PAT MOORE
Long-Time Advocate, LICIL Director Dies

Pat Moore, past director of the Long Island Center for Independent Living (LICIL), recently died at the age of 66. Moore was a disability advocate for most of her life and served as LICIL’s director for more than 30 years, until her retirement in 2015. Although she contracted polio at a very early age, with the help of her family, close friends and determination, she had a full and meaningful life.

She left her upstate New York childhood home to attend college at Hofstra University on Long Island, where she earned a master’s degree in rehabilitation counseling. While there, Moore became very involved in disability causes, and the campus eventually became the original home to LICIL when the organization was in its infancy.

“LICIL comes out of a true grass roots place, and Pat was one of its original advocates when the center was just a tiny office at Hofstra,” said Therese Brzezinski, LICIL’s director of planning and public policy who worked with Moore for more than 20 years. “All of LICIL’s expansion and growth over the years was under Pat’s great leadership.”

“She taught me everything I know,” said LICIL Executive Director Joan Lynch, who worked with Moore for more than 30 years. “She was the backbone of LICIL.”

“I’ve known her for so many years, and I know that she did a lot of good things for a lot of people,” said Dan Bussani of Bussani Mobility. “She was a customer of ours for a very long time. She used an accessible van with a lift for her wheelchair.”

Upon retirement, Moore returned upstate to spend time with family and friends. She is survived by her brothers, her nieces and nephew.

“The LICIL family has lost not only a leader, but a warrior for disability rights and a friend,” said Brzezinski.
Act Improves ‘Money Follows the Person’

The bipartisan Empower Care Act (S 2777), recently introduced in the Senate by Sens. Rob Portman (R-Ohio) and Maria Cantwell (D-Wash.), extends and improves upon Money Follows the Person (MFP).

First authorized by Pres. George W. Bush in 2005, along with strong bipartisan support, MFP served to help individuals with disabilities and senior citizens out of nursing homes and other institutions. It enabled them to remain or return to their communities and their families. If passed, the Empower Care Act would extend MFP for five more years, as well as enhance it. Individuals across the country waiting for home- and community-based services (HCBS) would benefit from the reauthorization.

Many homecare agencies rely heavily on the Medicaid funding they get through MLTC plans.

The governor’s executive budget includes proposals to cut managed long-term care plans’ administrative budgets, limit the number of homecare agencies that can participate in a plan’s network and raise the requirements for patients to be eligible for services provided under managed long-term care plans. “I would say we’re deeply concerned about the budget cuts and other administrative actions targeting managed long-term care plans,” said Joanne Cunningham, president of HCANYS. “That will have a dire effect on the home- and community-based sector’s ability to deliver care to a very needy and frail population.”

However, Rick Surpin, president of Independence Care System, an MLTC plan based in the Bronx, said it makes sense for the state to concentrate its resources on the neediest patients. “If you don’t raise the bar, the program will just keep on growing and growing. And I don’t think that’s sustainable,” said Surpin.

The report states that the growing reliance and increased access to home care services have enabled patients to leave the hospital earlier, avoid nursing home placement, get rehabilitation and receive primary care at the lowest cost and most preferable setting possible – the home of the patient. However, chronic underpayment and unfunded mandates have resulted in a fragile financial position for the home- and community-provider sector.

Report Says Home Care In Jeopardy

The financial state of the New York homecare industry is getting worse, and the reforms Gov. Andrew Cuomo is proposing to the managed long-term care (MLTC) system would only exacerbate the situation, according to a report released by the Home Care Association of New York state (HCANYS).

The average operating margin for certified home health agencies in New York dipped to -13.46 percent in 2016 from -7.3 percent in 2015, the trade association said. Home care agencies that can participate in a plan’s network and raise the requirements for patients to be eligible for services provided under managed long-term care plans.

“The FMP demonstration project was first authorized by the Deficit Reduction Act of 2005 and extended through fiscal year 2016 by the Affordable Care Act (ACA). The MFP project has provided states with enhanced funding to improve access to HCBS.

HCBS provides a wide array of supports that people can use throughout their lifetime, such as housing and residential services. Forty-three states and the District of Columbia received funding through the project and used it to assist Medicaid recipients to live in the community. Each state can decide how to utilize the funds, which they have used to expand or enhance HCBS programs, reduce waiting lists and fund housing supports.

The program benefits people with physical disabilities, developmental disabilities, mental illnesses and seniors. Since the program’s beginning, more than 75,000 people have received HCBS. According to the national project evaluation, participants report significant and lasting improvements in quality of life and community integration. In addition, the MFP project has helped realize more than $978 million in reduced Medicaid and Medicare costs by assisting states to provide more cost-effective care.

The MFP project was authorized through 2016 although some states will be able to continue to use their grant funds through 2020. However, without congressional reauthorization, states will lose access to the enhanced funding which helped them maintain better services.

The Deadline for the April Issue of Able Newspaper will be March 13
Rice and House Limit ADA

By David Block

The House of Representatives passed HR620 with a vote of 225 to 192 Feb. 15.

For the most part, this news upset people living with disabilities, as well as James Weisman, President/CEO of The United Spinal Assoc., who says that if the senate were to pass this bill, it can remove business owners’ incentives to immediately make their establishments ADA compliant.

This bill prohibits immediate civil action against businesses that fail to remove architectural barriers. Under the bill, lawsuit can only take place if the aggrieved person provides the business owners with written notice about the exact provision of the ADA being violated.

The business then has 60 days to acknowledge the problem and then 120 days to begin to remedy the predicament before any lawsuits can take place. It means that the individual with a disability has to wait six months before he/she can take legal action. No other civil rights law requires similar waiting periods.

The bill came about because lawyers would frivolously sue businesses in serial fashion. The plaintiffs would not get a remedy and businesses would pay unscrupulous attorneys to drop the suit.

“HR 620 is supposed to get at abuse of the ADA,” said Weisman. “I’m not going to deny that those lawyers and plaintiffs exist, but it’s a small amount. The bill won’t fix that practice of extortionate complaints being filed.”

He said that the difference now is that there would be a 6-month delay before one can sue.

Rep. Thomas Suozzi (D-CD3) was originally a sponsor of HR620, but then decided to vote against it when he realized it would hurt people with disabilities

“Rep. Suozzi fully supports the Americans with Disabilities Act, and while he understands that small businesses deal with too many regulatory hurdles, any solution cannot abridge the rights of people with disabilities to fully access the communities in which they live and work,” said Suozzi’s spokesperson Lou Wasson.

Rep. Kathleen Rice (D-CD4) remained a sponsor on the bill and voted for it even after being lobbied intensely by disability advocates. Rice’s office did not respond to repeated requests for comment by Able Newspaper.

Weisman said that if the Senate passes HR620, people should take the Congress at their word and start giving notice to business owners who have inaccessible facilities for people with disabilities.

“They’re putting a stick in the eye of the disability rights community,” said Weisman. “I recommend lobbying like crazy to stop it.”

Consumer Orgs. Push Back Against Trump Budget Plan

The Center for Medicare Advocacy, Justice in Aging and the Medicare Rights Center recently released a joint statement that expressed serious concerns about Pres. Donald Trump’s annual budget request, which prioritizes deep cuts to programs on which older adults and people with disabilities rely, including Medicare, Medicaid and the Affordable Care Act (ACA).

The president’s fiscal year 2019 budget proposes more than $490 billion in cuts for the next 10 years, which the three organizations claim breaks a key campaign promise not to cut Medicare. If implement, these changes would cause people with Medicare to face additional, significant barriers to care.

It would curtail beneficiary appeal rights, cause some to fall through the prescription drug “donut hole,” expand prior authorization in traditional Medicare and incentivize health care providers to stint on care for those with chronic conditions.

The statement asserts that even though the budget recognizes the problems of Medicare beneficiaries with the highest prescription drug costs, it does not address the underlying problem of exorbitant drug prices and would worsen affordability for many others, half of whom live on less than $26,000 a year.

The statement voices concern that the budget would also be devastating for those who rely on both Medicaid and Medicare for their health and long-term care needs. The proposal would end the current state of Medicaid by cutting more than $1.4 trillion in the next decade and transforming the program into a block grant or per capita cap system.

