



Home Access Chronicle

November 2006

Medicare cuts may derail disabled

Framingham, MA

On November 15th Medicare reimbursements for power wheelchairs and scooters will drop by as much as 41 percent. Some say this will cause suppliers to stop selling wheelchairs and could even force the disabled to accept wheelchairs that are inadequate and don't fit their specific needs.

Medicare claims that revisions to the old reimbursement plan needed to be made as a result of many instances of fraud and abuse. Over the last eight years Medicare expenses for power wheelchairs rose by a staggering 2,705 percent.



Blind web surfers sue for accessibility

USA



v. TARGET

The National Federation of the Blind (NFB) is suing Target Corp. because its website is inaccessible to the blind. Target however is arguing that their website is not subject to the laws defined by the Americans with Disabilities Act because it's not a physical space.

Blind people can use software such as Jaws or Window-Eyes which can read text on a web page and turn it into a computerized voice which is transmitted out of speakers. However, as this lawsuit proves, not all websites are compatible with these programs.

Paralyzed cop returns home for 'Extreme Makeover'

Redondo Beach, CA



On November 26th ABC will broadcast an episode of their hit television show 'Extreme Makeover: Home Edition' which features LAPD officer Kristina Ripatti. Kristina was shot and partially paralyzed while trying to apprehend a robbery suspect this past June.

Their existing home was completely demolished to make way for a new 3,500-square-foot, fully wheelchair accessible home. The network sent Kristina, her husband, and their daughter on a weeklong vacation to Mexico while the crew worked around the clock to build the house.

Featured Products:

Wheelchair Van Ramps

Handi-Ramp's Van Ramp System Series is designed to be mounted in any van or mini-van using a quick and simple 3-Bolt installation, with no modification to your vehicle. They are made with strong, durable construction of either aluminum or expanded metal. The van ramps fold up vertically inside the van door conserving passenger space. All of the ramps in the Van Ramp Series are equipped with "spring assisted lifting" for ease of use. They are all equipped with non-skid tread ways and wheel guides for added safety. Call 1-800-876-RAMP.



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Featured

Realtor:
Freddy Barney



Frederica (Freddy) Barney has over 20 years of marketing, sales and business management experience. Freddy holds a BA in Economics and Business from Hollins University in Roanoke, VA.

She began her career in Washington DC at Ferris Baker Watts, a local brokerage firm where she concentrated on sales and marketing. Before signing on with Coldwell Bankers she worked with a local expert in land acquisitions.

On top of an impressive real estate career, Freddy is also involved in many aspects of her community. A long-time resident of McLean, VA, Freddy has served as chair of the Fun Fair for Churchhill Road Elementary and is currently an active member of The McLean Women's Club.

For the past 20 years Freddy has studied the DC metro Real Estate market boasting over \$50 million in sales during the past three years. She is also a resident expert in fine residential properties.

Freddy has assisted many clients with disabilities by either locating appropriate homes or helping them find contractors. She has run ads for them to help find properties and has a very good network to help her clients with their needs. She realizes that it all depends on the individuals needs and is ready and willing to help.

Freddy is dedicated to delivering exceptional Real Estate experiences for her clients through "hands on" service and diligence.

Current listings include a lovely colonial, located twenty five minutes from DC in Northern VA. It has a ramp in the garage, an elevator and a roll in shower. Priced at \$669,000 the seller is also offering a \$20 K credit should the individual want to make changes.

For additional information you may contact Freddy at 703-629-9211 or email her at FreddyBarney@aol.com. Or you may visit Freddy on the web at www.freddybarney.com.



Members in the News

Michael Chenail - Compliance Alliance - Midlothian, VA
Home Access Program Consultant Michael Chenail was recently featured in Charlottesville, Virginia's Daily Progress.
Read the article here >

To learn more about Michael Chenail and Compliance Alliance visit him on the web at: <http://www.adahospitality.com/index.htm>

Holiday Resources

www.matchinghouses.com

Holiday house exchange where people with disabilities can swap houses with other people who have the same accessibility needs.

www.disabledtravelers.com

Resource dedicated to accessible travel information. Features a comprehensive listing of accessible travel specialists and rentals.

www.sendoutcards.com

On-line card store allows you to shop and send cards from the convenience of your home, office or anywhere with an internet connection.

Send us your news! Simply e-mail: atripicchio@handiramp.com

The Home Access Program is growing but we need your help. Please tell any friends, family or business contacts you know about the program.

Fun Facts:

~ No word in the English language rhymes with month, orange, silver and purple.

~ 99% of the pumpkins sold in the US end up as jack-o-lanterns.

~ The Texas Chainsaw Massacre was originally entitled Headcheese, but was changed at the last minute.

Provided by: <http://www.randomfunfacts.com/>

www.homeaccessprogram.org