Rock ‘n’ Roll impacts continued from page one

Coastal Region Metropolitan Planning Organization OKs CAT grants

The Coastal Region Metropolitan Planning Organization (CORE MPO) recently approved more than $1.3 million in grant funding applications submitted by Chatham Area Transit for new buses and a bus stop improvement plan. As a result of the CORE MPO’s vote on Oct. 27, the CAT funding will be added to the 2021-2024 Transportation Improvement Plan in December. The grant approval sets CAT on a course to receive the funding during the 2023 fiscal year. The approved funding application includes $936,000 for two new 35-foot diesel buses that will help CAT maintain a dependable fleet and lower long-term maintenance costs by replacing the oldest and least reliable buses. In addition, the CORE MPO approved CAT’s application for $400,000 to develop a bus stop improvement plan that will guide the placement of amenities such as shelters, benches and trashcans. The plan will also help CAT determine where accessibility improvements are needed in order to make all bus stops ADA compliant. Both grants will require that CAT provide a 20-percent local match.

‘The grant approval sets CAT on a course to receive the funding during the 2023 fiscal year.’

New paratransit operator prepares to join CAT in providing vital service

Jeffery Swinton observed her maneuvering from a few yards back. The key to going backwards in that type of vehicle is using the side view mirrors, Swinton said of the training exercise. “There are no rearview mirrors,” he said.

The parking lot was where Bynoe learned how to drive when she was a teenager. Now an adult with a teenager of her own, she was training to become an operator for CAT Mobility, which provides transportation to individuals with disabilities who are unable to use CAT’s fixed-route bus service. Having recently moved back to Savannah from Atlanta, Bynoe said that she applied for the position because she loves helping people. “You never know who someone is going through,” Bynoe said. “And times like now, everyone is going through — everybody is definitely in need.”

Bynoe is one of the latest residents to apply for the position as CAT experiences a shortage of paratransit and fixed-route operators similar to transit agencies throughout the country. Bynoe passed her written exam and would soon be training on the public streets after finishing up on the closed course. She is expected to begin serving customers around the second week of November.

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November 2021 edition

On Saturday, Nov. 6, all Chatham Area Transit buses will be rerouted or delayed due to the Rock ‘n’ Roll Marathon. None of CAT’s buses will operate from the downtown Joe Murray Rivers, Jr. Intermodal Transit Center at 610 W. Oglethorpe Avenue. In addition, service at downtown stops north of Anderson will be temporarily suspended. Normal service will resume after the marathon is over and the streets are cleared for traffic. All streets should be open by 6 p.m. During the marathon, the connecting point for buses will be moved from the transit center to Anderson Street and Martin Luther King, Jr. Boulevard. CAT will also operate smaller shuttles to and from the temporary connecting point to the transit center, although this service too will be impacted by the race and customers should expect delays. CAT Mobility also will be unable to serve some locations until after the marathon.

The Dot shuttles will not operate during the marathon, but the Downtown Loop will resume service after the roads have been reopened to traffic. The Dot’s Forsyth Loop will not run on Saturday at all due to scheduled events in the area. In addition, the Forsyth Dot loop will be impacted on Friday due to the closure of Drayton Street from Henry Street to Gaston Street. The stops missed include Park Avenue & Bull, Drayton and Gwinnett, and Drayton and Huntington. The closest alternative stop is at Whittaker and Gwinnett.

Individual route details are online at catchcat.org (homepage slide). There will be no road closures on Sunday. However, minor delays should be expected from 6 a.m. to about 3 p.m. due to some shorter runs that day at Daffin Park and along Washington Avenue.

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Ferry Information

Nov. 4: One extra ferry will run from 3 p.m. to 8 p.m.

Nov. 5: One extra ferry will run from 12 p.m. to 7 p.m.

Nov. 6: Ferry service will begin at 5 a.m.

Normal schedule executed up to and after the additional boats start and stop. For specific road closure information and the Interactive Road Closure Map please visit the Rock ‘n’ Roll Marathon website at https://www.runrockroll.com/savannah-road-closure.

Also please continually check for updates at catchcat.org and by checking our social media pages on Instagram, Twitter and Facebook.

Send an email to marketing@catchcat.org to subscribe to our weekly electronic newsletter, the CAT Express.
Veterans Day Parade to impact CAT services on Nov. 11

The Veterans’ Day parade will impact Chatham Area Transit’s bus operations on Thursday, Nov. 11.

The buses will follow the regular week- day schedule; however, the parade, which begins at 10 a.m., is expected to block off some routes and some buses will be rerouted or delayed until the pa- rade ends and the streets are cleared for traffic.

