The mission of the Voluntary Action Center, operator of Kendall Area Transit, is a commitment to providing high quality services that address the basic transportation needs of its community. One of the many ways VAC addresses this mission is by building relationships with our neighbors — relationships with our riders, relationships with public agencies, relationships with other nonprofit service providers, and relationships with area businesses. Building these networks is essential in helping VAC provide transit service through KAT because it gives us incite and perspective into the needs of the communities we serve. Once we gain these incites, VAC can adjust to deliver better services. When I first got to Kendall County in 2010, one thing became apparent as I began interacting with our new neighbors: Services for the disabled community had been severely lacking for many years.

(Continued on page 5)

KAT Notes

The mission of the Voluntary Action Center, operator of Kendall Area Transit, is a commitment to providing high quality services that address the basic transportation needs of its community. One of the many ways VAC addresses this mission is by building relationships with our neighbors — relationships with our riders, relationships with public agencies, relationships with other nonprofit service providers, and relationships with area businesses. Building these networks is essential in helping VAC provide transit service through KAT because it gives us incite and perspective into the needs of the communities we serve. Once we gain these incites, VAC can adjust to deliver better services. When I first got to Kendall County in 2010, one thing became apparent as I began interacting with our new neighbors: Services for the disabled community had been severely lacking for many years.

(Continued on page 5)

KAT Calendar of Events

- **Thursday July 4th** KAT paratransit and Park and Ride operations will be closed in observance of Independence Day.
- **Friday August 23rd** “Back to School Bash” at Plano High School, 5:00 p.m.
- **Monday September 2nd** KAT paratransit and Park and Ride operations will be closed in observance of Memorial Day.
- **Saturday September 21st** Rush Copley Safety Fair, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at
- **Monday October 7th** Kendall County Legislative Forum on Senior/Disability Issues 9:00 a.m. Beecher Center in Yorkville.
- **Thursday October 10th** 2nd KAT Wine Tasting Fundraiser at Fox Valley Winery in Oswego from 4:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.

TRANSIT SPEAK: MOBILITY MANAGEMENT

Mobility management is an innovative approach for managing and delivering coordinated transportation services to customers, including older adults and people with disabilities. Diverse citizenry, job markets, and needs require new approaches for providing transportation services, particularly for customers with special needs. Mobility management focuses on meeting individual customer needs through a wide range of transportation options and service providers. It also focuses on coordinating these services and providers in order to achieve a more efficient transportation service delivery system for public policy makers and taxpayers who underwrite the cost of service delivery.
**KAT, CELEBRATE DIFFERENCES PARTNER FOR PRAIRIEFEST**

On June 16th, KAT partnered with Celebrate Differences to walk in the Oswegoland Park District’s annual PrairieFest Parade in downtown Oswego! Celebrate Differences, a non-profit founded in 2007, is committed to supporting individuals with disabilities in reaching their fullest potential by providing positive re-sources and information to families, communities and health care providers while promoting a competent level of awareness and understanding. Both KAT and Celebrate Differences had so much fun reaching out to members of the community in promoting how important transportation is to individuals with disabilities. This was the second straight year that KAT and Celebrate Differences have partnered to walk in the parade.

---

**VAC WINS ONLINE POLL FOR FAVORITE COMMUNITY CHARITY**

Every month Earthmover Credit Union holds an online poll for favorite community charity, the winner to which they donate. The winner of the February online poll was Voluntary Action Center, operator of Kendall Area Transit! We wish to thank Earthmover Credit Union for their generosity and commitment to the mission of community transportation! VAC will put their donation to good use providing trips to Kendall County residents in need.

---

**KAT Has a New Travel Trainer**

Hello, my name is Sara Iobbi. I started with KAT in mid-May as the new travel trainer. I recently graduated from Aurora University with a Bachelors in Social Work, and I am continuing my education at AU by pursuing a Masters of Social Work. My background in social work has given me knowledge and experience in working with diverse and vulnerable populations. I have always had an interest in helping people and am excited about my new position as the travel trainer with KAT. Travel Training can teach anyone, including individuals with disabilities and older adults, how to use the KAT buses. Travel Training is free and can be done one-on-one or can be presented to a group. I will be helping individuals practice using the bus, traveling to different locations, and helping them feel comfortable with using public transportation. In addition, I will be helping people make connections to other public transit systems if they require a trip that is outside KAT’s current service area. For example, if a rider needs to travel to Chicago, I can help arrange their trip around the Metra train schedule. If you are interested in KAT’s travel training opportunities, please give me a call at (630) 882-6970! I look forward to helping Kendall County residents explore their public transit options!
**KAT in the Community**

Members of the KAT team and family members participated in the 2013 Celebrate Differences 5K Fundraiser on April 28th!

