



News Advisory

Blue Water Area Transportation Commission

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 1, 2017

Unique Tourist Value! Tour Our Town for a Dime This Summer: Blue Water Area Transit Trolley Tour Starts June 5!

PORT HURON, Mich. --- Blue Water Area Transit's Trolley Tour starts its 2017 Season on June 5. The historic tours are available for a dime fare six days a week. Tours run from noon to 5 p.m. throughout the summer. Starting on September 9, the tour continues on Saturdays through October 14.

"Our Trolley Tour offers an overview of local history aboard an old-time trolley vehicle for only ten cents," said BWAT general manager Jim Wilson. "It really is an incredible value!"

Recognized as one of Michigan's best tourist values, the one-hour Trolley Tour includes a swing by various local points of interest, including museums, churches, beaches, the Fort Gratiot Lighthouse, and other historic landmarks. The route travels through the heart of Port Huron and along the riverfront for a panoramic view of the Blue Water Bridges and the Thomas Edison Statue and Train Depot.

"Although the Trolley Tour is designed for tourists, it's also very popular among those of us who live in the Blue Water Area," said Anita R. Ashford, Blue Water Area Transportation Commission Board vice chair and Port Huron mayor pro tem. "It's a fun, learning experience for the whole family."

Passengers can get on and off the trolley at 17 points along the route, including hotels and marinas. The official starting point is 331 Huron Avenue (on the west side of the street, just south of downtown's McMorran Place). The trolley departs there on the hour. Passengers may also board the trolley at BWAT's downtown transfer center.

Discounted five-cent fares are available for senior citizens (60 and up), as well as persons with disability or valid Medicare cards.

For an additional fare, trolley riders may connect with Port Huron's city-wide transit system that serves local shopping and industrial centers throughout the area.

Blue Water Area Transit's ten-cent trolley tours are made possible by a group of local sponsors, including Blue Water Area Convention and Visitors Bureau, Foam All Spray Insulation, Radio 1st (WHLS, WSAQ, WPHM, WBTI), and Team Maxwell - Keller Williams Realty.

The Trolley Tour route and hours are subject to change. Please call (810) 987-7373 for up-to-date information. Details are also available online at bwbus.com.

Blue Water Area Transit just finished celebrating the sesquicentennial of public transportation service throughout the Blue Water Area, as well as its own start 40 years ago.

William Pitt Edison (the older brother of the celebrated inventor Thomas Edison) started the local tradition of innovation 150 years ago. He started operating horse-drawn trolleys on several routes as the Port Huron & Gratiot Street Railway in 1866.

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 September 1976, the transit agency has carried more than 29 million riders.

BWAT has produced Compressed Natural Gas since 1996. It is Michigan's largest producer of the alternative fuel, with the largest fleet of CNG fuel buses in the state. The agency operates four public CNG fueling stations. One station is located at its headquarters in Port Huron at 2021 Lapeer Avenue. It is open Monday-Saturday, 7 a.m. - 7 p.m. Three additional stations are open 24 hours a day, seven days a week: in Marine City at 516 S. Parker, in Capac at 15041 Downey Road and in Port Huron at 1529 Hancock Street.

All four of BWAT's public fueling stations are certified by the State of Michigan. The agency accepts Discover, Master Card and VISA.

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