



AS THE WHEEL TURNS

Winter 2011



New Buses to Arrive in 2013

As you may have seen in the Herald Dispatch, TTA was awarded a State of Good Repair grant for \$2,609,400.00. The funds will be used to purchase replacement buses and repair the roof on both of our facilities. The funds will provide enough funding for TTA to purchase nine (9) heavy duty buses. The buses that are being replaced will be more than 10 years old and will have met their useful life once the new buses are delivered. The roof on this building is in desperate need of repair and is starting to leak especially in the maintenance area. The roof on TTA Center is nearly 20 years old and requiring extra maintenance to prevent leaking.

Pullman Square

Pullman is planning a birthday party for Pullman Square on Nov. 5th, 2011 from 12:00 to 2:00. Believe it or not Pullman will be celebrating its 7th anniversary. We hope you are available to participate or come to Pullman that day. Pullman has had a successful and interesting history with a lot more to come.

Performance Report

TTA ridership in July increased 2,520 compared with July 2010. The cost of operation for the month of July 2011 was \$34,277.26 less than in July 2010 and \$30,008.35 less than budgeted. Operating revenue in July was \$4,786.93 more than in July 2010 and \$7,752.46 more than budgeted.

TTA ridership increased 12,908 compared with August 2010. Year-to-date for the period of July through August 2011, ridership is up 15,428.

The cost of operation in August 2011 was \$45,451.00 more than in August 2010 and \$108,914.20 less than budgeted. Year-to-date operating expenses have increased one percent and are nine percent below budget. Operating revenue in August was \$12,926.97 more than in August 2010 and \$22,761.04 more than budgeted.

Food- for- Fares



Once again it is time for Thanksgiving! November 19, 2011 is Food-For-Fares day at TTA. Customers boarding a TTA bus on Saturday, November 19, 2011 with a non-perishable food item will ride for free. Customers riding with a canned food donation will also receive free zone fares. If you are not riding the bus, donations can be dropped off at TTA Center (the old Greyhound station).

"Safety Is No Accident"

As in years past, the donations from Food-For-Fares day will be given to the Salvation Army to help make holiday food baskets for needy folks in the TTA service area. Please remember there are many people on fixed incomes that find it difficult to budget their money to cover the high costs of heating their homes in the winter and still have money left over to buy groceries. So jump in and give a helping hand. As we say, get your "can" on the bus and encourage your customers to get out and take a ride with us on November 19th and help the Salvation Army stock their shelves so that no one will go hungry this holiday season.

Dial-A Ride



Congratulations are in order, as Dial-A-Ride will be fifteen (15) years old – well sort of.

Beginning in 1978, DAR was operated by Goodwill Industry and Mountain State Centers for Independent Living under a contract with TTA. TTA began in-house operation of the Dial-A-Ride program on December 1, 1997. Since then, ridership has grown

from an average of 70 customers a day to 125 per day.

Congratulations to all of the Dial-A-Ride operators for another year of success.

New Faces

TTA has welcomed two new faces to the team since our last newsletter. **John Scott, Donald Mckenzie and Ron Miller** are now part of the TTA team. **Donald** came on board as Dial-A-Ride driver. **John** joined our team as Bus Operator. Last, but not least, **Ron** joined our TTA team as a customer service representative at TTA Center. Please join us in welcoming them to the TTA family.

Last but not least, remember Thanksgiving. All of us at TTA have many reasons to be thankful. As we go into the holiday season, we should look around and we will see there are many people that are less fortunate than ourselves. Look into your heart and your wallet and select a charity and give.



JOKES



A Birthday Number

A couple phoned a neighbor to extend birthday greetings. They dialed the number and then sang "Happy Birthday" to him. But when they finished their off-key rendition, they discovered that they had dialed the wrong number. "Don't let it bother you," said a strange but amused voice. "You folks need all the practice you can get."

Missing the Ferry

A man loved living on an island, but he wasn't crazy about the ferry. If you missed a ferry late at night, you had to spend the next hour or so waiting for the next one. So, when he spotted a ferry no more than fifteen feet from the dock, he decided he wouldn't subject himself to an hour's wait. He made a running leap and landed on his hands and knees, a little bruised maybe, but safe on deck. He got up, brushed himself off, and announced proudly to a bystander, "Well, I made that one, didn't I?" "Sure did," the bystander said. "But you should have waited a minute or two. The ferry is just about to dock."

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."

Birthdays Aren't They Great?



