A holiday message from the CEO

Happy Holidays

Greetings CAT family. I do not need to tell you that this holiday season will be a difficult one for many reasons, including the recent loss of one of our beloved members of our CAT family. It is especially important that we support each other during this challenging time. It is a season of giving. As difficult as things may be, I know that you will give whatever you can to help bring comfort and joy into each other’s life. I know I do not have to ask this of you. Your continued dedication to this organization and to our customers has brought so much joy to me and I hope that you know how much you are appreciated. As we face the continuing challenges presented to us each day, those difficulties can force us to recognize what we have to be grateful for. For me personally, I am comforted to know we will face the challenges together. You are truly the best gift I could ask for as CEO. Please have a great holiday season and a happy New Year. - CEO Bacarra S. Mauldin

Chatham County Commission appoints CAT Board members

We are pleased to announce that on Friday the Chatham County Commission appointed two new members to the CAT Board. Kenneth Adams was newly elected to the county commission in November, while Commissioner Bobby Lockett was re-elected to a second term. Commissioner Helen Stone was also re-appointed to the board during Friday’s meeting.

When they take their CAT Board seats in January, Lockett and Adams will replace outgoing Commissioners James “Jay” Jones and Tabitha Odell, who were recently recognized by CAT and county officials for their years of public service.

CAT CEO Bacarra Mauldin said that she appreciated everything Jones and Odell did for CAT customers and Chatham County.

“We look forward to our new board continuing our mission to make CAT a model transit provider for agencies across the country,” Mauldin said.

The nine-member CAT board meets at 10 a.m. on the fourth Tuesday of the month. The meetings, which are currently being held remotely, are open to the public and can be viewed on CAT's YouTube page at YouTube.com/ChathamAreaTransit.
CAT People: Bus Operator Joseph Garrett

Joseph Garrett has been transporting customers to their destination since becoming a CAT bus operator almost six years ago.

The job was a childhood dream of his since he was six years old, growing up riding the bus with his late grandmother, Garrett said.

“I love so many things about my job, but the number one thing is my passengers,” Garrett said.

Not to say that there are not challenges. Dealing with the COVID-19 crisis has been very difficult for both customers and employees, Garrett said.

In January, Garrett took on some new responsibilities when he became the vice chairman of the local transit labor union, ATU 1324, which represents CAT operators and maintenance staff. Garrett said he ran for the position so that he could share his union knowledge and he was blown away with the vision of President Courtney Wingster, who was also newly elected to the position. (You can read a short online profile of Wingster published on Feb. 17 by going to our newsletter archives at www.catchacat.org/media/енews/.)

“I love, live and breathe union,” Garrett said.

However, Garrett does have interests outside the world of CAT. One thing people may not know about him is that he loves to play the piano.

Attention Employees: We want you to be in our newsletter

The profile above about Mr. Garrett is part of an effort to highlight the great employees that work here. In addition to being featured in this employee newsletter, the profiles are also published in our community newsletters so that the public can learn a about all the terrific people at CAT.

If you would like to be featured in a future issue or know someone who you think should be, please let us know by emailing us at marketing@catchacat.org. This newsletter is a collaborative effort and your suggestions are greatly appreciated.

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