

AS THE WHEEL TURNS



Summer 2011

As the Wheel Turns Celebrates 18 years.



By Paul Davis

June marks the Eighteenth Anniversary of "As The Wheel Turns". Our newsletter continues to serve TTA in keeping everyone informed of news and upcoming events.

Our newsletter has grown over the years. Several persons are responsible for coming up with columns, stories, etc., each month, and all of these folks work really hard to keep everybody up-to-date on current news and happenings. While all of our stories are newsworthy, our writers also include things that make their articles both funny and informative.

Thanks goes out to everyone who works on this monthly publication. Due to all your efforts and

hard work, what started out as just a couple of articles each month, has turned into an enormous success.

Revenues and Expenses:

April operating expenses were \$27,383.91 less than last year. The difference is primarily because of lower wage and fringe benefit costs for the month in April of this year compared with April of last year. Total operating expenses in April were \$512,120.94. Our operating costs from July 1, 2010 through April 2011 were \$5,203,385.74.

In April, operating revenue was \$1,177.46 more than last year. The difference is primarily because TTA is now transporting more Medicaid customers on Dial-A-Ride. NEMT Revenue was \$1,477.14 in April. Total operating income from TTA's bus and Dial-A-Ride services was \$60,287.78 for the month.

Ridership:

TTA ridership decreased slightly by 366 customers compared with April 2010. Year-to-date for the period of July 2010 through April 2011, ridership has increased 17,114.

Summer Fun Pass



The Tri-State Transit Authority (TTA) and Wayne Express will introduce a Summer Fun Pass June 20, 2011. The summer bus pass is for area youth. The bus pass is for the summer months of June, July and August and will sell for \$25.00. Good for unlimited rides, the pass will be sold only to youth 17 years of age and under. The Summer Fun Pass is available for purchase at the TTA Center.

“Safety Is No Accident”

The Summer Fun Pass is in response to Huntington area pools being closed this summer. TTA used to have a Summer Fun Pass and TTA customers still ask us about it. The Summer Fun Pass is great for TTA's current customers and we hope it will attract some new riders as well.



Milestones

YEARS OF SERVICE

Deborah Bryan-Bator	28
Stella Fowler	27
John Bocook.....	26
Jim Forto	26
Larry Collins	25
Curtis Hodges.....	24
Roger Kipp	24
Mark Hunt	24
Jeff Heidl	23
Paul Davis	22
Chuck Boggs	20
Robert Patrick.....	20
Fredrick Adkins.....	19
Danny Stanley	18
Jim Pine	17
Albert Thomas.....	14

Julian “Lee” Spires.....	13
Roger Camp	12
Renee Mullins	12
Greg Kipp.....	12
Scott Stultz	11
Dianna McCallister	11
John Smiley	11
James Howerton.....	10
Robert King.....	10
Thomas McRae	10
Shaun Upchurch.....	9
John Webb.....	9
Randy Rodriguez.....	9
Janie Fraback.....	7
Brian Frazier	7
Priscilla Lawson.....	7
Donnie Tiller	7
Carole Holbrook.....	6
Peggy Miller.....	6
David Mannon.....	6
Brian Wray	5
Norman Andrews	5
Ben Martin	5
James Edmonds.....	5
Charles Evans II.....	5
John Mills.....	4
Jason Stowers.....	4
Jeffery Connor.....	4
Denny Wheeler	4
Keith Murdock	4
Ronald Thomas	3
Cathy J.Craighead	3
DuVaughn Hale.....	3
Mary Marcum	3
David Budd	3
Jarrold Allison.....	3
Michael Dickerson	3
Mary Gold	3
Darrell Price	2
Donnie Adkins	2
Teresa Riffe.....	2
Randall Waller	2
Samantha Tinkler	2
David Banks	1
Steven Kunges.....	1
James Williamson	1

Lonnie Black.....	1
Mark Taylor	1
Tom Day	1
Jennifer Woodall.....	1
Brenda Wells.....	1
Jason Mullins	1
Scott Williams.....	1
Casey Steele	-
Craig Miller.....	-

**June Birthdays
Aren't They
Great?**



Randy Rodriguez....	06/09
Jim Pine.....	06/10
Jeff Heidl	06/16
Deborah Bator	06/17
Larry Collins	06/19
Peggy Miller.....	06/23

**July Birthdays!
Aren't They
Great?**



Jim Howerton.....	07/03
Jim Forto	07/04
Norman Andrews....	07/08
Mary Marcum.....	07/15
Chuck Boggs	07/20
Lee Spires	07/28
Paul Davis	07/30

If you should see these folks on their special day, please wish them a Happy Birthday.

