

# ACOD NEWS

## *Andover Commission On Disability*

### WHO ARE WE

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The ACOD is a commission of nine volunteers serving three-year terms and appointed by the Board of Selectmen to advocate on disability-related issues. The majority (5) of the commission members must be disabled or directly related to disability. The mission of the Andover Commission on Disability is to address Andover's needs for the town, its residents, visitors, friends, employers and families relative to disability. Its goals are:

~ to advocate for the full integration and participation of people with disabilities in the town of

Andover.

~ to research the needs and problems of people with disabilities in the town of Andover.

~ to advise and assist town officials and employees in addressing the needs of people with disabilities.

~ to provide information, referral, guidance, and technical assistance to individuals, public agencies, business and organizations in matters pertaining to disability.

~ to participate to the maximum extent possible in disability-related programs of a local, regional, state, and federal nature.

~ to support training related to disability to people who reside or work in the town of Andover.

**The Andover Commission on Disability meets the fourth Thursday of each month in the town library. We invite all people interested in the work of the commission to attend our open meeting and hear what we are doing in Andover.**



### DID YOU KNOW...

.....that the total population of Andover is 31,000 and 3082 of those are persons with disabilities. That's 10% of our town!

.....the Americans With Disabilities Act (ADA) was passed in 1990, sponsored by Sen. Bob Dole, and signed by President Bush (the first.)

## HANDICAP PARKING TICKETING PROGRAM

ACOD has set up a referral service with the Mass. Office on Disability (MOD). Any disabled person in Andover who needs Individual Advocacy can call MOD for help at: **1-800-322-2020**.

The person simply asks for "Intake" and tells them about their problem. MOD has professional advocates, and other personnel in place to handle these issues and formal referral to services.

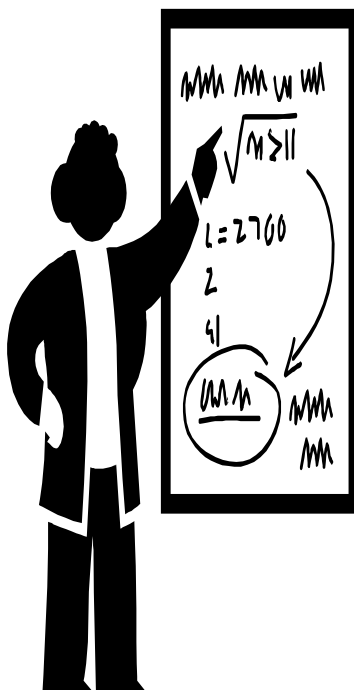
In response to a growing concern over misuse of handicapped parking spaces and other areas specifically designated for handicapped access, the ACOD entered into a partnership, approved by the Board of Selectmen, with the Andover Police Department to have certain commission members authorized to enforce these parking privileges. Using instant cameras to document violations, the trained volunteers issue affidavits when vehicles are parked in violation of Town By-Laws. The Parking Control Supervisor of the Police Department then mails copies of this evidence with a parking ticket of \$100.00 to the violator. Initially, ticketing

results were minimal due the infrequency of the designated volunteers coming into town. In December of 2002, five new volunteers

were trained to replace the original three. The goal is that through the use of public education, we can achieve one hundred percent compliance with handicapped parking laws. This subcommittee is currently reviewing legal compliance with numbers, dimensions, locations, and signage of handicapped parking near public buildings.



Be careful where you park in Andover!!



**WATCH FOR OUR NEW DISABILITY COURSE OFFERING IN THE NEXT DCS CATALOG!!!**

**WE'RE ON THE WEB!!**

**HTTP://WWW.TOWN.ANDOVER.MA.US  
CLICK ON COMMISSION ON DISABILITY**

**WE WELCOME YOUR COMMENTS.**

**FEEDBACK:**

**EMAIL: ACOD@GO.COM**

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