KAT has just completed its second Fiscal Year, and boy was it eventful! We saw ridership double from the previous year, new staff was hired, new community connections were made, and we continued making our presence known in the community through various events and fairs. Changes are not stopping, either. Service continues to expand, most notably in Oswego and Waubonsee Community College - Sugar Grove campus. In addition, IDOT has approved a grant application for KAT fleet expansion. Next year or so, KAT will receive two more buses and one minivan! The minivan is especially exciting because it allows us to provide medical trips to areas that buses cannot — Edwards Hospital in Naperville or St. Joseph’s Hospital in Joliet, for example. Lastly, VAC, the operator of KAT, will be holding its first ever Kendall County fundraiser in support of KAT. It will be 6PM on October 18th at Fox Valley Winery. Further info is detailed later in the newsletter. We hope to see you there. As KAT continues its evolution, we continue to revel in the excitement!

-- Paul LaLonde, Program Director KAT

**KAT Notes**

Light-Duty Vehicle is mostly used to describe a paratransit bus that is constructed on a prepared commercial cutaway van chassis. A typical light-duty vehicle is 21.5 feet in length, designed to permit 12 passenger seats, or up to three wheelchair locations with some seats. These vehicles are gasoline engine only and generally get 10-12 miles per gallon. The KAT fleet has six (6) light-duty vehicles, and chances are if you’ve ridden with KAT, this is the style of bus you’ve been on!

**Calendar of Events**

- **Monday October 8th**
  KAT will be closed in honor of Columbus Day.

- **Thursday October 18th**
  “Toast to Transit” Fundraiser
  6PM Fox Valley Winery in Oswego, IL. All proceeds go to KAT program.

- **Wednesday October 24th**
  Waubonsee Sustainability Fair
  10AM-1PM at Plano Campus

- **Wednesday October 24th**
  Plano Community Expo
  2PM-7PM at Plano High School.

- **Thursday November 22nd**
  KAT will be closed in honor of Thanksgiving. KAT will also be closed the 23rd.

- **Monday December 24th**
  KAT will be closed in honor of Christmas Eve.

- **Tuesday December 25th**
  KAT will be closed in honor of Christmas Day.

- **Tuesday January 1st**
  KAT will be closed in honor of the New Year.

**Transit Speak: “Light-Duty Vehicle”**

**KAT CHRONICLE**

**NEWSLETTER FOR KENDALL COUNTY’S PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION PROGRAM**

**Fall 2012 Issue**

**KAT NOTES**

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**System Operator:**
**KAT in the Community**

Plano Back to School Fair - August 8th
PH Miller Elementary School

Plano High School Back to School Fair - August 17th

11th Annual Working for the Fox Valley Job Fair - Sept. 14
Waubonsee Community College, Sugar Grove Campus

**Did You Know?**

Did you know that KAT also travels outside of Kendall County? We often get asked about travel destinations assuming KAT buses only go to places inside Kendall County, but KAT buses transport residents to many places in adjacent areas. For instance, KAT buses frequently travel to locations in DeKalb, DuPage, Kane, and Will Counties. In addition, KAT has been exploring future trip destinations in Grundy County. If you are unsure if a location is within KAT’s designated service area, please give the office a call at (877) IGO-4KAT. Remember, however, all riders MUST be registered AND be a resident of Kendall County. Trips are based on demand and availability.
**STAFF SPOTLIGHT: PART I**

**Name:** Ted Shick  
**Position:** Bus Operator

**Joined KAT:** March 2011

**Before KAT:** I was owner and manager of Ace Hardware and True Value in Yorkville for 30 years.

**Favorite Part of the Job:** All the people I get to interact with, riders and coworkers, but especially the riders.

**Most Rewarding Experience Thus Far:** Just knowing that I’m part of an organization and program that are making a difference in people’s lives.

**Hobbies:** Coaching youth baseball, family activities, and yard work.

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**KAT FISCAL YEAR 2012**

The Illinois Fiscal Year runs from July 1st to June 30th. Between July 2011 and June 2012, KAT provided over 15,000 trips — a 90% increase over the previous year! On average, FY2012 saw a daily ridership of 60/day. Peak days saw 75 rides/day. The top two trip categories were medical and employment, followed closely by shopping, social/recreational, education, and other. FY2012 was a very eventful year that saw massive increases in ridership. KAT is looking forward to continuing this trend into FY2013 and beyond.

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**STAFF SPOTLIGHT: PART II**

**Name:** Diannaha Thompson  
**Position:** Operations Manager

**Joined KAT:** February 2010

**Before KAT:** I was Secretary for Student Activities at Joliet Junior College. Before that I worked in retail.

**Favorite Part of the Job:** Talking with many of our riders, hearing their stories, and getting to know them.

**Most Rewarding Experience Thus Far:** I’ve been with KAT since the very first rider. I still remember who he was, where we took him, and getting to schedule that appointment for him.

**Hobbies:** Arts and crafts, especially photography.

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“I know KAT is a needed service in the community. I see us alleviating strife, hardship. KAT gives riders a little bit of freedom, and that makes me feel good!”

“Working for VAC and the KAT program, there is never a dull moment, and that’s exciting.”
**VAC to Hold First Kendall County Fundraiser**

The Voluntary Action Center (VAC) – operator of Kendall Area Transit – will hold its first ever Kendall County fundraiser, the “TOAST TO TRANSIT” Wine Tasting on **October 18, 2012** at Fox Valley Winery in Oswego, IL in support of KAT.

