

Agenda

1. Call to Order
Roll Call Oral
2. Meeting Minutes
Minutes from January 24, 2019 Meeting (Motion Required) Attachment 2a
3. Guest Communications (limit 2 minutes) Oral
4. General Manager's Report Attachment 4
5. Committee Reports
 - a. Administration Scheduled to Meet 2/28
 - b. Finance Scheduled to Meet 2/26
 - c. Operations Did Not Meet
 - d. Personnel Did Not Meet
6. Old Business
7. New Business
8. Resolution - Roll Call Approval Required

#2019-02-01: A RESOLUTION BY THE PORTAGE AREA REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY (*PARTA*) BOARD OF TRUSTEES AUTHORIZING THE GENERAL MANAGER, OR HER DESIGNEE, TO APPROVE EXPENDITURES FOR THE JAEKLE GROUP, INC.
9. Adjournment

Next Regular Meeting:

March 28, 2019 @ 7 p.m.

PARTA Administration Building
2000 Summit Road
Kent, Ohio 44240

PARTA
PORTAGE AREA REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY

BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING MINUTES

PARTA ADMINISTRATION BUILDING
2000 SUMMIT ROAD
KENT, OHIO 44240

January 24, 2019

Board Members Present:

Rick Bissler, President	David Gynn, TPO	Jeremy Moldvay
Dominic Bellino, Vice President	Virginia Harris	Frank Vitale
Marge Bjerregaard	Pete Kenworthy	Karen Wise
Jeff Childers	Timothy Lassen	

Board Members Not Present:

Richard Brockett (1 st excused absence)	Brian Gray (1 st excused absence)
Christina West (1 st excused absence)	

Staff Present:

Claudia Amrhein	Kelly Jurisch	Brian Trautman
Marcia Fletcher	William Nome, Legal Counsel	

Guests Present:

None.

CALL TO ORDER

President Rick Bissler welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at 7 p.m. An oral roll call followed, and a **quorum was present.**

Moving on, Mr. Bissler said the meeting minutes for the December 20, 2018 Board meeting were distributed, and he entertained a motion to accept. Mr. Timothy Lassen made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Mr. Jeremy Moldvay seconded the motion. **Motion to approve the minutes, as presented, passed unanimously.**

GUEST COMMUNICATIONS

None.

GENERAL MANAGER’S REPORT

Ms. Claudia Amrhein started off by thanking the Maintenance Department for an outstanding job this past weekend of staying on top of the snow and ice removal at the Gateway. It is almost a 24/7 job so that it does not accumulate and freeze. People park in the deck 24/7/365 because they live downtown. KCG is their personal garage. Mr. Trautman and his staff made sure that everything was clean and maintained while keeping buses on the road. It was a busy weekend.

In more news from Clean Energy, Ms. Amrhein said a portion of the piping needs to be rebuilt that was installed using specifications that were incorrect. She said Mr. Trautman can explain a little bit further, but it will be completed at Clean Energy's expense. It will inconvenience PARTA in the sense that the station will have to be shut down for a weekend to have the piping torn out and fully replaced.

Mr. Trautman said much of the piping used above ground for all the connections and transport of the CNG is inferior. It was caught when the as-builts were being reviewed. The architecture and engineering firm asked some questions and found out that the wrong product was delivered to the subcontractor, so it is being remade and will be installed at their cost. He agreed to have them come in on a Friday and work through the weekend to get it back up. Hopefully it won't inconvenience too many people when it comes to folks who come here and buy fuel during the week.

Mr. Bissler asked if that is all that needs to be redone and if the architecture and engineering review is done.

Mr. Trautman said the review is done and as-builts have been submitted and reviewed. This was the only thing that was caught. He noted that he has not reviewed as-builts because he doesn't have his copy yet. He said Clean Energy, in his 34 years in transit, is by far one of the most difficult companies he has ever had to deal with in his entire career and it is continuing down that path. He doesn't anticipate this will be his last discussion with the Board about Clean Energy moving forward. The station is up most of the time. There are a lot of issues with what Clean Energy is calling nuisance failures. He said he explained to them that there are parts of the contract that speak to nuisance failures and it's Clean Energy's responsibility.

