



MAYOR'S ALLIANCE FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES NEWSLETTER • FEBRUARY 2002

HART Board Chooses Rail Line

After a series of six public hearings, evaluation of potential impact and broad public comments the HART-LINE board selected a Local Preferred Alternative (LPA) to introduce a new rail service to the Tampa-Hillsborough Community. The rail line will run 20 miles and will serve the communities in the USF and University North areas, East Tampa, Ybor City, Downtown Tampa, Westshore Business District and a portion of South Tampa including Hyde Park and South Howard Avenue. HART will soon have artistic renderings of the proposed rail stations. If you have any questions regarding the LPA contact Steve Carroll, HART Project Manager at 813-223-6831.

Employment Committee Working on This Year's Job Fair

The Mayor's Alliance Employment Committee is busy working on this year's Employer's Job Seminar to be held in March. This seminar helps to enlighten employers regarding the hidden employee pool that exists among persons with disabilities. Anyone interested in joining the committee and working on the planning of the seminar as well as other employment events should contact Cindy Stevens at 984-6840.

New Cruise Ships Wheelchair Friendly

Thinking about taking a cruise? Many of the new cruise ships being added to the fleets this year will be much more wheelchair user friendly than those built in previous years. If you are thinking about taking a cruise also check out itineraries to make sure you can get ashore at the various ports of call. Check for dockings as opposed to tenders (small

boats to get ashore). If you are a wheelchair user and have decided to go on a cruise this year make sure you work with a travel agency that specializes in the mobility-impaired. You might want to try Accessible Journeys at 1-800-846-4537; Access Travel, 1-888-342-5315 or Wheelchair Travel 1-877-442-8747.

Accessible Environments Representatives to Speak at Accessibility Meeting

Representatives of ACCESSIBLE ENVIRONMENTS, a medical supply & renovation company will be the speakers at the next Accessibility Committee Meeting on Wednesday, February 20th, 2pm at the Sandy Freeman Tennis Center on Davis Island. Larry Schiller and Ron Tilton will discuss the latest equipment available for persons with disabilities. For more information regarding the Accessibility Committee contact Co-Chairmen Norman Mallory at 988-4985 or Ben Ritter at 935-6540

Recent Florida Ruling Accommodating Bar Exam Applicant with Low Vision

A person who has a neurological condition and low vision complained that a Florida State board refused to provide him with the accommodations he requested to take the bar exam for attorneys. The board agreed to provide 50 percent additional time on the essay and multiple-choice portions of the examination with the test to be given over a three-

day period (instead of two), rest breaks as needed, and use of a large print version of the exam.

Service Animals

Service animals are animals that are individually trained to perform tasks for people with disabilities such as guiding people who are blind, alerting people who are deaf, pulling wheelchairs, alerting and protecting a person who is having a seizure, or performing other special tasks. Service animals are working animals, not pets. Under the (ADA), businesses and organizations that serve the public must allow people with disabilities to bring their service animals into all areas of the facility where customers are normally allowed to go. Businesses may ask if an animal is a service animal or ask what tasks the animal has been trained to perform, but cannot require special ID cards for the animal or ask about the person's disability. People with disabilities who use service animals cannot be charged extra fees, isolated from other patrons, or treated less favorably than other patrons. A person with a disability cannot be asked to remove his service animal from the premises unless: (1) the animal is out of control and the animal's owner does not take effective action to control it (for example, a dog that barks repeatedly during a movie) or (2) the animal poses a direct threat to the health or safety of others. In these cases, the business should give the person with the disability the option to obtain goods and services without having the animal on the premises. Businesses that sell or prepare food must allow service animals in public areas even if state or local health codes prohibit animals on the premises. Allergies and fear of animals are generally not valid reasons for denying access or refusing service to people with service animals.

Mayor's Alliance Board Meeting

3rd Wednesday every month at 1:00 p.m.
Sandy Freedman Tennis Club
Everybody Welcome!

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. 7659
Mayor's Representative: Herb Gold	254-1111



MAYOR'S ALLIANCE
FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

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The Alliance thanks
United Health Care
for printing this newsletter.