



TODDB NEWS

Volume 23
Issue 2
July 2019

“The best and most beautiful things in the world cannot be seen or even touched. They must be felt with the heart.” - - Helen Keller

TODB NEWS

A publication by the Tennessee Organization of the Deaf-Blind, Inc. This newsletter is written for the Deaf-Blind Community, their families and Interested Parties.

**Primary Editors
John Forbes
Margie DeMars**

**Guest Editors as Noted
In the Articles Contributed**

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TODB NEWS

3800 Sam Boney Drive, No. 101, Nashville, TN 37211-3745
July 2019 Volume 23, Issue 2

Tennessee Organization of the Deaf-Blind, Inc.

UPCOMING EVENTS

◆ ◆ ◆ **DATE: October 26, 2019** ◆ ◆ ◆

WHAT: Statewide Meeting

**WHERE: Bridges – Multi-Purpose Room
935 Edgehill Avenue
Nashville, TN 37203**

**See map to Bridges elsewhere in this
newsletter.**

Directions: 616-438-4080 (voice)

**TIME: 10:00am till 11:00am CDT – Social Hour
11:00am till 11:45am - Lunch
12:00pm till 2:00pm CDT – Meeting**

**Bring a vegetable dish or dessert for our potluck lunch.
Meat will be provided (probably Turkey). Dishes that must
be heated, should be microwavable.**

MEETING PROGRAM

Speaker: April Meredith, Empower Tennessee

Topic: The ADA and You

Door Prizes: Awarded by drawing to lucky winners.

**INTERPRETING SERVICES: Interpreters provided for the
meeting.**

**SSPs: Bring your own SSP; if unable to find one,
call 615-988-2633, at least 15 days ahead.**



◆◆◆ **DATE: September 21, 2019** ◆◆◆

WHAT: Annual Sailing Day

**WHERE: Old Hickory Lake, Harbor Island Yacht Club
300 Harbor Drive
Old Hickory, TN 37138
See map elsewhere in this newsletter.**

TIME: 9:00am till 12:00pm, CDT

LUNCH: After the event we will all have lunch at the yacht club, to eat and socialize. Lunch is being provided by the Harbor Island Yacht Club.

ACTIVITY FORM: Due to the popularity of this event, reservations will now be required. The activity confirmation form included in this newsletter must be filled out, submitted and received by Wednesday, September 11, 2019.

SSPs: SSPs are required for this event for your safety. If you cannot find one, email John Forbes at jc.forbes@comcast.net by Sept. 2nd, for arrangements.



◆◆◆ **DATE: October 10-13, 2019** ◆◆◆

**WHAT: Southeastern Regional Institute on Deafness
SERID 2019 Conference in Huntsville, Alabama
At the Westin Hotel**

6800 Govenors Way NW, Huntsville, Alabama, 35806.
Tel: (255) 428-2000

Theme: "Bringing People Together Creates A Wealth of Knowledge"

**Find complete registration information online at:
www.serid.org**

◆◆◆ **DATE: October 11-12, 2019** ◆◆◆

WHAT: Deaf Nation Expo and Conference

WHERE: The Fairgrounds, Expo 3
625 Smith Avenue, Nashville, Tennessee, 37203.

WHEN: Friday, October 11, 2019, 10:00am – 4:00pm
Saturday, October 12, 2019, 9:00 – 5:00pm

SCHEDULE: Friday – Conference Only (No Exhibition);
Saturday – Exhibition, Workshops & Entertainment

**Find complete registration information online at:
www.DEAFNATION.com**

**Note: Verify time schedule for the Deaf Nation event
which is subject to change.**

QUOTE FOR THE ISSUE:

"Knowledge is knowing a tomato is a fruit, and wisdom is not to use it in a fruit salad." – Author Unknown

NEWS OF INTEREST

Global Accessibility Awareness Day (GAAD) Summit

Kudos to the Signal Centers inaugural GAAD Summit, which was held at UT Center in Chattanooga on May 16.

The Keynote speaker was Haben Girma, the very first deaf-blind graduate of Harvard. She talked about being the first student to appeal to the college for accessibility. For instance, getting lunch was a challenge. "I was vegetarian. It's hard to eat vegetarian if you don't know what the food choices are. There were six different food stations. I would go to a station at random, get food, find a table, try the food and discover an unpleasant surprise!" Haben continues, "It's our choice to accept unfairness... or advocate for justice. There are a lot of small barriers in our community. Those small barriers add up. When you address the small barriers, you develop the skills to tackle the larger obstacles. We all need to start somewhere in our journey towards becoming Advocates."

