

# Richmond Register

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## City sued for handicap access plan

by TIM JONES  
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A former Richmond resident has filed a federal suit in Lexington asking the court to force Richmond to create a schedule for equipping public facilities to accommodate disabled persons.

David G. Miller, a paraplegic, asked the U.S. District Court to order Richmond to create a schedule for compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act. According to Miller's attorney, Robert L. Abell of Lexington, Miller wants the city to have a written schedule for making buildings and sidewalks handicap accessible.

Miller, who attempted to file a \$3 million lawsuit against the city in Madison Circuit Court in June 1991, filed suit in U.S. District Court yesterday.

Abell, in a phone interview with the Register this morning, said the suit asks the court to force the city to develop a schedule under the Americans with Disabilities Act. The complaint, according to the attorney, is that Richmond has no schedule for compliance with the program.

Abell said Miller does not ask for any money in the suit.

In June 1991, Miller appeared before the Richmond City Commission and asked the commission to meet a list of demands. If the city did not meet the demands, Miller said he would file a federal lawsuit.

In his demands, Miller asked for a \$200,000 personal cash settlement. He also asked the city to make all bridges and sidewalks

handicap-accessible, to create a handicap foundation and give \$100,000 to the Parks and Recreation Department to use for the handicapped and the elderly.

During that commission meeting last year, City Manager Ed Worley said Miller's proposal "borders almost on extortion." The city did not pay Miller the money and the \$3 million lawsuit remained unfilled.

Worley, interviewed this morning, said the city takes the ADA regulations "very seriously." Richmond has appointed an ADA coordinator, co-coordinator and committee, and has taken the necessary steps to make the city handicap accessible, the city manager said.

City Hall has set up an audiovisual system so persons who cannot get to the City Commission chambers on the elevator can directly interact with the commission and the mayor from the first floor, he said. The city has also installed an emergency service for persons with speech and hearing impediments and has made the downtown area accessible to the handicapped through its revitalization efforts, he said.

Dawn Lewis, the city's tourism director and a member of the downtown revitalization team, said the city decided to make the downtown accessible, Lewis said, it was one of the reasons for starting the project.

The project, finished last November, widened the sidewalks to accommodate wheelchairs and replaced steps with ramps, Lewis said.

## Reba recreation area opening set

by TIM JONES

different public recreational opportunities at one recreational



The Register/ Mike Tanner

ent, mows his way through the colorful leaves that

## ainst drug abuse

Week teens bought that selves binge on alcohol

and pastor Fred Hood relating his expertise spearheading Lexington halfway house for Shepherd House. He stressed that just challenge is great is give up or not try suggested sticking God to make things

maintains that "one of people in this county-hand, experience iolic and encouraged it to take an active ng to help treat, de-vent the problem.

Donna Clark, the youth minister at St. Paul AME church in Richmond, said she attended because she had "some real concerns about the alcohol and drug problem that we do have that people don't want to accept in the community."

She said her church members were aware of the problems — in large part because her church is located in an area where drug and alcohol abuse is more readily evident.

David Grandgeorge, the pastor of Berea's First Christian Church, said he saw more needy people in general — largely transients — than he did people with substance dependencies.

However he said he is "personally energized" with "the idea that churches can come together" to help the community solve significant problems.

"We're not alone," he said.

Richmond 9-30

