

# Access Newsletter

July 2013

Summer Edition



## A Message From Supervisor Petrone

### Inside this issue:

A Message from Supervisor Petrone	Pg. 1
Joint Emergency Evacuation Program & Special Needs Registry	Pg. 1
Gardening from a Wheelchair	Pg. 2
Beach Stickers for Persons with Disabilities	Pg. 2
The Reeve Foundation	Pg. 2
Resource Guide	Pg. 3
Resources for the Disabled Traveler	Pg. 3
Town Board Meetings	Pg. 3
Career, Education, Vocational Services	Pg. 4
Programs for Persons with Developmental Disabilities	Pg. 4
Disability Parking	Pg. 5
Handicap Enforcement Program Needs Volunteers	Pg. 5
Project EXCEL	Pg. 5
Back Cover	Pg. 6

As we prepare for the summer season, I wanted to let you know about some ways the Town tries to make it easier for persons with disabilities to enjoy our aquatic facilities.

The most important new development for this season is that the Town has purchased an Americans with Disabilities Act-compliant chair lift for the Dix Hill Pool. The pool has had a handicapped ramp for some time, but the new chair lift will make it even easier to enjoy the pool.

The Town also has five beach buggies available to assist individuals with disabilities gain access to sandy beach areas. Those buggies are normally stationed at Crab Meadow, Centerport, Quentin Sammis/West

Neck, Asharoken and Hobart Beaches. If you want to go to a different beach or if you want to make sure a buggy will be at a particular beach to assist you, call Handicap Services at 351-3058.

Free beach stickers are available to persons 60 years of age or older, and for persons under 60 who have a disability and meet income eligibility guidelines. Persons 60 or older can obtain a sticker at Centerport Beach from Memorial Day to Labor Day. Persons who need to provide proof of income eligibility can get the application in Room 207 at Town Hall or by downloading it from the Town's website, <http://huntingtonny.gov>.

Even if you don't need to download the application

I encourage you to take a look at the Town's new website, which is a lot easier to use than the site it replaced. If you mouse over the "Services" tab toward the top of the page, and then click on "Community Services," that will take you to the page that includes the links to services for persons with disabilities. But I hope you will look at all of the other new features of the site, including many more photographs, easier to use calendars and information about what is going on in the Town, just to mention a few.

No matter how you spend your time – at a pool, a beach or in your backyard, I hope you have an enjoyable summer.

## Joint Emergency Evacuation Program (J.E.E.P.) & Special Needs Registry

The recent *Super Storm Sandy* left hundreds stranded in their homes, among those stranded were disabled individuals with special needs. If you are at risk during emergency situations and require special planning, which may involve transportation and/or sheltering, the Joint

Emergency Evacuation Plan (JEEP) may be of assistance. *The Suffolk County Office of Emergency Management* maintains the JEEP database and activates it prior to an impending disaster. This database will help the Department of Fire, Rescue, and Emergency Services (FRES) coordinate

assistance to eligible disabled individuals with special needs. **You must apply ahead of time to be included.**

For more information, questions, or if you require assistance applying send an e-mail to [suffolkjeep@suffolkcountyny.gov](mailto:suffolkjeep@suffolkcountyny.gov) or call (631) 852-4900

# Gardening from a Wheelchair

Being able to plant your favorite flowers, pick fresh herbs for a delicious dinner, or simply be delighted in the great outdoors are all possible when gardening from a wheel chair.

## **USER FRIENDLY GARDEN**

Understanding your abilities, personal boundaries, and physical structure of your garden will help make for an enjoyable gardening experience. Match your gardens design to your special needs. Reaching beyond your limits can decrease productivity, progress and enjoyment. Having freedom of movement in your garden is also extremely important; an uneven ground surface can make it very dangerous to get around in a garden. Francesco Clark, President of Clarks Botanicals in New York, recommends having a firm ground for traction

such as a paved path or concrete pavers in order to make rolling around more comfortable and to prevent accidents.

## **RAISED BEDS AND HANGING BASKETS**

Raised beds are highly recommended for anyone gardening from a wheelchair. The raised beds should also be narrow to provide for convenient access to the whole garden. Some of the things you should consider before building a raised garden are the wheelchair's height & width, your reaching capability, and what plants grow best in beds. Hanging baskets are



**Different styles of raised growing beds make gardening more accessible to the disabled individual**

another way to garden for the disabled individual. By having a pulley system attached to the baskets gardeners can raise and lower baskets minimizing the amount of reaching. Hanging baskets also provide display options at different height levels .