This would lead to rationing of care and could force many low-income seniors and disabled out of their homes and into more costly institutions.

Report Highlights Need for Federal Oversight of Assisted Living

The U.S. Government Accountability Office (GAO) has recently released a report on the extent to which states are monitoring care and ensuring safety in assisted living provided to Medicaid beneficiaries.

The report, Medicaid Assisted Living Services: Improved Federal Oversight of Beneficiary Health and Welfare Is Needed, provides the results of a nationwide survey of state agencies. Forty-eight states participated in the survey, which covered the year 2014.

Across the country, assisted living is viewed by seniors and their families as a desirable option for residential care when in front of a batch of golf balls ready to be sorted for the Golf Ball Divers Alliance (GBDA).

GO, headquartered in Michigan, helps people with disabilities and others with barriers to employment to find job opportunities while also providing quality work at reasonable prices to regional manufacturers in their state. They found jobs for GO consumers at GBDA, a group of scuba divers who retrieve more than one million golf balls each year in lakes and ponds of area golf courses.

GO team members clean, sort, package and fulfill thousands of sales orders received through online channels.

Continued on page 18
The bipartisan law is endorsed by more than 60 organizations for the disabled and elderly, including AARP, the Alzheimer's Association, the Michael J. Fox Foundation and the Arc. “Family caregivers play an essential role in our communities by dedicating time and attention and making countless personal and financial sacrifices to care for their loved ones,” said Collins. “I am delighted that our bipartisan legislation to develop a coordinated strategic plan to leverage our resources, promote best practices, and expand services and training available to caregivers has been signed into law. Family caregivers across America will now receive the much-needed recognition they deserve as well as the resources and training needed to better balance the full-time job of caregiving along with everything else that life brings.”

“When we work together across party lines we can get things done,” said Baldwin. “This bipartisan effort is especially personal to me, as I was raised by my maternal grandparents and later served as my grandmother’s primary caretaker as she grew older. I know the challenges that family caregivers face. I’ve listened to family caregivers across Wisconsin. This reform will provide much-needed support for family caregivers and help ensure that our older adults and loved ones with disabilities receive the highest quality care in their own homes. Every day, family caregivers do right by their loved ones, and I am proud to say we are doing right by them with the RAISE Family Caregivers Act being signed into law to formally recognize and support family caregivers across this country.”

“Signing the RAISE Family Caregivers Act into law is an important step in supporting the nation’s 40 million family caregivers who take care of loved ones, many of them elderly, often with very little support or resources available to them,” said AARP CEO Jo Ann Jenkins. “With the rapid growth of our aging population, it’s reasonable to say that many of us will end up either being a caregiver, or needing one.” More than 40 million family caregivers in the United States provided an estimated $470 billion in uncompensated long-term care in 2013. However, many of them put their own health at risk since they experience high levels of stress and have a greater incidence of chronic conditions like heart disease, cancer and depression.
The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) recently issued a state Medicaid director letter providing new guidance for Section 1115 waiver proposals that would impose work requirements as a condition of eligibility.

This action reverses previous democratic and republican administrations, which had not approved such waiver requests on the basis that such provisions would not further Medicaid’s purposes of promoting health coverage and access. The guidance asserts that such provisions would promote program objectives by helping states “in their efforts to improve Medicaid enrollee health and well-being through incentivizing work and community engagement.” The guidance invites proposals that would “promote better mental, physical and emotional health, as well as help individuals rise out of poverty and attain independence.”

So far, a handful of states have submitted proposals to CMS. The proposals require beneficiaries to verify their participation in approved activities such as employment, job searches or employment training programs, for a certain number of hours per week in order to receive health coverage. The proposals typically would exempt certain populations, but it is not yet clear how the exemption policies would be administered or obtained.

Working at minimum wage could make some people financially ineligible for Medicaid in states with low eligibility levels for adults. Many people working full-time are still eligible for Medicaid, especially in Medicaid expansion states, because they are working low-wage jobs. For example, an individual working full-time for a full year at the federal minimum wage of $7.25 per hour, would earn an annual salary of just over $15,000 a year, or about 125 percent of poverty, below the average. The proposals typically would exempt certain populations, but it is not yet clear how the exemption policies would be administered or obtained.

So far, a handful of states have submitted proposals to CMS. The proposals require beneficiaries to verify their participation in approved activities such as employment, job searches or employment training programs, for a certain number of hours per week in order to receive health coverage. The proposals typically would exempt certain populations, but it is not yet clear how the exemption policies would be administered or obtained.

Working at minimum wage could make some people financially ineligible for Medicaid in states with low eligibility levels for adults. Many people working full-time are still eligible for Medicaid, especially in Medicaid expansion states, because they are working low-wage jobs. For example, an individual working full-time for a full year at the federal minimum wage of $7.25 per hour, would earn an annual salary of just over $15,000 a year, or about 125 percent of poverty, below the average. The proposals typically would exempt certain populations, but it is not yet clear how the exemption policies would be administered or obtained.

Working at minimum wage could make some people financially ineligible for Medicaid in states with low eligibility levels for adults. Many people working full-time are still eligible for Medicaid, especially in Medicaid expansion states, because they are working low-wage jobs. For example, an individual working full-time for a full year at the federal minimum wage of $7.25 per hour, would earn an annual salary of just over $15,000 a year, or about 125 percent of poverty, below the average. The proposals typically would exempt certain populations, but it is not yet clear how the exemption policies would be administered or obtained.

Working at minimum wage could make some people financially ineligible for Medicaid in states with low eligibility levels for adults. Many people working full-time are still eligible for Medicaid, especially in Medicaid expansion states, because they are working low-wage jobs. For example, an individual working full-time for a full year at the federal minimum wage of $7.25 per hour, would earn an annual salary of just over $15,000 a year, or about 125 percent of poverty, below the average. The proposals typically would exempt certain populations, but it is not yet clear how the exemption policies would be administered or obtained.

Working at minimum wage could make some people financially ineligible for Medicaid in states with low eligibility levels for adults. Many people working full-time are still eligible for Medicaid, especially in Medicaid expansion states, because they are working low-wage jobs. For example, an individual working full-time for a full year at the federal minimum wage of $7.25 per hour, would earn an annual salary of just over $15,000 a year, or about 125 percent of poverty, below the average. The proposals typically would exempt certain populations, but it is not yet clear how the exemption policies would be administered or obtained.

Working at minimum wage could make some people financially ineligible for Medicaid in states with low eligibility levels for adults. Many people working full-time are still eligible for Medicaid, especially in Medicaid expansion states, because they are working low-wage jobs. For example, an individual working full-time for a full year at the federal minimum wage of $7.25 per hour, would earn an annual salary of just over $15,000 a year, or about 125 percent of poverty, below the average. The proposals typically would exempt certain populations, but it is not yet clear how the exemption policies would be administered or obtained.

Working at minimum wage could make some people financially ineligible for Medicaid in states with low eligibility levels for adults. Many people working full-time are still eligible for Medicaid, especially in Medicaid expansion states, because they are working low-wage jobs. For example, an individual working full-time for a full year at the federal minimum wage of $7.25 per hour, would earn an annual salary of just over $15,000 a year, or about 125 percent of poverty, below the average. The proposals typically would exempt certain populations, but it is not yet clear how the exemption policies would be administered or obtained.

Working at minimum wage could make some people financially ineligible for Medicaid in states with low eligibility levels for adults. Many people working full-time are still eligible for Medicaid, especially in Medicaid expansion states, because they are working low-wage jobs. For example, an individual working full-time for a full year at the federal minimum wage of $7.25 per hour, would earn an annual salary of just over $15,000 a year, or about 125 percent of poverty, below the average. The proposals typically would exempt certain populations, but it is not yet clear how the exemption policies would be administered or obtained.

Working at minimum wage could make some people financially ineligible for Medicaid in states with low eligibility levels for adults. Many people working full-time are still eligible for Medicaid, especially in Medicaid expansion states, because they are working low-wage jobs. For example, an individual working full-time for a full year at the federal minimum wage of $7.25 per hour, would earn an annual salary of just over $15,000 a year, or about 125 percent of poverty, below the average. The proposals typically would exempt certain populations, but it is not yet clear how the exemption policies would be administered or obtained.

