Support ACCESS this Summer!

Summer brings many fantastic Madison traditions, making a night at the duck pond! Your Support at Work. How far does it go? See Summer, Page 3

BRAT SALE
WHEN: Friday, June 24, 11am – 5pm
WHERE: Access to Independence Parking Lot, 3810 Milwaukee St., Madison
MORE INFO: Maynard the Mallard and Madison Mallards Players will make an appearance from 11:30 am – 12:30 pm.
• Pre-orders can be made no later than June 22
• Brats – $2.50; Drinks – $1.00; Chips – $.50

Rev up the Vote!
Get ready for the 2016 election!
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Community Connection Night
Join us for a night at the duck pond!
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REv Up the Vote!
Get ready for the 2016 election!
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WHAT’S INSIDE?
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REV UP the VOTE!

2016 is an election year, and it’s pretty hard to miss if you’ve watched any television, listened to the radio, or been on the internet. What is also hard to miss are these facts:

- In 2012, 56.8% of people with disabilities voted compared to 62.5% of people without disabilities
- If people with disabilities voted at the same rate as people without disabilities there would be more than 3 million people with disabilities voting

Voting is POWER and when you don’t vote, you’re powerless. Access to Independence is focusing much of our advocacy effort in the DATES FOR THE 2016 ELECTION

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Date</th>
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<tr>
<td>Partisan Primary</td>
<td>August 9</td>
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<td>July 20: Last day to register to vote by mail</td>
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<tr>
<td>July 25: August 5 – In-Person Absentee Voting Period</td>
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<tr>
<td>August 4: Last day to request an absentee ballot by mail</td>
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Help ACCESS Reduce Costs

By requesting your newsletter in email format, you can help ACCESS reduce printing costs while still receiving the same great information! Contact us today to change how you read The Open Door.
it hard to choose where to spend your time and your money. Luckily for you, ACCESS is here to help! We have two fun and true-to-Madison annual events that also serve as fundraisers for our organization. We hope you’ll join us this summer and have a great time while supporting services, resources, and advocacy for all people with disabilities in south-central Wisconsin.

Pictured are Jacob Frost, Board Member with ACCESS, along with his daughters Madisen (left), and Elycia (center), and his wife Nichole (right). Photo courtesy of Jason Beloungy

MADISON MALLARDS COMMUNITY CONNECTION NIGHT
A fundraiser to support Access to Independence

WHEN: Friday, July 8, 7:00pm – Game time
WHERE: Warner Park - 2920 North Sherman Ave, Madison

MORE INFO:
Duck Blind Tickets – all-you-can-eat and drink – all game!
• With Soda: $32 per ticket
• With Beer: $36 per ticket

Ticket + Hat – bleacher seat with a FREE Madison Mallards hat
• $10 per ticket

**Tickets must be purchased through ACCESS to support ACCESS

50/50 Raffle tickets
• 1 ticket – $5 or 5 Tickets – $20
• Drawing will be held during the 6th Inning of the Mallards game on July 8th

All tickets are on sale NOW. For more information, or to order tickets, call 608-242-8484. Your support of ACCESS makes a difference.
VOTE FROM PAGE 2

coming months on educating and empowering people with disabilities to vote. In this edition of The Open Door, we’d like to share a few dates of importance, as well as some resources. We understand that some of this information may be difficult to understand, which is why we are encouraging you, the reader, to contact us for clarification or additional information.

DATES FOR THE 2016 ELECTION

FALL GENERAL ELECTION

October 19: Last day to register to vote by mail
October 24 – Nov. 4: In-Person Absentee Voting Period
November 3: Last day to request an absentee ballot by mail

Remember that a valid photo ID is now required to vote in all elections in Wisconsin. Same-day voter registration still exists, but it is always a good idea to contact your city, village, or town clerk to register ahead of time.

RESOURCES – if you do not have access to the internet, contact ACCESS and request the information you need by mail. Our contact information is on back (end) of this newsletter.

Information on the Photo ID Requirements in Wisconsin:
www.bringit.wisconsin.gov

Information about registering to vote, where to vote, and what is on the ballot can be found here: www.myvote.wi.gov

In the October edition of The Open Door, we’ll provide information on how to learn more about the candidates, voting rights and responsibilities, and voting access.
Your support at work!

