



# News Advisory

## Blue Water Area Transportation Commission

2021 Lapeer Avenue Port Huron, MI 48060  
810.987.7373 fax 810.987.2431 www.bwbus.com

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

October 1, 2015

### **Speaker Series Starts 61st Season!**

## **Blue Water Area Transit Sponsors Free Shuttle To Improve Parking For Town Hall Program**

PORT HURON, MI — Blue Water Area Transit is reaching out to help Town Hall manage parking at McMorran Place for the first program of their 61st season on October 5th. The agency is hosting a free shuttle service for Town Hall members who are attending the luncheon with the featured speakers at the Port Huron Golf Club later that day.

Members with luncheon tickets may park at the golf club, opening up as many as 200 parking spots in McMorran lots. BWAT buses will shuttle these members from the golf club to McMorran Place and back again for the luncheon.

“We really appreciate Blue Water Area Transit so generously offering this service to our members,” says Barb Belanger, president, Town Hall Board. “The goal is to open up parking spots near McMorran to make parking easier for all of our members.”

The agency is in the process of building a new transfer center near McMorran Place. The \$9.8 Million project will provide a 7,400 square foot building where passengers will board buses serving seven fixed routes. These routes start in downtown and travel in the city of Port Huron and Fort Gratiot Township. The new center includes a passenger waiting area, restrooms, and bus schedule displays.

“Construction of our new transfer center may not be finished yet,” explains Jim Wilson, BWAT general manager. “A shuttle service will help the parking situation and riding together as a group is lots of fun.”

Starting at 8:45 a.m., BWAT buses will leave the golf club every 15 minutes to transport members to the North entrance of McMorran Place. Three large buses will bring members back to the golf club after the McMorran Place program finishes at approximately 11:30 a.m. BWAT buses run on clean compressed natural gas.

Town Hall’s October 5th program will feature Anson Williams and Donny Most, who are best known for their “Happy Days” roles as Warren “Potsie” Weber and Ralph Malph respectively. After their McMorran Place appearance, they will answer questions during a luncheon for a smaller group of about 200 Town Hall members at the Port Huron Golf Club.

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Blue Water Area Transit continues a proud tradition of innovation in public transit that started nearly a century and a half ago. It was one of the nation's first communities to operate an electrified trolley system in the 1880s and one of the first to operate motor coaches when they became popular in the 1930s. Following an eight-year hiatus, the current bus service began in September 1976. Since then, BWAT has carried more than 27 million riders.

BWAT started producing its own compressed natural gas in 1996 and now ranks as Michigan's largest producer of the alternative fuel. It runs the state's largest fleet of natural gas fueled buses and operates four public CNG fueling stations.

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BWAT's new transfer center.



*Anson Williams and Donny Most —  
best known as Warren "Potsie"  
Weber and Ralph Malph from  
"Happy Days"*



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