Demand-Response Service is a transportation service where the rider must reserve a ride in advance. These services (including KAT) operate on a route of scheduled rides, which very often vary from day to day. Unlike a fixed route system that travels the same route in a regular pattern to pick up awaiting passengers, demand-response services only make prearranged trips for eligible passengers. KAT operates on this model, providing prearranged rides to residents of Kendall County.
Letter from the Director

~ Mike Neuenkirchen, Program Director, KAT

First, let me introduce myself.

My name is Mike Neuenkirchen and I am honored to be the Voluntary Action Center’s new director for the Kendall Area Transit program. I take over from Paul LaLonde, who recently was named VAC’s Assistant Executive Director, which required a move to VAC’s main office up in Sycamore.

While I am new to this position, I am not new to KAT. Many of you have talked to me or heard my voice over the bus radios, since I was a dispatcher here at KAT.

Also, I am not new to overseeing transit operations. Prior to coming to KAT, I worked for a rural demand-response transit system in western Illinois as the program administrator. Many of the issues I dealt with in rural Illinois are issues we deal with at KAT as well.

Working for KAT is a homecoming for me. I grew up in the Montgomery / Oswego area, went to Oswego schools, graduated from Oswego High School, and took classes at Waubonsee Community College. Kendall County is where I was born and raised. Even while spending most of last decade working downstate, I still thought of this area as home.

I could not have asked for a better opportunity. I now get to do a job that I love in the place I call home.

Taking the program director job at this time is not without challenges though. As you know, KAT, like many agencies across Illinois, has been affected by the ongoing State of Illinois budget crisis. KAT is heavily reliant on state grants to operate our service. The budget deadlock in Springfield means we are seeing unpredictable grant reimbursements for costs already incurred.
When the Voluntary Action Center was incorporated over 40 years ago, no one could have predicted the impact we would have on the communities we serve. Over the years, we’ve grown from a small group of volunteers to a multi-county, multi-service agency with a broad regional reach. What began in DeKalb-Sycamore has grown in DeKalb, Bureau, LaSalle, and Kendall Counties.

A large part of our success is due to the generosity of our donors. Your consistent willingness to give generously to our mission allows VAC to continue providing vital transportation and nutrition services that touch the lives of thousands.

Your gifts from last year helped us provide over 35,000 KAT rides!

VAC depends on State funds to operate, and Illinois has not passed a budget for the current fiscal year, which began in July! The State has not been paying us with any regularity or predictability, if at all. Since we cannot count on these funds, we’ve been forced to reduce the operating hours.

We need your help! VAC is a community agency that exists to serve you and your loved ones – to provide hope, health, and support. Your gift is extremely important this year because it offers immediate resources that will help us counter the lack of funds from the State. Whether $10 or $500 – your gift will make an immediate impact on urgently needed KAT transportation services to our community. Be assured that all gifts will be used within the community from which they are received.

By donating you will be a partner in VAC’s efforts to improve the quality of life in our community. Thank you for helping us make a difference in the community!

Sincerely,

Ellen Rogers
Executive Director

VAC’s 2015-2016 Membership Drive Underway

Fiscal Year 2016 began July 1st 2015. KAT operates on a fiscal year from July to June, with four 3-month quarters throughout the year. While KAT did see some increases in number of rides in quarter 1, a decrease in rides was seen during both quarter 2 and 3, which has been a direct result of the financial instability due to the state budget impasse. Quarter 3, which ran from January 2016– March 2016, showed a 12.5% decrease in rides from quarter 3 of FY 2015, with a total of 5,914 rides provided, and an average daily ride count of 97. KAT looks forward to continuing to provide daily rides to residents of Kendall County, and increasing number of daily rides through the expansion of its hours of operation.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>January 2016</th>
<th>February 2016</th>
<th>March 2016</th>
<th>FY 16 Quarter 3 Total</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Number of Rides</td>
<td>1,818</td>
<td>1,958</td>
<td>2,138</td>
<td>5,914</td>
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</table>

VAC Donation Gift Form

Yes, I would like to donate to the Voluntary Action Center and help support the KAT program!

[ ] Individual / Family Gift  [ ] Corporate Gift

Name/Business:__________________________________________________________
Address:_______________________________________________________________
City:_____________________________ Zip____________
Phone:____________________________ Email__________________________________

[ ] $25 Gift
[ ] $50 Gift
[ ] $75 Gift
[ ] $100 Gift

Any amount will be greatly appreciated!