Working at minimum wage could make some people financially ineligible for Medicaid in states with low eligibility levels for adults. Many people working full-time are still eligible for Medicaid, especially in Medicaid expansion states, because they are working low-wage jobs. For example, an individual working full-time for a full year at the federal minimum wage of $7.25 per hour, would earn an annual salary of just over $15,000 a year, or about 125 percent of poverty, below the average. The proposals typically would exempt certain populations, but it is not yet clear how the exemption policies would be administered or obtained.

Working at minimum wage could make some people financially ineligible for Medicaid in states with low eligibility levels for adults. Many people working full-time are still eligible for Medicaid, especially in Medicaid expansion states, because they are working low-wage jobs. For example, an individual working full-time for a full year at the federal minimum wage of $7.25 per hour, would earn an annual salary of just over $15,000 a year, or about 125 percent of poverty, below the average. The proposals typically would exempt certain populations, but it is not yet clear how the exemption policies would be administered or obtained.

Working at minimum wage could make some people financially ineligible for Medicaid in states with low eligibility levels for adults. Many people working full-time are still eligible for Medicaid, especially in Medicaid expansion states, because they are working low-wage jobs. For example, an individual working full-time for a full year at the federal minimum wage of $7.25 per hour, would earn an annual salary of just over $15,000 a year, or about 125 percent of poverty, below the average. The proposals typically would exempt certain populations, but it is not yet clear how the exemption policies would be administered or obtained.

Working at minimum wage could make some people financially ineligible for Medicaid in states with low eligibility levels for adults. Many people working full-time are still eligible for Medicaid, especially in Medicaid expansion states, because they are working low-wage jobs. For example, an individual working full-time for a full year at the federal minimum wage of $7.25 per hour, would earn an annual salary of just over $15,000 a year, or about 125 percent of poverty, below the average. The proposals typically would exempt certain populations, but it is not yet clear how the exemption policies would be administered or obtained.

Working at minimum wage could make some people financially ineligible for Medicaid in states with low eligibility levels for adults. Many people working full-time are still eligible for Medicaid, especially in Medicaid expansion states, because they are working low-wage jobs. For example, an individual working full-time for a full year at the federal minimum wage of $7.25 per hour, would earn an annual salary of just over $15,000 a year, or about 125 percent of poverty, below the average. The proposals typically would exempt certain populations, but it is not yet clear how the exemption policies would be administered or obtained.
EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

Job Title: Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Coordinator (Part-Time)

Description: The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Coordinator will build upon and administer the ADA Accommodation program from start to finish. The position will also be involved in the Light Duty/Return-to-Work program. Other duties include but are not limited to the following: Identifies and performs outreach to employees possibly requiring accommodations; educates management and employees on the rights and duties under the ADA; coordinates with management and employees to develop and provide employees effective and reasonable accommodations; develops written materials and other informational pieces regarding the ADA program; develops and maintains internal measures to track ADA status and compliance and maintains and documents records of all disability and accommodation issues ensures compliance with applicable laws, regulations, and policies; assures that workers with disabilities are provided effective and reasonable accommodations allowing them to work productively and safely; assure Township-Sponsored activities, Township Facilities and events address accessibility and accommodation concerns.

Requirements: Bachelor’s degree in social sciences, human resource management, business administration or related field and two years of personnel administration experience are required (or a combination of education and/or training and/or experience which provides an equivalent background required to perform the work of the class); a minimum of eighteen (18) months of experience in a position that involved evaluating and administering reasonable accommodation issues subject to the ADA or §§504 and completion of a course on barrier-free design or ADA accessibility guidelines which was sponsored or approved by the New Jersey Department of Community Affairs or a department which oversees the Uniform Construction Code in any other State, the American Institute of Architects, the Paralyzed Veterans Association, or the United Spinal Association, within twelve (12) months of hire.

Salary: DOQ

Hours: Part-Time, three days weekly (not to exceed twenty one hours per week).

Apply: Send resume or application to: Ms. Breandon Gregory, HRIS Coordinator, Human Resources Department, Township of Montclair, 205 Claremont Avenue, Montclair, New Jersey 07042 or email: bgregory@montclairnjusa.org

Closing Date: Job posting will remain open until position is filled.

UNITED SPINAL NOW

HR 620 Passes House

BY JAMES WEISMAN
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

The ADA Education and Reform Act passed the House of Representatives in a 225 to 192 vote with 12 Democrats crossing party lines to vote for this bill - which will perpetuate discrimination on the basis of disability - and 19 Republicans crossing party lines and voting against the bill.

BY JAMES WEISMAN
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

The ADA Education and Reform Act passed the House of Representatives in a 225 to 192 vote with 12 Democrats crossing party lines to vote for this bill - which will perpetuate discrimination on the basis of disability - and 19 Republicans crossing party lines and voting against the bill.

The ADA Education and Reform Act will not prevent this practice. It will require an aggrieved disabled person to provide written notice and wait 120 days before suing. How proponents of the legislation think this will stop extortion by unscrupulous attorneys and their clients is unknown.

So far, this restaurant owner has chosen to fight back, but eventually the cost of fighting back can exceed the cost of settling with an unscrupulous lawyer.

The ADA Education and Reform Act passed the House of Representatives in a 225 to 192 vote with 12 Democrats crossing party lines to vote for this bill - which will perpetuate discrimination on the basis of disability - and 19 Republicans crossing party lines and voting against the bill.

The ADA Education and Reform Act will not prevent this practice. It will require an aggrieved disabled person to provide written notice and wait 120 days before suing. How proponents of the legislation think this will stop extortion by unscrupulous attorneys and their clients is unknown.

The ADA Education and Reform Act passed the House of Representatives in a 225 to 192 vote with 12 Democrats crossing party lines to vote for this bill - which will perpetuate discrimination on the basis of disability - and 19 Republicans crossing party lines and voting against the bill.

The ADA Education and Reform Act will not prevent this practice. It will require an aggrieved disabled person to provide written notice and wait 120 days before suing. How proponents of the legislation think this will stop extortion by unscrupulous attorneys and their clients is unknown.

The ADA Education and Reform Act passed the House of Representatives in a 225 to 192 vote with 12 Democrats crossing party lines to vote for this bill - which will perpetuate discrimination on the basis of disability - and 19 Republicans crossing party lines and voting against the bill.

The ADA Education and Reform Act will not prevent this practice. It will require an aggrieved disabled person to provide written notice and wait 120 days before suing. How proponents of the legislation think this will stop extortion by unscrupulous attorneys and their clients is unknown.

The ADA Education and Reform Act passed the House of Representatives in a 225 to 192 vote with 12 Democrats crossing party lines to vote for this bill - which will perpetuate discrimination on the basis of disability - and 19 Republicans crossing party lines and voting against the bill.

The ADA Education and Reform Act will not prevent this practice. It will require an aggrieved disabled person to provide written notice and wait 120 days before suing. How proponents of the legislation think this will stop extortion by unscrupulous attorneys and their clients is unknown.

The ADA Education and Reform Act passed the House of Representatives in a 225 to 192 vote with 12 Democrats crossing party lines to vote for this bill - which will perpetuate discrimination on the basis of disability - and 19 Republicans crossing party lines and voting against the bill.

The ADA Education and Reform Act will not prevent this practice. It will require an aggrieved disabled person to provide written notice and wait 120 days before suing. How proponents of the legislation think this will stop extortion by unscrupulous attorneys and their clients is unknown.

The ADA Education and Reform Act passed the House of Representatives in a 225 to 192 vote with 12 Democrats crossing party lines to vote for this bill - which will perpetuate discrimination on the basis of disability - and 19 Republicans crossing party lines and voting against the bill.

The ADA Education and Reform Act will not prevent this practice. It will require an aggrieved disabled person to provide written notice and wait 120 days before suing. How proponents of the legislation think this will stop extortion by unscrupulous attorneys and their clients is unknown.