Mr. Vitale asked if PARTA had its own construction manager for this project.

Ms. Amrhein said the follow along architecture and engineering firm, Richard L. Bowen & Associates, worked alongside PARTA on the final preliminary design up to the 30% plans, oversaw the review of all the construction documents and worked closely with Mr. Trautman for the onsite construction.

Mr. Trautman said Marathon, the premier leader in the field of CNG design services, was also engaged as a subcontractor. Mr. Rob Adams was the representative from Marathon.

Mr. Vitale asked if Clean Energy volunteered that they made a mistake or was that discovered some other way.

Mr. Trautman said Richard L. Bowen & Associates and Mr. Adams reviewed the documents as submitted. When those documents are submitted, the engineers and architects review them to make sure that their submittals are part of the project indicating what it will be built out of (as-builts). PARTA approves it, they build it, and then they submit the as-builts. When the as-builts were being reviewed, they discovered that the piping used was not correct. Their contractor showed up here, reviewed it, and said the piping was incorrect. The architecture and engineering firm that PARTA used caught the mistake and Clean Energy is replacing it.

Ms. Wise asked if there is a construction management company for onsite construction oversight for the CNG station.

Ms. Amrhein said it was a design build project. Clean Energy took the 30% plans that Richard L. Bowen & Associates developed, finished the design to 100% and then constructed the station. They are the construction team.

Ms. Wise clarified that there is no independent construction management.

Ms. Amrhein said correct, the architecture and engineering firm provides all the professional services that PARTA doesn't have on staff.

Mr. Vitale asked if Richard L. Bowen & Associates had a construction manager on site.

Ms. Amrhein said no, a construction manager was not on site but came at different times for spot checks.

Mr. Trautman said there aren't construction management firms on every project. It would drive the cost of projects through the roof. Architecture and engineering companies are hired to provide construction management, which is what PARTA had.

Mr. Vitale said a construction manager would not come to a job on a spotty basis. They would be there full time to look at the products and the plans to see if they agree with the specifications.

Mr. Trautman said it wouldn't have mattered who was here because they would not have been able to tell by looking at that pipe that it was out of specification until the pipe specification used to build it on an as-built drawing was reviewed. You could go look at the pipe now and you wouldn't be able to tell it from the pipe that they're going to use.

Mr. Gynn asked if there was much public use of the CNG station.

Ms. Amrhein said yes, there are a handful of distinct users identified by their credit card last four (4) digits.

Mr. Moldvay asked if a lot of revenue would be lost while the station is shut down.

Ms. Amrhein said no, it should only be for a few days and people will be notified.

Mr. Bissler asked if there was anything else.

Ms. Amrhein asked Mr. Nome to update the Board on Christina West.

Mr. Nome said Christina West was recently appointed to fill an unexpired position on the Board by the City of Ravenna. She works for the Portage County Board of Developmental Disabilities (PCBDD) and since her appointment, PCBDD has raised the issue of an alleged conflict of interest. They're in the process of sorting that out. Other than the fact that she's a member of the PARTA Board, PARTA isn't involved in that. It was an appointment by the City of Ravenna and there is a presumption that any time PARTA gets an appointment from an appointing authority, that it's done legally and ethically. The only question would be is when they resolve this issue, it may be that Ms. West would have to leave the Board if there is a conflict of interest issue that was not known to anybody previously. If they resolve it that there is no conflict of interest, he hopes that she would stay on the Board because she contributed a lot in the brief time she's been on the Board but that's why she's not here tonight. Hopefully they will get this resolved by the next Board meeting, but her attorney is looking into it, and the prosecutor's office, who represents PCBDD, is looking into it. He doesn't know if the City of Ravenna Law Director has been contacted yet, but he thinks someone is going to contact him about it for the City's point of view. As a recipient of an appointee, PARTA doesn't have any control over who gets appointed to its Board. Different entities advertise that they want to make appointments to boards, whether it's county or different cities or whoever, they get applications for it, the appointing authorities make the appointments, and the different entities get whoever they send. Fortunately, PARTA has been given quality people. Until that issue gets resolved, Ms. West will be taking a hiatus from sitting

on PARTA's Board or being involved in things. Even though PARTA's not involved in it, as an abundance of caution, since everybody else is lawyering up on this thing, he is requesting that any communications with her be limited so people aren't called to be witnesses or somehow get sucked into this more than they need to be. PARTA is the innocent bystander and collateral damage at this point.