While sharing her very good motivational presentation, Haben remarked, "As the daughter of refugees, a black woman, disabled, lots of stories say my life doesn't matter. I choose to resist those stories. I define for myself what disability means. The dominant story is '*disability is a burden on society*' and '*people with disabilities are Incompetent*'. I define disability as an opportunity for innovation. I celebrate the term disability. I want to be direct and honest. My sight and hearing are terrible. Don't ask me to drive your car!" (Everyone laughed.) Haben went on to say that there is no shame in having a disability, because *Everybody has things they can't do!* In reality, disabilities create innovation. From sign language to technology equipment and scientific discoveries. Much has been accomplished because of Disabilities.

Because Haben couldn't see or hear the audience, she used a braille computer. Her interpreter, using a Bluetooth wireless keyboard, would let Haben know whether there was a technical glitch with the microphone, or what the audience reactions were during Haben's performance. It's amazing... in real time, Haben can read, through feeling the braille dots on her computer, what technical issues arose, and what questions were being asked by the audience.

The summit also included two sets of learning sessions for attendees to participate: Document Accessibility, Website Accessibility, Accessibility in the Workplace, and Accessibility and the Law. Vendors promoted services and demonstrated technology equipment.

John Forbes related to Haben that in 2013, when he was at Helen Keller National Center, the announcement was made that she was accepted into Harvard Law School, and that everyone stood up and cheered for her! And so, too, Haben's presentation concluded with a standing ovation, followed by lovely reception.

For photos of this event, see Photo Gallery page elsewhere in this newsletter.

Article by Margie DeMars, TODB Secretary

Feeling Through & Remembering Helen Keller

Helen Keller Services celebrated the anniversary of the birth of Helen Keller, born on June 27, 1880, with a movie premiere of *Feeling Through* at the historic Franklin Theatre.

Feeling Through, written by Doug Roland, is a poignant story about the daily trials of a deaf-blind man traveling by city transit, and the people that he encounters.

Following the film, we watched a very interesting documentary of the film. Another cool thing... we had the

opportunity of listening to a fantastic panel: Director / Writer, Doug Roland; Deaf-Blind Actor Robert Tarango; TODB President, John Forbes; ICanConnect Trainer, Lori Moses; with Marilyn Trader, HKNC SE Rep. as the facilitator.

Doug Roland explained how, by chance, he was inspired to write the film from a personal encounter with a deaf-blind man. This happenstance encouraged him to write and produce the film *Feeling Through* with the help of HKNC benefactors. The deaf-blind actor, Robert Tarango, described how he always wished to be an actor.

Many attendees were able to ask questions of panel members, and had the occasion to meet them personally after the closing of this first ever joint Deaf-Blind Awareness event hosted by the Kentucky & Tennessee Services Providers, who serve our diverse Deaf-Blind Community.

What a special day to celebrate Helen Keller, who is a lasting symbol of courage and selflessness. Helen Keller changed the public's perceptions of the strengths and talents of people with disabilities.

Congratulations to Doug Roland, the facilitator Marilyn Trader, all the TN and KY Service providers, plus the many Interpreters who made this day exceptional! If you get the chance, watch *Feeling Through* and its documentary!

Article by Margie DeMars, TODB Secretary

TRC Programs Serve the Deaf-Blind

July 2019

By Karen A. Davis

Head of Disability Services, TRC - Smyrna

Big changes are happening at the Tennessee Rehabilitation Center (TRC) in Smyrna. The vocational rehabilitation

training center, now in its 42nd year, will reopen July 22 under a career and technical education model.

TRC will continue to provide employment training and services that enhance independence for adults with disabilities. But now, graduates will receive national certification upon completion of their Area of Study. Programs offered will include Business, Manufacturing, Logistics, Auto Detailing, Auto Maintenance, Power Equipment, Food Services, Customer Care, and Pharmacy Technician.

Enhancement courses offered through the new Disability Services department will continue to serve clients who experience vision loss in addition to being deaf or hard of hearing. The Assistant Dean of Center Advancement also will continue to provide individualized services for the deaf and hard of hearing.

Additional enhancement services will be offered through Student Employment Services, the Wellness Center, Specialty Services, and more.

TRC – Smyrna is one of only eight comprehensive rehabilitation centers in the continental U.S. The center serves VR Clients referred by VR Counselors from all 95 Tennessee counties.

To be referred to TRC, a person must be a Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) Client with the Tennessee Department of Human Services, Division of Rehabilitation Services. The person must have employment as their ultimate goal. Interested individuals may self-refer for VR services by calling the Division of Rehabilitation Services' Nashville main number at 615-741-1606. For more information, contact TRC Admissions at 615-223-8288.