Check for more details online at www.catchacat.org as they become available.

CAT discount available to veterans

VETERAN HALF FARE

To honor their service, CAT is offering half-fares to all veterans.

To get the discount, veterans must present one of the following: Veteran ID Card, Discharge Documents, Driver’s License with Veteran Designation, Proof of Membership with a Veterans Organization or obtain a Half-Fare ID Card.

For more information, visit catchacat.org

It has been two years since Chatham Area Transit implemented a veterans discount program that provides a 50- percent discount on CAT services to for- mer members of the military. The dis- count can be applied to most of CAT’s fixed-route fare options, including $1.50 one-way trips, $3 day passes and $50 monthly passes.

Since the program was launched, CAT has issued about 1,500 veteran discounts. For those who have not done so, we encourage more veterans to take advantage of the discount when using CAT services.

According to the Georgia Department of Veterans Service, there were about 28,000 veterans in Chatham County in 2017. Statewide, the number was almost 700,000.

CAT also offers similar half-fare pro- grams to young people ages 6-18, people with disabilities, Medicare recipi- ents, and seniors ages 65 and older.

To get the discount, veterans should present bus operators with either their veteran ID card, discharge documents or driver’s license with a veteran design- nation.

Proof of membership in a veterans’ or- ganization such as the VFW, American Legion and AMVETS will also be accept- ed. Half-fare ID cards also can be ob- tained by presenting proof of service at the ticket window at the downtown Joe Murray Rivers, Jr. Intermodal Transit Center, 610 W. Oglethorpe Avenue.

These IDs can then be used in place of military service documentation. Veterans can also call customer service at (912) 233-5767 to get set up and purchase the discounted passes using CAT’s Token Transit mobile ticketing app.

Veterans who need proof of their ser- vice can learn how to get a copy of their DD 214 form (Report of Separation) from the National Archives by going to the following web address: https://themilitarywallet.com/replace-lost- military-service-records/ or scan- ning the QR code with their smartphone’s camera.

Constitutional amendments may vary. Message and data rates may apply. For more information call 1-912-233-5767.

CAT Mourns Maintenance Director Steve Boaright

“"I’m still not sure what to say but first and foremost I hope everyone knows we lost a great man, a great employee to CAT but most of all a great friend,” Jimmy said. “Steve looked after me at work and always helped me out in any situation that I needed him! It’s almost hunting sea- son and I am going to miss our conver- sations about hunting and miss all the pictures that we would share during this time of the year. My con- dolences to his family.”

Maintenance Support Specialist Cara Lehman said she was very fortunate to work with Steve for the past five and a half years, describing him as a great friend, mentor and boss.

“I loved watching his face and his ex- citement when the new buses and the generator for the electric buses came into the yard, it was like a kid on Christ- mas day,” Cara said.

Chatham Area Transit suffered a tragic loss with the recent passing of Mainte- nance Director Steve Boaright at the age of 55. Outside his work life, Steve was an avid UGA fan and outdoorsman who en- joyed fishing, hunting, mud-bogging, and exploring with his dogs. Most of all, he was a devoted husband, father, grandfa- ther and son who loved spending time with his family.

Marine Operations Director Jimmy Gun- by said that he was at a loss for words when he learned Steve had passed away.

Steve was ambitious and believed the best of everyone he met, while always jumping at the opportunity to help eve- ryone, said Maintenance Manager Donna Dale.

“He always reached beyond his limits to make things work at CAT,” Donna said. During the CAT Board’s Governance Committee meeting last month, Intern CEO Valerie Ragland took a moment along with the committee members to recognize Steve’s passing with a moment of silence. Steve has given so many con- tributions, so much commitment and dedication to CAT, Valerie said.

“He is truly going to be missed,” she said. “We already miss him.”

Chief of Staff/Board Liaison Beverly Du- mas said that Steve was very hands on and would be hard to replace. She said that even on challenging workdays, Steve would never complain and would always remind you that “It’s a beautiful day.”

Paratransit training (Continued from page 1)

Pleasantly surprised when she learned Bynoe was hired (Bynoe had not told her she applied), Early said that her daughter is a people person who will make a great paratransit operator.

Alonda Bynoe walks back to the vehicle during a CAT Mobility training session. Bynoe will be joining her mother, Sandy Early, who has worked at CAT as a fixed- route operator for 21 years.

Scanning the QR code with your smartphone’s camera to learn about CAT career oppor- tunities.

Join Our Team!

Open positions for bus operators, paratransit drivers, & ferry captains

Starting salaries from $12.45 - $26

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