky Walker is now being

trained to handle his new responsibilities in payroll.

Mr. Walker was born with cerebral Palsy, which is a deficiency or loss of motor control throughout the muscles in the body. He uses a wheelchair for his main mode of mobility but can also use crutches to walk short distances. Despite this disability, Rickey succeeded in attaining a degree in finance from the University of Montevallo where he has acquired the skills necessary for his new position.

Because of his physical limitations, it was assumed that a modified workspace would be necessary to complete day-to-day tasks. After he met with ADA staff and city workers it was found that very few modifications had to be made to his work area. When asked about this, his comment was, "All that stuff was nice but pretty unnecessary." The only piece of adaptive equipment he uses is a keyboard he brought from home that's set up for a left handed person with the number pad located to the left. "I didn't want to stick out like a sore thumb, besides, this is all I really needed" he said.

Before ending the interview he was asked about his expectations now that he's finally working in his chosen profession. Without hesitation he responded by saying, "The people are really nice and I love what I'm doing. I hope to retire from here."

The City of Birmingham is an equal opportunity employer. Applicants are encouraged to apply through the Jefferson County's Office of Personnel, 2121 8th Avenue North.

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Addressing Citizens' Concerns

2012 Extraordinary Arts



With help from a number of Birmingham organizations, the Mayor's Office on ADA will host its third **"Extraordinary Arts for Extraordinary Kids"** **July 14, 2012 in Linn Park**. This event offers children with disabilities an opportunity to participate in an adaptive art experiences and show off their artistic abilities. Birmingham Museum will again offer two tours and a number of art instructors will volunteer their time to show participants a few instructional tips that can be applied to their own individual projects. In addition to volunteer teachers, other volunteers will be on hand to accommodate any additional

needs of the participants to ensure a fun filled educational event. The success of the past Extraordinary Arts for Extraordinary Kids events not only enriched the lives of everyone who attended, but also ensured the inclusion of children with disabilities and the opportunity to participate and enjoy an event with children of all disabilities as well as children who are not disabled. The art day brings out the artistic talents in all participants and shows that there are activities that everyone can excel. The Mayor's Office on Americans with Disabilities want to extend special thanks to the Birmingham Zoo, the Birmingham Fire and Birmingham Police Departments, the Birmingham Museums of Art as well as other community organizations for their participation in making the Extraordinary Arts Program such a success. The event is free and open to the public.

For more information, or to **sign up a child with a disability to participate, please call Cynthia Murphy at ADRS: (205) 290-4585**

Birmingham to Honor Individuals and Businesses for ADA Awareness

The Mayor's Office on American's with Disabilities is continuing its mission to promote equality, accessibility, and independence for persons who live in, or visit, the City of Birmingham by presenting the bi-annual **Access-Ability Awards**.

"Above and Beyond" Business Accessibility Award is presented to a business that has gone above and beyond what the law requires in accommodating patrons with special needs. Eligible businesses must be within the corporate limits of Birmingham.

Miriam Witherspoon Service Award, honors the legacy of the late councilwoman who was a dedicated advocate for people with disabilities. If you know a deserving individual who is committed to improving the lives of persons with disabilities through advocacy, services that enable and improve the lives of disabled citizens and their families, please submit their name along with why they should receive this honor. Nominations are open to individual that lives or works in Birmingham.

To nominate an individual or business, please send nominations to:

linda.coleman@birminghamal.gov or
Linda Coleman, ADA Compliance Administrator

Lakeshore Summer Activities for Children with Disabilities

Summer time is here and the kids are out of school for a long awaited school vacations. Instead of sitting at home playing video games, a lot of kids will be attending summer camps that are chalked full of activities that will keep them occupied, stimulated, and physically active.

Sadly enough, not all of these programs are prepared to meet the needs of kids with disabilities. The Lakeshore Foundation has a lined up a number of programs that address this issue.



The offered camps are:



Camp Strive

This residential camp begins on **June 22 – 24** and will be a weekend of activities such as swimming, adaptive water skiing, fishing, and other exciting activities. However, families will be responsible for transportation to and from the camp-site.

Camp Jaws

This camp starts on **July 16 – 19** and is actually geared toward amputees and wheelchair users, however, any youth with an ambulatory disability can participate. Participants will be introduced to Paralympics sports including swimming, wheelchair basketball, sitting volleyball, track & field, and tennis. Higher level athletes will help to serve as instructors and mentors for each sport.



Inclusion Camp

This camp starts on **July 23 – 26** and is designed for physically disabled youth along with their siblings and friends. The campers will be grouped by age and will participate in activities that focus on recreation, sports, and fitness. In order to participate, hopeful campers must be able to function on their own in a group setting.

With all of these great events taking place, this summer should be fun for every kid for miles around.

For more information about the Lakeshore Summer Camps, please contact Emily Mallard by phone at: (205) 313-7467 or by email at: emilym@lakeshore.org.

We are on the web!

**Mayor's Office On
American with Disabilities**

How to contact us:

Linda Coleman, ADA Director

E-mail: linda.coleman@birminghamal.gov

Phone: 205-254-2079

Rudy Roussel, Jr., ADA Project Coordinator

E-mail: rudy.roussel@birminghamal.gov

Phone: 205- 297-8013

Bacarra Mauldin, Administrative Assistant to the Mayor

E-mail: bacarra.mauldin@birminghamal.gov

Phone: 205-714-8683

Fax: 205-254-2926

www.birminghamal.gov

**The ADA Committee meets every
Second Friday, 10:00 AM 2nd Floor
City Hall Rm. 215**



ADA Advisory Committee

Chair – John Duplessis—SSTE Employment Program

Vice Chair - Lorne Kelly—MAX Transit (VIP Para transit)

Secretary– Vacant

Committee Members

Xaveria Anderson - Ms. Wheelchair Alabama 2007

Trisston Burrows - Ms. Wheelchair America/Alabama 2005

Twanna Carter -VA Medical Center

Dan Kessler, Director- Disability Rights and Resources

Charles Priest - Director, Alabama Head Injury Foundation

Alice Sanders -United Cerebral Palsy

Graham Sisson– Governor's Office on Disabilities (GOOD)

Yolanda Spencer- Alabama Department of Rehab Services

Myra Shamburger- Alabama Department of Rehab Services

Maria Lyas-Young - Birmingham City Schools

Peggy Turner – The Lakeshore Foundation

News You Can Use: Senior Citizens and Disability Property Tax Exemptions



If you are age 65 or older, or disabled you are eligible for a property tax exemption from Jefferson County. The exemption is not automatic and individuals must file for the exemption. To apply you must bring proof of age (birth certificate or drivers license) and the most recent Federal and State income tax returns to the Tax Assessor's office between October 1 and December 31 to be eligible for exemption on the next years tax. You must own and occupy a single family residence and you must be 65 years of age or considered disabled as of October 1. To apply for the disability exemption, 2 proofs of disability will be required, (letter from doctor, social security, or company disability letter stating the individual in question is totally and permanently disabled). Total or partial exemption is based on income.

Anyone over age 65 years of age will be entitled to exemption on the state's portion of property tax. This exemption must be claimed in advance. The current tax bill will still need to be paid since property tax is paid in arrears.

NOTE: The exemption must be renewed annually but this could mean a savings of hundreds of dollars to you each year.