We would like to give a huge thanks and congratulations to Bus Operators Anthony Shields and Cheryl David who both recently celebrated their 21st anniversaries with CAT. Thank you Mr. Anthony and Ms. Cheryl for your commitment to CAT!

Happy Anniversary

January 2021

Cheryl David - Bus Operator - 21 years
Anthony Shields - Bus Operator - 21 years
Tommie Gilchrist - Bus Operator - 15 years
Rebecca Thomas - Bus Operator - 15 years
Erica Lockert - Paratransit Driver - 15 years
Jarren Richardson - Paratransit Driver - 10 years
Charles Robinson - Paratransit Driver - 10 years
Linda Shavers McCoy - Paratransit Driver - 11 years
Erica Taylor - Paratransit Driver - 8 years
Larry Irving - Paratransit Driver - 11 years
Kimberly Miller - Lead Medical Assistant - 7 years
Willa Dooney - Transportation Supervisor - 7 years
Vida Smith - Executive Assistant - 5 years
David Willis - Paratransit Driver - 5 years
Juliette Children - Cleaner - 5 years
Salina Johnson - Paratransit Driver - 5 years
Colin Corbett - Dispatcher - 2 years
Michelle Kelov - Paratransit Driver - 1 year

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CAT meeting calendar

All of the February meetings will be remotely due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The virtual meetings can be viewed live on CAT’s YouTube page at: YouTube.com/ChathamAreaTransit.

CAT Board Committee Meetings

Date: Feb. 9
Strategic and Operational Planning: 10:30 a.m.
Performance Monitoring/Audit: 1 p.m.
External Stakeholder Relations: 2:30 p.m.

CAT Governance Committee

Date: Feb. 16
Time: 11 a.m.

CAT Board Regular Meeting

Date: Feb. 23
Time: 10 a.m.
CAT celebrates Savannah’s Black History

See Chief Communications Officer Nikki Fremney describe CAT’s Black History Month campaign in a video at YouTube.com/ChathamAreaTransit

As one of the oldest cities in the US, Savannah is well known for its rich vibrant history and its many historical landmarks. This Black History Month, CAT is promoting education and the exploration of the many contributions African Americans have made in the city with the release of the first CAT Black History Landmark Tour Map.

CAT has produced a custom-designed bus route map featuring six historical landmarks in Chatham County that are significant in Black history and culture. The six locations featured on the map are the First African Baptist Church, the Laurel Grove Cemetery, the King Tisdell Cottage, the Beach Institute, the Savannah African Art Museum and the Owens-Thomas House and Slave Quarters.

“This campaign — a celebration of Savannah’s rich Black history — is in line with CAT’s goal to be a community leader that positively contributes to the overall success of community. It helps demonstrate our ability to be seen as more than just a transportation provider,” said interim CEO Valerie Ragland. “We consider ourselves fortunate to be in a position to help raise awareness of those important local institutions and of the significant contributions of African Americans in our community’s development. I think our riders and the community at large will be as excited about this campaign as I am.”

Ragland says the map was designed, in part, to encourage the community at large and especially those who do not regularly ride the bus, to hop on board to explore the city.

“CAT bus service is one of the most affordable ways to see our beautiful city and to explore all the historical sites we are lucky enough to live, work and play among,” said Ragland, only the third African American and second Black woman to lead CAT in its 34-year history. “We are always looking to create opportunities to promote education and exploration on our buses.”

The Black History Landmark Tour Map, which features information about each site on the back, will be distributed to riders and made available to CAT’s partners for dissemination. It can also be downloaded from CAT’s website at catchacat.org. In addition, interior signs have been installed inside CAT’s buses to highlight the locations identified on the map.

For those who prefer to use cell phones or tablets to access the Black History Landmark Tour Map, CAT has published an interactive map on its website and on its CAT Facebook page.

Other significant locations, in addition to those included on the map, will also be promoted in CAT’s community newsletter, the CAT Outbound, and on various social media sites, including Facebook, Twitter and Instagram.

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A message from Chief Safety Officer Hall regarding CDC mask mandate

As you may have heard, President Biden has issued a mandatory mask mandate that applies to public transportation. On January 29, 2021, the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) issued an emergency action requiring transit workers and passengers to wear masks on all buses, trains, paratransit vans and motor coaches, and at all transportation hubs. Emergency action and security directive took effect on February 2, 2021. While the mandate stipulates what the mandate covers, it does not address enforcement. Neither the emergency action nor the security directive specify the procedures to be used. For that reason it is of vital importance that we as a transit agency address how noncompliance and unruly passengers will be handled, and the expectations for operators and staff. Moreover, the security directive requires employers to “establish procedures to manage situations with persons who refuse to” wear a mask. Those procedures must ensure that if someone “refuses to comply with an instruction given by” the operator or station agent, the operator or station agent must:

1. Deny boarding to the individual.
2. Make best efforts to disembark the individual from the vehicle as soon as practicable.
3. Make best efforts to remove the individual from the transportation hub as soon as practicable.

Please understand that operators are not expected to engage in direct enforcement of this mandate. Instead, we are focusing on gaining voluntary compliance. We are strongly encouraging passengers to wear masks; we are passing out masks to individuals who may not have masks; we are still mandating social distancing along with proper hand sanitizing. Please be reminded that operators are required to wear masks at all times with three (3) exceptions that may apply to passengers as well.

1. While eating, drinking or taking medication for a brief period.
2. While communicating with a person who is hearing impaired and the ability to see the mouth is essential for communication.
3. When unconscious (for reasons other than sleep), incapacitated, unable to be awakened, or otherwise unable to remove mask without assistance.

This mandate is new and fluid. Please look for changes as protocols continue to evolve.

- Charles Hall, Chief Safety Officer

FACE MASKS REQUIRED

In accordance with a federal mandate, all CAT riders are required to wear a face mask while riding CAT buses, paratransit vehicles and ferries. Non-compliance may result in termination of your riding privileges.

MASK UP FOR YOUR SAFETY AND THOSE AROUND YOU!

Don’t forget, we are giving out CAT-branded masks and hand sanitizing spray pens to anyone who subscribes to our employee newsletter service. Just text SCORE to 81411.

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