Please mail Donation Gift to:
Voluntary Action Center
Kendall Area Transit
109 W. Ridge Street Room 002
Yorkville, IL 60560

KAT Ridership - Quarter 3 Fiscal Year ‘16
On April 30th, 2016 KAT attended the 13th annual Community Services Fair held at Yorkville High School. This fair, sponsored by the Kendal County Special Ed Cooperative, VALEES, and IL Next Steps, helps students and their families become informed about services available in the community.

KAT Operations Manager, Diannah, at the KAT table ready to tell the community more about KAT services!

KAT table all set up and ready for the fair!

KAT showed off its riders who stood together to advocate for the continuation of KAT services amidst the state budget crisis
IMPORTANT: KAT FACING SERVICE REDUCTIONS

Please contact your state legislators and tell them how important Public Transportation is to YOU!

Due to the State of Illinois not passing a budget, community and public transit programs across Illinois will be facing serious service restrictions. KAT will be facing some difficult times ahead. We are encouraging all riders and their families to contact the governor and their state representatives to inform them of how important KAT is to your lives and why it needs the dedicated State funding immediately. Please contact KAT offices for more information or if you need help with identifying your state representatives.

For more information, please call

(877)-IGO-4KAT
(877) 446-4528
Oswego Lobbies Metra to Extend BNSF Line to Village

We're still here and we want commuter trains, Oswego leaders reminded Metra directors Wednesday. Metra's BNSF service terminates in Aurora, but plans to extend the line to Oswego have been studied since the early 2000s because of a $7.5 million federal earmark.

Village President Gail Johnson told the Metra board the town's population is steadily growing and would fill up trains. Village Administrator Danial DiSanto said "the project is not fantasy, it is not a waste of money." The village has purchased land for a station and parking lot, and both Johnson and DiSanto asked Metra to continue using earmark dollars for feasibility studies.

Metra Chairman Martin Oberman told the delegation he had "no interest in taking study funds away from Kendall County" but "the problem is there are scarce resources and competition for those scarce resources," he said, adding that it could cost $300 million or more to establish service to Oswego. "The political and practical realities give me pause."

In addition, Kendall County isn't part of the six-county Regional Transit Authority that funds Metra, Pace and the CTA through a sales tax. So far there appears to be no official consensus in Kendall County on whether to join the RTA.

About $4.5 million of the earmark secured by disgraced former U.S. House Speaker Dennis Hastert remains. Metra has committed $2.8 million for engineering studies, including a $557,000 contract with consultants in 2015. After the Daily Herald asked last year about the expenditure given the lack of funding, Oberman said the agency would reassess the project.

In a related issue, Metra announced it would add one more outbound train on the Heritage Corridor that travels to Joliet. The line is one of Metra's smallest with just six trains a day, but limited funds have prevented expansion. The extra train goes into service March 14 and will cost more than $315,000 a year to operate.

This article by Marni Pyke originally appeared in the February 24th 2016 issue of the Daily Herald
“TRANSITions” highlights staff members who have recently been hired or changed positions.

**KAT’s Happy Anniversaries!**

- **Bill Schaeffer**
  - Bus Operator – 6 years, March 2010

- **Charlie Sondgeroth**
  - Bus Operator – 6 years, March 2010

- **Richard Aubrey**
  - Bus Operator – 5 years, February 2011

- **Ted Shick**
  - Bus Operator – 5 years, March 2011

- **Karen Stone**
  - Bus Operator – 5 years, March 2011

- **Jeri Shick**
  - Scheduler – 5 years, June 2011

**KAT’s Happy Anniversaries!**

(Continued)

- **Laura Keyser**
  - Dispatcher – 3 years, April 2013

- **Craig Riemenschneider**
  - Bus Operator – 3 years, April 2013

- **Scott Shockley**
  - Bus Operator – 2 years, May 2014

- **Mike Neuenkirchen**
  - Program Director – 2 years, June 2014

- **Ruben Pena**
  - Bus Operator – 1 year, March 2015

- **Sharon Swander**
  - Bus Operator – 1 year, March 2015

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**Staff Spotlight**

**Name:** Susan Galles

**Joined VAC/KAT:** October 2013

**Position:** Scheduling

**Before KAT:** My first career was a secretary, then I drove a truck for about 8 years before joining KAT

**Favorite Part of the Job:** Being able to communicate with KAT riders

**Most Rewarding Experience Thus Far:** It is very rewarding to be able to work with such a great staff we have at KAT everyday, both in the office and with the drivers

**Hobbies:** Reading, walking the dogs, hiking, and spending time with family
Mike Neuenkirchen has been named the Voluntary Action Center’s new KAT Director.

