



Getting There...

Delaware Transit Corporation's Customer Newsletter

Summer Quarterly 2009

Volume 5 - Issue 4

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Reminders:

Thursday, May 21

Resort Transit Service Began Operating for the Summer Season.

Sunday, June 21

Mid-Year Service Change Took Place in New Castle and Kent Counties.

Sunday, June 21

Sunday Service Began on Rt. 6 Between Wilmington and Newark.

Contact Info:

General Customer Information

Fixed Route (Statewide)

1-800-652-DART (3278)

GoLink & ADA Certified

Paratransit Services

1-800-553-DART (3278)

Customer Relations

1-800-355-8080

Job Hotline

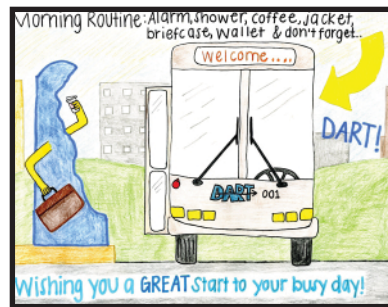
1-302-577-3278, Option 6

Website

www.DartFirstState.com



Delaware's Got Talent



And that talent was greatly exhibited by the more than 165 sixth through twelfth grade students from 15 schools throughout Delaware that submitted artwork to be judged in DART First State's 9th Annual Transit Poster Contest. The theme for this year's contest was "Design A Transit Greeting Card." And that theme in and of itself presented some challenges. Perhaps we should have been a little more specific in

stating our intent, but it was intriguing to see how each of these talented students visualized our request.

As always, judging these annual contests is very difficult, but when all of the balloting was done the Grand Prize winner was declared to be Natalie Hines, a 10th grader from Padua Academy in Wilmington. Congratulations to Natalie and to all of the very talented students who entered this year's contest.

Natalie's artwork will be featured on our buses and through DART First State promotions, or displays over the next year. You can view all of the winners by grade at www.DartFirstState.com. Donated prizes for the winners included a night at the Wilmington Blue Rocks that took place on June 10th.

Promoting Environmental Awareness

The Air Quality Partnership (AQP) of Delaware is a group of citizens, public agencies, and private corporations concerned about the quality of our region's air. The program is administered by the Transportation Management Association (TMA) of Delaware and sponsored by the Wilmington Area Planning Council (WILMAPCO).



On days when air quality is poor (action days) e-mail alerts are sent to our partners so that measures to improve air quality can be taken. These measures include encouraging the more frequent use of mass transit.

DART First State's Air Quality Transit Partners Program provides employers with 5 FREE DART First State Daily Passes for each of their registered employees to use Monday through Friday during the ozone season, beginning June 1 and continuing through September 30, 2009. These bus passes are intended for the use of the registered employee only and are not transferable.

Whether you're an employer or an employee you can learn more about the Air Quality Ozone Season by visiting our website at www.DartFirstState.com and clicking on "DART's Air Quality Transit Partners Program" in the "DART Programs" section.



Greetings:

An article on page four of this newsletter declares “It’s Summertime,” to herald the fact that DART’s Resort Transit service is back for another season. Last summer we provided more than 328,000 customer trips through this service. On one hand, the success of Resort Transit is due to DART being in the right place with the right service at the right time. On the other hand it speaks well of the growing number of customers who recognize the convenience and cost benefits of Resort Transit. We think this year will be the best year ever, as many people from the region are discovering the beauty of Delaware’s resorts. What better way to celebrate the season? In addition to Resort Transit, the mid year service change for all of our bus routes has gone into effect, including the new Sunday service on the Wilmington/Newark Route 6.

This edition of “Getting There” also focuses on DART’s 9th Annual Transit Poster Contest. You can see the winning poster and read about the artist on page one. There’s information about two programs that can help Delawareans reduce their commuting costs; one being the Air Quality Partnership and the other, RideShare Delaware.

And last, but not least, is an article listing many, but not all, of Delaware’s transportation-related projects which are being funded by federal stimulus money (the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act). All of these projects are worthy investments in improved infrastructure and enhanced public service.

