



NEWS RELEASE

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TOWN OF LANCASTER PROCLAIMS OCTOBER AS ACCESSIBILITY AWARENESS MONTH.

Lancaster, MA, U.S.A. (August 22, 2014) – Today the town of Lancaster, Massachusetts declared October as Accessibility Awareness Month, officially announcing the proclamation at a Select Board Meeting. Accessibility Awareness Month, developed by the Lancaster Commission on Disability (COD), will include various activities during October, with an interesting October 4th kick-off event coinciding with the popular Horseshed Fair on the town green, including a state-of-the-art accessible van, information, music and more.

“We fully support this wonderful concept and applaud the COD for taking the initiative to establish this unique October Awareness project,” said Ms. Jean Syria, Lancaster Select Board Chairperson.

“Accessibility is very important for Lancaster citizens and will continue to be a primary concern as our society ages. Needs are always growing for the disabled, whether physically seen or unseen, such as hearing, emotional and other less noticeable illnesses or conditions.”

“The U.S. population is aging at a rapid rate, with approximately 10% of our population having some form of disability,” said Mr. Michael McCue, Chairperson of the Lancaster COD. “While the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) has played a huge role in advocating for the disabled in our society, we still have a long way to go. Increased awareness and education on the subject is a vital tool for enlightening people on how difficult it still is for those with mobility and other impairments. Our Awareness Month campaign will create more exposure on the subject, which will ultimately help

residents in Lancaster live more full and productive lives with dignity. To our knowledge, we are the first town in Massachusetts, or perhaps any state to officially proclaim an Accessibility Awareness Month. We are blazing a trail for a very worthy cause,” added McCue.

Planned activities for Accessibility Awareness Month will include the October 4th kick-off event on the town green, a “disability walk” with town officials, educational events such as a presentation by the Nurse Carpenter of SaolaceRnovation at the Lancaster Public Library on Wednesday evening October 22nd, public safety for disabled by Lancaster EMT personnel, and a month long accessibility challenge to businesses.

“Our commission has worked extensively on planning the campaign and we are looking forward to October,” said McCue, who also credited Lancaster Building Inspector and Associate COD member Peter Munro for suggesting the Awareness Month concept.”

For more information, contact....

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