The ADA Education and Reform Act passed the House of Representatives in a 225 to 192 vote with 12 Democrats crossing party lines to vote for this bill - which will perpetuate discrimination on the basis of disability - and 19 Republicans crossing party lines and voting against the bill.

The ADA Education and Reform Act will not prevent this practice. It will require an aggrieved disabled person to provide written notice and wait 120 days before suing. How proponents of the legislation think this will stop extortion by unscrupulous attorneys and their clients is unknown.
State Budget Proposal Could Harm LTC

Gov. Andrew Cuomo recently released his proposal for New York state’s 2018-2019 budget, and according to the Consumer Directed Personal Assistance Association of New York State (CDPAANYS) it could severely impact those who rely on CDPA and other services that help them live independently in the community.

The proposal states that after six months in a nursing home, a consumer will be considered permanently placed and therefore removed from managed long-term care (MLTC). But according to CDPAANYS, nursing homes usually cost more than even the highest cost community-based

App Helps Blind Navigate Airports Independently

The Indoor Explorer is an app, developed by the American Printing House for the Blind (APH), helps travelers who are blind or visually impaired to navigate every aspect of airport travel.

The app is currently being tested as a pilot project at the Louisville International Airport in Kentucky with the plan of eventually deploying it to airports across the country. It will help users independently navigate to security check points, baggage claim, ticket counters, bathrooms, emergency exits, airport shops, restaurants and specific gates.

“We can all relate to wanting a stress-free experience of quickly finding our way through an airport, especially when we are in a hurry or anxious to get home,” said Craig Meador, president of APH. “Travelers who are blind or have vision loss want that too. No one wants to wait for assistance to get where they need to go. Indoor Explorer is essentially signage that can be heard, telling a traveler where they are each step of the way as they navigate independently.”

Indoor Explorer makes use of beacons and indoor information stored in the Open Street Map database. More than 140 beacons are currently located throughout the terminal at the Louisville International Airport. The beacons were installed in designated areas during a two-week period in the fall.

When used, the app looks up the beacon’s latitude, longitude and floor number.

It also looks up points of interest on that same floor and reports their name, distance and position as the user moves about. It also allows the user to use a compass feature to point their device to locations inside the building. When using the app indoors, the compass, in addition to reporting the direction, names all the building features in that direction.

“We are proud that Louisville International is the first airport in the nation to install and utilize this technology,” said Karen Scott, interim executive director of Louisville Regional Airport Authority. “This is a great tool to enhance accessibility for the blind and visually impaired and provide a positive customer experience, one of our top priorities for all travelers and airport visitors. We are also pleased to partner with the American Printing House for the Blind on these efforts.”

Support Our Advertisers

They Make This Newspaper Possible

Kids Swing at Playground For All

Six years ago, Let All the Children Play (LATCP) erected an accessible playground at Eisenhower Park, the first on Long Island, which provides an inclusive environment for children with and without disabilities.

The equipment at the playground has combinations of ground-level, elevated and multi-use play features that ensure children of all ages and abilities can access and enjoy shared play spaces. For example, the wooden rope-bridge is wide enough for children to climb, walk or wheel across. The carousel merry-go-round features special latches for wheelchairs, as well as benches. The swings have custom supports and comfortable cushions to guarantee safety. In addition to families, many schools and camps choose this playground for a simple, inexpensive and inclusive field trip. LATCP also sponsors special events and programs.
According to Wikipedia, the job of an activist is to engage in “efforts to promote” and “make improvements in society.” As disability rights activists, we often focus our efforts on what the government is doing because that’s the place where we can change society’s rules and regulations. National laws like Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, IDEA and the ADA have prohibited discrimination, set educational standards and guaranteed access for people with disabilities.

The federal government is currently considering several laws of interest to our community. National ADAPT is supporting the “Disability Integration Act,” also known as HR-2472. This bill would compel states and local governments to provide community-based services and housing to people who want them and help people who are currently stuck in nursing homes.

There is another bill in Congress that would change the way wheelchairs and “complex rehabilitative” equipment is paid for. This bill, HR-3730, would make sure wheelchairs are properly setup and delivered by local suppliers who would be better suited to maintain and repair them. Long Island Rep. Lee Zeldin is the sponsor of this bill.

There are also lots of folks in this area who are concerned about a law being proposed in the House of Representatives that would undercut the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). This Newspaper, Able News, has published several articles and columns that explained how HR-620 would greatly diminish our ability to correct ADA violations.

In addition, our national government is now sending signals, that they will seek to cut funding for important “social safety net” programs such as Medicaid, Medicare and Social Security in order to pay for the tax bill, passed at the end of last year. That tax “reform” legislation will permanently reduce corporate taxes by 43 percent and give tax breaks, primarily to the well off while temporarily giving small to moderate reductions to the middle class.

While all this activity at the national level is interesting and important, there is little we can do to effect federal policy. Most of the federal representatives in the N.Y. Metro area, already support disability issues.

It’s the representatives in Texas, Indiana and Wyoming who often support cutting social safety net programs such as Medicaid, Medicare and Social Security in order to pay for the tax bill, passed at the end of last year. That tax “reform” legislation will permanently reduce corporate taxes by 43 percent and give tax breaks, primarily to the well off while temporarily giving small to moderate reductions to the middle class.

While all this activity at the national level is interesting and important, there is little we can do to effect federal policy. Most of the federal representatives in the N.Y. Metro area, already support disability issues.

It’s the representatives in Texas, Indiana and Wyoming who often support cutting social safety net programs such as Medicaid, Medicare and Social Security in order to pay for the tax bill, passed at the end of last year. That tax “reform” legislation will permanently reduce corporate taxes by 43 percent and give tax breaks, primarily to the well off while temporarily giving small to moderate reductions to the middle class.
Hearing Stresses Employment Need For Aged

S

everal workforce.”
and productivity among the higher rates of satisfaction turnover, greater loyalty, and of absenteeism and employee
activated workforce, lower rates
tages, including a highly mo
It is also good business,” said
munities is not simply a social good.
individuals who have directly benefited
with disabilities, and those who have directly benefited from employment opportunities and services that provide independence to people with IDD. All of the witnesses highlighted the importance of work for health and well-being and the organizations that provide guidance and support to those with IDD.

“Holding a job provides many benefits, including creating social networks, economic self-sufficiency and a sense of self-worth. But, for far too many individuals with disabilities, the dignity of work is still out of reach,” Casey said. “We must do more to address barriers to employment and ensure people with disabilities have the support needed to succeed in the workforce and can enjoy a healthy retirement. I will continue to champion legislation that helps all Americans find good-paying jobs and achieve financial security.”

The hearing featured testimony from experts who have built programs to support people with IDD in the community, academics who have studied the trends of aging with disabilities, and those who have directly benefited from employment opportunities. The report gives detailed recommendations to remedy this situation.

For the full report visit www.tacinc.org/knowledge-resources/priced-out-v2.

Able-Ride is Proudly Serving Nassau County

Providing quality transportation for the disabled community.

To apply for service or to find out more information, please call 516.228.4000 or visit us at www.nicebus.com

Able-Ride is a service of NICE, which is owned by Nassau County and operated by Veolia Transportation.
Alphacare is a family-owned business established nearly 25 years ago as a regional durable medical equipment provider. Today, Alpha is a provider of accessibility solutions in the entire metro-NYC region including the 5 boroughs, Nassau, Suffolk, Westchester, Rockland, Yonkers and N.J. to clients in need.

The company specializes in various types of access applications: modular ramps, portable ramps, ramp systems, stair lifts, patient lifts, wheelchair lifts, home elevators and even provides fully ADA compliant bathroom/home modifications.

Clients include residential users, institutions, houses of worship, event planners, schools, universities, property management companies, etc. Equipment is often rented to educational facilities that require access products for short-term needs such as commencement exercises, concerts, fundraising/benefit events, or for any temporary applications.

In-depth residential and facility evaluations are offered free of charge with no obligations. Primary emphasis is placed on safety and ease-of-use by end users and/or care-givers. As a well-stocked brick and mortar supplier of access ramp systems and lifts, emergency needs can be resolved quickly. Generally, the access equipment can be either purchased or rented.

