

News Advisory



Blue Water Area Transportation Commission *“Celebrating 150 Years of Public Transportation”*

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

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

June 1, 2016

Ride Public Transit on June 16: Bus Fares are FREE on Dump the Pump Day!

PORT HURON, MICHIGAN — Blue Water Area Transit invites you to ride buses free of charge on Thursday, June 16, when the agency will be joining with other public transportation systems nationwide to celebrate Dump the Pump Day.

The American Public Transportation Association introduced Dump the Pump Day eleven years ago to promote the money-saving value of public transportation.

“We like showing people how our buses provide a safe and convenient way to travel while making friends and meeting their neighbors,” says BWAT general manager Jim Wilson. “When people learn how much money they can save, they often continue to use transit.”

APTA reports that households that use transit and downsize by one car save an average of more than \$9,312 annually. The national association also encourages people to ride public transit in order to protect the environment, reduce our country’s dependence on foreign oil, and improve American quality of life.

According to APTA, public transportation is a cornerstone of local economies in urban, suburban, and rural communities. It helps make a community economically prosperous and competitive. Every \$1 invested in public transportation generates approximately \$4 in economic returns, powering community growth and revitalization.

BWAT buses transport passengers along fixed routes within the City of Port Huron and Fort Gratiot Township, as well as commuter routes to and from Macomb County. BWAT dial-a-ride buses also serve Marysville, as well as Fort Gratiot, Burtchville, and Port Huron Townships.

The adult BWAT bus fare is 80 cents. Fares are discounted to 65 cents for youth (6-17 years old) and to 40 cents for seniors (60+ years old) and riders with disabilities. Children who are five years old and younger ride free of charge when traveling with an adult.

— MORE —

“When more people ride the bus, everyone benefits,” says Linda Bruckner, Blue Water Area Transportation Commission Board chair and Fort Gratiot Township trustee. “It helps reduce congestion and air pollution.”

To learn about bus routes and schedules, call BWAT’s dispatchers at (810) 987-7373 or visit www.bwbus.com. Blue Water Wave, the agency’s blog (bwwave.com), also provides current information about BWAT programs.

Blue Water Area Transit is currently celebrating the sesquicentennial of public transportation service in the Blue Water Area, as well as its own start 40 years ago.

William Pitt Edison (Tom’s older brother) started the local tradition of innovation 150 years ago, in 1866, when his horse-drawn trolleys carried passengers from the Grand Trunk Railroad station to downtown Port Huron.

The Blue Water Area soon became one of the nation’s first communities to operate electrified trolleys in the 1880s and then motor coaches in the late 1920s. Bus service started in 1927 and continued until an eight-year hiatus from 1968 to 1976. Since BWAT started publicly funded bus service in September 1976, the transit agency has carried more than 28 million riders.

Following in the steps of earlier leaders in innovation, BWAT started producing compressed natural gas in 1996 and now ranks as Michigan’s largest producer of the alternative fuel. The transit agency runs the state’s largest fleet of natural gas fueled buses and operates four public CNG fueling stations.

#####

