



Contoocook Valley Transportation Cooperative

Transportation for Everyone

March 2008

Welcome to the March newsletter of the Contoocook Valley Transportation Cooperative, a grassroots cooperative established to create an affordable, accessible, coordinated, inclusive community transportation system for the fourteen towns of the Contoocook Valley.

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CVTC is bursting with activity this spring. We are forming **volunteer driver networks** in each of our individual towns. Six of our towns put out a survey at their town elections and town meetings, and close to ninety people volunteered to drive.

At our March meeting of the board of town transportation representatives we listened to Marcia Nelson of FISH (a volunteer driver network which serves Milford, Amherst, Mont Vernon, Lyndeborough and Wilton) describe how her organization works, and asked her lots of nuts and bolts questions about operating a network.

The New Hampshire West Chapter of the American Red Cross operates volunteer driver networks in several of our towns. Volunteers in these towns will be working with the Red Cross to enhance this service. The other towns will be creating networks from scratch.

If you can give a ride to your neighbor on an occasional basis, please contact us and we will put you in touch with your town's coordinator.

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We're continuing to develop our **rideshare program**. The online rideboard will soon

be under development, and we are working on rideshare kits containing everything an employer needs to make carpooling a success for the company.

The rideboard and its toll-free phone access will help neighbors carpool when running errands. For example, most of us would be glad to take an elderly neighbor to the grocery store when we go, if only we had an easy way to coordinate our trips. The rideboard will give us this ability.

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CVTC is working with the Antrim Community Bus to create the **Supper Shuttle**, a pilot program to provide a shuttle service to the community suppers in Antrim, Bennington, Frankestown and Hancock. The first Supper Shuttle will run on May 1st and will take residents to the Frankestown Community Supper from the other three towns. Local businesses are contributing gas money for these trips. For information, contact the CVTC office at 924-2159.

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On March 4th, **CVTC and Monadnock United Way hosted a luncheon** for area human service agencies and other interested parties. Patrick Herlihy of DHHS and Kit Morgan of DOT gave a presentation on the new state coordination program for community transportation, and Rebecca Harris gave a presentation on CVTC which was well received and led to some important connections for CVTC.

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In February CVTC applied for a **New Hampshire Charitable Foundation express grant** to help pay for website development. We should hear the outcome later this month. CVTC is submitting an application this month for a **New Hampshire Endowment for Health implementation grant** as part of its start-up funding. We are also applying for **federal funds** as part of the **New Freedom** program. Access to these and other federal funds is a direct result of CVTC's participation in coordination activities at the regional and state level.

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CVTC has been working closely with JB Mack, the new transportation planner for **Southwest Region Planning Commission**. JB comes to our area with a wealth of experience in community and rural transportation in Maine, and he makes a valuable addition to our steering committee. CVTC will be helping JB in several new transportation projects specific to the Contoocook Valley.

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Jocelyn Bolle, co-founder of Monadnock Music, asked CVTC to help arrange for the Antrim Bus to provide transportation to a special concert by the **Borromeo String Quartet** on April 27th at the newly reopened **Currier Museum**. We contacted Celeste Lunetta, the director of the Antrim Rec Department, who readily agreed. Phone 588-3121 to reserve a spot on the bus!

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Mark your calendars! On Sunday, the 4th of May, from 4:00 to 6:00 in the afternoon, we are hosting a **regional potluck celebration** to bring together all the wonderful people who came to the Transportation for Everyone forums held

across the region in 2006-2007. The town transportation representatives will be there, and we'll use this occasion to launch our rideshare and volunteer driver programs. Anyone who is interested in community transportation for our area is welcome to come and bring a dish. Call the CVTC office at 924-2159.

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CVTC is a transportation project created by the people, for the people. If you want to get involved, or if you know someone who would like to receive our newsletter, phone the CVTC office at 924-2159, or e-mail info@cvtc-nh.org.

Best wishes,
Rebecca

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Antrim Community Bus trips:

Seniors' Lunch at Sargent Center for Outdoor Education in Hancock on Tuesdays

Wednesday shopping trips in Hillsborough

Sunday, April 27, Borromeo String Quartet at the Currier Museum in Manchester

Saturday, May 10, David Copperfield at the Boston Opera House

Sunday, May 18, Glenn Miller Orchestra at the Dana Center, Manchester

Thursday, May 22, NH Fisher Cats play the Portland Sea Dogs in Manchester (baseball)

Sunday, May 25, Dr. Seuss National Memorial Garden in Springfield, MA

Phone 588-3121 to reserve a seat.