



**For Release:** IMMEDIATELY

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### **LANCASTER'S OCTOBER 2018 ACCESSIBILITY AWARENESS MONTH TO INCLUDE A RANGE OF VENUES/ ACTIVITIES.**

*Lancaster, MA, U.S.A. (October 1, 2018)* – This year's Lancaster October Accessibility Awareness Month activities will feature an array of activities including a movie night showing ***The Theory of Everything*** featuring the fascinating life of Stephen Hawking, to be held at Thayer Memorial Library on **Wednesday, October 24th from 5:30 p.m. - 7:45 p.m.**

October is officially "Accessibility Awareness Month" in the town of Lancaster. October Accessibility Awareness Month was developed by the Lancaster Commission on Disability (COD) to create awareness and education surrounding the importance of accessibility for the disabled, whether physically seen or unseen, such as hearing, emotional and other less noticeable illnesses or conditions.

At age 21, Stephen Hawking was diagnosed with amyotrophic lateral sclerosis also know as ALS or Lou Gehrig's disease, and given just two years to live. However, he persevered, living to the age of 76, to become a brilliant and celebrated physicist, a husband, and a father to three children. *The Theory of Everything* is a biographical, romantic drama that was adapted from Jane Hawking's memoir which detailed her life with ex-husband Stephen Hawking. The movie is set at Cambridge University and has received many awards including an Academy Award for Best Actor Eddie Redmayne.





On **Wednesday, October 17th, 5:00 - 6:00 p.m.** the community is invited to visit Unified Health and Performance, the only inclusive (for people with all ranges of ability/ or disability) strength and conditioning facility in New England, and located in Lancaster at 121 Mill Street. Please visit Brendan Aylward, Owner of Unified

Health and Performance at this FREE 'Open Gym' event! Come dressed to exercise with an inspiring group of adaptive athletes and learn about this unique New England facility.

Email [unifiedhp@gmail.com](mailto:unifiedhp@gmail.com) to participate.

Additional planned activities for Accessibility Awareness Month will include the following:

- The College Church (337 Main Street Lancaster) will be holding an **Accessibility Awareness Sabbath on Saturday, October 20 at the 11:00 a.m. service.** The focus of the service will be on emergency preparedness. All are welcome to attend.
- **Lancaster schools and places of worship** will be participating via the topic of disability/ accessibility in the classroom, and in churches through prayer.
- Thayer Memorial Library **will be displaying a unique selection of books on the topic of disabilities/ accessibility and more.**
- **October is also time for Community Accessibility Evaluation.** Residents are encouraged to take note of any accessibility issues they may notice in Lancaster and participate in the recent [Lancaster's ADA Public Rights-of-Way Survey](#) which is posted on the Town of Lancaster Town website under the News section found on the homepage at (<https://www.ci.lancaster.ma.us/home/news/lancasters-ada-public-rights-way-survey>).

"Increased awareness and education on accessibility is a vital tool for enlightening people on how difficult living and managing daily lives still is for those who are mobility challenged or who have other impairments. Our Awareness Month campaign creates more exposure on the subject, which will ultimately help residents in Lancaster live more full and productive lives with dignity," said Mr. Michael McCue, Chairman of the Lancaster Commission on Disability. "We encourage residents to take note and inform our Commission of any public accessibility issues they may notice in Lancaster.

The Lancaster COD is also actively recruiting new members. The commission is progressive and is the world's first entity to establish an official Community Awareness Month on Accessibility. Anyone interested in the COD can visit [Commission on Disability | Lancaster MA](#) or contact Michael McCue at (978) 697-2408.

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