



News Advisory

Blue Water Area Transportation Commission

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Blue Water Area Transit Starts Bus Shuttle To Sacred Heart Rehabilitation Center

Port Huron/Richmond, Mich. — Blue Water Area Transit is providing bus service to the Sacred Heart Rehabilitation Center at 400 Stoddard Road in Richmond. A BWAT bus leaves Port Huron in the morning and returns after all passengers have finished their visit to the center.

“This is a perfect example of how transit can improve quality of life by providing access to healthcare resources,” said Jim Wilson, general manager, BWAT.

The new service is made possible by grant funding from the Region 10 Prepaid Inpatient Health Plan and the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services. The round-trip cost to passengers is \$1.00.

“We are pleased to have Blue Water Area Transit as our partner in helping to reduce the transportation barrier that many individuals have to accessing services,” said Paula Nelson, president and chief executive officer of Sacred Heart Rehabilitation Center.

Sacred Heart is celebrating its 50th anniversary. Annually, it provides treatment to over 7,000 men, women, pregnant women and women needing to bring their children into treatment. Sacred Heart is a not-for-profit behavioral healthcare organization. It provides an extensive array of behavioral health services including substance use disorder prevention and treatment, mental illness treatment and HIV/AIDS prevention and care management. Sacred Heart has a legacy of serving those with the greatest need and the fewest resources since 1967.

“This is a great opportunity for BWAT to support our community,” said Linda Bruckner, Blue Water Area Transportation Commission Board chair and Fort Gratiot Township trustee.

Individuals wishing to use the new bus service should contact BWAT dispatchers at (810)987-7373 for more details.

Blue Water Area Transit has 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 30 million riders.

BWAT is Michigan's leading producer of Compressed Natural Gas, with the largest fleet of CNG fuel 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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