Gary, Park and Ride Bus Operator, wins a t-shirt from KHiTS 104.3!

Sara mans the KAT booth at the 4th Annual Hometown Senior Fair in Sandwich on May 15th.

Diannaha and Charlie manning the KAT booth at the Oswego Chamber of Commerce EXPO on April 13th.
Diannaha and Sara staffing the KAT booth for the 2013 Kendall County Job Fair at the Waubonsee Community College Plano Campus on June 7th.

Paul, Program Director of KAT, gave a presentation on using the KAT buses to students and staff of the Kendall County Special Education Coop on May 16th at Oswego High School.
“Toast to Transit” Fundraiser Set for October 10th

The Voluntary Action Center (VAC) will be hosting its Kendall County fundraiser, the “TOAST TO TRANSIT” Wine Tasting on October 10 at the Fox Valley Winery in Oswego in support of KAT.

Guests will enjoy a wide selection of wines, a delicious hors d’oeuvre spread from Premier Meals Catering, and silent auction prizes. The tasting will begin at 4:30 PM and last until 6:30 PM. Ticket purchases can be made for $25 per person and can be purchased by contacting Paul LaLonde at (630) 882-6970. VAC is also looking for sponsors. If any businesses and/or individuals are interested in sponsoring this event, please contact Paul.

Last year, VAC helped raise over $1000, which went towards supporting KAT. All proceeds from a “Toast to Transit” will be used to help VAC provide community transportation through the KAT program. Every $100 raised will help VAC provide six (6) rides to community members in need. All donations stay in the community to support local services and will help improve the quality of life in Kendall County. We hope to see you there!

KAT Notes (continued from page 1)

That was then, however, and services have come a long way in Kendall County mostly due to dedicated community leaders who saw the needs and worked towards finding solutions. As a way of adding to and coordinating solutions, many of these same community leaders have banded together to form the Kendall County Task Force on Disability (KCTFD).

To the best of our understanding, this group is the first of its kind in the US. The Task Force’s mission is to raise and maintain a high level of public awareness of disability issues and available, accessible resources for disabled individuals through effective outreach, education, and advocacy with the goal of promoting better integration of persons with disabilities into the community.

The group is comprised of many community agencies and businesses that represent a diverse set of services, including Celebrate Differences, Senior Service Associates, Open Door Rehabilitation Center, Association for Individual Development, Kendall County Special Education Cooperative, the Area Agency on Aging, Easter Seals of Joliet, Waubonsee Community College, Home for Life Advantage, Inc., the Voluntary Action Center, and many more.

Membership is free and open to any person, organization, business, or agency interested in promoting the purpose of KCTFD, and who serves the Kendall County disabled community in an employed or volunteer capacity. Meetings are held on a bimonthly basis on the third Tuesday of the month. The next meeting is scheduled for August 20th at 1:00 p.m.

I am honored to have been elected the group’s first President and can attest that the Task Force is excited and motivated in advancing our mission. A lot of work still is needed to close gaps in service, but the Kendall community is headed in the right direction. Please look out in the future for events and activities, including the lending library donation drive set for October, which is Disability Employment Awareness Month. For more information, please “like” our Facebook page (facebook.com/KCTaskForce), or feel free to contact me.

-- Paul LaLonde, Program Director of KAT
VAC 2012-13 Membership Drive Reaches Goal

The 2012-2013 Voluntary Action Center Membership Drive is coming to an end. Our initial goal was to raise $3500 for use in the KAT program. We are excited to say that we have exceeded our goal by raising over $4000! Thank you to all Members who helped make this the most successful Kendall VAC fundraiser yet!