INFORMATION CORNER

EDUCATION SCHOLARSHIP FOR DB STUDENTS

Are you interested in some financial aid for college education? TODB has scholarship funds available for DB students in Tennessee. For more information or an application, send your request by mail to TODB, 3800 Sam Boney Dr., #101, Nashville, TN 37211 or send by email to jc.forbes@comcast.net.

THE NATIONAL DEAF-BLIND EQUIPMENT DISTRIBUTION PROGRAM / iCANConnect in TN

The National Deaf-Blind Equipment Distribution Program (NDBEDP) is a federal program through the FCC intended to provide access to communication and the Internet for deaf-blind individuals with incomes under 400% of the state's low income level. The program provides equipment, warranties, and individualized training to use the equipment. A copy of the list of available equipment is available at: www.iccanconnect.org/Tennessee. For further information contact Monique Brazelton by email at Monique.Brazelton@tn.gov. If you are Deaf-Blind and have the skills to be a trainer, contact Marilyn Trader at Marilyn.Trader@HKNC.org.

Further contact information is as follows:

Tennessee Public Utility Commission
Andrew Jackson Building
509 Deadrick Street, Fourth Floor
Nashville, TN 37243
Office: 615-770-6879
Fax: 615-741-8953

SENIOR SITE – VISION AWARE: The American Foundation for the Blind has some great tips for seniors living with

vision loss. Check out their website at:
<http://www.visionaware.org/info/for-seniors/>

TECH GAMES

Are you still a child at heart? Here is a tech game product you may find to fill your leisure time. It's an app for smart phones (iPhones & Androids) that is especially designed for Deaf-Blind children, but also for adults still wanting to play games at times (or say "I have a new toy' for fun). This technology is the SS12 LockPick Build 4. A haptic feedback based game created for the 2012 CSUN Code for a Cause competition. It is designed to be used by both Deaf-Blind and Blind users. For more information go to: www.androidapk.us/Games/SS12-LockPick-13943.html

MEMBERSHIP DUES

Membership dues for the Year 2017 are past due if you have not paid the dues for this year. Please do not wait until there is an activity you want to attend to pay your dues. Our activities are ongoing and we have expenses, including the newsletter, and insurance, whether you are participating or not. It is important to keep everyone informed, so everyone can have the opportunity to participate. The dues are \$10 per person or per family, per year from January to December. Remember, your dues must be paid in order to participate in activities. Please send your dues to TODB, 3800 Sam Boney Drive, No. 101, Nashville, TN, 37211-3745. Make checks payable to TODB. Use the membership form included with this newsletter.

EMAIL AND POSTAL MAILING ADDRESS

Please help us out to keep our costs down by sending email addresses and changes of email and postal mailing

addresses to John at jc.forbes@comcast.net for both Deaf-Blind and Interested Parties who would like to receive our newsletter and keep up on our events. Also, please contact friends and colleagues who might be interested in being SSPs for our activities and meetings. Ask them to email John at jc.forbes@comcast.net.

If postal mail is preferred, send to TODB, 3300 Sam Boney Drive, No. 101, Nashville, TN, 37211-3745.

TODB Officers and Board Members

President – John Forbes
Vice President – Wilma Wilson
Secretary – Margie DeMars
Treasurer – Millie Ogletree
Board Member – Lana Little
Board Member – Danna Conn
Board Member – Ashley Jackson
Board Member – Jason Emmons
Board Member – Lisa Rimmell
Board Member – Kathy Emmons
Board Member – Naomi Schroder
Board Member – John Johnson
Board Member at Large – Billy Wilson
Board Member at Large – Noble Powers

Photo Gallery

**These photos are scenes from the
Accessible Technology Summit
held on May 16, 2091 in Chattanooga, TN**



TODB Application for Membership

To join, please complete this form and send with a \$10.00 check (for dues) made payable to TODB and mail to:

TODB
3800 Sam Boney Drive, No. 101
Nashville, TN 37211-3745

Please print information. Date: _____

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone: (hm) _____ (wk) _____

VP: _____

FAX: _____

Email: _____

Birthday(s) _____

Please check appropriate box(es):

Deaf-Blind Individual Parent Professional Other _____

Accommodation Needs:

Large print Braille ASL Interpreter Signed Eng. Interp.

Close Interpreter Tactile Interpreter Cued Speech SSP

Please call 1-615-988-2633 or e-mail jc.forbes@comcast.net if you need assistance with transportation to meetings and we will try to assist. Also let us know if you can assist with transportation.

