



In anticipation of the Main Street Project, the Commission completed a detailed study of the accessibility of businesses with a Main Street address. It is important that all citizens are able to navigate the renovated Main Street of our town. See our web or more information.



Every year, the Commission submits to the Department of Public Works a list identifying curb cut priorities based on the requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA). If you see a curb cut that needs work please email the chairperson at coppolaj@comcast.net

PROJECT LIFESAVER





The Commission sponsored Project Lifesaver – a proven radio technology to assist specially trained search and rescue teams. Clients who are enrolled in the program wear a personalized wristband that emits a tracking signal. When caregivers notify 911 that the person is missing, a rescue team responds to the wanderer's area and starts searching with the mobile locater tracking system. Search times have been reduced from hours and days to less than 30 minutes. Nationwide in over 1000 searches, there have been no reported serious injuries or deaths.



"Enhanced 9-1-1" automatically identifies for 9-1-1 call-takers the telephone number and address of callers. The system provides emergency responders with the location of the emergency without the person calling for help having to provide it. This is often useful in times of fires, break-ins, kidnapping and other events where communication is difficult or impossible. Andover's system also allows people to individually register with the Police Department by filling out a 911 "Disability Indicator Form" available at the 911 Dispatch office or on our Web.

Andover Commission On Disability

Andover's Commission on Disability website can be reached at:

http://andoverma.gov/boards/disability

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

MVRTA ADA EXTENDED HOURS



In collaboration with state initiatives, the State Department of Health, and the Homeland Security Program, commission members are attending various emergency preparedness programs locally, regionally, and at the state level. We will be working closely with the Andover Board of Health, Andover Police and Fire and regional emergency personnel to revise and implement disaster plans. Our focus is on the needs of the disabled during and after evacuations from either natural or man -made disasters. We recommend two web sites: Federal Government Emergency Preparedness Information can be found at: Ready.gov and the Disability Policy Consortium (an organization of volunteer disability rights activists who share a common goal of equal opportunity for all individuals with disabilities.) Emergency Planning Documents at: www.dpcma.org



The Merrimack Valley Regional Transportation Authority (M.V.R.T.A) Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) "EZ Trans" service's Sunday Andover Extended Hours program is now accessible to passengers who use wheelchairs. The Sunday Extended Hours program is a reservation ride service that is open to senior and disabled residents of Andover who have been pre-approved. The Andover Extended Hours program runs every Sunday except holidays between the hours of 9:00 AM and 10:00 PM. All transportation must be within the town of Andover or between Andover addresses and The Loop in Methuen. All reservations for the Andover Extended Hours program must be pre-booked by 4:30 PM on the Thursday prior to the requested trip. Please call M.V.R.T.A. EZ Trans (978) 469-6878 option 3 if you have any questions regarding this or any other M.V.R.T.A. EZ Trans service.

PLAYGROUNDS ACCESSIBILITY LIBRARY BOOKS ON DISABILITIES



Improving the accessibility of the Town's playgrounds is a combined effort with the Plant and Facilities Department. We have purchased accessible play equipment for Penguin Park, Bancroft Park and Lower Shawsheen Park. Our thanks to Joe Piantedosi and his team for all of their work to improve the playgrounds for everyone.



We have purchased books on a wide range of disability subjects. They are available at the Memorial Hall Library and can be reserved online at mhl.org

Newsletter Feedback welcomed

Send comments to coppolaj@comcast.net