October

- Brian Frazier 10/03
- Dianna McCallister . 10/05
- Roger Kipp..... 10/13
- Danny Stanley 10/27
- David Mannon 10/27
- John Bocook..... 10/27

November

- Casey Steele 11/13
- Thomas McRae 11/24

December

- Randall Waller 12/18
- Carole Holbrook..... 12/19
- Mary Gold 12/20
- Darrell Price..... 12/24
- Roger Camp 12/31

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

Milestones

YEARS OF SERVICE

- Deborah Bryan-Bator .. 28
- Stella Fowler..... 27
- John Bocook 27
- Jim Forto 26
- Larry Collins..... 25
- Curtis Hodges 25
- Roger Kipp..... 24
- Mark Hunt..... 24
- Jeff Heintl 24
- Paul Davis..... 23
- Chuck Boggs..... 21
- Robert Patrick 21
- Fredrick Adkins 19
- Danny Stanley..... 18
- Jim Pine 17
- Albert Thomas 14
- Julian "Lee" Spires 14
- Roger Camp 13
- Renee Mullins 12
- Greg Kipp 12
- Scott Stultz..... 12
- Dianna McCallister..... 12
- John Smiley 11
- James Howerton 11
- Robert King 10
- Thomas McRae..... 10
- Shaun Upchurch 9
- John Webb 9
- Randy Rodriguez 9
- Janie Fraback 8
- Brian Frazier 7
- Donnie Tiller..... 7
- Carole Holbrook 7

- Peggy Miller..... 6
- David Mannon..... 6
- Brian Wray 6
- Norman Andrews 6
- Ben Martin 6
- James Edmonds..... 5
- Charles Evans II..... 5
- 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 3
- Donnie Adkins 3
- Randall Waller 3
- Samantha Tinkler 2
- Steven Kunges..... 2
- James Williamson 2
- David Banks..... 2
- Lonnie Black 2
- Mark Taylor 1
- Tom Day 1
- Jennifer Woodall 1
- Brenda Wells..... 1
- Jason Mullins 1
- Scott Williams..... 1
- Casey Steele -
- Craig Miller..... -
- Howard Curtis -
- Timothy Ferguson -
- John Scott..... -
- Ron Miller -



By Fred Adkins

Dave was born in Atlantic City New Jersey on July 02, 1932 and given up for adoption. A couple by the name of Rex and Auleva adopted him when he was six weeks old. Then when Dave was five years old his mother Auleva passed away. And his early years were spent moving from state to state while his adoptive father sought work. Dave's fondest memories of his childhood included some summers spent with his Grandmother Minnie Sinclair in Michigan. She is the one that taught him his moral values, to treat people well and always do the right thing no matter how much it hurts.

Dave got his first job at age 12 as a counterman at a Knoxville restaurant, and fell in love with the restaurant business. When he was 15, he found work at the Hobby House Restaurant in Ft. Wayne. Soon after, his father and step family were preparing to move again, but Dave at the tender age of 15 decided to stay in Ft Wayne. He moved into the Y.M.C.A. reluctantly quit school and worked full time

at the Hobby House and was on his own.

While working at Hobby House he met Colonel Sanders, who became his biggest influences. In 1962 his boss the owner of Hobby House also owned four failing K.F.C. restaurants in Columbus Ohio. All four were on the edge of oblivion. He made a deal with Dave, that If Dave would take on all four restaurants and turn them around that he would give Dave 50 percent of all four restaurants. Dave took the deal, moved to Columbus and turned the four failing K.F.C. restaurants into the four top grossing one's in his region. So good on his word his boss sold all four restaurants back to the K.F.C. chain and give Dave half of the sale. So at the age of 35 this poor adopted boy, who was on his own from the age of 15, is now a millionaire.

So then he created Wendy's Old Fashioned Hamburgers. And became a household name starring in His own T.V. commercials. Dave Thomas was a very generous man and worked very hard to improve adoption through his foundation.

This is proof that in America, you can succeed at almost anything. It takes hard work and dedication, but those are two things that we seem to have a shortage of these days..... JUST SAYING.... And Dave considers this his greatest achievement, at 45 he went back to school and got his G.E.D. He was very proud of that.

I, as a young kid had the honor of meeting Dave when I was working at the first Wendy's in this area, the one located on 5th avenue. He was a very kind and gentle man that treated his employees as if they were family. After meeting Dave I became a big fan of his, and he became a great inspiration to me. Not because he was wealthy or powerful, But because he was a humble and caring man. His old motto (where's the beef) is making a comeback, it was a great commercial. But when I think about Dave, and I think about that ad (where's the beef) it could have also been an ad that said (where's the heart). Thanks Dave for inspiring me to be a better man. If you get a chance to read Dave's book, I know you will love it. WHERE'S THE BEEF?!!

