



Accessibility Newsletter

Summer, 2015

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

ADA Celebrates
25th Anniversary

Whittier Accessi-
bility Committee
Vacancy

Home Improve-
ment Program

Save the Date—
13th Annual
Accessibility Faire

Special Olympics
Report

Dial-a-Ride
Updates

The Whittier
Accessibility
Committee meets the
4th Tuesday of Janu-
ary, April, July and
October
1 to 3 p.m. at the
Whittier Senior Cen-
ter, 13225 Walnut St.,
Whittier

For more information
contact:
Joan Mithers at
(562) 567-9480

[jmithers@
cityofwhittier.org](mailto:jmithers@cityofwhittier.org)

Americans With Disabilities Act (ADA) Celebrates 25th Anniversary

This year we celebrate the 25th anniversary of the nondiscrimination law that has helped transform attitudes about disability and create equality of opportunity.

The landmark Civil Rights legislation, the ADA, passed in 1990. It put into law principles that govern the relationship between society and its citizens with disabilities. It supports the goal of enabling people with disabilities to be part of mainstream American society and to be responsible for their own lives. The legislation establishes public policy that supports employment opportunities, facilitates access to public transportation and public accommodations, and ensures the use of the nation's communications systems. Of special note was that the community of people with disabilities was united in supporting the act and that the legislation received bi-partisan support and collaboration.

When the bill passed, then President Bush said: "This historic act is the world's first comprehensive declaration of equality for people with disabilities — the first. Its passage has made the United States the international leader on this human rights issue...."

"...Our success with this act proves that we are keeping faith with the spirit of our courageous forefathers who wrote in the Declaration of Independence: 'We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights.' ... Today's legislation brings us closer to that day when no Americans will ever again be deprived of their basic guarantee of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness."

ADA 25
AMERICANS WITH
DISABILITIES ACT
1990-2015



WHITTIER ACCESSIBILITY COMMITTEE VACANCY

The City of Whittier has a vacancy on the Accessibility Committee. The seven member advisory committee studies and recommends access improvements to assist community members who have disabilities.

Applicants to fill the committee vacancy must be registered voters who live in the City of Whittier, or individuals who work for agencies that serve persons with disabilities and are based within Whittier City limits. Committee members should have experience with one or more disabilities.

Meetings are held quarterly on the last Tuesday of the months of January, April, July, and October at the Uptown Senior Center.

For more information or to apply, please contact:

Joan Mithers, Community Services
Manager & Accessibility Coordinator
(562) 567-9480
jmithers@cityofwhittier.org



HOME MODIFICATION GRANT PROGRAM

With a goal of improving the quality of life for low income disabled people who live in the City of Whittier, **Southern California Resource Services** can help people who need:

- accessible ramps,
- widened doorways,
- grab bars, handrails, and
- other items of a similar nature.

For more information please contact:
Ana Rocha
(562) 862-6531, ext. 122

State of California
Department of Developmental Services

The Regional Centers of the California Department of Developmental Services can provide assistance in finding and using community and other resources and advocacy for the protection of legal, civil and service rights for individuals with development disabilities and their families.

To learn more, contact the Eastern Los Angeles Regional Center at (626) 299-4700.



WHITTIER SERVES AS HOST TOWN FOR SPECIAL OLYMPICS 2015 WORLD GAMES

Whittier joined SOLA (Special Olympics Lions Club of Los Angeles) in participating as a Host Town in the Special Olympics World Games just held in Los Angeles. A delegation of 118 athletes and coaches from Macau, China were welcomed to Whittier on July 21, 2015.

The Special Olympics is the world's largest sports organization for children and adults with developmental disabilities, providing year-round training and competitions to more than 4.2 million athletes in 170 countries. The 2015 Special Olympic World Games was the largest event hosted by Los Angeles since the 1984 Olympic Games. The venues were world-class, including Special Olympic Athlete Villages at USC and UCLA.

Community organizations and individuals joined forces to welcome the athletes and provide a fun visit. The athletes were welcomed by the City Council with presentations, photos with Council members and a welcome parade. While in Whittier, they enjoyed an evening fun fest at the Uptown Senior Center with dinner, dancing, games and other activities, shopping in Uptown Whittier, tours of the Whittier Museum, a Concert in the park, and delicious meals provided by local restaurants and community groups.

After 3 nights of local activities the athletes went on to the games where they competed in swimming, basketball, track and field, and other activities.



