



# News Advisory

## Blue Water Area Transportation Commission

2021 Lapeer Avenue Port Huron, MI 48060 **phone** 810.987.7373  
**fax** 810.987.2431 **website** bwbus.com **blog** bwwave.com

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### *National Dump the Pump Day!*

## **Blue Water Area Transit Offers**

## **FREE Bus Service on Thursday, June 21**

Port Huron, Mich. — Blue Water Area Transit invites the community to enjoy FREE bus rides on Thursday, June 21 to celebrate National Dump the Pump Day. BWAT joins hundreds of transit systems throughout the country that participate in the American Public Transportation Association celebration.

APTA's 13<sup>th</sup> Annual National Dump the Pump Day emphasizes how public transportation is a convenient option that helps people save money.

According to APTA, households using transit to downsize by one car save an average of more than \$10,063 annually. APTA also promotes how public transportation supports community growth and revitalization. The organization points out that every \$1 invested in public transportation generates approximately \$4 in economic returns. This empowers a community to become economically prosperous and competitive.

The national association also promotes how public transit protects the environment, reduces our country's dependence on foreign oil and improves American quality of life.

BWAT buses transport passengers along fixed routes within the City of Port Huron and Fort Gratiot Township. BWAT dial-a-ride buses serve passengers in Marysville, as well as Fort Gratiot, Burtchville and Port Huron Townships. The agency also provides bus service along commuter routes to and from Macomb County. All BWAT bus service will be free on National Dump the Pump Day.

"We like showing people how our buses provide a safe and convenient way to travel. Riding the bus can also offer the chance to make friends and meet neighbors," said BWAT general manager Jim Wilson. "After people learn how much money they can save, they often continue to use transit."

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 younger than six ride free of charge when traveling with an adult.

"When more people ride the bus, everyone benefits," said Anita R. Ashford, Blue Water Area Transportation Commission Board vice chair and Port Huron mayor pro tem. "It helps reduce congestion and air pollution."

Blue Water Area Transit just finished celebrating its 40th anniversary, as well as the sesquicentennial of public transportation service in the Blue Water Area.

William Pitt Edison (older brother of the celebrated inventor Thomas Edison) started the local tradition of innovation 150 years ago. He operated horse-drawn trolleys on several routes as the Port Huron & Gratiot Street Railway Company.

The Blue Water Area 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 1976, the transit agency has carried more than 31 million riders.

BWAT is Michigan's leading producer of Compressed Natural Gas, with the largest fleet of CNG buses in the state. The agency started producing the alternative fuel in 1996 and now operates four public CNG fueling stations. The station located at its headquarters at 2021 Lapeer Avenue in Port Huron is open Monday-Saturday, 7 a.m. - 7 p.m. Three more stations are open 24 hours-a-day, seven days-a-week: in Marine City (516 S. Parker), in Capac (15041 Downey Road) and in Port Huron (1529 Hancock Street). The agency accepts Discover, Master Card and VISA at all four stations, which are certified by the State of Michigan.

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Smith Justice Group 3560 Pine Grove Avenue, #350, Port Huron MI, 48060, USA  
gj@glojusticeconnects.com 810.357.6817. fax. 888.654.7118