



Signs of Progress

So much is happening in the transportation world on a regional and state level that it feels as if we are about to witness a major breakthrough in community transportation. State and local agencies, transportation providers, funders and interest groups are all working together in a concerted push to coordinate transportation offerings around the state to improve cost efficiency and service quality, and to provide more and better services. CVTC is proud to be participating in all of the developments below.

SCC

The State Coordinating Council for Community Transportation (SCC) was formed in 2007 to create a framework for improving the coordination of community transportation services in New Hampshire. In January of this year, the SCC was able to hire Will Rodman, of Nelson/Nygaard Consulting Associates, to accelerate the work of the Council. Will wrote the original report for the Governor's Taskforce on Community Transportation in 2006, and he has helped states across the country create coordinated systems that make the most out of their transportation dollars.

Eastern Monadnock RCC

The Governor's Taskforce report recommended the formation of Regional Coordinating Councils (RCCs) to work with the SCC to help coordination happen at a local level. I'm happy to report that after two years of planning, the Eastern Monadnock RCC has submitted its application to the SCC for approval. This means that local agencies, providers, and transportation users will be working together to help our region's residents get where they need to go in a cost-effective manner.

MRTMA

Looking at transportation across a broader spectrum is the newly formed Monadnock Regional Transportation Management Association (MRTMA), which promotes all modes of transportation that enhance the environmental, economic, and physical health and well-being of citizens in the Monadnock Region. MRTMA has just launched its website that serves as a

resource for residents, visitors, municipalities, employers, and educators. Find out more at www.monadnockTMA.org.

Introducing Gail Robinson

CVTC has created a transportation resource for the entire Monadnock Region with the CVTC Rideshare Program, helping people form carpools to work, school, shopping, and recreation. We are delighted to welcome Gail Robinson as our new Mobility Manager. Gail has a background in business-to-business sales, and is the perfect person to help Monadnock employers see the benefits of providing a reliable, less expensive way for their employees to get to work. Carpooling is fun, saves money, and helps the environment.



Gail Robinson and Rebecca Harris

Volunteer Driver Program

In the Eastern Monadnock Region, our Volunteer Driver Program continues to grow. Margaret Gurney is doing a fabulous job getting people to their medical appointments and other needed destinations. She more than doubled the number of CVTC drivers in six months, and her gentle, supportive manner on the telephone helps people feel at ease when they call for a ride. We welcome careful drivers who have even just the occasional bit of spare time to give.

Participation in Community Life

CVTC started as a grassroots effort in 2006, inspired by a desire to give people of all ages and abilities the means to participate in community life. If you agree that access to transportation is essential for full participation, then please consider making a tax-deductible donation to CVTC.

—Rebecca Harris, Executive Director



A CVTC Partner: Merit Care Transportation Service LLC

Jack Nailor of Merit Care Transportation Service LLC stands next to his fully equipped van, which offers both automatic doors and a wheelchair lift. Passengers do not need to get out of their wheelchairs to get a ride to medical appointments, which include dental appointments.

Since Merit Care is registered with the state of NH as a Medicaid provider, it accepts eligible Medicaid claims, as well as most major credit cards.

For quotes to desired destinations, call Merit Care at 603-924-0266, or email Jack Nailor at meritcaretrans@gmail.com.

CVTC Spreads the Word

CVTC's Volunteer Driver Program is growing by leaps and bounds. I barely sit down at my desk in the morning and the phone is ringing off the hook. I'm amazed at the serendipitous nature of this program. No sooner do I get a request for a ride, put it out in an e-mail, than volunteer drivers are coming forward to offer a ride.

From October through December 2009, the rides requested nearly doubled. Volunteer drivers are signing up every week, and we're keeping up with requests. But with increasing need for rides, as we get the word out about our service, drivers are needed more than ever.

We are, not unexpectedly, giving more rides to places like employment security, food stamps, and fuel assistance locations. So we are actively marketing and networking. We've received good coverage in the local press, and we hope you saw the fun window display in Nonie's in Peterborough during January, which was at the Ocean Bank in Keene during February, and will be at the future home of the Dublin Community Center in March.

CVTC invited all Volunteer Drivers to an Appreciation Dinner last December, held at Nubanusit Neighborhood in the lovely gathering room. Rebecca showed the Team Hannah video (see link on our website), and a community spirit permeated the gathering. The catered meal was provided by Mike Webb, a new young entrepreneur, and Bob McWha was recognized as driver of the quarter (July-September 2009) for having given the most rides, an award he has just won again for the last quarter (October-December 2009). Thanks, Bob!

Many think of our rides as "free," but several riders or their families have taken it upon themselves to send in donations. These contributions are tax-deductible since CVTC is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit. They are used to match our federal funds, which only cover 50 percent of our operating costs. We rely on contributions such as these to make ends meet.

I encourage you to stop by and visit us here at the office, or give a call if you wish to participate on any level.

—Margaret S. Gurney,
Volunteer Driver Program Coordinator



CVTC honored some of our Volunteer Drivers at the Appreciation Dinner last December.

From the Board of Directors

As you'll learn from other articles in this newsletter, CVTC is making good progress on our Rideshare and Volunteer Driver programs. This is encouraging news because in an era where grants and public funding are in short supply, CVTC is able to find and tap into alternative sources of support.