Alpha is also an approved vendor for NYC Build-it-Back Sandy Recovery project and NYS FIDA insurance program.

Used equipment is also available and is offered at reduced prices based on availability. Properly licensed and insured, Alpha Care is an approved vendor for federal, state and local government agencies.

www.AlphaCareSupply.com • 866 291-7039

Coastal Caretakers, LLC
Offers Those Living With Disabilities
Increased Accessibility and Independence

For individuals with disabilities, navigating the home is often difficult and sometimes dangerous. At Coastal Caretakers, we know that accessibility and independence go hand in hand.

Depending on the style and age of the home and the degree of disability, modifications may enable individuals to remain at home safely and comfortably.

From minor fall prevention improvements to full remodels, Coastal Caretakers’ network of highly-trained and licensed professionals redesign and renovate with sensibility and sensitivity to the unique needs of individuals with disabilities.

Entering and exiting the home can be difficult. With that in mind, Coastal Caretakers’ team widens doorways to accommodate the width of wheelchairs and walkers and adapts thresholds. Modular ramps allow for easier access into the home. In instances where entrances are too elevated for modular ramps, a vertical platform lift can be installed.

With more than 30 years of caretaking experience, Coastal Caretakers founder and CEO Bruce Matters compassionately helps those living with disabilities remain in their homes comfortably and safely.

“Bruce’s professional approach was reassuring. He went through the building and grounds and provided a list of things that needed immediate attention and a list of suggestions for making the house more user friendly.”—Hilary, South Fork.

Coastal Caretakers also performs weekly checks to ensure the home is safe and properly maintained.

Contact us for a free assessment.

info@coastalcaretakers.com • 888 828-6278
Physical therapists (PTs) and occupational therapists (OTs) play a vital role in helping people living with physical disabilities overcome limitations by assisting with adjustments to facets of daily life.

Transportation is critical for people who use wheelchairs or scooters. To help educate PTs and OTs about today’s accessible transportation options, Bussani Mobility offers free one-hour Lunch ‘n Learn seminars. They provide the latest information about personal automotive modifications, including a practical system for evaluating, selecting, and purchasing the most appropriate vehicles for patients.

The sessions also offer participants one contact hour of continuing education (CEUs), as certified by The American Occupational Therapy Association, Inc.

“PTs and OTs are often the first point of contact for those who are newly disabled, so their support and guidance is so important,” said Daniel Bussani, Co-Owner of Bussani Mobility. “They have the opportunity to help people understand that they can still have an active life. Our lunchtime trainings are packed with information – and health care professionals only need to take an hour from their day.”

Bussani Mobility specializes in providing wheelchair accessible vans and adaptive driving equipment for people who use wheelchairs, and those who just need a little extra help getting around because of respiratory difficulties, circulation problems, degenerative joint disease, arthritis, and chronic or progressive diseases. The vehicles also make it easier for caregivers to transport disabled people without risking back strain or injury.

Bussani Mobility Team has been serving people with disabilities in the New York metro area for over 40 years.

Bethpage • Smithtown • Mamaroneck

www.BussaniMobility.com • 888 621-2984

SOUTHAMPTON FRESH AIR HOME

Camp For Children With Disabilities

The Southampton Fresh Air Home provides a unique vacation experience for physically challenged youth. Children ages eight to 18 attend one of our three- or one-week sessions. Camp activities include the traditional camp favorites and adaptive equipment allows campers to participate in every activity from basketball to sailing. During the summer more than 150 campers attend the camp.

They interact with their peers, gain new confidence and return home with memories and new friends.

The camp is a not-for-profit organization and scholarships are available.

For information contact David Billingham.

www.Sfah.org • 631 283-1594

Let’s Hit the Road!

Physical therapists (PTs) and occupational therapists (OTs) play a vital role in helping people living with physical disabilities overcome limitations by assisting with adjustments to facets of daily life.

Transportation is critical for people who use wheelchairs or scooters. To help educate PTs and OTs about today’s accessible transportation options, Bussani Mobility offers free one-hour Lunch ‘n Learn seminars. They provide the latest information about personal automotive modifications, including a practical system for evaluating, selecting, and purchasing the most appropriate vehicles for patients.

The sessions also offer participants one contact hour of continuing education (CEUs), as certified by The American Occupational Therapy Association, Inc.

“PTs and OTs are often the first point of contact for those who are newly disabled, so their support and guidance is so important,” said Daniel Bussani, Co-Owner of Bussani Mobility. “They have the opportunity to help people understand that they can still have an active life. Our lunchtime trainings are packed with information – and health care professionals only need to take an hour from their day.”

Bussani Mobility specializes in providing wheelchair accessible vans and adaptive driving equipment for people who use wheelchairs, and those who just need a little extra help getting around because of respiratory difficulties, circulation problems, degenerative joint disease, arthritis, and chronic or progressive diseases. The vehicles also make it easier for caregivers to transport disabled people without risking back strain or injury.

Bussani Mobility Team has been serving people with disabilities in the New York metro area for over 40 years.

Bethpage • Smithtown • Mamaroneck

www.BussaniMobility.com • 888 621-2984

SOUTHAMPTON FRESH AIR HOME

Camp For Children With Disabilities

The Southampton Fresh Air Home provides a unique vacation experience for physically challenged youth. Children ages eight to 18 attend one of our three- or one-week sessions. Camp activities include the traditional camp favorites and adaptive equipment allows campers to participate in every activity from basketball to sailing. During the summer more than 150 campers attend the camp.

They interact with their peers, gain new confidence and return home with memories and new friends. The camp is a not-for-profit organization and scholarships are available.

For information contact David Billingham.

www.Sfah.org • 631 283-1594

REGINA BRANDOW, ESQ.
Planning For Families With Disabilities

Providing counsel to Long Island families since 1997, Regina Brandow has earned a reputation as a tireless advocate for people with disabilities. For almost twenty years Brandow Law has had an ongoing role in educating the community on all facets of special needs law. In order to increase our ability to serve the community, we are pleased to announce we are expanding! Christin Paglen, Esq. has joined our legal team.

“I am so proud to be a part of this incredible team,” said Ms. Paglen, “and I really look forward to helping people better plan for their future.” We are here to help!

www.brandowlaw.com • 631 675-2540
ACCESS THE CITY LIKE NEVER BEFORE!

THE ACCESSIBLE DISPATCH PROGRAM gives residents and visitors with disabilities GREATER ACCESS to wheelchair accessible taxis.

With pick-up and drop-up available in ALL FIVE BOROUGHS, Accessible Dispatch allows individuals with disabilities to EXPLORE everything New York City has to offer.

Accessible Dispatch
www.accessibledispatch.com

CALL 646-599-9999
DOWNLOAD THE APP!
BOOK ONLINE
Device Helps Patients Understand Drug Labels

Nevada recently passed a law where consumers with disabilities who request a prescription drug label reading device from their pharmacies will either be given one or be given directions on obtaining one, thereby increasing the likelihood that everyone is understanding their correct dosages and other crucial information about the drugs they are taking.

Talking prescription readers, which will be free of charge, will help customers who are blind and visually impaired to access critical information from their prescription drug containers.

The devices work in connection with special talking labels that pharmacists add to medication containers. Large print or Braille labels are also available at no additional cost. Usually these readers are paid for through private insurance, Medicaid or Medicare, but Nevada’s new law targets consumers who are uninsured to ensure that they too have access to this technology.

In 2012, Congress tasked the National Council on Disabilities (NCD) with creating a public awareness campaign regarding accessible drug labeling best practices under the Food and Drug Administration Safety and Innovation Act (FD-SIA). Section 904 of FD-SIA authorized the U.S. Access Board to convene a stakeholder working group to develop these best practices.

The following year, the working group convened by the U.S. Access Board released its list of best practices for making prescription drug container label information accessible to the disabled and elderly. The best practices offered are advisory only. NCD developed a brochure summarizing these best practices and requested pharmacies to adopt the prospect of observing and celebrating this day annually.”

The choice of September 23, commemorates the date that the WFD was established in 1951. It marks the birth of this advocacy organization which works to preserve sign languages and deaf culture.

