

SEPTEMBER
2014

Vol. 28
No. 9

OIL Newsletter



A monthly publication of THE OKLAHOMANS for INDEPENDENT LIVING

601 East Carl Albert Parkway, McAlester, OK 74501, (918) 426-6220 or (800) 568-6821, Fax (918) 426-3245
(918) 426-6263 V/TDD, O.I.L. Web Page URL (www.oilok.org), www.facebook.com

If you are trying to go green and would like to help save trees, check out our newsletter at www.oilok.org or call us and we will send it via e-mail.

If you are receiving this newsletter in error or no longer wish to receive it, call and we will remove you from our mailing list.

OIL FUNDRAISER!



On Saturday, September 13th from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., we will be selling 2 Hot Dogs & a Pop for \$1 at Atwood's

All money raised will go toward OIL recreational programs. **Please come out and show your support!**
Call OIL for free local transportation.



OIL FUNDRAISER!

We will be having a yard sale on Friday, September 26th and Saturday, September 27th here

at OIL. It will be a fundraiser for OIL recreational programs. If you are unable to donate monetarily, donate some stuff!

You can begin bringing your items to OIL starting Thursday the 18th through Wednesday the 24th. No clothes please but if you do have some that you would like to donate, consider taking them to Shared Blessings or the First Baptist Church clothes closet as we do use them as consumer resource agencies.

If you don't have any items to donate, don't worry, you can still help out by stopping by and buying stuff. We would love to see you there!!!

DO YOU OWN A HOME AND NEED MINOR HOME REPAIRS?

Make a Difference Day is the most encompassing national day of helping others. The annual event takes place each year on the fourth Saturday in October. This year it will be on October 25th. McAlester's project will once again be a minor home repair/maintenance project.

The applications will be available mid September and

the application deadline will be **Friday, September 26th**. Applications will be available at the Stipe Center, McAlester Public Library, Parent's Club Thrift Store, and The Salvation Army Thrift Store. If you cannot get there to pick one up, please call Leanna at OIL, and she will mail one to you. The project will help those with physical disabilities, senior citizens, and single, working mothers.



PITTSBURG COUNTY FREE FAIR



The county fair will be held on September 3rd - 6th at the Exposition Center in McAlester. The county fair showcases livestock, art, science, and more. In the Open Class Division, anyone can take a chance at winning a blue ribbon by entering something homemade/handmade in Horticulture, Quilting, Knitting, Crocheting, Scrapbooking, BeDazzled/Embellished Items, Fabrics & Fashions,

Photography, and Food Preparation. Don't have time to make anything? Bring something you already have made! Please turn in your entry to OIL by noon, **Tuesday, September 2nd** so your project can be classified. If transportation is a problem, call OIL to arrange for it to be picked up.

SERVICE ANIMALS AND YOU

More than just a 'four legged' companion, service animals play a viable role in the lives of individuals living with a disability. A webinar will be held Wednesday, October 15 from 2:00 – 3:00 p.m., central time.

It will explore the relevance of service animals and how they impact and affect a person's health and overall well-being.

The webinar is intended for consumers interested in service animals. Service to individuals from the perspective of the service animal will also be addressed. You can register at www2.gotomeeting.com/register/530843658.

CONGRESS WEIGHING TAX-FREE DISABILITY SAVINGS ACCOUNTS

A long stagnant bill that would establish a new way for people with disabilities to save money without jeopardizing their government benefits is starting to make its way through Congress. The legislation known as the Achieving a Better Life Experience, or ABLE, Act would allow people with disabilities to create special accounts where they could save up to \$100,000 without risking eligibility for benefits like Social Security. What's more, under the plan, individuals would not lose

Medicaid coverage no matter how much money is deposited in the proposed accounts.

A recent U.S. Senate hearing marked the first step in Congress for the bill which has been under consideration since 2006. Under the proposal, individuals with disabilities would be able to create ABLE accounts at any financial institution. Modeled after the popular 529 college savings plans, funds deposited in ABLE accounts could be used to pay for education, health care, transportation, housing and other expenses. Interest earned on savings within the accounts would be tax-free.

In testimony before the Senate, Sara Wolff, 31, who has Down syndrome, said that passing the ABLE Act would change her life. Under current law, Wolff and many others with disabilities cannot have more than \$2,000 at any given time without forfeiting government benefits. As a result, Wolff said she works two jobs but is careful not to earn more than \$700 a month even though she's capable of far more. "Just because I have Down syndrome, that shouldn't hold me back from achieving my full potential in life. I can work a full-time job, be a productive member of society and pay taxes — but because of these outdated laws placed on individuals with disabilities, people like me are held back in life," said Wolff who has more than 250,000 signatures on an online petition calling on Congress to pass the bill.

With widespread support from lawmakers in both political parties and the disability community, backers say they expect the ABLE Act to be fast-tracked and hope to have a bill

on President Barack Obama's desk by the end of September. "This is really the most popular piece of legislation in Congress right now," said Sara Weir, vice president of advocacy at the National Down Syndrome Society, who indicated the bill has 366 co-sponsors in the U.S. House of Representatives and 74 in the Senate.

Next up, the House Ways and Means Committee is expected to consider the ABLE Act before sending it for a vote in the full House and Senate. Advocates are already in talks with financial institutions that are eager to begin offering the new accounts should the ABLE Act become law.

NEW DISABILITY ICON



A revamped version of the blue and white icon that's long symbolized accessibility everywhere from parking lots to restrooms will soon be commonplace in more communities.