JOKES



Scavenger Hunt

A woman answered her front door and saw a little boy holding a list. "Ma'am," he explained, "I'm on a scavenger hunt, and I still need three grains of wheat, a pork-chop bone and a piece of used carbon paper so I can earn a dollar." "Wow," the woman replied. "Who sent you on such a challenging hunt?"

"My baby sitter's boyfriend."

Antique Moving

The owner of a priceless antiques collection allowed a museum to exhibit his treasures. The movers packed the vases while the collector hovered over them. "Do be careful," he cautioned one burly mover. "That vase is nearly two thousand years old."

"Don't worry," the guy replied. "I'll treat it like it was brand new."

Diet Buddies

Mary announced that she was going to start a diet to lose a few pounds she had put on recently. "Great," Sue exclaimed. "I'm ready to start a diet too. We can be dieting buddies and help each other out. And when I feel the urge to drive out and get a burger and fries, I'll call you first." "Wonderful," Mary replied. "I'll go with you!"

From the Chief



By Scott Stultz

Congratulations

We would like to congratulate **Jacob Heinl** for his recent induction into the Mu Alpha Theta National Mathematics Honors Society. Jacob is a Junior at South Point High School. He is the son of **Jeff** (Operations Manager) and **Kim Heinl**.

Congratulations are also in order for **Garrett Davis** and **Sara Freeman**, who will wed June 25 at First United Methodist

Church in Huntington. After the wedding they are off to Hawaii on their honeymoon. Garrett is the son of **Paul** and **Sandy Davis**. Sara is the daughter of **Glen** and **Kandace Freeman**.



Direct Deposit Enrollment Continues

Our Direct Deposit Open Enrollment in May was a great success! Over half of TTA's employees are now signed up for direct deposit. If you did not sign up during our open enrollment period, it's not too late. You can still obtain the direct deposit authorization forms from the dispatcher.

Pride VS. Humility



By
Fred Adkins

Pride VS. Humility

Many years ago, something dawned on me and basically slapped me

in the face. I was a pretty prideful person. I didn't owe anyone anything and I did not seek help from anyone. Reason being because I thought I could do it myself. I lived that way for a few years in my younger day, and it was a major stumbling block. Then a friend of mine that used to be not as good as me at something we both enjoyed doing, somehow had been greatly motivated and had worked hard to become better than me. I could see that he was obviously better than me and when he offered his help, in my mind, I just pushed him away. I told myself, I'm still better than this guy. I can still do better. This went on for a few weeks and I just couldn't get over it. I knew I was beat, but my pride still wouldn't let me ask for help. I just tried to practice on my own time to get better, but it was to no avail. One day, I just gave up and my friend offered to help again. This time I accepted. I'd be lying if I said it wasn't hard for me to accept his help because it was. I had to set my pride aside and become what I perceived as "weak". I'm sure a lot of people have been in this situation before. However, like me, a lot of people

also chose to listen to what their pride had to say and not their other voice: humility. Well, then I wised up and stopped thinking I was better than everyone and accepted his help and it helped me greatly. I become much better and I owe this to a friend who offered his help and humility. Think about this next time your pride gets in the way of your path to greatness.

Proverbs 11: 12
when pride comes, then comes disgrace, but with humility comes wisdom.

It was the great Greek Philosopher (Socrates) who said it best, He was one of the greatest minds of all times, and he said this. "as for me, all I know is that I know nothing" So as we continue our journey keep this in mind, If you get to a place that you think you know everything, back up and look again, Your going the wrong way. It's a hard pill to swallow but you can do it. A lot of us have taken our medicine and learned from it, but it's also easy to have a relapse if you're not careful. But don't confuse the danger of pride with the other like word pride. To be proud of what you have

accomplished is a good thing; we should all take pride in our work. But to be too proud to ask for help is a bad thing. (PRIDE) one word, two very different meanings.