U.N. Designates Day Of International Sign Languages

The United Nations General Assembly recently declared September 23, as International Day of Sign Languages. The resolution was proposed through the Permanent Mission of Antigua and Barbuda to the U.N., following a request by the World Federation of the Deaf (WFD). It was co-sponsored by 97 U.N. member states and adopted by consensus.

This resolution recognizes the importance of sign language and services in sign language being available to deaf people as early in life as possible,” said Colin Allen, WFD president. “It also emphasizes the principle of ‘nothing about us without us’ in terms of working with deaf communities. With effect from year 2018, the WFD is overjoyed at the prospect of observing and celebrating this day annually.”

Beauty Pageant Adds Blind Judge To Panel

The Executive Planning team of Mrs. Canada Globe has announced a new format for the 2018 competition, which includes hiring contest judge Ashley Nemeth, who is blind.

In an effort to make the pageant more than just a beauty contest, its director and producer are working to place more emphasis on the contestants’ personality and intelligence.

To further this goal, they added Nemeth to the panel, who can hear how the contestants answer questions, but cannot see them. Nemeth is recognized as a vocal advocate for people who are blind or visually impaired. The 31-year-old began to lose her sight as a very young child due to a genetic disease called ocular albinism, as well as other conditions that effect the eyes.

Her sight continued to worsen over time, and today she can only perceive light. The activist is a motivational speaker, a spokesperson and staff member for the Canadian National Institute of the Blind, a blogger and a strong presence on many social media formats. She is also active in sports.

“We are very excited to have Ashley join our panel of judges, as she brings a guarantee against unintentional bias,” said Lisa Peters, executive producer of Mrs. Canada Globe. Nemeth lives in Canada with her husband and three children.

Disability Services & Transition Fair For All Ages

Sponsored by Henry Viscardi School Septa Saturday March 10, 2018
10 am – 1 pm
Henry Viscardi School
201 I.U. Willets Road
Albertson, NY 11507

Scheduled Presenters: Access VR, Bussani Mobility, Lawyers for Special Needs Planning, St. Mary’s Camps, and many more...

Free Admission * Family Friendly

Disability4Disabled.com is a dating service and online community for people with disabilities. Our user-friendly features will help you meet new friends, date, chat, blog and more. Open a FREE card at www.Disability4Disabled.com and join our community today!
Rusty Chmelovsky, a patient of Burke Rehabilitation Hospital in White Plains, was the first person in the region to be discharged home with a Rewalk robotic exoskeleton device.

The wearable device provides powered hip and knee motion to enable the individual to stand upright, walk and turn. Chmelovsky, 39, used to be a construction worker.

But in 2008, a fall from a roof caused a spinal cord injury that left him paralyzed from the waist down.

After Burke’s therapists decided that he was a good candidate for robotics, they worked with him on developing his upper body strength, flexibility and ability to stand upright. With recommendations from the Burke team, Chmelovsky’s insurance approved the device for him to take home.

“Rusty’s rehabilitation journey exemplifies Burke’s goal of getting patients back to their maximum level of recovery and independence,” said Burke President Jeffrey Menkes.

“When I was first injured, I held on to hope that someday there would be a way for me to walk again,” said Chmelovsky. “When the Rewalk technology became available, and I learned that I could possibly walk with it, I knew this was my chance. Walking with the device has allowed me to regain sensation in muscles in my body that I have not felt since before my accident. This has motivated me to continue to work at home, with a goal of walking one to two hours a day in it.”

His rehabilitation process included learning to put on and remove the device, stop and start it, stand and sit independently, walk with supervision, and navigate up and down inclines. At Burke he also practiced walking across various indoor and outdoor surfaces. His companion has also been provided extensive education and training.

“Working with Rusty over the past two years has been a transforming experience for both of us,” said his therapist Glenda Rosado. “We were able to improve his quality of life by changing his perspective from sitting in a chair looking up at the world to once again being able to stand and see it on his own two feet, something he had not been able to do in the last nine years.”
The National Wheelchair Basketball Association (NWBA) has announced that tickets and athlete registration for certain events is available for the 2018 NWBA tournament in Kentucky, April 12 to 15.

Pre-ordered tickets are available thru April 3, which are less expensive than purchasing them on site at the tournament. Individuals can buy a ticket for a single session or at a discounted rate for tickets to all the sessions. There is reduced pricing for older children and free admission for those who are 10 or younger.

Tickets are also available for the junior division banquet, scheduled for April 14. They are priced at $40 for adults and $30 for children younger than 12.

The national wheelchair basketball tournament will also include a new event this year, a three-on-three wheelchair basketball tournament. It will feature both a championship and an open division. Players that register individually will be placed on teams by the selection committee.

For more information about the NWBA tournament and registration deadlines, visit www.nwba.org/2018nwbt.

NBC Olympics will present unprecedented coverage of the Paralympic Winter Games PyeongChang 2018 including 94 hours on television.

The 2018 Paralympic Winter Games will take place March 9-18, 2018, in PyeongChang, South Korea, with nearly 700 of the world's finest Paralympic winter athletes competing for glory in 80 events across six different sports on snow and ice. Team USA will compete in each of the sports contested in PyeongChang with an estimated team of 70+ athletes.

NBC Olympics' coverage will include all six Paralympic winter sports – alpine skiing, snowboarding, sled hockey, wheelchair curling, cross-country skiing, and biathlon – spread across 10 days.

"It is fantastic news for sports fans that NBC, with the support of Toyota, will be showcasing 94 hours of television coverage from the PyeongChang 2018 Paralympic Winter Games, the most comprehensive U.S. coverage to date for a Paralympics," said Andrew Parsons, president, International Paralympics Committee. “The amount of TV coverage has almost doubled since Sochi 2014, underlining the growing appeal and interest in Para sports, especially with the L.A. 2028 Paralympic Games on the horizon.”

“As an elite athlete and someone who was instrumental in getting Para snowboarding into the Paralympic Games, I am thrilled to see the kind of support and exposure for the world to see what is possible when you chase your dreams and you remove the barriers to succeed,” said Paralympic snowboarder Amy Purdy. This is truly momentous and incredibly meaningful for the future of the movement.”

In all, NBC Olympics will present more than 250 hours of coverage across NBC, NBCSN, Olympic Channel: Home of Team USA, NBCSports.com, and the NBC Sports app, beginning with the Opening Ceremony on Friday, March 9.

More programming details will be announced closer to the start of the Paralympics.

For Paralympic information and schedules visit www.teamusa.org/US-Paralympics.
HONOREES TO BE INDUCTED INTO DISABILITY HALL OF FAME
Eight people will be inducted into the inaugural The New York state Independent Living Council (NYSILC) Disability Rights Hall of Fame in a ceremony at the Troy Hilton Garden Inn, April 26.
For ticket or sponsorship information visit www.nysilc.org/hof.

UPCOMING FAIR OFFERS INFO ON YOUTH PROGRAMS
Youth Abilities will host a resource fair at the Middle Country Public Library in Centereach on April 21.
The fair is meant to inform parents about activities that are available to children with disabilities, specifically those within the town of Brookhaven. Various organizations will be on hand to provide information on their programs, such as sports, theater and art.
Children are welcome to attend, and there will be interactive yoga and sensory story time sessions for them. For information call Cliff Hymowitz, 631 451-6284.

RESIDENTS ASKED TO TAKE THE PLUNGE FOR SPECIAL OLYMPICS
The fifth annual Town of Oyster Bay polar plunge fundraiser will take place at Tobay Beach on March 10, at 11:30 a.m.
This is one of many polar plunges held throughout the state, all of which benefit athletes of Special Olympics New York.
To register visit www.polarpungeNY.org/tobay.

FIRST RESPONDERS INVITED TO AUTISM AWARENESS TRAINING
The Vocational Education and Extension Board of Nassau County is asking first responders to attend their third annual autism awareness training on April 18, 7 p.m., or April 19, 7:30 a.m., at the Morrellly Center in Bethpage.
Topics will include education on autism, how it affects individuals, how to identify individuals with autism and sensory issues, calming techniques and where to look when an individual with autism is reported.
Call for reservations at 516 572-8530.