Thank you

GREEN SPACE

Recycling the News

The hardcopy version of this newsletter is printed in black & white on 80 lb., smooth opaque text paper or its equivalent, and can be recycled with your regular bond, magazines, periodicals, phone books or bulk mail.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Stephen B. Kingsberry
Executive Director

Enjoy the Sound of Silence



As the result of public response to a series of successful trail runs earlier this year, the Southeastern Pennsylvania Transportation

Authority (SEPTA) has added at least one “Quiet Ride” car to each of their weekday rush-hour trains. These cars will be identified by “Quiet Ride” decals. SEPTA will also place informational posters at area stations to alert riders to this new service.

The rules are simple. Cell phone conversations, loud talking and audible ring tones will be banned on these cars. All electronic equipment must be set on mute or vibrate. If a rider is listening to music it must be while using earphones set on low volume so as not to disturb other passengers. For many, these rules make sense for anyone sharing a public space or conveyance.

According to a News Journal article, enforcement of the bans will be left to conductors and other passengers — and even that will be done quietly. Conductors will hand offenders cards that read: “SHHHHHH - You’re on a Quiet Ride car.”

The Name Says It All

In 1997, RideShare Delaware joined with Wilmington Trust to hold its first employee “Transportation Fair.” In the intervening twelve years RideShare Delaware has staffed hundreds of outreach events and welcomed thousands of commuters into the program. In April of this year, RideShare welcomed its 15,000th registered member, who, coincidentally is employed by Wilmington Trust, now an official RideShare employer partner.

DART’s RideShare Delaware offers commuters the opportunity to take advantage of federally supported transportation options such as carpool matching, transit

resources, vanpool services, guaranteed ride home and so much more.

You can participate in these programs by calling 1-888-RIDE-MATCH or visiting www.ridesharedelaware.org. And for parents of school-age children click on “School Pool.”



a service of DART First State

Hello Everyone,

Starting with the June 2009 meeting I will assume the role of Chair of the EDTAC. I have been a member of the EDTAC for many years and my brother, Steve, who uses a wheelchair, is a frequent paratransit rider.

I am a planner for the Delaware Division of Services for Aging and Adults with Physical Disabilities and I am very aware of the importance of Paratransit for those who have no other means of accessible transportation and want to lead active lives in their communities. Riders use Paratransit for so many good reasons; to go to work, to doctor's appointments, to shop and to visit friends, among others and they need the system to be as punctual and reliable as it can be.

The Co-Chair, Lloyd Schmitz, and I pledge to do our best to represent you at the meetings and investigate any new possible transportation options we learn about. I live in New Castle County and he lives in Sussex County which means that we can fully represent you statewide.

We also invite you to our meetings at either of the two sites (Wilmington and Dover) to join us in our efforts to support DTC, their staff and their mission. The meetings are a chance to speak face to face with the DTC Executive Director and his staff as well as better understand the inner workings of this complex agency.

With the demand for service growing every month, they have the challenge of finding a way to continue serving all those who request service in a time of real fiscal limitations. We need all the help we can get, so please join us.

Feel free to e-mail me at carol.barnett@state.de.us with any questions or comments and we hope to see you at the next EDTAC meeting. Dates and times for the next three meetings are listed below.

EDTAC Meeting Schedule

Future EDTAC meetings will be held on Wednesday, September 16, 2009, Wednesday, December 16, 2009 and Wednesday, March 17, 2010. Time for all meetings is 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. EDTAC Meetings are held at both the Wilmington and Dover DART Administration Buildings and are linked by DTC's video-conferencing system. Paratransit customers should make trip reservations if they wish to attend. For additional information call 1-800-553-3278.

New ID Cards Required

As of June 1, 2009, qualified Paratransit customers who wish to ride on fixed route buses free of charge must have a new FIXED ROUTE FREE FARE Photo ID Card.

You will also be required to have a New REDUCED FARE Photo ID Card and SCAT Photo ID Card in order to take advantage of those particular services. The former ID cards used for these services will no longer be accepted.

If you have not received your new card or need information about how to acquire one, visit our website at www.DartFirstState.com and click on Bus Fares or call the Information Center at 1-800-652-DART (3278).

