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The Richmond Register

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FRIDAY, AUGUST 6, 1993

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Ordered to meet needs of disabled

by REBECCA MULLINS
Register Staff Writer

A man who went to court to have the sidewalks and buildings of Richmond made accessible to him and others with disabilities has won a judgment against the city.

David Miller, a former Richmond resident now living in Lexington, sued the city last year in U.S. District Court for being in non-compliance with the 1990 federal Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). The law requires the city to make its buildings, sidewalks and other public property accessible to everyone.

The case was decided July 23, when the court ruled the city had 45 days to complete a comprehensive plan for complying with the law. The plan should outline how many sidewalks the city will make accessible per year by cutting curbs off corners and installing curb ramps, according to the ruling. The city must also include its schedule for making accessible other public property not currently in compliance.

The judgment states the city must construct 100 curb ramps a year, with primary and secondary streets receiving the ramps first.

Miller was not awarded any money, except attorney's fees, he said.

The city has been working on compliance with the ADA since 1986, long before the suit was filed, according to city officials. The city has devised a 10-year plan to meet the accessible-sidewalk requirement under the ADA.

Accessible entrances were constructed at all municipal buildings in 1986, according to city personnel director and ADA coordination committee member Linda Fritz.

City Manager Ed Worley emphasized yesterday that the city has already complied extensively with the ADA.

"We had intended to do so before David Miller and after David Miller," Worley said. "That is the gist of what came out of the lawsuit, is that the city agreed it was, in fact going to comply with the federal regulation."

Three months ago, the city's streets and sanitation department began constructing curb ramps on the sidewalks, according to Streets and Sanitation Director Harold Pearson. He said in June that his department planned to construct 100 or more curb ramps per year, the same number of ramps required to be completed per year in the court judgment.

Pearson said his goal is to have all sidewalk corners on 15 city streets sloped this year.

The court's judgment requires the city to report to Miller or his attorney annually on the curb-ramp construction so he can act as a watchdog over the city, Miller said.

He said he is glad he won the suit, for the sake of city taxpayers and the disabled.

"You never know when, or if, you're going to be disabled. In the blink of an eye, it can happen," Miller said. "I think it's only fair to the taxpayers that their money be used to provide simple services and to safeguard all the citizens of Richmond."



Waiting for school to start

The Madison County School District's bus fleet sits at the county garage as the buses are prepared for the start of the 1993-94 school year on Aug. 23. Mechanics are making their best effort to ensure...

EKU plan for Elmwood Estate to preserve appearance

by TIM JONES
Register Staff Writer

Eastern Kentucky University has been in contact with the trustees of the 22-acre Elmwood Estate, located across from the university's main campus on Lancaster Road, but there have been no definitive meetings to discuss a possible purchase.

Ron Harrell, public information director at EKU, said several individuals are ready to provide private funds for the purchase. These persons have long-standing ties to the university or to Richmond, he said.

The individuals are interested in the needs of the university and maintaining the appearance of the estate, Harrell said.

The university has been interested in Elmwood, the estate of Emma Watts who died in 1970,

for several years, Harrell said. The university has developed a plan detailing how the property will be used if it is purchased.

There is no intent to cut down trees or change the view from Lancaster Avenue in any way, Harrell said. Eastern is interested in "enhancing the view," he said. As part of its site plan, Eastern would provide more shrubs and trees, especially where the property touches Highway Street.

The plan, released in yesterday's edition of the Register, outlines plans for a parking lot, an academic building on the front of the property, while the mansion itself would be used as an alumni/foundation center.

Harrell said the academic building is only a tentative part of the plan. He said there is an immediate plan to construct...

Tyson's conviction upheld

INDIANAPOLIS (AP) — The Indiana Court of Appeals today upheld Mike Tyson's conviction in the rape of a beauty contestant.

The three-judge panel split 2-1 in its ruling, which blocks the former heavyweight champion's hopes for a quick release from prison.



Truck driver is ro

by REBECCA MULLINS
Register Staff Writer

Most of us have heard of "Monster Truck" pulls and truck and tractor pulls, but what about a garbage truck rodeo?

Garbage trucks, and their...

ing through barrels are challenges he expects to face at the BFI rodeo.

If he wins the nationals will then, possibly, become an international BFI sanitation rodeo star. The international competition is also held in Houston, he said.

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