Under a bill signed just a few weeks ago, New York will become the first state to require all new and replacement signage used to signify accessibility for people with disabilities to include a more active, in-motion image of a person using a wheelchair. The state will also change the terminology on such signs, employing the word "accessible" instead of "handicapped."

New York City and a list of other localities, businesses and schools have already agreed to adopt the revamped symbol,

known as the “Accessible Icon” or “Wheelchair Charlie” which first gained momentum through a grassroots effort in Boston. What’s more, the icon is currently on display at the Museum of Modern Art in New York City as part of an exhibit of culturally-relevant designs developed in recent decades.

PROTECTIVE SAFETY BAGS FOR WHEELCHAIRS



Damage to wheelchair equipment at the airport can ruin travel plans. It’s an issue that many within our community can relate to.

New protective safety bags, designed by Airshells.us, can be utilized for foldable and rigid manual wheelchairs. They have the potential to alleviate some of the headaches faced by wheelchair users when their equipment gets damaged by airport personnel.

Currently, Airshells offers air travelers with disabilities rental access to its protective baggage for foldable and rigid wheelchairs at airports across the country.

MOVIE AT THE PARK

On Saturday, September 27th, OIL will be taking individuals to Chadick Park to participate in the City of McAlester’s Movie at the Park night. “Heaven is for Real” will be showing and there will be concessions available to purchase. The bus will begin picking up around 8:00 p.m.

OIL SOCIAL

The Social will be on Tuesday, September 16th, at Pizza Inn, 419 S.George Nigh Expwy, at 5:30 p.m. Call for free, local, lift-equipped transportation.

SHRINE CIRCUS

The circus is coming to town! The annual Shrine Circus will be in McAlester and OIL will provide transportation. The bus will be going to the 4:30 p.m. performance on Friday, September 19th. Call OIL to reserve your seat!



GAME DAY AT THE PARK

We will meet at Chadick Park for some fun with board games. We will start at 1:00 p.m. on Tuesday, September 23rd. For free, local, lift-equipped transportation, call OIL.

LOOKING FOR ACCESSIBLE VAN

Please call 918 426-6220 Ext. 110 if you have a wheelchair accessible van for sale.

EQUIPMENT NEEDED

If you have a wheelchair, bath bench, or walker with a seat that you are no longer utilizing, please call OIL. These items are among the most needed by individuals with mobility concerns and your donation would certainly be appreciated. A donation letter can be given for tax purposes.



OIL CLOSED

The office will be closed on Monday, September 1st for the Labor Day Holiday.



Transportation

O.I.L. provides lift-equipped transportation in McAlester and the surrounding area.

**Monday – Thursday, 8:00 – 4:30
Friday 8:00 – 1:00**

A twenty-four hour minimum notice is required. The cost is \$2 per pick up in McAlester and \$3 for Krebs and Frink Chambers. Outside this area, fees are based on actual costs of gasoline needed to provide the service.

**Prices are subject to change.*



You can have the freedom that comes with living at home even though you have a long-term illness or disability. The Oklahoma Living Choice Project can help you move out of a nursing home and back into the community.

This project gives Oklahomans like you or your loved one more options to manage health care needs and adds more balance to the state’s long-term care system.

If you live in a nursing home and qualify for SoonerCare, then Living Choice may be able to help.

Contact Leah Medina for a referral to the Living Choice Project at (918) 426-6220v/tdd.

Oklahomans for Independent Living
 601 E. Carl Albert Pkwy.
 McAlester, OK 74501
 918-426-6220 Main
 800-568-6821 Toll Free
 918-426-3245 Fax
 918-426-6220 V/TTY

www.oilok.org



Non-Profit Org.
 U.S. Postage
 PAID
 Permit No. 290



Return Service Requested

All donations to OIL are tax deductible.

The contents of this newsletter were developed under a grant from the Department of Education. However, these contents do not necessarily represent the policy of the Department of Education and you should not assume endorsement by the Federal Government.

<i>*Events are held at OIL unless otherwise noted</i>						
EVENTS						
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
 SEPTEMBER	1 OIL CLOSED for Labor Day	2	3 County Fair Expo Ctr. 3 rd – 6 th	4 Shopping 7:00-10:45am	5	6
7	8	9 Men's Gp. Rib Crib 5 pm	10	11	12	13 Saturday Transportation 8 am HOT DOG FUNDRAISER! Atwood's 10 - 2 pm
14	15 Brain Injury Gp. 1 pm	16 OIL Social Pizza Inn 5:30 pm	17	18 Shopping 7:00-10:45am	19 CIRCUS Expo Center 4:30 pm	20
1	22	23 Women's Gp. TBA 11am	24	25	26	27 Saturday Transportation 8 am
28	29	30 Game Day 1 pm				
<p>*Low Impact Exercise Class for Sr.'s meets Mon., Wed., & Fri., 10:00 a.m., Stipe Center *Alzheimer's Support Group, 3rd Wed., 12:30 p.m., Main & OK Church of Christ, call Glenda at 916-1210 *Diabetes Support Group, 1st Tue., 6:00 p.m., McAlester Regional Health Center Wellness Conf. Room, contact Kathy at 421-6812 *For information on Men's & Women's Grief Support Groups – call Hospice of McAlester at 423-3911 for their groups or for information on a 7 week Dealing with Grief Course – call Heartland Hospice. at 302-0700, *For information on the Stroke Support Group, call the McAlester Regional Health Center at 426-1800</p>						