A MORNING OF SENSORY BOWLING OFFERED AT FARMINGDALE LAKES
Sensory Beans will host a day of bowling and sensory activities at Farmingdale Lanes, March 18, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Everyone will receive a t-shirt, bagels and drinks. Bowlers’ fee will be $30. Non-bowler fee is $15. For information call 516 822-0028, ext. 178.

KIDS AND COMPANIONS INVITED TO ART WORKSHOPS
The Art League of Long Island in Dix Hills hosts a series of creative workshops called Art With a Partner, where children and young adults with disabilities enjoy making art projects along with a loved one or friend.
It is led by the Town of Huntington’s director of Saturday recreational programs for children with special needs. The next workshops will take place March 4 and May 6, 1 p.m. to 3 p.m.
To register call 631 462-5400, ext. 222.

PUBLIC ASKED TO RELATE ASSISTED LIVING EXPERIENCES
Richard Mollot, executive director of The Long Term Care Community Coalition, is looking for individuals who would be willing to speak to a reporter about a bad experience that they had in assisted living.
To participate write to info@ltccc.org.

U.N. WILL OBSERVE WORLD DOWN SYNDROME DAY
World Down Syndrome Day, held every year on March 21, will be observed at United Nations headquarters in New York City.
The event includes a gathering of people with Down syndrome, their supporters, advocates, representatives of major employers, experts on disability employment and government officials who will meet for panel discussions and testimonials to discuss workplace inclusion.
For information visit www.un.org/en/events/downsyndromeday.

MENTAL HEALTH ORGANIZATION OFFERS SCHOLARSHIPS
The Quell Foundation is offering two types of student scholarships.
Their survivor scholarship is awarded to students who have experienced the loss of a parent, caregiver or sibling to suicide.
Their fighter scholarship is for students diagnosed with mental health conditions.
Funding for each runs between $500 to $1,500. Applications are at thequellfoundation.org/#shaping.

FAMILIES INVITED TO VISCARDI TRANSITION AND SERVICE FAIR
The Henry Viscardi School in Albertson will host a disability service and transition fair, March 10, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Parents, students and stakeholders can meet with agency representatives that provide disability services and post-secondary supports.
For information visit www.henryviscardischool.org.

L.I. HOTLINE PROVIDES INFO ON CRITICAL RESOURCES
Parents, seniors, veterans, caregivers or anyone in need of assistance in Suffolk or Nassau can dial 211, a call center where Long Islanders will be directed to the resources they need.
The call center, which operates every day around-the-clock, is staffed with information specialists that can connect callers to critical resources such as shelter, food, utilities, healthcare, counseling, job training and educational services.

OLDER ADULTS NEEDED FOR MOBILITY STUDY
Researchers at the University of Illinois are looking for senior citizens to participate in their research study on challenges faced by older adults with long-term mobility impairments, with the goal of designing interventions and technologies to help the elderly age in place.
Each person will be compensated $30 Amazon credit. Participants must be between the ages of 70 to 79, have a mobility impairment that began prior to age 50 and speak fluent English.
For information call Lyndsie Koon, 217 300-5445.

ADULT SELF-ADVOCACY GROUP TO MEET AT JCC IN OCEANSIDE
The Special Advocacy Coalition (SPEAC) at the JCC in Oceanside will hold a community group meeting for adults that have disabilities and want to be proactive for social change in their communities in regard to housing, transportation, employment, social opportunities and inclusion.
Their next monthly meeting is on March 19, 7 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.
For information call Marcy Hallerman, 516 634-4173.

WEB PROGRAM TEACHES AND ENGAGES POTENTIAL LEADERS
The New York State Independent Living Council (NYSILC) recently launched a Leadership Development and Civic Engagement Program.
It is for New Yorkers with disabilities to engage in online video and podcast training, live chats, action alerts and resources on a variety of topics such as advocacy, leadership development, civic engagement and life skills.

ABLE ACCEPTS EVENT AND PROGRAM INFORMATION
Able Newspaper will print event and program information from agencies when space permits.
Send items to ablenews@aol.com.
**CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

**MARCH 1**
Support Group for Relatives and Friends of Persons with Mental Illness hosted by MHAW 7 p.m. at 939 Johnson Ave., Ronkonkoma. For information call 631 226-3900. Also March 8, 15, 22 & 29

Healing Connections Peer Support Group hosted by MHAW 7 to 8:30 p.m. at 939 Johnson Ave., Ronkonkoma. For information call 631 226-3900. Also March 8, 15, 22 & 29

**MARCH 2**
Mood Disorder Support Group hosted by MHAW 7 p.m. in Selden. For information call 631 698-4846. Also March 9, 16, 23 & 30

Cancer Support Group 2 to 4 p.m. at Franklin Hospital, 900 Franklin Ave., Valley Stream. For information call 516 256-6478.

**MARCH 3**
VIPS (Visually Impaired Persons of Suffolk) 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Port Jefferson Village Center, 101-A East Broadway, Port Jefferson. For information call 516 802-2160. March 12, 19 & 26

Family Comes First Televisi- on Series at 10:30 p.m. on Telecare. For information call Vincent J. Russo 516 683-1717 Also March 12, 19 & 26

**MARCH 4**
Inclusion Workshop: Art with a Partner at The Art League of Long Island. For information call Annette Bernhardt 631 462-5400, ext. 223. March 6

Teen Zone Fitness, Socializa- tion, Dancing, Games and more Open to the public 4:30 to 6 p.m. at HOPEFitness Nassau, 2750 North Jerusalem Rd., North Bellmore. For information call 516 239-4673. Also March 13, 20 & 27

Caregiver Support Group for caregivers of patients with chronic and/or serious illnesses 4 to 5 p.m. at South Nassau Communities Hospital Conference Room B or C. For information call 516 632-4219. Also March 13, 20 & 27

**MARCH 5**
Pop.Earth Health & Wellness Program 7 to 9 p.m. at Merrick Jewish Center, 225 Fox Blvd., Merrick. For information email leslie.feinberg28@gmail.com

Support Group for Relatives and Friends of Persons with Mental Illness hosted by MHAW 7 p.m. at Synergy Center, 1380 Roanoke Ave., Riverhead. For information call 631 226-3900. Also March 13, 20 & 27

**MARCH 6**
Southampton Town Disability Advisory Committee 2:30 to 4 p.m. in the lower level meeting room at Southampton Town Hall, 116 Hampton Rd., Southampton. For information call 631 702-2423.

Yoga Open to the public 5 to 6 p.m. at HOPEFitness Nassau, 2750 North Jerusalem Rd., North Bellmore. For information call 516 396-4673. Also March 14, 21 & 28

Teen Support Group 7 to 8:30 p.m. at Sunshine Prevention Center, 488 Boyle Rd., Port Jefferson. For information call 516 396-4673. Also March 14, 21 & 28

**MARCH 7**
Professional Development and Parent Seminars presented by Center for Autism and Related Disabilities 8:30 a.m. to 3:30p.m. at Holiday Inn Plainview, 215 Sunnyside Blvd. For information call 518 422-2574.

Autism Conference: Promoting Best Practices and Enhancing Quality of Life for Individuals with ASD 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at Westchester Marriot, 670 White Plains Rd., Tarrytown. For information call 518 422-2574. March 10

“Freezin’ for a Reason” Special Olympics Polar Plunge 9:30 a.m. at Tobay Beach. For information call 631 408-0748.

Disability Services and Transition Fair 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at The Henry Viscardi School, Albertson. For information call 516 465-1430.

Bipolar Support Group sponsored by Queens/Long Island Counseling Services of the Foundation for Religion and Mental Health 7:30 to 8:45 p.m. at the Oceanside Lutheran Parish Hall, 55 Fairview Ave., Oceanside. For information call 516 547-1418. Also March 26

**MARCH 8**
Long Island Council of the Blind 12:30 to 4 p.m. at the Elsworth Allen Town Park Community Room, 45 Motor Ave., S. Farmingdale. For information call Ed 516 385-8756.

CHADD of Nassau County Support Group 7 p.m. at East Meadow Jewish Center, 1400 Prospect Ave., East Meadow. For information call 516 699-2423.