Thank you,

Carol Barnett

Carol Barnett
EDTAC Chairperson



Point of Information

All DART
Fixed Route Buses
are Wheelchair Accessible
and Bike Rack Equipped



“Getting There” Made Easier

The Federal Transit Administration established the 5317 New Freedom Funds Transportation program in order to provide mobility to disabled residents of all ages. Generations Home Care, Inc. is Delaware's service provider and operates on weekends and holidays when ADA service is not otherwise available. Riders must have an ADA card, proof of disability, or referral from a non-profit agency serving disabled clients. There will be a \$5.00 fee per trip, reservations must be made seven days in advance and are accepted on a space available basis.

For more information or to make reservations call: 302-658-6731 in New Castle County, 302-734-7005 in Kent County and 302-856-7774 in Sussex County.

Photo Credits: The masthead photo of the Fenwick Island Lighthouse is provided by DeIDOT. The Obama-Biden Whistle Stop Panel on page four is provided by the Friends of the Furness Railroad District. All other Photos and graphic images are from DTC and DeIDOT files unless otherwise noted.

**Saving Money On Gas Takes Little Effort.
In Fact, You Can Do It
Sitting Down.
Ride Public Transit**



It's Summertime

To mark this annual event, DART began operating its very popular Resort Transit Service this past May 21. Resort Transit will serve all of Delaware's beach communities through Sunday, September 20. Resort Transit routes operate seven days a week, with some routes beginning as early as 7 a.m. and running until 2 a.m. In addition to the "getting around the beach" convenience, Resort Transit offers the best cost per ride deal in the area. Simply take your car to the Rehoboth Park & Ride and for just \$7.00, you and everyone in your car will receive FREE Resort Transit Daily Passes, parking included.

Getting There...

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Wilmington, DE 19805-4440

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[This and several previous issues of "Getting There" are available in a full color PDF format on our website at www.DartFirstState.com.](http://www.DartFirstState.com)

Stimulus Funding Put in Motion

Last year we celebrated the centennial of the Wilmington Railroad Station. Earlier this year we welcomed the Whistle Stop Tour of then President-Elect Barrak Obama and Vice President-Elect Joe Biden to that station. Now, with funds from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) we are investing in our past, our present and, most importantly, our future. And we're starting at the station. ARRA funds will be used for the restoration of the historic exterior of the Wilmington Railroad Station, to provide better ADA access, repair platform canopies and completely renovate its interior. New trackwork along the Amtrak line west of Wilmington will allow for future growth in Delaware's SEPTA R2 commuter rail service. Funding will be allocated for the purchase of four new commuter rail cars for R2 service. The ARRA stimulus package will support DART's expansion at its Mid-County Operations Center, enlarge the Park & Ride at Rt. 299 in Odessa, fund phase one of the new Dover Transit Center and purchase new buses for Sussex County service. In addition to rail and transit initiatives, ARRA funds are being used by DelDOT for specific highway, bridge and pedestrian projects. All-in-all, these are projects that create jobs and improve mobility.

The image to the left commemorates the January 17th Whistle Stop Tour at the Wilmington Railroad Station. The Friends of the Furness Railroad District provided the display panel. Photos are by Ron Soliman and Fred Comegys of the News Journal; Kathy Riggan, Community News; Cathy Rossi and T. J. Healy.

**HISTORIC WHISTLE STOP TOUR
COMPLETES CENTENNIAL YEAR
OF THE WILMINGTON RAILROAD STATION**

The Wilmington Station has been in continuous service since it was completed in 1908.

100 years later on January 17, 2009, another historic date occurred when President Elect Barack Obama and his wife, Michelle arrived onboard the blue "Georgia 300" Pullman car to meet Vice President Elect Joe Biden and wife, Jill.

SPECIAL THANKS:
To the Friends of the Furness Railroad District, who provided the display panel for this tour. Photos are by Ron Soliman and Fred Comegys of the News Journal; Kathy Riggan, Community News; Cathy Rossi and T. J. Healy.

The mission of the foundation is to increase community awareness of the cultural and historical value of the train station vicinity, including its architectural significance and importance as a major gateway into the City of Wilmington.

Friends of The Furness Railroad District