

Elderbus adds 'Mobility Vehicle One' to lineup



Photos courtesy Tim O'Day

The MV-1 has 50 percent better gas mileage and has also received a lot of positive feedback from residents who received rides from the new vehicle.

The MV-1 was added to Elderbus' 21-vehicle fleet to help with their goal of providing cost effective transportation for 21 towns in central Massachusetts.

BY OLIVIA RICHMAN
NEWS STAFF WRITER

Local nonprofit South Central Massachusetts Elderbus added a new vehicle to its 21-vehicle fleet, the Mobility Vehicle One (MV-1).

The Worcester Regional Transit Authority awarded the vehicle in early June. The MV-1 can carry up to four clients at a time, including capacity for a wheelchair.

The big draw – and what made Executive Director Tim O'Day request the new vehicle – is the MV-1's increased efficiency. The vehicle gets 50 percent better gas mileage. The vehicle will primarily be used for longer trips to smaller towns, said O'Day, who noted that sometimes there are only two or three people taking round-trips in and out of Holland or Brimfield, which can be up to 35 miles one way.

"We are a private nonprofit, a 501c3, so every dollar counts," he noted. "We – like other organizations like us around the country – are always looking for ways to operate more efficiently."

On top of living up to its 50 percent better gas mileage claims, the MV-1 has had

very positive feedback. In the past two months they've received 75 surveys back, giving their initial reaction to the new vehicle. According to O'Day, 95 percent of the surveys came back positive.

He noted: "They loved it." Specific comments included "very comfortable and beautiful," "I love the new vehicle," "most enjoyable ride, I look forward to future trips," and "please get more of these vehicles."

For a little over 40 years, South Central Massachusetts Elderbus has been providing transportation for seniors and disabled residents of the 21 towns in Central Massachusetts for as little as \$1.25, with no restrictions on where residents are picked up or dropped off.

This past year alone, South Central Massachusetts Elderbus has provided over 46,000 trips. The bus users can request rides to the mall, grocery stores and even Dunkin' Donuts.

Said O'Day: "It allows people to maintain social contacts as well. Take them to the local senior center or council on aging. We take them on special trips to local shopping malls. We take people on a weekly basis to grocery

stores. Some of these towns don't even have a grocery store."

Many of the towns in Central Massachusetts don't have public transportation. While the bus provides trips to the mall and grocery store, one third of the trips are medical related – medical appointments, dialysis treatments, cancer treatments – as well as bringing people to their place of employment.

Said O'Day: "It's a very, very necessary service."

Many people that use the Elderbus services do not have their own personal car, either for medical reasons or even because of the cost of gas prices, which continue to increase. It's more economical to use this service, said O'Day, than use their own cars, especially when going from Brimfield to hospitals in Worcester.

According to O'Day, Elderbus will continue to evaluate the MV-1 over the next twelve months to better understand its impact on the overall operation. Based on the initial results pertaining to increased fuel efficiency and extremely positive customer feedback, the organization may seek

to acquire additional MV-1's in the future.

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PUBLIC MEETINGS

Editor's Note: Meetings as listed are retrieved in advance from multiple sources, including Town Hall and on the Internet. The Blackstone Valley Tribune is not responsible for changes and cancellations.

DOUGLAS

Thursday, Sept. 1

Board of Assessors, 6 p.m., See Agenda For Location

UXBRIDGE

Monday, Aug. 29

Board of Selectmen Public Hearing, 6 p.m., Board of Selectmen Meeting Room

REAL ESTATE

continued from page A1

\$375,000, 134 Clubhouse Lane Unit 18 Building 5, John C. Wilhelm, Jr. and Clare M. Wilhelm to Edward J. Malloy and Paula L. Malloy

\$303,800, 130 Mason Road, Odete F. Dupras and Derek W. Dupras to Thomas M. Gambon

\$175,859, 12 Elm Place, Wells Fargo Bank NA and Ocwen Loan Servicing LLC to Randy Kibbe

\$369,000, 156 Morgan Road, Dennis A. Orosz and Kay A. Orosz to Christopher D. Foley and Jennifer E. Foley

\$600,000, 153 and 171 Douglas Road and 25 and 22 Castle Hill Road, Edward K. Renaud, Jr. and William R. Renaud to 3 P. Properties LLC

\$205,000, 20 Heritage Drive Unit 7, Kristin E. Brody to Cynthia Vlasaty

UXBRIDGE
\$235,000, 12 Fagan Street, Janice P. Jeziorski and Kathryn Cameron
\$251,000, 90 Blackstone Street, Frederick H. Abott, III to Christopher Varjian

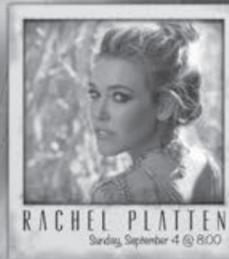
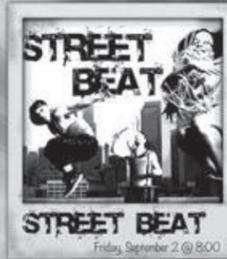
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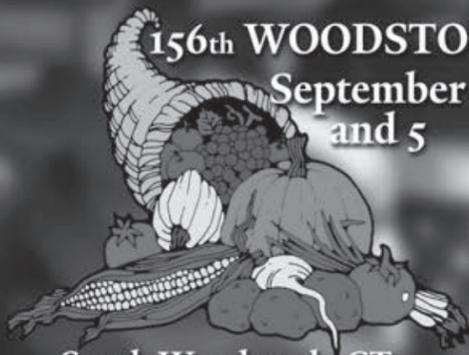
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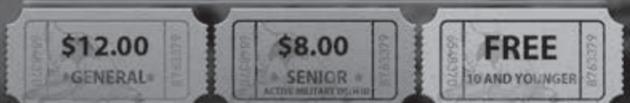
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