Special Advocacy Coalition (SPEC*AC) Self-advocacy program 7 to 8:30 p.m. at Friedberg JCC, 15 Neil Court, Oceanside. For information call Marcy Hallerman 516 634-4173.

**MARCH 9**
Chronic Pain Support Group sponsored by American Chronic Pain Association 1:30 to 3 p.m. at Metro Physical Therapy, 800 East Gate Blvd., Garden City. For information call 516 304-9297.

Multiple Sclerosis Support Group 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at St. Frances de Chantal Church, 1309 Wantagh Ave., Wantagh. For information call 516 945-4526.

**MARCH 10**
East End Mental Illness Support Group for family members, partners and friends 7 p.m. at Grace Presbyterian Church, 1225 Montauk Hwy., Water Mill. For information call 631 728-3082.

**MARCH 11**
Transition and Agency Fair sponsored by Sachem TRANSITION & SEPTA 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. at Sachem North High School, 212 Smith Rd., Lake Ronkonkoma. For information call 631 471 1400, ext. 5552.

**APRIL 2**
Cancer Support Group first Mondays 2 to 4 p.m. at Franklin Hospital, 900 Franklin Ave., Valley Stream. For information call 516 256-6478.

VIPS (Visually Impaired Persons of Suffolk) Mondays 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Port Jefferson Village Center, 101-A East Broadway, Port Jefferson. For information call 631 802-2160. Also April 9, 16, 23 & 30

**ONGOING EVENTS**
Lupus Alliance of Long Island/Queens Support Group open on a month on Tuesdays 7:30 to 9 p.m. in Smithtown and East Meadow. For information call 516 802-3142.

Veterans Outreach Program sponsored by Northport VA Medical Center at locations in Riverhead, Northport, East Meadow, Patchogue, Valley Stream and Bay Shore. For information call Debbie 631 261-4400 ext. 7084.

Special Needs Sports Program for ages 4 and up 12 to 2 p.m. every other Saturday day through June at the William Floyd Middle School, 630 Moriches Middle Island Rd., Moriches Athletic Complex, Moriches. For information call Debbie Metz 631 767-4354.

To have your event or meeting listed, send information to www.ablenews@aol.com The deadline for calendar items is the 10th day of the month preceding the date of publication. Calendar items will be accept- ed only if they have a specific date.
MEET A COMPANION, PHONE FRIEND, PEN PAL, OR EVEN A SPOUSE

SWF, Active, Nassau widow, mild arthritis, wishes to meet male friend 75 plus for local events. \[A390\]

SWM, 45, Looking for a nice woman 50 to 60 for friendship, possible LTR, send picture and phone number. \[A389\]

SWM, wheelchair user 53, looking for SWF for friendship and more, into fishing, baseball, the outdoors and comedy clubs. I do not drive. I live in Sayville, N.Y. \[A388\]

DBW-60, Seeking friendship, companion. Love to read, music and movies. Please enclose phone number. \[A386\]

SWM 70, seeks nice lady for companionship to spend quality time with. I live in Babylon Township. In your response include you telephone number, NS. \[A384\]

SWF, looking for that special guy to spend the rest of my life with. I'm easy going, out going person and I love doing most everything. Lets enjoy life together. \[A377\]

WCF, 85, looking for companion, friendship, dancing, dating, conversation and dining, Suffolk County, ND and NS. \[A379\]

GUIDELINES: Able assumes no liability for the contents of or replies to any personal advertisements, or the actions of any individuals. Any such liability rests exclusively with the advertiser, or a respondent to such advertisements. Able may, in its sole discretion, reject of delete any personal advertisements which it deems inappropriate. This service is intended solely for personal advertisements of singles. No ads will be accepted from couples, groups or organizations. Advertisers and respondents must be 18 years of age or older. No ads will be published seeking persons under the age of 18.

BUDGET PLAN PUSH BACK

Continued from page 3

The statement claims that approach was widely reviled by most Americans, largely because it would have ended health coverage for millions and restricted access for millions more. It goes on to say, “Whether in the president’s budget or a stand-alone bill, any plan that would reduce coverage, weaken protections for people with pre-existing conditions or make devasting cuts to Medicaid was and always will be unacceptable,” stated in the released statement.

“We urge Congress and the administration to reject this flawed budget and to instead pursue bipartisan solutions that prioritize the health and well-being of all Americans.”

DIA SPEAKS

Continued from page 8

On Feb. 2, the director of Independence Care System (ICS), Rick Surpin, announced that his program is on the edge of insolvency because of projected reductions in state funding.

Disabled New Yorkers need to ask the governor why he has vetoed a bill that would give tax breaks to homeowners who make accessible modifications and he has vetoed this bill for three straight years.

New York City residents need to keep pressure on the Mayor and Taxi & Limousine Commission to make sure that UBER and the other “online ride hail” services are as accessible as the yellow cabs. Disabled and non-disabled cab riders need to understand that UBER, with their unfair business practices toward their drivers and passengers could kill the taxi industry in the City.

As activists and advocates for disability rights, we have to keep our primary focus on local and state issues.

There are many challenges facing us in the coming year and our job now is to be informed, stay united and let our elected officials know who we are.

THE ACCESS INDEX
that fewer than half the states surveyed were able to provide any information on abuse, neglect, exploitation and death of residents. However, those states reported nearly 23,000 such incidents that year.

Federal law mandates that Medicaid beneficiaries must need a nursing home level-of-care in order to qualify for coverage. Unlike nursing homes, there are no federal rules governing the standard of care in assisted living like there are for nursing homes.

“State oversight has failed assisted living residents and the taxpayers who help pay for their care,” said Toby Edelman, senior policy attorney at the Center for Medicare Advocacy. “This national scandal cannot be swept under the rug any longer.”

“This report verifies reports from families over the years indicating that too often the promise of assisted living is unfulfilled for seniors,” said Richard Mollot, executive director of the Long Term Care Community Coalition (LTCCC). “Medicare beneficiaries deserve good care and dignity no matter where they access care and services.”

The GAO report makes clear that the problems identified in Pennsylvania 11 years ago were not an aberration. The oversight of the assisted living industry at the state level has failed to protect residents.

LTCCC and other advocacy organizations have called on the federal government to immediately take steps to protect assisted living residents by enacting federal standards to ensure safety and dignity.

They are also urging for the development of federal and state websites, similar to Nursing Home Compare, with validated information on staffing, inspection results, complaints and a comprehensive list of critical incidents that have occurred.

### CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING MAIL-IN FORM

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Print my ad as follows (Use one space per word)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>NAME ____________________________________</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ADDRESS ____________________________________</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHONE ( ) ________________________________</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CHECK ENCLOSED $ ________________________</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Make Checks payable to Able Newspaper</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>□ VISA □ MASTERCARD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Acc# ___________________________ Exp. Date</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Signature___________________________ Security code______</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### ASSISTED LIVING REPORT

Continued from page 3

### CIVIL RIGHTS LAW FIRM

- Housing Discrimination
- Service Dog Discrimination
- Accessibility Discrimination#

646-290-8258 • 516-783-9662
FREE CONSULTATION HARLANOS ESPANOL
www.civilrightsNY.com

### Hospital Tech Services

“Quality Repairs at Reasonable Rates”
HTS offers Quality Repairs on:
• Hospital Beds • Homecare Beds
• Patient Lifts • Stretchers
We also offer great rates on Mattresses and Parts for all Beds and Stretchers! Call us at 631 258-6997 • www.hospitaltech.net

### Diane’s Cleaning

Skilled For Your Home and Office needs
631 676-2315

### This Spot Could Be Yours.

To Place An Ad Call.
Able
516 939-2253
New York Yankees

An Invitation to a Once-In-a-Lifetime Premium Experience at Yankee Stadium

Yankees premium seating are quite simply the greatest seats in the world, combining unparalleled seat locations with enhanced amenities and service, resulting in unforgettable game day experiences with friends, family and business associates.

FULL SEASON, 41- AND 20-GAME PLANS ARE AVAILABLE

Available on a full season, multi-year basis

For more information on accessible seating, please call (718) 508-3955, (718) 579-4510, email premium@yankees.com or disabledservices@yankees.com.