Mr. Lissan asked what the point of contention was.

Mr. Nome said it's something that apparently applies only to developmental disability employees. He looked at what they have cited and it's not clear to him if it is or it isn't. For one thing, he said his opinion doesn't mean much on that. For another thing, he said he doesn't have an opinion on that because it's something that he thinks would have to be looked at on a specific basis and not just in general. For purposes of the Board, if something is going out to all Board members, such as a Board packet or something general, and if Ms. West is still a member of the Board in good standing, she could receive those. As far as getting into personal discussions with her, any side meetings, anything that doesn't involve the whole Board or getting together as a committee where things are being done in open session, that would probably not be the best idea so he asked if that could be avoided. He asked if there were any other questions.

Hearing none, Mr. Bissler thanked Mr. Nome and asked Ms. Amrhein if she had anything else.

Ms. Amrhein noted that there will be an open house from 4-6 p.m. on Tuesday, January 29, to say farewell to Joe Yensel, Director of IT and Parking Operations. Mr. Yensel and his wife are starting a new venture. They are owners of The Cole Center and they support families and kids in working through developmental disability issues with school systems. Mr. Yensel has spent nearly 15 years with PARTA. She asked Board members to come out on Tuesday if possible, to wish him well.

Mr. Bissler asked if there were any other questions for Ms. Amrhein. Hearing none, he moved on to the committee reports.

ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE REPORT

Mr. Bissler said the Administration Committee met just before the Board meeting. He asked Chairman Jeremy Moldvay to provide a quick recap.

Mr. Moldvay said the Administration Committee met and discussed the resolutions that will be discussed in detail shortly. The committee recommended approval of the resolutions by the Board.

Mr. Bissler asked if there were any questions for Mr. Moldvay. Hearing nothing further, he said no other committees met.

FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT

This committee did not meet.

OPERATIONS COMMITTEE REPORT

This committee did not meet.

PERSONNEL COMMITTEE REPORT

This committee did not meet.

OLD BUSINESS

Moving on, Mr. Bissler said there is no old business.

NEW BUSINESS

Resolutions

Mr. Bissler moved on to the resolutions and said since the first resolution deals with public depositories and Mr. Bellino and himself both have an affiliation with banks that are on the list, they will step out and Temporary Presiding Officer, Mr. David Gynn, will handle the first resolution.

Mr. Gynn said the first resolution is #2019-01-01.

#2019-01-01: A RESOLUTION BY THE PORTAGE AREA REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY (PARTA) BOARD OF TRUSTEES DESIGNATING THE PUBLIC DEPOSITORIES FOR THE PUBLIC FUNDS OF PARTA FOR THE PERIOD BEGINNING JANUARY 22, 2019 AND ENDING JANUARY 21, 2024.

Mr. Gynn entertained a motion to adopt the resolution.

Motion: Frank Vitale

Second: Karen Wise

Mr. Gynn asked if there was any discussion.

Mr. Vitale asked if a bank would be picked from that list and when.

Ms. Amrhein said no, the resolution lists all the financial institutions that completed the application and certified that they could collateralize PARTA's funds. This just determines who PARTA may do business with. It does not determine that PARTA will. PARTA can use them as public depositories for its funds over the next five (5) years.

Mr. Nome said the Board is approving the list of potentials, not selecting.

Mr. Gynn asked if PARTA had the authority to use any of these public depositories.

Ms. Amrhein said yes, because they've certified that they can collateralize PARTA's funds in accordance with government regulations, which is a higher standard of collateralization.

Mr. Vitale asked who PARTA used now.

Ms. Amrhein said Huntington.

Mr. Nome said five (5) years ago there was a similar resolution. This is not new. This comes up every so often where financial institutions are notified. If they're interested, they fill out an application and then those who have applied go on a list of potentials that the Board can vote on. Once the Board has approved this list and says these are acceptable public depositories for PARTA to do business with, then, as far as picking and choosing specifics, that falls to Ms. Amrhein as General Manager rather than the Board.

