



THE MAYOR'S OFFICE ON AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES

ADDRESSING CITIZENS' CONCERNS

## Birmingham & AARP Alabama seek Age-Friendly



Well-designed, livable communities promote health and sustain economic growth, and make for happier, healthier residents — of all ages. The AARP Network of Age-Friendly Communities is an affiliate of the World Health Organization's Age-Friendly Cities and Communities Program, an international effort launched in 2006 to help cities prepare for rapid population aging and the parallel trend of urbanization. The program has participating communities in more than 20 nations, as well as 10 affiliates representing more than 1,000 communities. The City of Birmingham's Mayor and Council President have joined in an effort to create an 'Age Friendly City' in partnership with the city's 23 communities and 99 neighborhoods.

The Mayor has charged the city's Americans with Disabilities Compliance Office to work with AARP and neighborhoods throughout Birmingham to help identify quality of life amenities that will help make Birmingham a more age-friendly city. As the U.S. population ages and people stay healthy and active longer, communities must adapt. Birmingham's communities and population are diverse; each with unique needs and we need you to help us tell your story.

There are eight areas or domains that a neighborhood or community must meet in order to be designated as "Age-Friendly": Civic participation and Employment, Social Participation, Respect and Inclusion, Community Support and Health Services, Housing, Transportation, Outdoor Spaces and Buildings, and Communication and Information. The AARP Network of Age-Friendly Communities helps participating communities become great places for all ages by adopting such features as safe, walkable streets; better housing and transportation options; access to key services; and opportunities for residents to participate in community activities.

Representatives from AARP and the city have already begun scheduling to come to neighborhood meetings

to make presentations on how your neighborhood can become 'Age-Friendly.' For more information or to schedule a presentation for your neighborhood, call or email Linda Coleman-Madison, 254-2079 or [linda.coleman@birminghamal.gov](mailto:linda.coleman@birminghamal.gov).

### INSIDE STORIES

- Accessible Parking lot & ramp at Regions 2
- City of Birmingham becoming more accessible 3
- Full life ahead family weekends 3
- Scholarships for students with disabilities 4

*Enjoy Your Summer!*



## NEW ACCESSIBLE PARKING LOT AND RAMP NOW OPEN AT REGIONS

Several recently completed improvements to facilities at Regions Center in downtown Birmingham have made the bank's headquarters more easily accessible for people with disabilities.

A parking lot at the corner of 5th Avenue North and 19th Street North (next to Subway and Chick-fil-A just across 5th Avenue from Regions) has been redesigned and resurfaced to create 19 accessible parking spaces that better accommodate Regions customers' and bank employees with disabilities. New curb cuts allow easier access from the parking lot to adjacent sidewalks and crosswalks.

A new ramp, 70 feet long, has been added to the 5th Avenue side of Regions Center, allowing easy access from the sidewalk level to the building's main lobby level.

Doors that open automatically with the push of a button have been added to entrances on three sides of the bank's main lobby level, all accessed by the new ramp.

"Getting these improvements completed is part of Regions Bank's ongoing commitment to making life better for people with disabilities," said Kathy Lovell, Regions Americans with Disabilities Act Manager. "We want all of our customers, including those with disabilities, to be able to conduct their banking independently and with ease, and we want our co-workers with disabilities to be able to get to and from work without any barriers as well."

Redesigning the parking lot and adding the ramp and automatic doors was a cooperative effort involving Regions, the City of Birmingham, a local architect and building contractor, and other entities.



*A new ramp has been added to the 5th Avenue side of Regions Center in downtown Birmingham.*

## CITY OF BIRMINGHAM BECOMING MORE ACCESSIBLE



### Disability and accessibility

The Jefferson County EMA (Emergency Management Agency) is housed in Birmingham City Hall as well as the city's E-911. These offices operate and are staffed 24/7 to insure immediate response to disaster alerts and citizens emergencies. Both agencies also employ a number of persons full time, some with disabilities. For many years there has been a barrier to expanding opportunities for persons with mobility disabilities because the area is accessed by stairs.

The City of Birmingham has proactively worked over the years to remove this barrier by installing an elevator to this area to allow additional access without the barrier.

"We are really excited about getting the elevator in and being ADA compliance. People who are mobility challenged will be forwarded the opportunity to apply and work for us at the City of Birmingham's 911 call center," says 911 Director Greg Silas. The expected completion date is July 22, 2016.

## FULL LIFE AHEAD FAMILY WEEKENDS

The Full Life Ahead Foundation loves taking families with teens and young adults who have disabilities on Family Weekends also known as CAMP! It is a special mix of fun, learning and sharing. To maximize time during the weekend we have one agenda for teens, one for young adults and separate educational sessions for the parents. Each camp is designed specifically for families that are attending. So each Family Weekend is different! Cost for the entire Family Weekend is

\$30 per person and includes private cabin, meals, programs, and activities. Upcoming

Camp Dates are as follows:

June 10-12, 2016

November 11-13, 2016

February 2017 **TBD**

To find out more and to register visit our website at [www.FullLifeAhead.org](http://www.FullLifeAhead.org), call 439-6534 or email [TammyMoore@FullLifeAhead.org](mailto:TammyMoore@FullLifeAhead.org).



## How to contact us:

Linda Coleman-Madison,  
ADA Director

Phone: 205-254-2079

E-mail:

[linda.coleman@birminghamal.gov](mailto:linda.coleman@birminghamal.gov)

LaQuita Cade, ADA Adm. Asst.

[laquita.cade@birminghamal.gov](mailto:laquita.cade@birminghamal.gov)

205-714-8683

Fax 205-297-8303

ADA Advisory meets bi-monthly  
second Friday  
10:00 AM 2nd Floor, City Hall



Working to Open Doors to

Accessible City Services

## ADA Advisory Committee

**Chair** – John Duplessis— SSTE Employment Program

Wendy Hicks– VA Medical Center

Lorine Kelly—MAX Transit (VIP Para transit)

Dan Kessler, Director- Disability Rights and Resources

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

Greg Silas, Emergency 911

Kathy Lovell- ADA Disability Manager, Regions Bank

Michelle Belcher – Manager Liz Low Vision Center

## SCHOLARSHIPS FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES



Apply Today! Thanks to a generous contribution from NBC Universal, the American Association of People with Disabilities (AAPD) is proud offer eight (8) NBC Universal Tony Coelho Media Scholarships in 2016.

The NBC Universal Tony Coelho Media Scholarship is available to 2nd year associate students; undergraduate sophomores, juniors, and seniors; and graduate students with disabilities with an interest in the entertainment, media, or communications industries. Each recipient will receive \$5,625 to help cover the cost of education at their college or university.

This scholarship has been named in honor of Tony Coelho, a former United States Representative from California and the primary author and sponsor of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).

For more information please visit the AAPD website at [www.aapd.com](http://www.aapd.com).