



New Vision News

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Editor: TTabone

Check us out on the web at www.n-v-i.org



"Vision Impairment Services In Our Neighborhood"

Lake-Sumter Community College
9501 US Hwy 441
Leesburg, FL 34788

Sumter County Support Group

We are pleased to announce the start of a Visually Impaired Persons (VIP) Support Group in Sumter County. Thanks to Detta Pryor who organized a reunion of her Independent Living Skills Class and decided to continue to hold meetings open to all visually impaired, their families, and friends. Meetings are scheduled for the second Monday of each month at 11:30 am. They will be held at the Coffee House Restaurant in Wildwood at the corner of 466A and 301. These are lunch meetings so reservations are required. Call Detta by the Friday prior to the meeting at 352-399-2445.

WELCOME

On April 5th, Ryan Mann joined the staff at New Vision. Ryan is the new Access Technology Coordinator. He is a graduate of the University of South Florida, Tampa and interned at the Orientation and Adjustment Center in Daytona. Ryan will be teaching all our access technology classes and researching new and more effective teaching methods including Remote Access. This will, hopefully, allow us to teach students in the comfort of their own home on their own computer.

A Fond Adieu

Our need for Ryan became apparent when Libby Gratton announced she would like to cut back her hours and

eventually retire. Libby has been the Technology Instructor since New Vision's inception and before. She will be sorely missed by her co-workers and the many students she has taught and whose lives she has touched.



On Tuesday, March 30th, several students enjoyed breakfast at Denny's in Eustis prior to receiving their certificates of completion. Elsie Ellison, Roy Lenear, and Bonnie Harrison attended Independent Living Skills Classes held at the United Methodist Church in Eustis. All, having been visually impaired for several years, thought they had adapted well. However after completing the one month class, they commented on how much they learned and how beneficial the classes were to maintaining their independence.

Neighborhood Stabilization Program

The Lake county Department of Community Services is pleased to announce the Neighborhood Stabilization Program which with funds obtained through the Housing Economic Recovery Act of 2008 is able to purchase, renovate, and sell foreclosed homes at affordable prices to eligible families. To be eligible a buyer cannot currently own a home, must be able to obtain a mortgage,

have a minimum credit score, complete a homebuyer's education class, and meet income guidelines. For more information call Bill Gearing at 352-742-3918.

Need a Speaker?

Need a speaker for your club, service organization, or community-group meeting? New Vision offers informative presentations about its services and programs to the Central Florida community. To arrange for a speaker, call 352-435-5040.

More resources

For those of you who enjoy downloadable books there is www.bookshare.org. Membership is open to US citizens who can show proof of disability. The membership fee, which is \$25 for enrolling and \$50 per year, covers unlimited downloading as well as a free download of the Victor Soft DAISY player to read the books. Bookshare.org's books are available in text-only DAISY format and Braille digital format. For more information, visit www.bookshare.org.

Currently, all actively enrolled Hadley students in the United States can become members of the online library at no cost. In return, Hadley has contributed supplemental course readings to the library.

Learn more about Hadley's partnership and how to become a member by visiting

<http://www.hadley.edu/Bookshare>

Save Our Seniors Exemption

Seniors that qualify receive a \$50,000 exemption on county taxes, and a \$25,000 exemption on city taxes for participating municipalities.

You must be a permanent Florida Resident, own and occupy property assessed as real estate, be 65 years or older, and ADJUSTED gross income for ALL PERSONS LIVING IN THE HOUSEHOLD cannot exceed \$25,780.

The process has to be started early with some forms required by March 1st so if you qualify save this information for next January. Call 352-253-2154 for more information.

Our Mission Statement

New Vision for Independence is committed to excellence in providing rehabilitation, community education, and support services for people with low vision or blindness and their families to promote independence, acceptance, and self-confidence.

Quotable Quotes

"When one door closes, another opens. But often we look so long, so regretfully, upon the closed door, that we fail to see the one that has opened for us."
- Helen Keller

The Experience of a Lifetime - Senior Corps RSVP

RSVP is a nationwide volunteer program that invites adults 55 and over to use their life experience and skills to answer the call of their neighbors in need. Giving anywhere from 4 to 40 hours per week, RSVP volunteers help solve serious problems in their communities.

Just a small sample of what RSVP volunteers did in one year:
Tutored more than 100,000 kindergarten through 12th grade students;
Distributed nearly 40 million pounds of food, feeding over 2.5 million people;
Provided health care services to more than 5 million individuals.

To find out more call 352-365-1995

Easy to use Cell Phone

Snapfon™ ez ONE cell phone. This simple to use cell phone has large keys and print. Features:



• SOS feature. If there is an emergency, press and hold the SOS key for 5 seconds. This will sound an alert and consecutively call 5 numbers until you receive a response.

- Easy to see big and bright keypad buttons
- Displays number in 28-point font
- Speaking keypad to hear the number you dial
- Perfectly sized to fit in your hand, pocket or purse
- LED flashlight
- HiFi headset allows the phone to be "hands free"
- Built in digital FM tuner

Contact ILA directly at 800-537-2118 and ask about item # 813201. Or SoundBytes at 888-816-8191 item #813201.

Get Social Security Documentation in an Accessible Format

Are you receiving Social Security? Are you blind or severely visually impaired? Are you tired of needing someone else to read your letters from Social Security to you? Thanks to a class action lawsuit by the American Council of the Blind, you now can request paperwork in an accessible format.

By law, Social Security will automatically grant requests for the formats listed below:

Standard print notice by first class or certified mail

Standard print notice by first class mail and a follow-up telephone call to read the notices to you within five business days of the date you get the print notice

Standard print notice and Braille by first class mail (delivery begins April

15, 2010)

Standard print notice on a Microsoft Word compact disc by first class mail (delivery begins April 15, 2010). The compact disc may be used on a computer that has the software needed to access Word, but not on an audio CD player.

You may also request another format by calling 1-800-325-772-1213.

To select your format you can contact the Social Security office using the following methods:

Go to the Social Security website at www.socialsecurity.gov/notices and follow the steps provided

Call Social Security toll-free at 1-877-708-1776. If you are deaf or hard of hearing, you may call the TTY number at 1-800-325-0778

Write or visit your local Social Security office.

Become a Supporter of New Vision for Independence!

New Vision serves Lake and Sumter counties and all of The Villages, providing training, community education, and support services for people with low vision or blindness and their families. As a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, we rely on donations and support from the community. Please make a donation today to help us continue assisting people with visual impairments in our community.

Get a FREE GIFT with your donation of \$25 or more!



Send donations to New Vision for Independence at 9501 US Hwy 441, Leesburg, FL 34788. Your name will be listed in our Annual Report unless otherwise noted.

If you no longer wish to receive this newsletter, please call 352-435-5040 or e-mail info@n-v-i.org to be removed from the mailing list.