Mr. Vitale asked if PARTA used more than one (1) bank.

Ms. Amrhein said Huntington is used primarily and then some funds are on deposit through the State Treasury Asset Reserve (STAR) of Ohio. For the purposes of this, *PARTA* will continue to bank with Huntington unless the decision is made to go out for an RFP and get competitive rates.

Mr. Nome said this resolution came before the Administration Committee and as Mr. Moldvay indicated, they are recommending approval by the Board.

Mr. Gynn asked if there were any other questions. Hearing none, he asked for a roll call.

Roll Call:	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>		<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>
Jeff Childers	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>	Pete Kenworthy	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>
Marge Bjerregaard	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>	Timothy Lissan	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>
Frank Vitale	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>	Christina West	<u>EXCUSED</u>	
Jeremy Moldvay	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>	David Gynn	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>
Karen Wise	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>	Virginia Harris	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>
Richard Brockett	<u>EXCUSED</u>		Brian Gray	<u>EXCUSED</u>	

Mr. Bissler and Mr. Bellino were asked to return to the meeting.

The meeting was turned back over to Mr. Bissler, who said the next resolution is #2019-01-02.

#2019-01-02: A RESOLUTION BY THE PORTAGE AREA REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY (*PARTA*) BOARD OF TRUSTEES AUTHORIZING THE GENERAL MANAGER, OR HER DESIGNEE, TO PROCEED WITH THE PROPOSAL OF AQUILA ARCHITECTURAL GROUP LLC FOR ARCHITECTURAL DESIGN AND ENGINEERING SERVICES FOR THE BUS WASH FACILITY CNG CONVERSION AND NEW VEHICLE STORAGE FACILITY.

Mr. Bissler entertained a motion.

Motion: Marge Bjerregaard Second: Timothy Lissan

Mr. Bissler asked if there was any additional discussion.

Mr. Vitale asked if this was for designing the new bus garage and the bus wash and if Aquila has been used before.

Ms. Amrhein said it's the design phase for the new storage facility where buses will be stored inside and under cover. The upgrades for the bus wash have already been designed. Aquila has been used before. They designed the bus wash originally.

Mr. Vitale asked if competitive bids were received.

Ms. Amrhein said competitive bids were received when Aquila was initially selected for the design of the bus wash. There was a provision to extend the contract, which was executed for the consistency of using the builder that designed it. Aquila is best able to unearth the plans to determine what needs to be done to upgrade that facility.

Mr. Bissler asked if there were any other questions or comments. Hearing none, a roll call vote was taken.

Roll Call:	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>		<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>
Frank Vitale	<u>X</u>	___	Richard Brockett	<u>EXCUSED</u>	
David Gynn	<u>X</u>	___	Brian Gray	<u>EXCUSED</u>	
Virginia Harris	<u>X</u>	___	Jeremy Moldvay	<u>X</u>	___
Marge Bjerregaard	<u>X</u>	___	Dominic Bellino	<u>X</u>	___
Pete Kenworthy	<u>X</u>	___	Jeff Childers	<u>X</u>	___
Karen Wise	<u>X</u>	___	Christina West	<u>EXCUSED</u>	
Timothy Lissan	<u>X</u>	___	Rick Bissler	<u>X</u>	___

Mr. Bissler said the next resolution is #2019-01-03. He entertained a motion.

Motion: David Gynn **Second: Marge Bjerregaard**

Mr. Bissler said because this is employee contract based, if there are specific questions, the Board will need to go into executive session. At the last meeting, the Board did vote on the contract. There were some tweaks done to the contract to get a signature and this ratifies those tweaks. Again, it's not that it's going to change the contract, but the Board has a right to know what it is. In order to know what it is, the Board would have to go into executive session.

Mr. Childers said there is already a motion on the floor to approve the resolution. He recommended that the motion be withdrawn so the Board can go into executive session.

Mr. Bissler asked for withdrawal of the motion.

Mr. Gynn withdrew the motion.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mr. Bissler then entertained a motion to go into Executive Session at 7:27 p.m. for the purpose of preparing for, conducting, or reviewing a collective bargaining strategy.