PLEASE note your interests (newsletter, camps, fundraising, grant writing, surfing the internet for information, etc.):

ACTIVITY CONFIRMATION FORM

EVENT: SAILING DAY

WHEN: SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 21, 2019, 9:00AM - 1:00PM, CDT.

WHERE: OLD HICKORY LAKE

**MEET: AT ENTRANCE GATE TO HARBOR ISLAND YACHT CLUB,
300 HARBOR DR., OLD HICKORY, TN 37138 BY 9:00AM.**

**NOTE: THIS FORM MUST BE SUBMITTED TO RESERVE YOUR SEAT
ON THE BOAT AND SSPs ARE REQUIRED FOR THIS EVENT.
MEMBERSHIP DUES ARE REQUIRED FOR THIS EVENT – SEE BELOW.**

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

_____ **ZIP** _____

TELEPHONE: _____

VP / TTY: _____

E-MAIL: _____

MEMBER: YES NO NOT SURE, PLEASE VERIFY

SSPs: YES, I WILL BRING MY OWN SSP

SSP's NAME: _____

PHONE NO.: _____

**NO, I DO NOT HAVE AN SSP AND WILL
NEED ONE**

COMPLETE THIS FORM AND MAIL TO:

JOHN FORBES, President

TODB

3800 Sam Boney Drive, No. 101

NASHVILLE, TN 37211-3745

FORMS MUST BE RECEIVED BY WEDNESDAY, September 11, 2019

**IF INTERESTED IN ANOTHER TYPE OF ACTIVITY, PLEASE INDICATE
HERE:**

BRIDGES

935 Edgehill Avenue

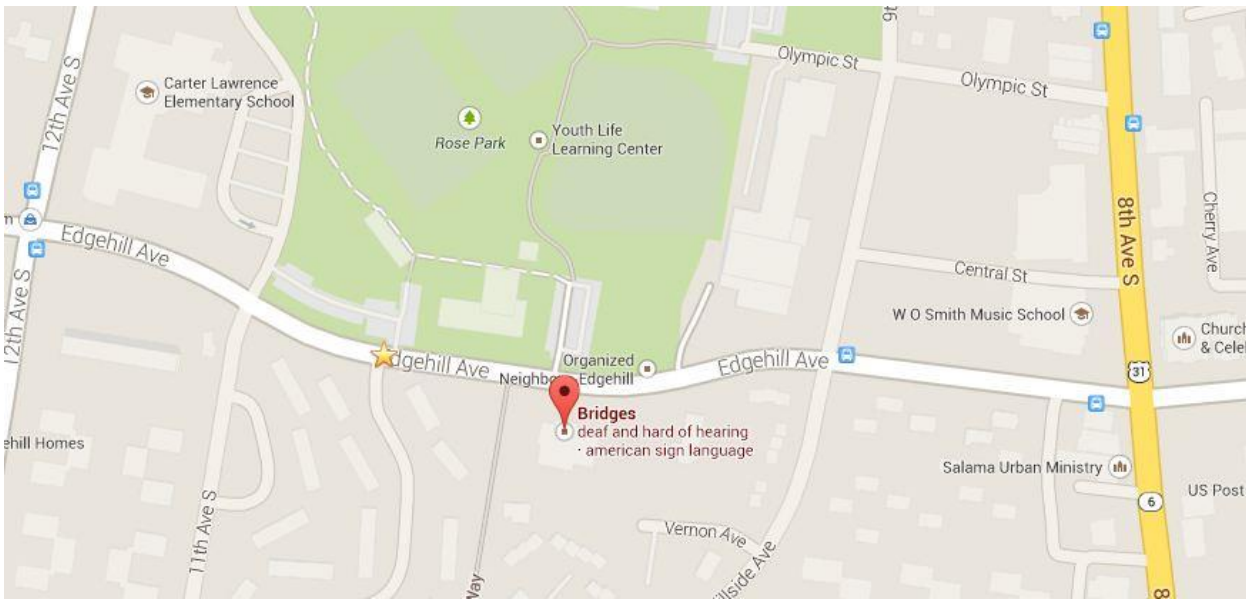
Nashville, TN 37203

Directions to Bridges, 935 Edgehill Ave, Nashville, TN 37203:

From I-65 SOUTH (from downtown): Take exit 81 for Wedgewood Avenue. Turn RIGHT onto Wedgewood Avenue. Turn RIGHT onto 8th Avenue South. Turn LEFT onto Edgehill Avenue. Bridges is on the LEFT on Edgehill Avenue.