In the Rideshare program, local businesses see the value of carpooling in terms of improving their employees' productivity, by making their commute to work easier and less stressful. This improves their bottom lines, so businesses are willing to pay CVTC to provide this service. As this program grows, it will materially lower congestion and reduce emissions in the region.

Similarly, citizens in our region understand the importance of transportation to our community infrastructure and are willing to volunteer their services as drivers for neighbors who cannot get around on their own. A modest effort by each driver adds up to significant benefits to the community. These kinds of private sector efforts help reduce our reliance on ever scarcer government funding.

We always can use more help so if you can provide either money or time, you will be making a vital contribution to the quality of life in the Monadnock Region.

—Ken Geraghty, Board President

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| CVTC Board: | Ellen Avery | Andy Macdonald |
| | Ken Geraghty | David Osmun |
| | Pamela Gleeson | Missy Taylor |
| | Sam Lafortune | Matt Waitkins |

CVTC is supported by individuals like you, and also by the Endowment for Health, the Federal Transit Administration, the Monadnock Fund of the New Hampshire Charitable Foundation, the A. Erland and Hazel N. Goyette Fund, and the Bean Family Foundation.

If you have any comments or would like to subscribe or unsubscribe to this newsletter, phone us or drop us a line. Thank you.



Hi there!

I am excited to be part of the team here at CVTC and look forward to working with Rebecca and Margaret in creating a better and more reliable transportation network in the Monadnock community.

One of my goals is to help the business community inspire, support and coordinate carpooling among employees. I plan to keep in touch with our Rideshare users with monthly raffles, get-togethers, and email blasts with updates, environment news, money-saving tips and stories about those who are using the Rideshare program. And to stimulate interest, I will focus on innovative incentive packages from businesses throughout the area and nationally.

However, the biggest challenge will be to get people to change the way they think. Getting people to rethink their drive to work sounds a lot simpler than it is: How many of us jump in the car in the morning, set the coffee in its holder, turn on the radio and zip! We are off to work! Rain or shine. Snow or sleet. But 70% of us do it alone.

If each of us makes a small adjustment in our routine it will make a big difference. You can save money, have fun and help the environment. For instance, if you drive 20 miles to work each way carpooling with one other person, you save about \$1300 a year, have someone else help out with the driving, and cut your carbon footprint by 4000 pounds. It is a win-win for your wallet and the environment. Imagine what you could do with that extra hour each day if you didn't have to drive? You could finish that novel, watch a movie on your laptop, knit a scarf or just sit back, close your eyes and nap!

We are very excited to have three companies join us in partnership: Filtrine, New Hampshire Ball Bearings and now Crotched Mountain Foundation & Rehabilitation Center in Greenfield. In December, kick-off events at Filtrine and NHBB were a success with 30 new commuters signing up with the CVTC Rideshare Program. Filtrine's Kelly Blanchette won a Ribbon Gift album and chose a cordless phone as her gift. Stephen Lapinsky of NHBB won an oil change at BC Auto in Peterborough! We are working with both companies to help with carpool connections on the CVTC Rideboard.



Gail and Rebecca signed up 38 carpoolers at a recent event held at Crotched Mountain in Greenfield.

Thank you Filtrine and NHBB for leading the way and showing other companies how they can improve their carbon footprint!

In February things were hopping up at Crotched Mountain with our two day kick-off event. We had 38 employees signed up on the Rideshare program! "I was excited when I saw your email blast on 'How big is your carbon footprint?'" said Matt Souza who drives to Crotched Mountain five times a week from Keene. "I know people in Keene who

drive to Greenfield but they have different schedules than I do, so it will be great to find someone on my schedule," he said. Our Google map drew lots of attention by providing a snapshot of the distribution of Crotched Mountain employees in towns throughout New Hampshire and Massachusetts. This is something we provide for all our employer members.

And, some new incentives made signing up fun: Shaw's Peterborough provided a \$100 gift certificate for our "Sign-up Today" raffle at Crotched Mountain. Our next-door neighbor, Northeast Products, designed office chair pillows emblazoned with the CVTC logo, and we had One Bag One Earth (OBOE), based in New Jersey, create reusable shopping bags out of remnant material, also using our CVTC logo.

Everyone who signed up got to choose a pillow or a bag. Martha Collins won the \$100 Shaw's gift certificate, and is sharing it with her carpool buddy, Barbara Voymas. Congratulations!

I look forward to helping more businesses in the Monadnock community and meeting you soon on my travels!

—Gail Robinson, Mobility Manager



Barbara Voymas and Martha Collins

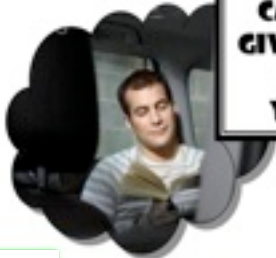
Green thought of the month: What adjustment can you make now in your life to leave a smaller carbon footprint in March?

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**WHAT WOULD YOU DO
IF YOU DIDN'T HAVE TO
DRIVE TO WORK
EVERY DAY?**



**CARPOOLING
GIVES YOU TIME
TO ENJOY
YOURSELF!**



CVTC Rideshare Program

Become a Volunteer Driver for CVTC

Do you have a bit of time now and then when you could give a ride to someone in your town?

CVTC Volunteer Drivers help get their neighbors to the doctor, the pharmacy, the grocery store, and other needed destinations.



"People need rides and I'm able to give them."

Let CVTC answer your questions about making a difference in your community.



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