Motion: David Gynn **Second: Jeremy Moldvay**

Roll Call:	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>		<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>
Dominic Bellino	<u>X</u>	___	Brian Gray	<u>EXCUSED</u>	
Virginia Harris	<u>X</u>	___	David Gynn	<u>X</u>	___
Christina West	<u>EXCUSED</u>		Richard Brockett	<u>EXCUSED</u>	
Karen Wise	<u>X</u>	___	Jeff Childers	<u>X</u>	___
Pete Kenworthy	<u>X</u>	___	Frank Vitale	<u>X</u>	___
Jeremy Moldvay	<u>X</u>	___	Marge Bjerregaard	<u>X</u>	___
Timothy Lissan	<u>X</u>	___	Rick Bissler	<u>X</u>	___

A vote was then taken to return to Public Session at 7:45 p.m.

Motion: Pete Kenworthy

Second: Marge Bjerregaard

Roll Call:	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>		<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>
Jeff Childers	<u>X</u>	___	Richard Brockett	<u>EXCUSED</u>	
Frank Vitale	<u>X</u>	___	Brian Gray	<u>EXCUSED</u>	
Karen Wise	<u>X</u>	___	Dominic Bellino	<u>X</u>	___
Timothy Lassar	<u>X</u>	___	David Gynn	<u>X</u>	___
Jeremy Moldvay	<u>X</u>	___	Marge Bjerregaard	<u>X</u>	___
Virginia Harris	<u>X</u>	___	Christina West	<u>EXCUSED</u>	
Pete Kenworthy	<u>X</u>	___	Rick Bissler	<u>X</u>	___

#2019-01-03: A RESOLUTION BY THE PORTAGE AREA REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY (PARTA) BOARD OF TRUSTEES TO ACCEPT AND RATIFY A SUCCESSOR COLLECTIVE BARGAINING AGREEMENT BETWEEN PARTA AND OAPSE/AFSCME LOCAL 4/AFL-CIO (UNION).

Mr. Bissler entertained a motion to approve the resolution.

Motion: David Gynn

Second: Pete Kenworthy

Mr. Bissler asked if there was any discussion. Hearing none, he moved on to the roll call.

Roll Call:	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>		<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>
Karen Wise	<u>X</u>	___	Marge Bjerregaard	<u>X</u>	___
Virginia Harris	<u>X</u>	___	Brian Gray	<u>EXCUSED</u>	
Jeremy Moldvay	<u>X</u>	___	Richard Brockett	<u>EXCUSED</u>	
David Gynn	<u>X</u>	___	Pete Kenworthy	<u>X</u>	___
Frank Vitale	<u>X</u>	___	Jeff Childers	<u>X</u>	___
Dominic Bellino	<u>X</u>	___	Christina West	<u>EXCUSED</u>	
Timothy Lassar	<u>X</u>	___	Rick Bissler	<u>X</u>	___

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Bissler concluded by entertaining a motion to adjourn.

Ms. Marge Bjerregaard made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Ms. Karen Wise seconded the motion. **Motion to adjourn passed unanimously.**

The meeting adjourned at 7:47 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Marcia Fletcher
Executive Assistant

PARTA
2000 Summit Road
Kent, Ohio 44240

GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT

TO: PARTA Board of Trustees *Claudia*
FROM: Claudia B. Amrhein, General Manager
DATE: February 2019

Committee Meetings and Resolution. The finance committee will meet on Tuesday, February 26, at 11:30 a.m. to review 2018 year-end financial reports. Lunch will be provided. The administration committee will meet on Thursday, February 28, at 6:30 p.m. to review Resolution #2019-02-01. As always, all board members are welcome to attend committee meetings.

#2019-02-01: A RESOLUTION BY THE PORTAGE AREA REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY (PARTA) BOARD OF TRUSTEES AUTHORIZING THE GENERAL MANAGER, OR HER DESIGNEE, TO APPROVE EXPENDITURES FOR THE JAEKLE GROUP, INC.