Neuenkirchen takes over for Paul LaLonde, the program’s first director, who recently accepted the position as VAC’s assistant executive director.

“We are truly excited to bring Mike in as the new KAT Director. He not only has a strong track record as a director of rural community and public transportation programs, but his overall diverse professional background gives us the confidence he will keep KAT strong into the coming years,” LaLonde said.

Neuenkirchen called the appointment a “magnificent opportunity.” He continued, “I am very honored to serve an organization of VAC’s quality, especially because I get to continue in the community transportation world. I’ve seen firsthand how KAT helps the community. It offers transit dependent persons independence, medical care, and economic opportunities.”

Kendall Area Transit, or KAT for short, is a community and public transportation service that is dial-a-ride based. Kendall County has partnered with VAC to operate KAT since 2009. Service officially began in March 2010.

As KAT director, Neunkirchen’s major responsibilities will include expanding community outreach efforts, creating more transportation partnership opportunities, and securing more local match dollars required by federal and state transportation grants.

Neuenkirchen is no stranger to guiding a rapidly growing community and public transit system. Before coming to VAC, he worked at Gateway Services in Princeton as the Transportation Director of the Bureau-Putnam Area Rural Transit (BPART) system. During his tenure as BPART Director, the program saw tremendous growth, similar to KAT.

“I see at KAT some of the same challenges we faced at BPART – more demand than we can accommodate, rapidly aging fleets. But I am very excited to work with our staff to continue rising above those challenges,” he said.

Neuenkirchen also worked as the executive director of the Streator Area Chamber of Commerce and Director of Communications and Public Relations at the Greater Aurora Chamber of Commerce. He earned a bachelor’s degree in business administration from Indiana Wesleyan University.
**KAT Expands Hours of Operation**

Yorkville, Il- Kendall Area Transit (KAT) has announced expanded operational hours for the demand-response public transportation service. Starting May 2nd, 2016, KAT will operate from 7:00 am - 5:00 pm Monday through Friday.

Prior to this expansion, KAT had been operating weekdays between 7:00 am – 4:00 pm. According to KAT Program Director Mike Neuenkirchen, the additional service hours were developed through operational efficiencies instead of adding new costs. “By evaluating peak demand during the day, KAT was able to shift resources to a later time without adding additional vehicles,” explained Neuenkirchen.

While Neuenkirchen stated the expanded service hours were a positive for KAT’s riders, he also added a note of caution. “KAT still faces challenges in an environment where the state budget still has not been settled. Our program is heavily reliant on state transit grants. Without a settled budget, it is very difficult for us to plan for future demands.”

KAT is a partnership between the Voluntary Action Center and Kendall County government. KAT offers dial-a-ride public transit services for residents of Kendall County, which provides a flexible and affordable alternative for many individuals seeking medical trips, employment or educational opportunities, necessary shopping trips, and much more.

Residents interested in using the KAT service may contact the scheduling office at 877-IGO-4KAT or (877)-446-4528.

**Letter From the Director Continued**

Continued from page 2

During this budget standoff, KAT has continued to operate at a reduced level. This has negatively impacted many of our riders, since we do not run as many buses for as many hours as we used to. While we are looking at ways to expand services gradually, KAT will have to remain mindful of holding down costs until budget issues are addressed at the state level.

Despite this challenge, I believe the future for KAT is bright. Kendall County continues to grow, and KAT has grown with it. Even with the budget crisis, we are still looking at ways to offer more transit options for the citizens of Kendall County.

In the meantime, the KAT staff has done an exemplary job of continuing service for our ridership. The team here at KAT is some of the most dedicated people that I have ever worked with. It is my privilege to join them in my new role to continue to provide transit options for our ridership.

Sincerely,

Mike Neuenkirchen

Mike Neuenkirchen

Program Director, KAT
The Kendall County Board unanimously approved a laundry list of highway construction projects Tuesday morning worth just over $2.6 million and intended to spruce up 12 county and township highways. Funds for the work will come from the county’s state-reimbursed motor fuel tax fund. In a memo to the board, county highway engineer Fran Klaas said the low bids came in on average about 16 percent below the engineer’s pre-bid estimates.