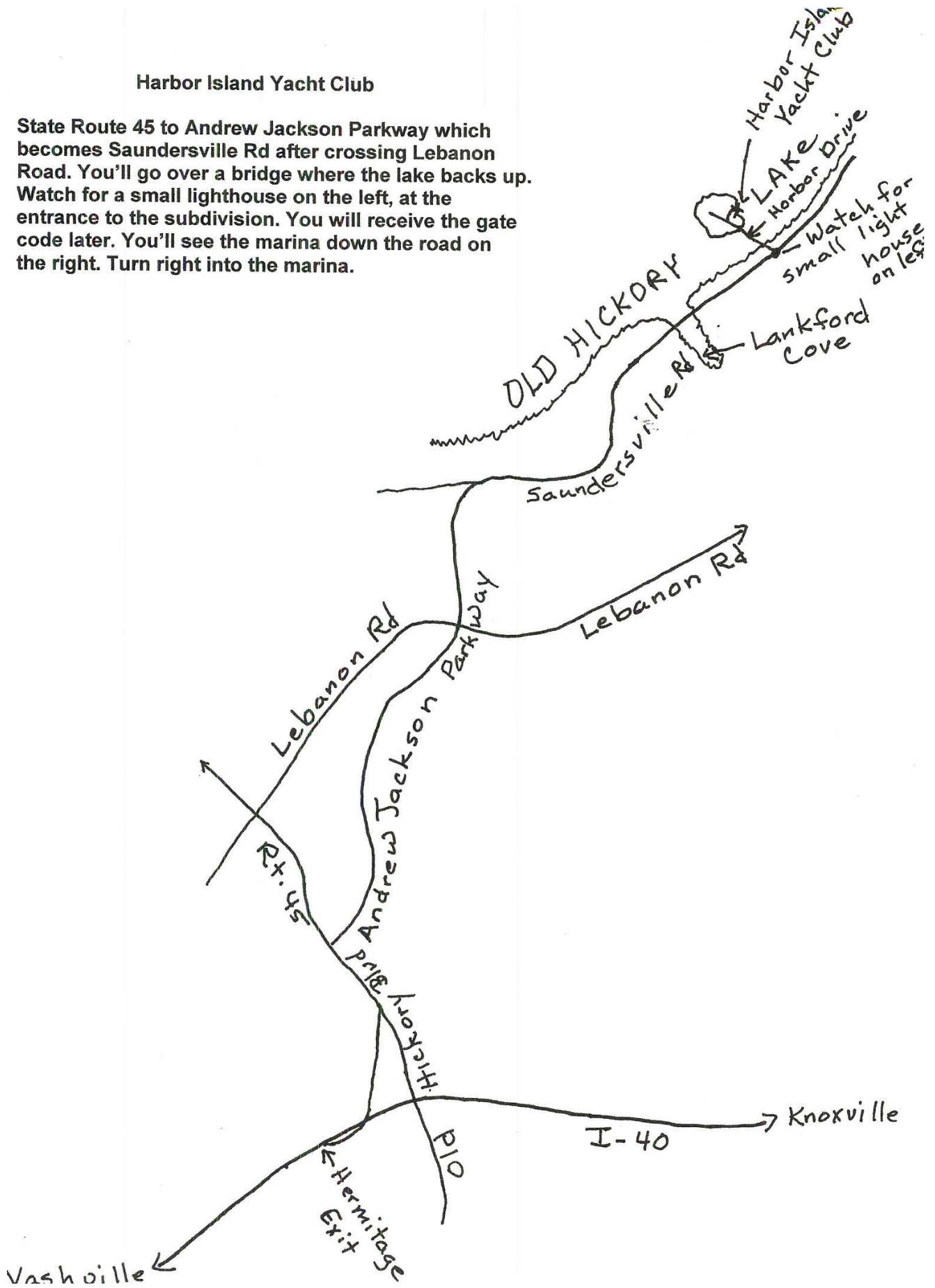
From I-65 NORTH (towards downtown): Take exit 81 for Wedgewood Avenue. Turn LEFT onto Wedgewood Avenue. Turn RIGHT onto 8th Avenue South. Turn LEFT onto Edgehill Avenue. Bridges is on the LEFT on Edgehill Avenue.

Parking is available at Bridges in the marked spaces only. Please do not park in the circle drive or along the grass (in front of the building). For more information go to [Google Maps](#)



Harbor Island Yacht Club

State Route 45 to Andrew Jackson Parkway which becomes Saundersville Rd after crossing Lebanon Road. You'll go over a bridge where the lake backs up. Watch for a small lighthouse on the left, at the entrance to the subdivision. You will receive the gate code later. You'll see the marina down the road on the right. Turn right into the marina.



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Nashville, TN 37211-3745
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**Free Matter for the Blind
and Phys. Handicapped
Domestic Mail Manual
Section – 703.5**