Individual Gifts

Enrique Alvarez
Clyde & Linda Anderson
Larry & Garnet Bailey
Shirley Beckwell
Lillian Beggs
Joan Bernhjelm
Christina Bonesteel
Edward & Alyce Brophy
John Byrne
Mary Lou Conover
Carolyn Ervin
Jane Foster
Emil & Mercedes Garcia
Teresa
Edward & Priscilla Gruber
Michael & Karen Hardecopf
Nichola Hilligoss
William Holstine
Richard & Lori Jansen
Steve & Mary Kapernekas
Taiir
Rosemary Kearns
Blanca Madsen
Judith Mustafa
Esther Pedersen
William & Kirby Pierce
Steve & Mary Powell
Michael Price
Lori Runkle
Lorraine Schleitwiler
Bette Schoenholtz
Janet Schor
Edward & Marilyn Siska
Cyndi Stevens
Thomas & Margaret Wagner
Betty Warren
Robert & Mary Weber
Esther Wolf
Geneva Wyatt

Organizational Gifts

Community Disposal of Sandwich

Kendall County Special Education Cooperative
Metra weighs extending service to Kendall County

Metra officials Friday recommended that the commuter rail agency consider extending service to Yorkville in Kendall County, rather than halting at slightly closer-to-Chicago Oswego, an issue that has been discussed for more than a decade.

Board members gave tentative approval to spending an additional $440,000 for an ongoing study to determine the cost of extending the BNSF Line a couple of more miles to Yorkville.

Yorkville was the longtime home of former U.S. House Speaker Dennis Hastert, who earmarked about $5 million in federal funds for the study in 2003.

Whether Metra ultimately brings service to Kendall County is not assured, however, since the agency has yet to formally approve any extension.

BNSF service now ends in Aurora. Three stops, in Montgomery, Oswego and Yorkville, could potentially be added. The cost of extending the line to Oswego alone has been estimated at more than $100 million.

The level of ridership available in Kendall County remains a big question mark, however. Some wonder about extending service to a new area instead of bolstering existing lines, such as the lightly served Heritage Corridor or SouthWest Service.

"I believe it will be a good project, but we have a lot of hurdles to jump," said Metra board member Mike McCoy, who represents Kane County.

Kendall County and the communities being served would have to come up with funds to build the 8.6-mile-long extension from Aurora, along with the cost of stations and operating costs, officials said. Kendall County is not part of the six-county Regional Transportation Authority, and as such does not pay any sales tax for the RTA. Joining the RTA would need approval in a countywide referendum.

Glenford Peters, Metra's assistant chief operating officer, told board members Friday that extending service to Yorkville and building a rail yard and station there would be preferable to Oswego, about 2 1/2 miles east.

Metra last year approved $1.8 million for an environmental and engineering study of extending the BNSF to Oswego. If Metra's board approves, the contract with Chicago-based Bowman, Barrett & Associates would increase to nearly $2.3 million.

**STAFF SPOTLIGHT**

**Name:** Val Nickerson

**Position:** Assistant Operations Manager, in charge of staff training and vehicle maintenance

**Joined VAC:** December 2011

**Before KAT:** Bus Operator and dispatcher for Grundy Transit System, driver with Illinois Central School Bus

**Favorite Part of the Job:** My personality is one where I enjoy solving challenges. Maintaining a bus fleet and training driving staff to the highest standards are no small tasks, but the challenge motivates me.

**Most Rewarding Experience Thus Far:** I love seeing new employees succeed after we put in the hard work towards training, especially obtaining or maintaining a CDL.

**Hobbies:** DA BEARS!, bowling, volleyball, NASCAR

---

**TRANSITIONS**

“TRANSITions” highlights staff members who have recently been hired or changed positions.

- **Craig Riemenschneider, Bus Operator**
  - Craig, a lifelong Kendall County resident, joins KAT with experience as a truck driver. He is excited to help people he’s known for most his life.

- **Frank Suarez, Bus Operator**
  - Frank, recently retired, had spent his entire working career in the railroad industry. Never one to sit idle, Frank joined KAT in hopes of making a difference in the community.

