



THE MAYOR'S OFFICE ON AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES

ADDRESSING CITIZENS' CONCERNS

VOLUME 8 ISSUE 2 MARCH 2012

2012 Job Fair "Which Path Will You Take"



This year the Mayor's Office on Americans with Disabilities partnered with the Alabama Department of Rehabilitation Services, (ADRS) which has a mission dedicated to helping individuals with disabilities. On Thursday, March 8 at Shades Mountain Baptist Church in Vestavia ADRS sponsored a career fair, "Which Path Will You Take," which introduced students to number of various professions along with the opportunity to meet the professionals that work in specific career fields. Some of the fields represented included professions such as Healthcare, Construction, Social Work, Web Design, Marketing/ Public Relations, and that's just to name a few. The City of Birmingham was well represented by employees from the city's Police, Fire, Law, Auto Mechanics, a division of Equipment Management, Accounting departments, the city's Horticulture a division of the Public Works Departments as well as the City's 3.1.1 Call Center. Because "Which Path Will You Take" was interactive, the event allowed the attending students to meet with professionals working in their prospective fields. For many of the students looking to enter the workforce, four years of college may not be an option. The city's participation in hands on educational events through partnerships shows young students with disabilities that they have many options, some requiring some formal training while others are entry level on the job positions. The City of Birmingham, Mayor's Office on Americans with Disabilities will continue to seek community partnerships to expand opportunities for persons with disabilities of all ages.

To find out more information on the careers and opportunities offered at the career fair, please contact: Myra Shamburger at (205) 290-4513 or by email myra.shamburger@rehab.alabama.gov.

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Spring Time Is Here



Addressing Citizens' Concerns

Red Cross Disaster Preparedness Kits

The first step to being Red Cross ready is to get a disaster preparedness kit.

At a minimum, have the basic supplies listed below. Keep supplies in an easy-to-carry emergency preparedness kit that you can use at home or take with you in case you must evacuate.

- Water-one gallon per person, per day (3-day supply for evacuation, 2-week supply for home)
- Food-non-perishable, easy-to-prepare items (3-day supply for evacuation, 2-week supply for home)
- Flashlight
- Battery-powered or hand-crank radio (NOAAWeather Radio, if possible)
- Extra batteries
- First aid kit
- Medications (7-day supply) and medical items
- Cell phone with chargers
- Family and emergency contact information
- Extra cash
- Emergency blanket



**American
Red Cross**

Be Red Cross Ready Checklist

- I know what emergencies or disasters are most likely to occur in my community.
- I have a family disaster plan and have practiced it.
- I have an emergency preparedness kit.
- At least one member of my household is trained in first aid and CPR/AED.
- I have taken action to help my community prepare.

Emergency Contact Cards for All Household Members

- Print one card for each family member.
- Write the contact information for each household member, such as work, school and cell phone numbers.
- Fold the card so it fits in your pocket, wallet or purse.
- Carry the card with you so it is available in the event of a disaster or other emergency.

For more information on disaster and emergency preparedness, visit RedCross.org.

VSA Arts Hosts "All Kids Can CREATE"

Since 1984, VSA of Alabama has been best known for helping the disabled community through art. One of their more notable programs is, "Art Partners," a program that provides people living with a disability or a chronic illness the chance to develop relationships with artists in the community while painting to create collaborative masterpieces. Another program of VSA's is, "Creativity." This program gives disabled adults over the age of eighteen the opportunity to showcase their artistic excellence and to participate in a juried exhibition. A selection of pieces from the exhibit is chosen each year to be included in VSA Alabama's Traveling Exhibit, which tours to select venues across the state.



VSA of Alabama is now calling on school teachers to designate time to focus on art in their classrooms. VSA's new program, "All Kids Can CREATE" is giving teachers the chance of winning a cash prize for use in their classroom while the student's have a chance to have their art displayed. Up to four teachers will receive \$1,500 each, based on the number of class or school submissions and the number of submissions from students with disabilities.

The age of the artists/students is 5 – 15 and the theme of the artwork to be submitted is, "what inspired me?" Again, the student's have a chance for their artwork to be featured on an online gallery and considered for display in a national online exhibition. For more information, please contact Sarah Margaret Wade, Art Therapist & Program Coordinator at, 205.307.6300 ext.15 or by email at sarahmargaret@vsaalabama.org.

2012 Birmingham Fishing Rodeo

Saturday, June 2, 2012, the Birmingham Parks and Recreation Department will host its "15th Annual Fishing Rodeo" at East Lake Park. Since 1997, this event has brought together anglers from all across central Alabama and other counties for a day of fun and fishing, which is free and open to the public. There are many other reasons that people attend this amazingly fun event, but the accessibility of East Lake Park and the lake are defiantly reasons for the huge crowds of all ages.

The lake will be fully stocked with a variety of fish so that the chance of you landing the big one will be greatly increased. In addition, staff will be on hand in case help is needed for minor issues, such as removing your big catch from the line, tying on a new hook, and who knows, they may even help put a worm on your hook. Don't forget to register, there will be drawings door prizes, and other giveaways for those who register at the sign in table.

Mark your calendar to attend the 15th Annual City of Birmingham Fishing Rodeo will be held at East Lake Park, which is located at 84th St. N. and 1st Ave. N. and will The fishing rodeo will start at 7:00am until 1:00pm.

For any additional information, call Stanley Robinson at (205) 254-2391, or by email: stanley.robinson@birminghamal.gov.

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

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Phone: 205- 297-8013

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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

Trisstun Burrows - Ms. Wheelchair America/Alabama 2005

Evon Black – Alabama Department of Rehab Services

Twanna Carter-VA Medical Center

Tina K. Hughes – Chronic Illness Advocacy

Dan Kessler-Director, Independent Living Resources, Birmingham

Charles Priest - Director, Alabama Head Injury Foundation

Alice Sanders-United Cerebral Palsy

Graham Sisson- ADA State Coordinator, Alabama Rehabilitation

Peggy Turner – The Lakeshore Foundation

City of Birmingham to Honor Individuals and Businesses for ADA Advocacy and 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**.

"The Above and Beyond" Business Accessibility Award is for a business in the City of Birmingham, who has gone above and beyond what the law requires in accommodating patrons with special needs. Eligible businesses must be within the City of Birmingham.

The Miriam Witherspoon Service Award. To honor the legacy of the Late City Councilor, the City of Birmingham would like to honor an individual for outstanding service and advocacy on the behalf of disabled citizens and their families. Nominated individuals must live or work within the City of Birmingham.

To nominate an individual or business, please send a letter of nomination to:

Linda Coleman, ADA Compliance Administrator

Birmingham City Hall

710 North 20th Street

Birmingham, Alabama 35203

The deadline for nominations is Friday, June 29th at 4:00pm.

www.birminghamal.gov