Recently, I had the opportunity to speak in front of the Yorkville city council. The council had proposed cutting public transportation from its budget. Luckily, this was only a proposal, and City leaders — after hearing from constituents — quickly decided to keep public and community transportation funding intact. Had the City followed through with its proposal, the local and regional community would have been left at a disadvantage. As operators of KAT, VAC witnesses first hand how important public transportation is to a community. Its effects are readily seen and unseen by both users and non-users alike. Community and public transportation programs are part of every successful community’s infrastructure, and local investment in transit services pay untold dividends to community and regional residents. Not only does public...

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KAT Notes

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Transit Speak: Park-and-Ride

Park-and-ride facilities are car parks with connections to public transit that allow commuters and other people headed to city centers to leave their vehicles and transfer to a bus, rail system (rapid transit, light rail, or commuter rail), or carpool for the remainder of the journey. The vehicle is stored in the car parking lot during the day and retrieved when the owner returns. Park-and-rides are generally located in the suburbs of metropolitan areas or on the outer edges of large cities.
Diannaha gives a presentation about KAT at the Kendall County Next Steps event on Saturday February 23rd. The theme was "Moving On: Life in the Community," of which transit is a major component.

Diannaha attending the Yorkville Chamber Green Fair at Yorkville H.S. on March 2nd.

Jeri attending the Community Services Fair at Oswego H.S. on March 9th.
**STAFF SPOTLIGHT**

**Name:** Charlie Sondgeroth  
**Position:** Bus Operator

**Joined KAT:** March 2010

**Before KAT:** Worked at Caterpillar for 30 years, then retired and worked at Home Depot and drove school buses.

**Favorite Part of the Job:** I love helping people that need it the most, especially seniors and handicapped. Seeing the look on their face when I say “hello” makes me smile more.

**Most Rewarding Experience Thus Far:** Helping people to and from their medical appointments, trying to make their experience as comfortable as possible.

**Hobbies:** Watching the Cubs, reading westerns, family

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**2012-2013 MEMBERSHIP DRIVE DONATIONS: THANK YOU**

Voluntary Action Center is a non-profit community transportation provider, who, in part, relies on the generosity of the community to do what we do best, provide rides to those who otherwise may not have one. As such, we feel compelled to give recognition to individuals, companies, or agencies that have given generously to the VAC mission, which is commitment to providing high quality services that address the basic transportation needs of the community. Thank you to our friends and supporters throughout the greater Kendall County area!

**INDIVIDUAL GIFTS**

- Clyde & Linda Anderson
- Larry & Garnet Bailey
- Shirley Beckwell
- Lillian Beggs
- Joan Bernhjelm
- Christina Bonesteel
- Carolyn Ervin
- Jane Foster
- Emil and Mercedes Garcia
- Michael and Karen Hardecopf
- Steve and Mary Kapernekas
- Tairi Kears
- Rosemary Madsen
- Blanca Mustafa
- Judith Pedersen
- William & Kirby Powell
- Lorraine Schlichtwiler
- Bette Schoenholtz
- Janet Schor
- Thomas and Margaret Wagner
- Betty Warren
- Barbara Weber
- Geneva Wyatt

**ORGANIZATIONAL GIFTS**

- **Kish Health System**
- **Valley West Community Hospital**
- **Allsteel Credit Union**
- **Meadowvale**
- **Earth Mover Credit Union**
- **HRGreen**

*Community Banking…Where People Matter*
**KAT Bus Tour**

Riding the KAT bus system is a pretty easy endeavor for seasoned veterans of community and public transit. Yet, KAT staff routinely hears that some people don’t ride the buses due to nervousness or apprehensions. To become a well traversed veteran of the bus ride, it all takes is a first step, and KAT staff is here to help! In the past, we have had a staff member ride with a newer rider to show them the ropes, and while we may not always be able to do this, we want to make the bus riding experience as easy as possible. Below, we have a guided tour of a typical dial-a-ride KAT bus! These buses can hold up to 12 passengers, and travel to all corners of Kendall County! Please take a ride with us as we give you a tour of the KAT bus!

**The Bus:** KAT operates 6 buses that seat 12 passengers, M-F between the hours of 7am and 6pm. All buses, including the lift, are inspected prior to being deployed for the day.

**Getting on and off the bus:** There are two ways. For riders who do not require assistance, the main door (pictured left) is the way to go! For our riders who do require some help, the lift (pictured middle and right) is stable, easy, and safe!

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**DID YOU KNOW...**

...that Kendall Area Transit has a website? It’s at [www.co.kendall.il.us/KAT](http://www.co.kendall.il.us/KAT) and there is so much information to find! In addition to providing the KAT brochure, Rider’s Guide and Policy booklet, and registration form, the site lists schedules, fare information, registration info, and contact information. It even has the newsletters posted! As a complimentary piece, KAT also has a Facebook page at [www.facebook.com/KendallAreaTransit](http://www.facebook.com/KendallAreaTransit). Please visit the website and Facebook pages to find out valuable info as well as staying in touch with KAT happenings!