Jeff's World



By Jeff Heinl

The End of The Year

November is upon us and we all know what that means! It won't be long before the snow begins to fly and our work takes on bigger challenges. Is it just me or do the winters seem to be getting worse with each passing year? Last year we had to contend with snow but more than ever it seemed like ice and freezing rain were also factors. Winter weather challenges all of here at TTA. Snow and ice require more attention to duty when it comes to protecting our customers and assets. Inclement weather means one thing in an operations supervisor's work day . . . loooong days! Snow forecasts put us out on the road at 3 A.M. Every hill from Culloden to Ironton must be checked *before* the first bus leaves the garage. If snow/ice force route changes, we have to constantly monitor conditions until we can resume our regular routes. Snow doesn't just occur in the morning. It frequently comes in waves which

means that road conditions must be monitored throughout the day and into the night shift. It's not unusual for us to be committed up to 20 hours per day.

The biggest burden of safety rests squarely on the shoulders of those who occupy the driver's seats of our buses and vans. Each year TTA's drivers meet and overcome challenges that would buckle the knees of the average driver. Tri-state residents sometimes take for granted, the luxury of not having to worry about winter driving. They have an option that many American commuters don't have. They can leave the snow on their windshield and walk down to the corner to catch the bus. For only a dollar (basic bus fare) the fear of driving on snow and ice evaporates. They can leave it up to the professionals as they read the morning newspaper or just simply enjoy the winter wonderland through the windows of the bus.

Snow and ice are but the tip of the iceberg for me for the next few months. As you read this news article I will be conducting three separate vacation mark ups for 2012. Attendance requirements and years of service must be reviewed to

know how much vacation time has been earned. On top of this we must prepare for the driver's markup for January. Anticipated service changes will necessitate changes to driver and passenger schedules. Additionally, we have the normal requirements of each markup. Things were already humming but as you can see they are about to get even busier. Paul always reminds us "being busy is a good thing, its job security, as long as there is work to do you have a job." The flip side of that is, when there is nothing left to do, there isn't any need for you to be here. I like being busy!

This brings me to the point I wanted to make when I first sat down to type out this article. The season we are entering into is one of thankfulness. There is a certain edginess that comes with looking back over your life. Shared experiences filled with blessings and consequences have brought us to this point in life's journey. Some we've met along the way have made it and sadly some have not . . . some have prospered while others have struggled. Through it all we find ourselves not only surviving, but rather blessed beyond what we

“Safety Is No Accident”

deserve. Getting beyond what bedevils us is a daily goal of mine. To put a smile on someone else’s face rather than focusing on my own, reaps rewards beyond that of gold. To bring laughter to a life that has forgotten the meaning of joy is what really matters in life. In the coming weeks you WILL have the opportunity to make a difference in another person’s life. The easy thing to do is to get caught up in the hustle and bustle of the season. The memories of what you’ve done to help someone will outlast anything that was ever decorated with a ribbon.

From the Chief



By Scott Stultz

Congratulations

We would like to send out our congratulations to the following individuals:

Debbie Bryan-Bator (Bus Operator), on the birth of her great-granddaughter, **Willow Delaney Hammond**, on 9/15/11. Willow was 20.25 inches

long and weighed 7 pounds and 10 ounces.

John Scott (Bus Operator), on the birth of his grandson, **Kendyn Scott**, on 11/1/11. Kendyn was 21 inches long and weighed 8 pounds and 14 ounces.

Casey and Holli Steele, on their recent marriage. They were married on 10/8/11 at the Good Samaritan United Methodist Church in Huntington. Casey is a Bus Operator.

Shop Talk



By Danny Stanley

Here it is again the beginning of fall weather. As the weather gets cooler remember if you open one of the garage doors to exit with a bus be sure to close it behind you. This will conserve heat within the maintenance area.

In every industry, be it transit, construction, or even auto repairs you have to remember to Think Safety. At TTA we like to say **Safety Is No Accident!** Safety truisms have been around for a long time and continue to be important because they serve as a

reminder of a practical truth about working safely around the work place.

Here are a few truisms you might have heard:

- Speed kills.
- Don’t drink & drive.
- Seat belts save lives.
- Electricity is a silent killer.
- Correct unsafe conditions.
- Shortcuts lead to short lives.
- Pay attention to back-up alarms.
- Your safety is your responsibility.
- Horseplay has no place on the job.
- Never remove someone else’s lock.
- Sharp knives are safer than dull knives.
- Never smoke around flammable liquids.
- Keep all tools clean and in working order.
- Keep first-aid, CPR, and AED training up-to-date.
- Always maintain a safe distance when working around power lines.
- When using a fire extinguisher, remember PASS: Pull, Aim, Squeeze, and Sweep.