Staff Reassignments Support Streamlined Approach in 2019. Since 2014, PARTA's transportation services have grown to include two (2) additional public operations - a 24/7/365 public parking deck followed by designing and building the CNG fueling station. Fulfilling the requirements and responsibilities associated with these initiatives, in addition to providing daily transit services, required extensive juggling of duties and priorities and by 2018, pointed at the need to rethink our organizational staffing model to strengthen our ability to deliver high quality service in all three (3) major public transportation service areas.

Developing a strategic and prioritized multi-year capital replacement plan for information technology systems and programs is the priority addressed by Resolution #2019-02-01. As outlined in our Transit Development Plan, acquiring and deploying technology solutions to improve communication about transit services and improve ease of use for passengers now requires a plan for developing a prioritized strategy and budget for replacement. The prior director position handling IT and parking operations will not be filled and instead, we are working with our current professional and technical IT support firm, The Jaekle Group, Inc., to conduct a full system inventory and assist us to develop this strategic plan. Jaekle also will work with our in-house network systems manager, Mike Huang, to support servers and systems as further described in the resolution.

Several staff reassignments are streamlining oversight of day-to-day administrative and operational functions. Administrative matters relating to HR, finance, planning, customer service, and marketing now flow through chief of staff Kelly Jurisch. Operational matters relating to transit, parking, CNG, maintenance, facilities, and IT are directed through chief operating officer Brian Trautman. Accountant Jamie Madden is transitioning to parking deck manager; and Clayton Popik, as planning director, continues to coordinate transit planning and work closely with all departments to ensure service commitments are fulfilled consistently and on-time. A new part-time community liaison position will work directly with me to better engage with our local communities to grow interest and strong support for PARTA's vital services.

This revised leadership structure will better equip us to maintain consistent oversight of all public transportation services and allow me to focus on developing a sustainable governance structure in collaboration with PARTA's Board of Trustees. Better informing community members about the vital services we provide – especially those who do not currently rely on our services - is paramount to developing interest and commitment for serving as trustees in the future and will be a focal point in the next several years. Likewise, updating the existing organizational succession also is necessary to ensure continuity in leadership in future years.

Replacing Carbon Steel Piping at Compressing Station. The removal and replacement of above-ground piping not in compliance with design specifications is scheduled for Friday, March 8, through Monday, March 11. The CNG fueling station will be shut down during this warranty repair project.

Christina West Resigns from Board. Due to employment stipulations, Christina West resigned from the board on February 20. A copy of her resignation letter is included with this packet.

OPTA Sponsors “Ohio Loves Transit Day” and Lobbies for Transit Funding Solution. Leaders from regional transit authorities across the state convened in Columbus last week to urge state legislators to include a long-term funding solution for transit in Governor DeWine’s transportation budget. An expected revenue shortfall of \$1 billion is driving efforts to increase the 28-cents-per-gallon motor vehicle fuel tax to repair and replace roads and bridges. Brian and I met with Sen. John Eklund, Rep. Sarah LaTourette, and Rep. Randi Clites to discuss the documented funding shortages faced by transit authorities in a report ODOT released in 2015 indicating that an annual investment of \$37 million in capital funding and \$83 million of operational funding was warranted. On February 14, special guests rode *PARTA* buses on “Ohio Loves Transit Day.”

DART Service Redesign Improves Revenue Recovery Efforts. 2018 year-end totals show revenue from agency contracts increasing by 72% as compared to 2017. The addition of contracts and renegotiation of other agency agreements better offset the cost to provide transportation around the county. The July 1, 2017 redesign of general public DART service resulted in year-end revenue increasing by 17%, with fewer trips performed. However, ADA trips more than doubled (7,730 in 2018 as compared to 3,106 in 2017). We are reviewing our certification process to ensure trips booked as ADA are consistent with federal regulations.

Service Reports. Ridership. Total county fixed route and DART ridership decreased by 2.82% through January as compared to January 2018, with total county service performing 34,096 trips as compared to 35,084 trips performed through January 2018. County fixed route service has increased by approximately 1.32% as compared to last year, with 28,106 trips completed through January as compared to 27,740 trips completed through January 2018.