Did you know that when you support Access to Independence by joining us for one or both of our annual summer events, you support activities such as:

• ACCESS staff travel throughout our four-county service region to assist people in their homes, at school, and in the community, all year
• ACCESS staff provide information and referral to over 1,500 people each year
• ACCESS staff provide thousands of hours of community impact through education, collaboration, advocacy and technical assistance, each year
• ACCESS staff assist people with disabilities to achieve their independent living goals through empowerment and support
• ACCESS provide hundreds of free demonstrations and loans of assistive technology equipment, as well as support with learning to use devices

Disability Pride Festival

• FREE festival! Everyone Invited!
• A celebration of disability pride!
• Live Music, Arts & Crafts, Food
• Featuring: Tani Diakite and the Afrofunkstars, Gaelynn Lea, Johnny T-Bird & the MPs

When: Saturday, July 30, 2016
Time: Noon – 5 pm
Where: Brittingham Park, Madison, WI

Thank you to our donors

Roger Chapman
Marilyn Feil
Deanna Frey
Deborah Hurst
Lyle Jenner
James and Kathy Jurgenson
Tom Swoboda
AT/Equipment donation
McKenna Family Fund
Noreen Rueckert
Vicki Schmidt
AT/Equipment donation

Access to Independence greatly appreciates the generosity of all those who have made a financial contribution – big or small – to our organization. Through the generosity of our donors, ACCESS is able to expand opportunities for individuals with disabilities to access demonstrations and free loans of assistive technology equipment, skills training in peoples’ homes and classes at our office in Madison, among the wide array of services we provide. We’d like to begin recognizing donors each quarter, thank each of you for your generosity!

AT/Equipment Donation

Open Door
Make a difference, become a peer mentor!

Access to Independence Inc. is holding a training for people to become peer mentors!

MORE INFO

WHEN: Thursday, July 21, 4:00–8:00 pm (food will be provided)
WHERE: Access to Independence
3810 Milwaukee St, Madison, WI

Peer mentors are people with disabilities who provide emotional support and act as a role model while assisting with independent living skills, self advocacy, and coping with a disability.

• Due to chemical sensitivities, please refrain from using perfumes, colognes or heavily-scented deodorants and lotions
• A sign language interpreter or materials in alternate formats will be provided upon request.

Requests should be made by July 7

If you are interested in attending, or would like more information, please contact Nick Taylor by phone at 608-242-8484 ext. 236 or toll-free at 800-362-9877 or email: nickt@accesstoind.org.

Medical/Fire 911 Workshop

Presented by Che Stedman, Division Chief - Medical Affairs for the City of Madison Fire Department

• How to improve communication between individuals who are Deaf, and medical staff
• What important medical information to have in case of an emergency
• 9-1-1 Center’s Database
• Deaf-friendly smoke/CO detectors

When: Friday, September 16, 2016
Time: 2–3:30 pm
Where: Access to Independence
3810 Milwaukee St.
Madison, WI 53714

RSVP by: Friday, September 9th to Michelle Cordova at (608) 234-4484 or by email at michellec@accesstoind.org

Mental Health Workshop in 2015. Photo courtesy of Michelle Cordova.
WisLoan and TeleWork Loan Programs

Funding Independence!
WisLoan and TeleWork are alternative loan programs that assist Wisconsin residents with disabilities to pay for assistive technology, or to purchase the necessary equipment and technology to enable people to work from home. These loan programs are different than traditional bank loans because a bank doesn’t make the final decision. The WisLoan and Telework Board does. That allows flexibility for people who may have an item they need to maintain their independence, but have trouble coming up with the money all at once, or finding other ways to pay for what they need. Simply call Access to Independence for information.

WisLoan:
What Can I Buy with a WisLoan? You can purchase technology such as wheelchairs, computers, ramps, vehicle modifications, or kitchen or bathroom remodeling projects or construction.

TeleWork:
What Can I Buy with a TeleWork Loan? You can purchase items such as computers and software, scanners or fax machines, tools, office furniture, or modifications for an accessible office.

General Questions:
How much can I borrow? Loan amounts range from $500 to $50,000. The loan would be for the exact amount of the item. Can I apply if I have no job? YES, Social Security Disability or Retirement benefits and other sources of income are considered. Can I apply if my credit is poor? YES, the reason for the poor credit is considered, as is one’s ability to repay the loan. How do I apply? Contact ACCESS to complete the loan application materials in person. Application can be done at the ACCESS office or at a location of your preference.

PLEASE DONATE TODAY!
Donations can also be made online. Visit www.accesstoind.org and click the “Donate” tab.
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