



April 2014

Issue: 39

# MetroWest Center for Independent Living, Inc.



## April

It's gone! The snow is gone! Really!

We've continue to be very busy at MWCIL with implementing our roles in One Care, Money Follows the Person and Transition to Adulthood, and with our application to be a Personal Care Management agency.

The House will debate and complete their version of the budget this week. Once the House debate is complete, the budget will move to the Senate.

We are focusing our April newsletter on the amazing Boston Marathon racers with disabilities.

from Paul W. Spooner,  
Executive Director of MWCIL



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## 2014 Boston Marathon

The 2014 Boston Marathon was both a time to remember last year and a time to move forward. Every athlete has a story behind the intense motivation required to complete 26 miles.

At MetroWest Center for Independent Living, we celebrate the racers with disabilities. Almost 40 years ago, Bob Hall was the first official wheelchair racer. This year, the race had 62 wheelchair racers, 54 mobility impaired racers and 63 visually impaired racers.

The two wheelchair winners - Ernst Van Dyk of South Africa and Tatyana McFadden of the US both have winning records. 2014 was Van Dyk's 10th Boston win, and McFadden's 2nd Boston win.



Ernst Van Dyk - Men's winner



Tatyana McFadden, Women's wheelchair winner

The University of Illinois is home to a dominant wheelchair racing program and is a Paralympic Training Site for the US Olympic Committee. McFadden has trained there, and we assume that most of the 15 Boston racers from Illinois are also part of this program. You can get the best idea of their activities from their [FaceBook page!](#)

The wheelchair and handcycle finishers came from 13 countries and 14 states. 7 racers were from Massachusetts, 15 from Illinois, and NY had 10 handcyclers. (These stats are unofficial.)

Framingham Disability Commission member, Dennis Moran, raced in a handcycle and finished in a very respectable 1 hour 41 minutes.

Christopher Ahearn, also of Framingham, completed the course in the wheelchair category.

Framingham, MA  
01702

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Dennis Moran of Framingham



Christopher Ahearn of Framingham

In 2013, newlyweds Jessica Kensky and Patrick Downes each lost their left leg in the bombing. They completed the race together (2 hours 14 minutes!) in handcycles. You can read more of their story at [WBUR](#).



Patrick Downes, center, and Jessica Kensky, right  
(possibly Geoff Krill on the left)



Jessica Kensky

Larry Chloupek completed the course in 5 hours 20 minutes on crutches. The [Washington Post](#) has his story.



Larry Chloupek

Juli Windsor was with the Mobility Impaired field. She was unable to complete the race in 2013 because of the bombings. She looked great at the 16 mile mark. [WBUR](#) has her story.



Juli Windsor

Lucas Carr, an Army veteran, had just completed the 2013 race when the bombs went off. He went right back and helped out. This year, he was part of a team who pushed Matt Brown who was paralyzed in a high school hockey game (Norwood) in 2010. The smile on Matt's face shows how much he enjoyed participating. Visit [ESPN website](#) for more information.



Lucas Carr and Matt Brown

Visit our [website](#) for more photos of the day. All of our photos were taken near the 16 mile mark.

## MBTA Fare Increases

The MBTA will be holding multiple forums regarding proposed Fare Increases. You can [download](#) the proposal. For a

schedule of the forums, visit the [MassDOT](#) website.

You may remember that the previous increase included a large jump for RIDE users to \$5. After a lot of work by activists, this fare was brought down to \$3. The new proposal does not specify any RIDE increases - RIDE fares should stay at \$3.

Note:

Framingham Forum is Tuesday, April 29 at 7 p.m. at Framingham Town Hall, Memorial Building - Blumer Room, 150 Concord Street



## World of Careers

Students and adults with disabilities are invited to participate in a career exploration workshop.

When: Wednesday, May 7, 9:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.

Where: Museum of Science, Boston

Visit the website at [www.ourspaceourplace.org](http://www.ourspaceourplace.org) for more information, and to register.

## Photo Project

The [Community Services for Autistic Adults and Children](#) brings a group of consumers to the annual National Cherry Blossom Festival in Washington, DC. This group from the InFocus Project takes photographs which they weed through and edit. They then publish their favorite images and sell them.

The [photos](#) are awesome! Read more in [the Washington Post](#).

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