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_**Bus Tour Continued on page 6.**_
The Voluntary Action Center’s 2012-2013 Membership Drive is coming to a close. As our largest fundraiser of the year, we need help to assure that there is a stable source of funding for the important services VAC provides in Kendall County.

The need for KAT continues to grow. Your generosity will enable us to meet the growing need for rides to and from medical appointments, employment, grocery stores, and meal sites.

Your membership contribution will help! As a donator,
- You help provide vital services in the community,
- For every $100 donated, we can provide 6 rides to people in need,
- You will partner with VAC to improve the quality of life in Kendall County communities,
- All donations stay in the community to support local services,
- And you will help VAC counter the impact of unstable fuel costs.

May we count on you to help provide transportation to our neighbors, friends, and family in need? A heartfelt thank you for your help!

Sincerely,
Tom Zucker, Executive Director

VAC Membership Gift Form

Yes, I want to become a Member of the Voluntary Action Center and help support its programs!

[ ] Individual / Family Gift  [ ] Corporate Gift

Name/Business:
Address:
City:_________________________ Zip_________
Phone:_______________________
Email_______________________

[ ] $100 Membership  [ ] $250 Membership
[ ] $500 Sponsor  [ ] $1000 Benefactor

Any amount will be greatly appreciated!

Please mail Membership Gift to:
Voluntary Action Center
Membership Drive - Kendall
1606 Bethany Road
Sycamore, IL 60178

Oswego Park and Ride Schedule

Please note: Park and Ride users will not be able to use a Metra Link-up Pass, Plus-Bus Stickers, or other PACE related passes to use the bus. PACE will also not honor KAT passes. Users will need to obtain separate passed if they utilize PACE or CTA services as part of their trip.

Fares can be purchased in one of three ways: (1) A monthly pass for $30, (2) a 10-ride pass for $17.50, or (3) daily one-way fare of $3.50. Monthly and 10-ride passes can be purchased at Oswego Village Hall, Montgomery Village Hall, Yorkville City Hall, Plano City Hall, and the Oswego Police Department. The daily fare is purchased on the bus at the time of boarding, and exact change is needed.

The schedules, fares, and other information in this timetable are subject to change. The Village of Oswego and Kendall Area Transit do not assume responsibility for damage resulting from delayed trains or buses or failure to make connections. For more transit info, please call (630) 554-3618 or (877) IGO-4KAT.
KAT Notes

...transit help reduce traffic congestion and improve the air quality, but it stimulates regional economic development and accessibility by stimulating local trade and industry. When businesses contemplate moving to certain areas, communities that show a commitment to public transportation infrastructure are often highest on the list. Likewise, potential residents also count community transportation services among the many priorities when contemplating relocating to a new home. People understand the merits of such programs.

When local communities contribute to public transportation investment, they are also helping provide important transportation services for residents, especially residents with few if any other mobility options, such as seniors and individuals with disabilities. Were it not for many dial-a-ride services, those least among us may otherwise be completely homebound – shut out from remaining a part of or contributing to their community.

Thankfully, leaders throughout the Kendall community recognize the importance of KAT and continue supporting the program. As a result of their commitment, KAT ridership has increased every year of operation, sometimes as much as doubling! As a county, we’ve seen the growing need and demand for a vibrant public transportation infrastructure. With greater demand for service in rural areas, with an aging population, with an economy in dire need of growth and stimulation, and with millions of Americans in need of work or a way to work — how can we afford not to grow the transit program of the Kendall County community?

— Paul LaLonde, Program Director KAT

Waubonsee Community College Dial-a-ride

KAT is a community and public transportation dial-a-ride service that is available to all Kendall County residents. All riders must be registered to use the service. All rides must be scheduled in advance and times are based on availability. For information regarding registration, scheduling rides, and fares please call the KAT Office at (877) IGO-4KAT, (877) 446-4528.

Daily One-way Fare: $5.00
10-Ride Pass: $35.00 ($50 value)

Purchase your 10-Ride Passes from: Waubonsee C.C. Bookstore, Kendall Area Transit office, or your friendly bus driver.

Daily Fare: Purchase on the bus at time of the trip. Exact Fare Required. No change will be issued.

Arrives at Sugar Grove Campus:
8:50 A.M.
1:00 P.M.
5:00 P.M.*

Plano, Rush Copley, & Downtown Aurora:
Schedules based on availability.

The schedules, fares, and other information listed are subject to change.

Pick up and drop off locations at Sugar Grove Campus are at the Student Center & Science Building. Drop-offs and pickups at all other campuses will be at the respective Main Entrances. Campus & location must be given at time of reservation.

*There is no Sugar Grove Campus 5:00 P.M. pickup on Fridays.
About Kendall Area Transit

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

KAT is a 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.

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

KAT Bus Tour

Seating: The picture to the left shows there are plenty of comfortable spots to sit. The picture to the right shows that our seats can be folded up to accommodate a mobility device. To the right are three of the happy KAT drivers who help our riders on their trips!