

**Bloomington Celebrates
Disability Awareness Month during March 2021
and
Community Accessibility Month during April 2021
(As of February 26th)**

The months of March and April offer Bloomington a time to consider ways in which our community is a welcoming one to people with disabilities. During March, Bloomington and communities across Indiana celebrate **Disability Awareness Month**. In April, the City of Bloomington's Council for Community Accessibility celebrates **Accessibility Awareness Month**. A wealth of activities will be occurring in Bloomington and on the IU campus over these next two months. Individuals with disabilities, family members, service providers, faculty, and other community members are encouraged to participate.

MARCH ACCESSIBILITY AWARENESS MONTH ACTIVITIES

Wednesday, March 3rd Addressing COVID Anxiety and Isolation: A Caregiver University Program

Join our partners at IU Health's Alzheimer's and Dementia Resource Service for a live Zoom session at 10:00 am – 11:00 am, to discuss the impact of isolation on dementia and to learn strategies for caregiving during the pandemic. Topics will include how to decrease isolation and how to cope with the anxiety of these times. Age 18 and up. To register, please contact Dayna Thompson at dthompson6@iuhealth.org or 812-353-9299.

Thursday, March 11th "Way to Go"

Travel Training Bloomington Transit hosts free travel training sessions for individuals and groups. The purpose is to teach people of all abilities to navigate the city bus system. Sessions are held each month. These are usually held in person at the 3rd & Walnut Transit Center. However, this March 11th class will be held virtually via Zoom at 1:30 pm. Participants must contact Eli McCormick Customer Service Manager, at mccormick@bloomingtontransit.com or 812-336-7433 extension 2 for instructions on joining the Zoom meeting. Additional classes can be arranged if these scheduled ones do not fit participant's schedules.

Friday, March 12th ASL Sign Language Storytime

Learn targeted vocabulary in American Sign Language through stories, songs, and games. Geared toward preschoolers ages 3–6 and their caregivers. From 10:00 am – 10:30 am.

Register at:

<https://mcpl.evanced.info/signup/EventDetails?EventId=72116&nomobile=1&backTo=Calendar&startDate=2021/03/01>

Saturday, March 20th

PALS Volunteer Training

People & Animal Learning Services (PALS) is offering a volunteer training for individuals interested in participating in PALS therapeutic equine programs. Responsibilities include leading horses and/or side-walking for our clients during riding sessions. Volunteers have the opportunity to work closely with PALS clients, learn about therapeutic equine programs, and help care for horses. No horse experience necessary! This training will be held from 10:00-12:30pm on March 20th. For more information, contact volunteer@palstherapy.org or 812-336-2798 ext. 0.

Friday, March 26th

ASL Sign Language Storytime

Learn targeted vocabulary in American Sign Language through stories, songs, and games. Geared toward preschoolers ages 3–6 and their caregivers. From 10:00 am – 10:30 am.

Register at:

<https://mcpl.evanced.info/signup/EventDetails?EventId=72117&nomobile=1&backTo=Calendar&startDate=2021/03/27>

Tuesday, March 30th

IU Cinema Presents *Flamekeeper: The Michael Cleveland Story*

Flamekeeper portrays the life and music of 11-time ‘Fiddler of the Year’ Michael Cleveland. Born blind and with a cleft palate, as well as having lost much of the hearing in his left ear in early childhood, Cleveland rose above these challenges to become the nation’s foremost bluegrass fiddler. Michael Cleveland and director John Presley are scheduled to participate in a Q&A after the screening. IU Cinema will be showing this film at 7:00 pm on March 30th. For more information and to register, visit <https://cinema.indiana.edu/upcoming-films/screening/2021-spring-program-tuesday-march-30-700pm>

APRIL ACCESSIBILITY AWARENESS MONTH ACTIVITIES

Thursday, April 15th

“Way to Go”

Travel Training Bloomington Transit hosts free travel training sessions for individuals and groups. The purpose is to teach people of all abilities to navigate the city bus system. Sessions are held each month. These are usually held in person at the 3rd & Walnut Transit Center. However, this April 15th class will be held virtually via Zoom at 1:30 pm. Participants must contact Eli McCormick Customer Service Manager, at mccormick@bloomingtontransit.com or 812- 336-7433 extension 2 for instructions on joining the Zoom meeting. Additional classes can be arranged if these scheduled ones do not fit participant's schedules.

Saturday, April 17th

PALS Volunteer Training

People & Animal Learning Services (PALS) is offering a volunteer training for individuals interested in participating in PALS therapeutic equine programs. Responsibilities include leading horses and/or side-walking for our clients during riding sessions. Volunteers have the opportunity to work closely with PALS clients, learn about therapeutic equine programs, and help care for horses. No horse experience necessary! This training will be held from 10:00-12:30pm on April 13th. For more information, contact volunteer@palstherapy.org or 812-336-2798 ext. 0