



## Bernalillo County Parks and Recreation Retains RAC for System-Wide Access Audit

The largest county in New Mexico has retained RAC for a system-wide access audit. Ed Chismar, the Director of Parks and Recreation said, "We have followed the new access requirements for our new sites. However, we have many existing sites and we believe strongly that these should be accessible to County residents with and without disabilities. So what's the first step? Let's evaluate the sites."

Chismar added, "And who better to do this than Recreation Accessibility Consultants? John and his team are nationally recognized and we know he has a weakness for anything New Mexico."

In the small world category, for those who don't know, RAC President John McGovern's first job was in Albuquerque. He developed the still-existing therapeutic recreation program. And...his first student intern was a young man from Southern Illinois University named...Ed Chismar.

RAC teams are working with Department staff to conduct the audits and to build staff awareness of access requirements. We started the first week of June and look forward to a mid-July return.

## Maryland Municipal League Convention

Maryland cities of all sizes converged on Ocean City for the annual Maryland Municipal League Convention. Not focused only on parks and recreation, the sessions drew public safety staffs, mayors, city council members, and city managers. Suggested by conference planning committee members, RAC President John McGovern spoke, conducting a general don't-miss-these-ADA-requirements session on Wednesday, June 11. The session went well and covered

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## ABOUT US

Recreation Accessibility Consultants, LLC has the skill to aid park districts, park and recreation agencies, forest

everything from the 2010 Standards to relocation of city council meetings. Greg Varda, with the Greenbelt Recreation Department, told McGovern... [Click \*\*HERE\*\* to read more.](#)

## **Six Flags Says No To Teen with Physical Disabilities**

A Jackson, NJ Six Flags park has told a 16 year old boy with some physical issues that he can ride only two of the hundreds of rides at the park; this, after he was allowed to ride all the rides before. The new park policy prohibits him from even the tea-cup rides.

He can throw a football, ride a bike, and has a black belt in karate. He drives a car. But after an Iraq war veteran died at the park, rules changed... [Click \*\*HERE\*\* to read more.](#)

## **Texas Registered Accessibility Inspector...Tanya Scheibe!**



Tanya Scheibe, one of our Senior Accessibility Specialists, recently obtained certification as a Texas Registered Accessibility Specialist. Tanya knows the 2010 Standards, knows the way we interpret the program access test for existing sites, and those are two of the keys in the Texas process. California is the only other state that certifies or registers

access specialists. We are proud of Tanya and the service she provides for our local government clients!

## **Village of Bradley Access Audit and Transition Plan**

The Village of Bradley (IL) retained RAC for a system-wide access audit and transition plan. "We issued an RFP this spring and RAC was our competitive choice," said Nick Weinert with the Village. Our team visited Bradley June 10 to 13, and one of the sites we have only seen a handful of times was the police department shooting range. We look forward to providing the Village with reports this summer.

## **Now That's Customer Service...by Senior Accessibility Specialist Terry McGovern**

We enjoy a great relationship with the Kane County Forest Preserve District, having trained staff, audited sites, and

preserve and conservation districts, and special recreation agencies in their endeavors to provide recreation to people.

[More About RAC...](#)

### **QUICK LINKS**

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[CDG-llc.com](#)

developed a transition plan. We also answer technical questions for the District. The week of June 9, our key question-and-answer staffs (John McGovern and Senior Project Manager Shelley Zuniga) were with other clients. But John Goreth with the District called with a question related to bids that was time sensitive. John says, "Terry responded very quickly and was very helpful. He had all the answers I was looking for and if everything goes accordingly, he was able to save the District a substantial amount of headaches and money."



That's how we can help our local government clients! Can we help you? Reach Shelley Zuniga at 224/293-6452 and... apparently...Terry McGovern at 224/293-6453.

## RESNA

The Adaptive Golf Car American National Standard, published by the American National Standards Institute, is the voluntary standard for accessible golf cars. RESNA is the Rehabilitation Engineering and Assistive Technology Society of North America (yes, the name does not match the acronym). On Friday, June 13, RAC President John McGovern spoke at the RESNA conference in Indianapolis with other committee chairs. RESNA is a fascinating group with an important role in making consumers confident that wheelchairs, emergency evacuation devices, and yes, adaptive golf cars are functional and safe.

## Zuniga Attains ADA Coordinator Credential



Senior Project Manager Shelley Zuniga attained the ADA Coordinator certification last month. We think this is an important credential and have another employee on the same track. This helps us help our local government clients with ADA compliance.

## Not One but *Two* Certified Playground Safety Inspectors

Created by the members of the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA), the National Playground Safety Institute, within NRPA, has certified tens of thousands of playground safety inspectors. While our job is not safety, we recognize the many ways in which safety and access intersect at a playground. Accessibility Specialists Mike Cleary, CPSI, and Jeff Varchmin, CPSI, went to school last month, and both passed with flying colors. This credential helps us make our access audits of playgrounds more relevant.

*Disclaimer*

*Nothing in this newsletter is legal advice. It is instead a relaying of decisions and information about the application of the Americans with Disabilities Act to public parks and recreation. Readers interested in legal advice should seek an attorney licensed in your state that knows the ADA and can apply it to parks and recreation.*



**THE W-T FAMILY OF COMPANIES**

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