Shop Talk

By
Danny
Stanley



Cummings has issued a recall on the ISL engine of the 2008 & 2009 Gillig buses that TTA has in its fleet. Ever since TTA has received those buses we have had a number of check engine warning lights that have gone off and when brought to the garage to check the codes the maintenance department has been unable to find why the warning had gone off prematurely. This recall that Cummings is performing is to calibrate the settings in the ECM so that it will study the warning longer before setting the engine warning lights. For the past couple of months TTA has been sending one bus at a time which takes about a week to perform this

procedure. By the end of June all buses should have the new setting programmed in its ECM.

Jeff's World



By Jeff Heinl

Opportunity Knocks

The advent of summer and the continued insanity at the gas pumps means more than just higher temperatures and thinner wallets. Summer represents an opportunity to further expand TTA's ridership base! Gaining new riders is one thing and retaining them after the fuel crisis abates is another. Riding the bus is one way the average American can regain at least a little bit of control in their life. Paul's recent commercial for TTA struck an amusing chord with me. Good humor always has a thread of truth woven through it. Americans are fed up with having to shell out money to bullies. If you wanna drive your car . . . you gotta pay the man at the pump! TTA represents an alternative that many less fortunate

communities in this country are not able to afford.

Who will these new riders be? The two most obvious groups that come to mind are the school age kids along with the citizen who sees shrinking assets and a strained household budget. School kids will represent the largest block of potential new riders. Summer break means one thing in the mind of a teenager, boredom! TTA provides a break from sitting around the house playing video games all day. For a couple of bucks they can go to the Mall, Pullman Square, the park or a friend's house. Yes teens can be challenging, but then so were you and I when we were their age. TTA is a facilitator of commerce. Working with the community, it is our job to try to separate more and more teens from their disposable income. It is better to encourage the positive flow of cash into the community than to allow it to go toward negative outlets.

New riders represent challenges to all of us. Challenge is just another name for opportunity. We will have to be at the top of our game if we wish to retain these riders. New riders

are unfamiliar with the bus system and that will require greater diligence and patience on all of our parts. The new customer won't always be standing and flagging the bus down from a designated bus stop. Our first job is to get the customer on board the bus safely. Once they are on board we can educate them about the nuances of bus ridership. Nervous first time riders (and callers) can ask seemingly silly questions. Have you ever flown on an airplane before? How many times do you check, re-check and check a third time, your departure time or flight number? All the information is right there on the plane ticket. Why did you have to ask the terminal personnel about information that is clearly displayed on the screens throughout the airport?



Editor's Corner



By Jennifer Woodall

CELEBRATING 39 YEARS

"Please stay seated until this ride comes to a complete stop."

Once again it is anniversary time at TTA. Having our anniversary celebration at Camden Park has proven successful the past several years, therefore, that will be our venue for this year. The details are still getting ironed out, but this we know; there will be a live radio remote from the TTA Center on Saturday, July 16th with lots of give-aways and fun. TTA customers will enjoy free rides on that day. Our anniversary celebration for employees and their families will be held Sunday July, 17th at Camden Park. We will be posting a sign-up sheet for staff so we can get a head count. Anyone who anticipates bringing more than three people with them will need to get approval.

CELEBRATING 235 YEARS !!!

Independence Day in the United States is by far the most important national holiday of the year. The United States is a fairly young country, and the original birthday of the US was actually not that long ago. In 1776, the original thirteen states came together and separated from England with the signing of the Declaration of Independence on July 4. During this time, the brave Founding Fathers knew that the future ahead would be full of danger and risky to themselves and their families, but the importance of the country was greater than any one person.

Thus, in 1776, the United States of America was born. After years of extremely difficult fighting and war, the country came out on top and began its existence as a peaceful country. This was the defining moment for the country, and that is why Independence Day is of such great importance for American people even today. Without July 4th, there would be no America.

Since 1938, the Fourth of July has been an official paid holiday for government officials. This gives Independence Day a special place on the calendar of the United States, as there are only a limited number of paid holidays on the calendar. It is likely that this day will never disappear from the American calendar.

While those who enjoy this day may not fully realize this, there is a long history of celebrations for Independence Day. Starting even during the Revolutionary War with England, Americans were setting up unique celebrations for this day. After the war, this day became a very special day used to unite the country in the midst of its quest to grow and prosper. While much of the original events of the first July 4th have been lost over the years, the overarching concept is still intact.

In order for TTA Drivers, Mechanics and Staff to celebrate the holiday, TTA will be closed on Monday July 4th.

**HAVE A SAFE AND
HAPPY JULY 4TH !!**