



## MAYOR'S ALLIANCE FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES NEWSLETTER • APRIL 2002

### Accessibility Meeting to Host Accessible Housing Speakers

The next Accessibility Committee Meeting will be held on Wednesday, April 17th, 2pm at the Sandy Freeman Tennis Center on Davis Island. Featured speakers will be Ginny Fontenot, of the Center for Women, discussing the SHIP (Senior Home Improvement Program) and Mike Schaeffer, State Housing Coordinator for FFAST, discussing accessible housing renovations and sources of grant monies for agencies. For more information contact Co-Chairmen Norman Mallory at 988-4985 or Ben Ritter at 935-6540

### Wheelchairs for Beachgoers in Pinellas

Beach wheelchairs will soon will be available at Fort De Soto Park and Fred Howard Park in Tarpon Springs. The wheelchairs are about the same size of a standard wheelchair but are slightly heavier. They have mesh seats and wheels similar to an all-terrain vehicle. These wheels make them more durable and easier to roll over the sand. The chairs are not motorized and users must wheel themselves or have someone to push them.

### Airport Check-in Tips

Screener checkpoints: Individuals assisting passengers with disabilities are allowed beyond the screener checkpoints. These individuals may be required to present themselves at the airlines' check-in desk and receive a "pass" allowing them to go through the screener checkpoint. Ticketed passengers with their own oxygen for use on the ground are allowed beyond the screener checkpoints with their oxygen canisters once the canis-

ters have been thoroughly inspected. The limit of one carry-on bag and one personal bag (e.g., purse or briefcase) for each traveler does not apply to medical supplies and/or assistive devices. Passengers with disabilities generally may carry medical equipment, medications, and assistive devices on board the aircraft. All persons allowed beyond the screener checkpoints may be searched. This will usually be done through the use of a hand-held metal detector, whenever possible. Passengers may also be patted down during security screenings, and this is even more likely if the passenger uses a wheelchair and is unable to stand up. Service animals, once inspected to ensure prohibited items are not concealed, are permitted on board an aircraft. Any backpack or sidepack that is carried on the animal will be manually inspected or put through the X-ray machines. The service animal's halter may also be removed for inspection. Assistive devices such as walking canes, once inspected to ensure prohibited items are not concealed, are permitted on board an aircraft. Assistive devices such as augmentative communication devices and Braille 'N Speaks will go through the same sort of security screening process as used for personal computers. Syringes are permitted on board an aircraft once it is determined that the person has a documented medical need for the syringe. Personal wheelchairs and battery-powered scooters may still

be used to reach departure gates after they are inspected to ensure that they do not present a security risk. Any backpack or sidepack that is carried on the wheelchair will be manually inspected or put through the X-ray machines. Personal wheelchairs will still be allowed to be stowed on board an aircraft. Air carriers must ensure that qualified individuals with a disability, including those with vision or hearing impairments, have timely access to information, such as new security measures, the carriers provide to other passengers.

### Training for Certified Deaf Interpreters Available

The Deaf Services Center of Pasco-Hernando Counties is offering training workshop for people who want to take the test to become Certified Deaf Interpreters (CDI). The workshop will take place at the Tampa Westshore Crowne Plaza, May 17-19 and will meet the requirements of the Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf, Inc. (RID). This training is required before taking the written part of the test, for more information call 727-816-1314.

### Grassroots Forum for People with Disabilities

Florida Grassroots Forum 2002: Power through participation: No More Excuses! Will be held at the Rosen Centre Hotel, 9840 International Drive in Orlando, June 10 - 12. The forum is a statewide conference where individuals with disabilities will gather to network and learn new skills on how to make a meaningful difference at the local, state and national level. Now is the time for Floridians with disabilities to form a united front. For more information call Fredrico Abreu at 813-975-6560.

### Mayor's Alliance Board Meeting

3rd Wednesday every month at 1:00 p.m.  
Sandy Freedman Tennis Club  
Davis Island

## Dates to Remember

2nd Monday every month - 7pm

### The Mayor's Hour

Live cable telecast on CH-15 Time-Warner in Tampa and Hillsborough County and CH-17 on Adelphia cable. Your chance to ask Mayor Greco a question or express your concern, live in the studio or by phone. To call in a question to the Mayor call 274-8328. To be part of the studio audience call Mindy Snyder at 274-7033. Repeats on Sundays pm, Mondays at 7pm and Fridays at 3pm.

1st Monday every month - 3pm

### Employment & Job Fair Committee Meeting

Corporate Square, 7402 N. 56th Street, Building 800, Suite 850. For more information, call Cindy Stephens at 984-6840.

3rd Wednesday every month - 2pm

### Accessibility Committee Meeting

Sandy Freedman Tennis Complex 59 Columbus Drive, Davis Islands

3rd Tuesday every month - 2pm

### Florida Council for the Blind, Greater Tampa Chapter

USF Westside Conference tn. Section B

3rd Tuesday every month - 6:30pm

### Tampa Self Help for Hard of Hearing People (SHHH) Group

Jefferson High School

4th Wednesday every month - 2pm

### County Alliance Meeting

Tampa Lighthouse for The Blind, 1106 W. Platt St. For more information call Elizabeth Mueller at 273-3625 or Debra Guest at 558-5557.

3rd Thursday every 3rd month - 2pm

(next meeting 4/19)

### HARTLINE ADA Consumer Forum

Hartline Offices, 4305 E. 21st Ave. For more information contact Lauren Skiver at HARTLINE 623-5835, ext.1171.

## Get Involved! Join the Alliance Board!

For more information call 254-1111.

### Support Groups

City of Tampa Office of Human Rights .....	274-5835
Hillsborough County Information Line .....	272-5900
Self-Reliance Cross Disability Support Group .....	975-6560
Family Network on Disabilities .....	1-800-825-5736 Jan Labell
VA Spinal Cord .....	972-2000 ext. 7886 Karen McGoff
Brain and Head Injury Support .....	908-1375 Bob Barrett
Multiple Sclerosis Self Help Group .....	800-FIGHTMS
Statewide Advocacy Network on Disabilities, Inc. (STAND) Offering education and resource services to persons with disabilities .....	258-5700 Patricia Miller
Florida Alliance for Assistive Services and Technology (FAAST) Learn about assistive technology .....	844-7591
Spinal Cord Injury Unit, Tampa General Hospital .....	844-4286
Amputees Together .....	870-3323
Paralyzed Veterans of America (PVA) .....	935-6540 Ben Ritter
All People's Life Center 6105 East Sligh Avenue (east of 56th St.) Fully accessible recreation center .....	903-2248 Al Orr
Tampa Bay Polio Survivors Support Group .....	779-8158 Lonnie Hazelwood, President

### Officers & Committee Chairpersons

Chairperson: Norman Mallory .....	988-4985
Treasurer: Connie Hayden-McPeak .....	276-5555
Secretary: Kelly Hickman .....	974-8927
Past Chairperson: Chuck Porter .....	276-2029 ext. 7659
Advocacy and Accessibility Co-chairpersons: Norman Mallory .....	988-4985
Ben Ritter .....	935-6540
Employment Committee Chairperson: Cindy Stephens .....	984-6840
Awareness Committee Chairperson: Chuck Porter .....	276-2029 ext. 6140
Mayor's Representative: Herb Gold .....	254-1111



**MAYOR'S ALLIANCE**  
FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

DICK A. GRECO, MAYOR  
City Hall 8N • Tampa, FL 33601

The Alliance thanks  
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for printing this newsletter.