- **Laura Keyser, Bus Operator**
  - Laura has a transit background as a bus operator for the Oswegoland Park District. She loves interacting with new people and is excited to get to know the KAT riders.

> “WORKING AT KAT OFFERS UNIQUE AND CONSTANT CHALLENGES THAT HAVE HELPED ME GROW AS AN EMPLOYEE.”
KAT Staff Member Featured in Regional Newsletter

Kendall County and the Voluntary Action Center are members of the Human Service Transportation Plan Region 3 committee, which meets bi-monthly in Mendota and features social service and governmental member agencies throughout Bureau, DeKalb, Grundy, Kendall, La Salle, Lee, Ogle, and Putnam Counties. The HSTP Region 3 host agency, the North Central Illinois Council on Governments (NCICG) publishes a quarterly newsletter, too, and the Spring 2013 edition of the newsletter featured Diannaha Thompson, KAT Operations Manager! The featured article is posted below. Congrats to Diannaha for being recognized throughout the region for her hard work in serving Kendall’s transportation needs!

Diannaha Thompson is the operations manager with Kendall Area Transit (KAT). Diannaha has shown great professionalism, a dedication to her job, and an in-depth knowledge of computer software. After researching several scheduling softwares, she almost single-handedly created the KAT scheduling system. Prior to operation manager in late 2011, she was the “voice” of KAT answering phones. While she may be the operations manager, that does not mean she doesn’t help elsewhere. She can often be found dispatching, scheduling, and even driving vehicles whenever there is a need. In addition to these activities she works with surveying, generates reports, and works on marketing events.

"Today, much of the success of the KAT program can be directly attributed to her." - Paul LaLonde, Program Director with 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)

10-Ride Passes Available for $35: Purchase at 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.

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.

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.
KAT Ridership Fiscal Year 2013

The 2013 KAT Fiscal Year began July 1, 2012 and ended June 30, 2013. It was projected that KAT would provide 18,000 paratransit trips during that timeframe. We are happy to report that KAT exceeded that projection by 882 trips! The 18,882 paratransit trips provided in FY13 represents an increase of 25% over FY12! In addition, KAT took over Oswego Park and Ride operations in January 2013 and provided 6,336 trips, representing a 25% increase over the previous 6-month period. These numbers are indicative of the tremendous growth the system has had over the past several years. Demand is high for community and public transportation options in the region. As KAT is expected to receive several new vehicles in the coming months, staff is excited to continue meeting the needs of the Kendall County community.

Waubonsee Community College Trips on the Rise

KAT began offering trips to WCC Sugar Grove main campus in the Fall semester of 2012, in addition to providing rides to the Aurora and Plano campuses. That first semester, KAT provided 86 trips to WCC students. A modest amount. However, once students began hearing about the service, that number jumped to 615 trips for the Spring 2013 semester, an increase of 615% in just one semester! That incredible growth demonstrates that Kendall County WCC students are taking advantage of public transit while earning their education. For more information on scheduling a trip with KAT to WCC, please call (877) IGO-4KAT!

Heritage Woods of Yorkville Sees Value of KAT

On April 24th, Heritage Woods of Yorkville held a fundraiser in support of KAT and in celebration of Supportive Living Week! As a supportive living community, Heritage Woods knows all about how the KAT program aids in the mission of supportive living by offering their residents personal choice, dignity, privacy, and independence. John King, Administrator of Heritage Woods, says he sees the buses everyday, and many residents utilize KAT to go shopping, visit friends, or go to medical appointments. “We understand the importance of KAT and wanted to show our appreciation. They really help our residents out.” Attendees included Voluntary Action Center staff, Kendall County representatives, and various business representatives from around Kendall County. Heritage Woods was able to help raise over $300, which was donated to VAC in support of KAT operations!
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.

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

Toll Free: (877) IGO-4KAT
Phone: (630) 882-6970
Fax: (630) 882-6971
Email: kdispatch@co.kendall.il.us
dispatch2@co.kendall.il.us
Website: www.co.kendall.il.us/KAT

facebook.com/KendallAreaTransit

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

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. **Please Note:** Bus schedules follow posted times, **NOT** specific Metra trains.

For more transit info, please call (630) 554-3618 or (877) IGO-4KAT.