Of the 12 projects, three were county highway projects. Those project and contracts are as follows:

$1.4 million awarded to D Construction Inc. for resurfacing work on about five miles of Plainfield Road from Templeton to Ridge Road near Oswego; $103,796 awarded to Steffen’s 3-D Construction Inc. for sealcoating work on Grove Road; and $56,792 awarded to Superior Road Striping for striping work on Eldamain Road from Route 34 north to Menards Distribution Center.

Andy Myer, the county’s assistant highway engineer, said the work on Grove Road is just a “Band-Aid” project to hold together the road until they do a total reconstruction in the next five years.

The other nine projects span the nine Kendall County townships. Those projects included:

- Big Grove Road District, low bid awarded to Steffen’s 3-D Construction Inc. for sealcoating work in the amount of $96,181.

- Bristol Road District, low bid awarded to Geneva Construction for resurfacing work in the amount of $426,647.

- Fox Road District, low bid awarded to Steffen’s 3-D Construction Inc. for sealcoating work in the amount of $58,657.

- Kendall Road District, low bid awarded to D Construction Inc. for resurfacing work in the amount of $122,624.

- Lisbon Road District, low bid awarded to Steffen’s 3-D Construction Inc. for sealcoating work in the amount of $39,632.

Continued on Page 11
Kendall County Board OKs Highway Projects for Upcoming Construction Season Continued

Continued from page 10

• Little Rock Road District, low bid awarded to Builder Paving Inc. for resurfacing work in the amount of $72,172.

• NaAuSay Road District, low bid awarded to Steffen’s 3-D Construction Inc. for sealcoating work in the amount of $29,351.

• Oswego Road District, low bid awarded to Geneva Construction for resurfacing work in the amount of $340,300.

• Seward Road District, low bid awarded to D Construction Inc. for resurfacing work in the amount of $131,166.

The memo from Klaas also indicates that 10 contracts were for township and village projects that don’t use motor fuel tax funds, wherein the county is not the awarding authority. Those contracts totaled about $1.9 million. The county bids those projects and the local jurisdiction approves them.

In a related matter, the board unanimously approved awarding $6,000 from the Kendall County Transportation Alternatives Program (KC-TAP) funds to the Kendall County Forest Preserve District for the construction of a shared use path along Route 34. The KC-TAP funds allow the county to provide financial assistance to government entities that apply for funds to construct multi-use trails and sidewalks in the county. The board also approved awarding $35,000 in TAP funds to the city of Yorkville for the construction of a multi-use path and sidewalks along Route 47.

This article by Matt Schury originally appeared in Kendall County Now on April 21st, 2016
KAT Aurora Schedule

To better accommodate the high demand for ridership to the Aurora area, Kendall Area Transit has implemented the following schedules for the “Galena Road / downtown” area and the “Indian Trail / Mercy campus” area of Aurora. KAT is a dial-a-ride service. All rides must be scheduled in advance and are based on vehicle space and availability. This schedule is for trips to the downtown and north Aurora area only. For the time being, trips to and from the Rush Copley Campus on Route 34 will remain scheduled on first come first serve basis. More transit information can be found on the KAT website at www.co.kendall.il.us or by calling (630) 882-6970.

<table>
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<th>Aurora Schedule</th>
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<td>(times are approximate and subject to change)</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Galena Route</th>
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<tbody>
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<td>Drop-offs</td>
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<tr>
<td>Drop-offs/Pickups</td>
<td>12:30-1:00pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Drop-offs/Pickups</td>
<td>3:30-4:00pm</td>
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2015-2016 Membership Contributions

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!

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Individual Gifts</th>
<th>Organizational Gifts</th>
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<tr>
<td>Sheila and Mc Arthur Campbell</td>
<td>Michael and Karen Hardcopf</td>
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<td>Steve and Mary Kapernekas</td>
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<td>Anna Marie Jaruszewski</td>
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<td>Kathleen Snow</td>
<td>Eleanor, Richard, and Neal</td>
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<td>Wenckus</td>
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Thank You
ATTENTION ALL RIDERS

Kendall Area Transit

HOLIDAY SCHEDULE

We will be closed on the following holidays:

- New Year’s Day
- Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
- President’s Day
- Good Friday
- Memorial Day
- Independence Day
- Labor Day
- Columbus Day
- Thanksgiving Day
- Day after Thanksgiving
- Christmas Eve
- Christmas Day

More transit information can be found on the KAT website at www.co.kendall.il.us or by calling (630) 882-6970.