

An Unusual Tour of Newport...

Persons with Disabilities Awareness Day

On a sunny spring day on the sidewalks of downtown Newport, dozens of citizens came out to explore the accessibility of this popular resort destination. Some wore blindfolds, some used ear-plugs and others rode in wheelchairs. All were taking a guided tour to experience the city from the perspective of persons with disabilities.



As the tour progressed a number of shops and restaurants were noted for their efforts to accommodate persons with disabilities, including Beach Party, Platinum House, Jos. A. Bank Clothing, Brick Alley Pub and the Barking Crab. Among the challenges encountered were finding the curb cuts for wheeling across the street, reaching the card slot at an ATM and entering many of the local shops and restaurants.

Presented by the Newport Accessibility Advisory Committee and Looking Upwards, Persons with Disabilities Awareness Day took place on May 13, 2009. The event is an effort to inspire people to make the city more accessible to everyone.

At left, community members start out on their tour.