



News Advisory

Blue Water Area Transportation Commission

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Sail In Café Offers Downtown Dining Bargains!

Through November: Buy a \$4 Lunch Special & Take a FREE Bus Ride

Plus... Specialty Coffee Drinks Are Half-Off on Fridays

Port Huron, Mich. — The Sail In Café & Convenience Store invites the community to enjoy downtown dining bargains. Through November, diners who purchase a lunch for \$4 or more receive a free ticket to ride on a Blue Water Area Transit bus. The Sail In features \$4 lunch specials. On Fridays, specialty coffee drinks are 50% off the usual prices.

The Sail In is located in the downtown Blue Water Transit Bus Center at 722 McMorrان Blvd. It is open to the public Monday through Friday from 6:30 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. and Saturdays from 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

"We are glad to be working with the Sail In to promote both the café and our bus service," said Jim Wilson, BWAT general manager. "Seven of our fixed routes go directly to the Sail In. So have lunch and get a free ride home!"

BWAT operates seven regularly scheduled bus routes in Port Huron and Fort Gratiot Township. They all start from the agency's new transit center in downtown Port Huron. Bus riders can catch a bus anywhere in the system every 45 minutes. On-call service is also available to residents living in Marysville and the townships of Burtchville, Port Huron and Fort Gratiot. Further information about bus service is available on the BWAT website (www.bwbus.com) or by calling (810) 987-7373.

Besides the daily lunch specials, the Café & Convenience Store offers a selection of meal and snack items, such as nachos, hot dogs, sandwiches, soups, salads, frozen yogurt, hot pretzels, cappuccino, slushies and smoothies. It also sells groceries and toiletries, including such convenience items as milk, eggs and bread.

"We hope downtown diners will see this as a great opportunity to try the Sail In," said Anita R. Ashford, Blue Water Area Transportation Commission Board vice chair and Port Huron mayor pro tem.

The Sail In is owned and operated by St. Clair County Community Mental Health, which provides mental health services to individuals in St. Clair County. The local agency uses the operation as a training center for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities and/or mental illness who want to gain employment skills in the food service and retail service industries. Individuals learn skills in such areas as safe food handling, customer service, cashier operation and inventory.

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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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