## **TOOLS OF THE TRADE**

There are many tools available for the gardener with disabilities. Some of the tools you should look for are reach extenders and specialized watering tools. You can ask your local gardening center for help or visit PETA gardening tools online.

# Beach Stickers for Persons With Disabilities

Disabled individuals with mobility issues, under the age of 60 with limited income, may apply for and obtain a free beach sticker. To be eligible you will be required to fill out an application and return it to the Office of Handicapped Ser-

vices. Once the application is approved, your beach sticker will be sent to you through the mail as soon as it becomes available. If you applied for a beach sticker last year



an application will be e-mailed or mailed to you. You may also download the application online at <http://www.HuntingtonNY.gov> and click on Huntington @ Your Service or call Town Hall at (631) 351-3058

# The Reeve Foundation Paralysis Resource Center

Finding quality information is a frustration faced not only by newly-paralyzed individuals and their families but also by persons who have lived with disabilities for some time. The Paralysis Resource Center (PRC) offers resources on spinal cord injury, paralysis and

mobility related disabilities. They offer a variety of media tools and services, including information specialists to answer your questions in English or Spanish on paralysis-related issues. These highly trained specialists research and answer queries ranging

from finding rehabilitation facilities, deciphering insurance issues, locating a local wheelchair tennis camp or a caregiver support group, and everything in between. For more information contact the (PRC) at 800-539-7309, help is available from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.

# Resources for the Disabled



**Check these agencies out they have lots of services**

## **Town of Huntington Handi-capped Services**

Phone: (631) 351-3058

Web: <http://HuntingtonNY.gov>

## **Suffolk County Office of Handi-capped Services-**

Phone: (631) 853-8333

Web: [http://](http://www.suffolkcountyny.gov/)

[www.suffolkcountyny.gov/](http://www.suffolkcountyny.gov/)

## **Helen Keller Services for the Blind**

Phone: (631) 424-0144

Web: [http://](http://www.helenkeller.org/)

[www.helenkeller.org/](http://www.helenkeller.org/)

## **The Viscardi Center-**

Phone: (516).465-1400

Web: [http://](http://www.viscardicenter.org/services/abilities-inc.html)

[www.viscardicenter.org/services/abilities-inc.html](http://www.viscardicenter.org/services/abilities-inc.html)

## **Head Injury Association**

Phone: (631) 543-2245

Web: <http://www.lihia.org/>

## **Special Olympics**

Phone: (631) 254-1465

Web: <http://www.nysso.org/index.php>

## **United Cerebral Palsy of Suffolk**

Phone: 631-232-0011

Web: <http://www.ucp-suffolk.org/>

# Resources for Accessible Travel for Persons with Disabilities

If you are planning a summer vacation there are several resources that will assist you in organizing a vacation that is barrier free.

**Traveling Wheels** is an extensive guide to great accessible places around the world. Hotels, restaurants, shopping, medical needs, attractions, and transportation for each destination are listed and described in detail. Their site also lists spe-

cial deals and featured tours designed for persons with disabilities. For more information you can visit their site at <http://www.travelinwheels.com/>

**The Society for Accessible Travel and Hospitality (SATH)** is an educational not-for-profit organization whose mission is to raise awareness of the needs of travelers with disabilities. Their website is a clearinghouse of information

on destinations, cruises, tours, and more. You can visit their website at <http://sath.org>

**Disabled Traveler** provides information on adventure travel, including safaris, scuba diving, horseback riding and much more. For more information visit their web site at [www.disabledtravelers.com/](http://www.disabledtravelers.com/)

Bon Voyage!

# Town Board Meetings

Dates for Summer

Tuesday, July 9th at 2 p.m.

Tuesday, August 13th at 7 p.m.

Tuesday, September 17th at 2 p.m.

All Town Board Meetings are held at Huntington Town Hall,  
100 Main Street, Huntington

# Career, Educational and Vocational Services

**Adult Career and Continuing Education Services-Vocational Rehabilitation (ACCES-VR)** offers access to a full range of employment and independent living services that may be needed by persons with disabilities throughout their lives. Through its administration of vocational rehabilitation and independent living programs, VR coordinates policy and services relating to transition services, vocational rehabilitation, independent living services & business services. For more information on these services and others offered, please visit their website at <http://www.acces.nysed.gov/vr/all/contact.htm>