Guests will enjoy a wide selection of wines, as well as a delicious hors d’oeuvre spread from Premier Meals Catering. The tasting will begin at **6:00 PM** and last until **8:00 PM**. Advanced ticket purchases can be made for $25 per person – $30 at the door the day of the event – and can be purchased by contacting Paul LaLonde at (630) 882-6970.

In addition, VAC will hold a raffle at the event and will gladly accept items for donation. Items already donated include $15 Restaurant.com Gift Certificate and a Voucher for Two to see “My One and Only” at Marriott Lincolnshire. Both were generously donated by Sunnymere of Aurora.

All proceeds from a “Toast to Transit” will be used to help VAC provide public community transportation through the KAT program. Every $100 raised will help VAC provide six (6) rides to our Kendall neighbors in need. All donations stay in the community to support local services and will help improve the quality of life throughout the County.

VAC was incorporated in 1974. The organization is governed by a volunteer Board of Directors. VAC has transit and nutrition programs in DeKalb, LaSalle, and Kendall Counties. The KAT program is a public dial-a-ride service for all Kendall County residents but is particularly vital to seniors and individuals with disabilities. KAT operates Monday through Friday from 7:00 AM to 6:00 PM. One-way fares average $3.00 per person but can be up to $7.00 for some trips. Since the KAT program began operations in early 2010, VAC has provided over 24,500 trips to community members wishing to live a more socially integrated and independent life.

For more information on the “Toast to Transit” event, VAC, or KAT, please contact Paul LaLonde at (630) 882-6970. We hope to see you there!

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**TOAST TO TRANSIT -- EVENT REGISTRATION**

☐ Yes, I wish to attend this event — and help the Voluntary Action Center — by purchasing the indicated number of tickets below.

☐ I cannot attend this event but wish to help the Voluntary Action Center by providing a donation to the agency.

**Ticket Purchase:**

_______ tickets @ $25 per for $ _________________

Name

Address

City / State / Zip

Email Address

Signature

Please return completed form with applicable payment by October 17, 2012 to:

Paul LaLonde
Voluntary Action Center
Kendall Area Transit
109 W. Ridge Street Room 002
Yorkville, IL 60560

Questions? Please contact Paul at (630) 882-6970.
“Toast to Transit”

October 18, 2012 6:00PM
SPONSORED BY:

Jerroboam Level:

Record Newspapers

Magnum Level:

Kendall Printing
...of course we can

Bottle Level:

Location:

Fox Valley Winery
5600 Route 34
Oswego, Illinois 60543

The generous contributions from our sponsors will help support the Voluntary Action Center in providing community transportation for seniors, individuals with disabilities, and other community members throughout Kendall County.
Travel training is the process by which a person learns to travel a specific route, between two different places, on their own and in a safe and responsible way. Traveling by KAT is easy, however, some people have expressed their nervousness in using the system. The goal of the program is to show people that using the KAT bus is a straight forward, safe transit option. Representatives from KAT will gladly meet with a group or individual, give presentations, give a guided tour, and explain the rules and policies of the KAT system. In addition, there will be an intermodal component to these lessons. If someone wants to travel outside KAT’s current operational zone, a representative will gladly assist the rider in reaching their destination though other transportation options. An example could be train station connections, transfers to PACE fixed routes, or transfers with other paratransit systems. If you or anyone you know may be interested in learning more, please contact the KAT office at (630) 882-6970 and ask to speak with Paul.

KAT Taking Over Oswego Park and Ride

On September 18th, the Village Board of Oswego approved an intergovernmental agreement with Kendall County over Kendall Area Transit participation. The agreement was also approved by the County Board on October 2nd. Details of the agreement include KAT running operations for the Oswego Park and Ride at Orchard Road and Mill Road. In addition, Oswego will help fund KAT dial-a-ride services. Further details will become clearer once the Village and County move forward with finalizing other items, but the Park and Ride service will increase from three routes in the morning and afternoon, to five, offering area residents more flexibility in their daily commutes. KAT will be taking over for PACE, which has operated the Park and Ride since service began in 2004. The County will begin the process to bid vehicles for lease with a target date of beginning service in early January 2013.
About Kendall Area Transit

Kendall Area Transit, the public transportation program of Kendall County, is a transportation partnership between Kendall County and the Voluntary Action Center.

KAT is a public transit service that is intended to be safe, reliable, flexible, and financially sustainable, while satisfying the various mobility needs of seniors, individuals with disabilities, and the general public throughout Kendall County. KAT is made possible through various federal and state grants, in addition to contributions and donations from local municipalities, businesses, and residents.

Voluntary Action Center
Kendall Area Transit
109 W. Ridge Street
Room 002
Yorkville, IL 60560

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Phone: (630) 882-6970
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Email: kdispatch@co.kendall.il.us
kdispatch2@co.kendall.il.us

facebook.com/KendallAreaTransit

This newsletter is a quarterly publication. If anyone has information or ideas to contribute, please contact KAT staff.

KAT Now Offering Trips to WCC-Sugar Grove Campus

We are happy to announce that KAT is now offering dial-a-ride services to the Waubonsee Community College campus in Sugar Grove! KAT already provides trips to the WCC campuses in Plano, downtown Aurora, and Rush Copley Medical Center. Through this new service addition, Kendall County WCC students will have the chance to attend classes at the main campus, too! As with all other KAT dial-a-ride service, registration is required. For further information -- including scheduling procedures, drop off and pickup locations and times, and WCC student fare cards -- please give the office a call at (630) 882-6970.