- And one the cleaners can appreciate: Your mother doesn't work here, so clean up your mess.

Remember to Fall back November 6, 2011. The return to Standard Time (ST) begins at 2:00 AM local time.

Dispatcher's Corner

By Janie Fraback

SAFETY

As the holiday season approaches there are many reasons for added safety. Not only with our children, vehicles, homes and cell phones; but also with how we go about our business of taking care of our own security with money during the holidays. Here are a few tips to help you in case you haven't already thought of it. One is body pouches that are available, such as belts, shoulder, neck, and leg pouches, that come in various colors. These are effective because they keep your money, cards, passports, and some small valuables close. They are also helpful because they deter pick pockets. If you are traveling with a companion it's a good idea

to have cards with separate numbers and both persons to have cash, in case one is robbed. It is also a good idea to leave a copy of your driver's license, passport and other important papers with a trusted friend at home, in case a copy is needed. Using the closure on your purse is also a good idea. Never leave your handbag or wallet unattended.

The debit card is a wonderful thing, I use one myself. Here are some safety tips for those. When you are at an ATM, be sure it is well lit and in a busy area, if possible. If you are at an ATM where you use your card to access a door do not allow anyone inside with you. Always lock your doors when using a drive thru ATM. If you are at a walk up try to shield your fingers with the other hand so that no one sees what numbers you are using for your pin. Never write down your pin on your card or in your wallet; it is best to memorize the number and not share it with others. Do not count your money at the ATM, or check your wallet. It is also advisable to check the balance of our accounts even daily to ensure that no extra amounts have been withdrawn. Credit rather than debit is a safer idea when possible; and easier

to get a reversal. One of the best things we can do is be aware, of our surroundings, of who is near, and what is going on.

Safety is always a good thing and always in style. Have a safe and Happy Holiday Season.

Editor's Corner



By Jennifer Woodall

WOW !!

Can you believe the Holiday Season is upon us? We, here at TTA, have been extremely busy the last couple of months and it seems this course will continue right on into 2012.

As in years past, Tri-State Transit Authority (TTA) offered free service for Marshall University, MountWest Community and Technical College, Huntington Junior College of Business and Ohio University Southern students, faculty and staff for the whole month of September. This is the 14th year that TTA has offered the free service in September for the students

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and faculty. It is the second year that the promotion has been expanded to include MountWest Community College and Huntington Junior College of Business. The promotion is to familiarize the University / College Students and Staff with the economy and ease of commuting to campus and school on the TTA transit system. Our total student / faculty ridership for September exceeded 5,500!! It is just great to see that many students and faculty utilizing the service.

THANKS FOR RIDING WITH TTA!!

In case you didn't hear.....TTA is the recipient of a grant which will allow us to build a second story on our administrative building. This grant will provide the opportunity to remodel the offices to create additional space for a training room, a larger break room and some additional office space. This project is moving right along and we are looking forward to getting the construction started in the spring.

LET THE SHOPPING BEGIN

Winter is starting to show itself in my neck of the woods. Brrr. The leaves have not all fallen, though, and so it feels like an in-between season. Even as I write this, the scary witches, ghoulish ghosts, and garish Hannah Montanas across this great land of ours just finished canvassing their neighborhoods, begging for sweets. Yet, the Halloween and Thanksgiving decorations are being crowded by Christmas Trees.

There comes a moment every year when I find myself obligated to take up my machete of influence and cut a swath of clarity as we approach the holiday season together. This is that moment.

You can run, but if you have kids or grandkids, you definitely can't hide. That's right, it's rapidly approaching gift season. So if you haven't started by now, here's the place to do it. Make your lists, plan your budget, and for heaven's sake, rein yourself in! Imagine an inch-tall

Suze Orman is sitting on your shoulder, halo gleaming. (YIKES!) Money does not equal LOVE.



ANNUAL AWARDS DINNER



Our annual awards dinner is Sunday, December 4, 2011 at 1:00 p.m. The event will be held at the 4-H Camp just off Alternate Route 10 near Barboursville. If you need directions, please see the dispatcher. The catering will be by Four Seasons, and as always there will be plenty of good food. Everyone needs to make plans to attend. On the menu this year is house salad with assorted dressing, baked ham, carved roast beef, mashed potatoes and gravy, green beans, baby carrots, rolls and assorted desserts. Hope to see you there as we recognize our people for a job well done.