**FEGS** creates stable employment opportunities for individuals who are at least 16 years of age with developmental disabilities or other mental or physical conditions. Over 2,000 individuals receive services each year. Participants are helped through Community Rehabilitation and Training Centers which provide supervised work environments. Other individuals are able to obtain "supported competitive employment positions" in which FECS counselors provide ongoing job counseling and on-site supervision. Many are able to move to full com-

petitive employment with minimal supervision from FECS counselors. For more information visit their website at [http://www.fegs.org/services/developmental\\_disabilities/supported\\_employment](http://www.fegs.org/services/developmental_disabilities/supported_employment)

**Office of Mental Health (OMH)** provides a variety of services, including counseling and supportive housing, to individuals with mental health disabilities. To make a referral, contact the New York State Office of Mental Health at 1-800-597-848. For a list of OMH programs, visit the New York State OMH website, <http://www.omh.ny.gov/>

## Town of Huntington Programs for the Developmentally Disabled

### **Adult Program**

The Department of Parks and Recreation offers a physical education program on Tuesdays and a general recreation program on Saturdays. The Saturday program includes activities such as arts & crafts, films, gym, games, music, table games, group discussions, dancing, bowling, parties, restaurants, theater, and trips to sporting events. **There are eligibility requirements and fees.** For registration information, program dates, and locations, please contact the Department of Parks and Recreation at 631-351-3071

### **Young Teen Program**

This is a general recreation program for young teens with developmental disabilities, including autism. This program includes activities such as arts & crafts, films, gym, games, music, table games, group discussions, dancing, bowling, parties, restaurants, theater, and trips to sporting events. This program is supported by a grant from the New York State Office of People with Developmental Disabilities. **There are eligibility requirements and fees.** For registration information, program dates and locations, please contact the Department of Parks and Recreation at 631-351-3071

### **Social Program Without Walls**

This program is for independent adults with developmental disabilities, age 21 and over, who are interested in making friends and socializing with peers. Participants visit local restaurants, recreational establishments, i.e. bowling alleys, movies, concerts, sporting events, museums both locally as well as in Nassau County and New York City. Public transportation is utilized for certain trips. Participants are expected to assist in selecting and organizing activities. **There are eligibility requirements and fees.** For registration information, program dates and locations, please contact the Department of Parks and Recreation at 631-351-3071

# Instructions to Apply For New York State Disability Parking Permit

New York State Department of Motor Vehicles parking permits for persons with disabilities, permanent or temporary in nature that affect mobility, are issued to Town residents through the Office of the Hun-

tington Town Clerk. An application (either downloaded from the Town's website or obtained from Jo-Ann Raia, Town Clerk, 100 Main Street., Room. 102, Huntington) must be completed by the applicant and the

applicant's physician. Call the Town Clerk's Office at (631) 351-3206 for more information.



## Handicap Enforcement Program Needs Volunteers

The Handicap Parking Enforcement Program (HEP) needs volunteers! HEP is responsible for enforcing the fire zone and handicap parking codes in the Town of Huntington. HEP utilizes a core group of volunteers who identify and photograph

any car parked in a designated handicap space without a disability permit, or a car parked in a fire zone. When the volunteers turn the photos into the HEP Office, he/she signs an affidavit, and the violator receives a parking ticket in the

mail. If you are interested in joining this worthy effort, please contact Marvin Grossman at 351-3232. You will receive an hour-long orientation and be issued a digital camera. You will also receive a \$3.00 stipend per conviction.

## ATTENTION HUNTINGTON RESIDENTS

Do You Need A Helping Hand?

Help with house cleaning

Help with yard work

Help with household chores

Project EXCEL has local youth, ages 14-18, who are ready, able and willing to work. All youth have completed our employment workshop and have been screened.

**YOUTH ARE AVAILABLE TO BE HIRED FOR:**

**BABYSITTING**

**MOTHER'S HELPERS**

**HOUSE CLEANING**

**YARD WORK**

**SNOW SHOVELING**

**LEAF RAKING**

**GARAGE CLEANOUT**

**GARDENING**



**For more information, please call  
PROJECT EXCEL at (631)271-5499**

**\*Homeowner is responsible to pay youth for services rendered.\***

Project EXCEL is funded by the New York State Office of Children and Family Services, the Suffolk County Youth Bureau, the Town of Huntington Youth Bureau, Huntington Arts Council, fundraisers and private donations



Town of  
*Huntington*  
A Shore to Explore Since 1653  
*Long Island, NY*



**Supervisor  
Frank P. Petrone**



**Councilman  
Mark Cuthbertson**



**Councilwoman  
Susan A. Berland**



**Councilman  
Mark Mayoka**



**Councilman  
Eugene Cook**