DIAL-A-RIDE UPDATES

CITY OF WHITTIER AWARDS DIAL-A-RIDE CONTRACT TO MV TRANSPORTATION

At its May 26 meeting, the Whittier City Council voted to award MV Transportation, Inc. a three year contract (with the option of 2 two year extensions) for the operation of the City Dial-A-Ride service. MV has been the city's DAR operator since 2007.

In addition to providing the most competitive bid, MV has provided reliable service, has a strong track record of safety, and has been responsive to the needs of Whittier residents.

NEW DIAL-A-RIDE VEHICLES

The City of Whittier applied for, and is being recommended to receive, federal funds to purchase five new Dial-A-Ride vehicles. The process takes a while but keep watching in 2016 for our new vehicles.

NEW PHONE SYSTEM FOR DIAL-A-RIDE

The Whittier Dial-A-Ride has a new telephone queueing system. The system ensures that calls are answered in the order received. It also decreases waiting times for callers. In the past, dispatchers had to manually place calls on hold. With the new system, they can give undivided attention to each caller and answer the next call faster. So far, feedback has been positive!



DID YOU KNOW?

- ⇒ The City Dial-A-Ride service provides about **75,000** rides every year
- ⇒ More than **3,000** City residents are registered to use Dial-A-Ride
- ⇒ Dial-A-Ride operates **365** days a year
- ⇒ The Dial-A-Ride dispatching office receives about **250-300** calls each day



DAR PLUS CONNECTS RESIDENTS TO THEIR HEALTH PROVIDERS

DAR Plus provides out-of-city service medical and dental appointments for registered Dial-a-Ride users.

DAR Plus travels to most of the communities surrounding Whittier as well as the Kaiser hospitals in Bellflower and Baldwin Park, Beverly Hospital in Montebello, and St. Jude Hospital in Fullerton.

A special DAR Plus ride card is required and fares range from \$2 - \$4 each way.



SAVE THE DATE! **October 20, 2015**

The Whittier Accessibility Faire will take place Tuesday, October 20, 2015 from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at the Whittier Community Center, 7630 Washington Avenue.

Join us at this free event featuring information exhibits, workshops, an In-N-Out food truck, and fun activities.

A huge thank you goes to last year's special financial supporters: SOLA Lions Club, Whittier Police Officers' Association, and CareMore Health.



WAPADH ArtSource Booth



UPCOMING EVENTS

Tuesday, October 20
Abilities Awareness
Faire
10 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Whittier Community
Center and Joe Miller
Field,
7630 Washington Ave.

Tuesday, October 27
Accessibility Commit-
tee Meeting
1 p.m.
Senior Citizens Center
13225 Walnut St.

**If you or someone
you know would like
to receive the Whittier
Accessibility News-
letter, please contact:**

**Accessibility
Coordinator
562- 567-8480**

CITY COUNCIL

Fernando Dutra	Mayor
Joe Vinatieri	Mayor Pro Tem
Owen Newcomer	Council Member
Bob Henderson	Council Member
Cathy Warner	Council Member



SOCIAL SERVICES COMMISSION

Michael Ely	Chair
Kathleen McDonnell	Vice Chair
Sue Dean	Commissioner
Charlene Dimas-Peinado	Commissioner
Rene Licon	Commissioner
Carole Marin	Commissioner
Marisol Santos	Commissioner

ACCESSIBILITY COMMITTEE

Steven Ducoulombier	Chair
Howard Payne	Vice-Chair
Harriet Clouse	Member
Robert Ehlers	Member
Barbara Lesa	Member
Shirley Oebel	Member
Geraldine Vasquez	Member

STAFF

Jeffrey W. Collier	City Manager
Nancy Mendez	Assistant City Manager
Fran Shields	Director of Parks, Recreation and Community Services
Joan Mithers	Community Services Manager/Accessibility Coordinator
Greg Alaniz	Community Services Manager
Ruri Pierre	Community Services Supervisor

USEFUL PHONE NUMBERS

Dial-A-Ride Dispatch	562-698-3013
Accessibility Office	562-567-9480
Dial-A-Ride Info	562-567-9480
L. A. County Dial-A-Ride ...	800-439-0439
Access Services	800-827-0829
Whittier Senior Center	562-567-9470
Information & Referral	562-567-9476
Community Center	562-567-9430

13225 Walnut Street, Whittier, CA 90602
www.cityofwhittier.org