DART service has decreased 18.44% through January as compared to January 2018, with 5,990 trips completed as compared to 7,344 trips completed through January 2018. Overall ridership including campus service, decreased by 9.41% with campus down by 13.40%. Total system ridership totaled 91,627 as compared to 101,143 through January 2018.

On-Time Compliance. ADA Complementary Paratransit Service. ADA on-time compliance was 96.72% in January as compared to 98.47% in December 2018. Of 1,007 trips, 33 were performed late with the latest trip running 63 minutes behind due to a winter storm affecting the route.

General Public (non-ADA) DART. On-time performance for general public, non-ADA trips remained flat at 79.41% in January, as compared to 79.79% in December.

Vehicle Preventative Maintenance (PM). On-time compliance with established PM inspection schedules was 97% in January as compared to 99% in December 2018.

Parking. Parking deck usage in January decreased by 13% as compared to December, with 7,707 total cars entering the deck, as compared to 8,886 cars in December.

Thank you for your attention to these matters. If you have any questions prior to the board meeting, please feel free to contact me by calling (330) 676-6315, or by e-mail at Amrhein.c16@partaonline.org.

February 20, 2019

PARTA Board of Trustees
Rick Bissler, Board President
2000 Summit Road
Kent, Ohio 44240

Dear PARTA Board of Trustees,

I am writing to inform you that due to stipulations with my employment I need to step down from the board. I thank you for the opportunity to serve our community in this capacity.

Please know that the short time I was able to be on the board was valuable and I continue to share information about PARTA's services with the community members I come in contact with daily. If you need anything in the future please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Christina West', with a long, sweeping flourish extending to the right.

Christina West
City of Ravenna

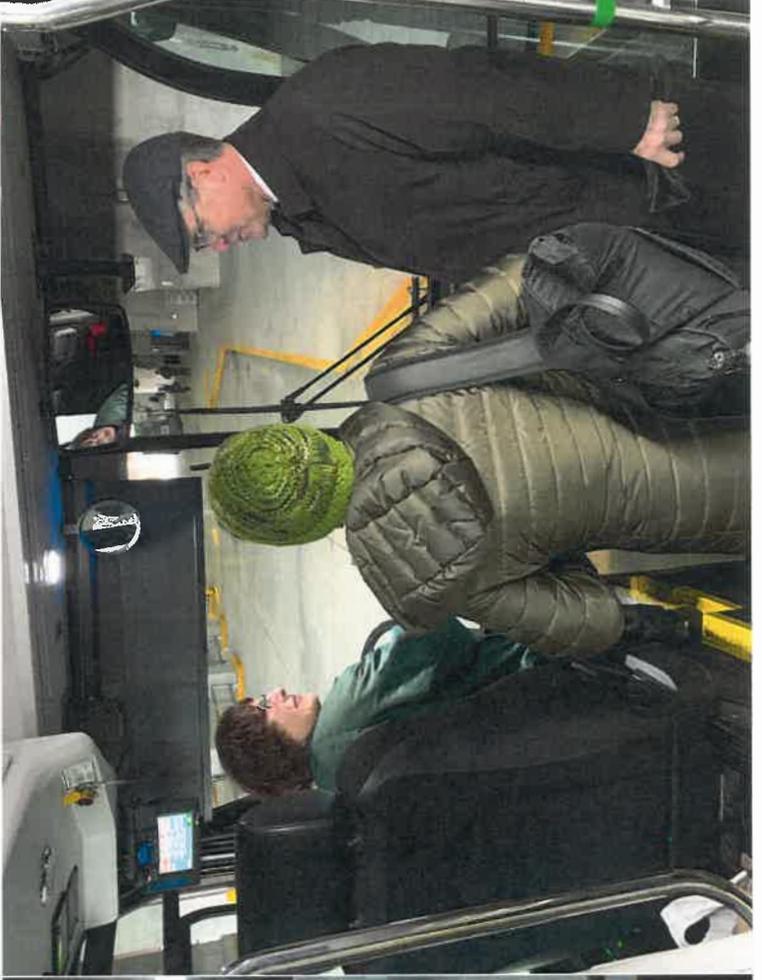
CC: Claudia Amrhein, PARTA General Manager
Frank Seman, Mayor of Ravenna



OHIO LOVES TRANSIT DAY

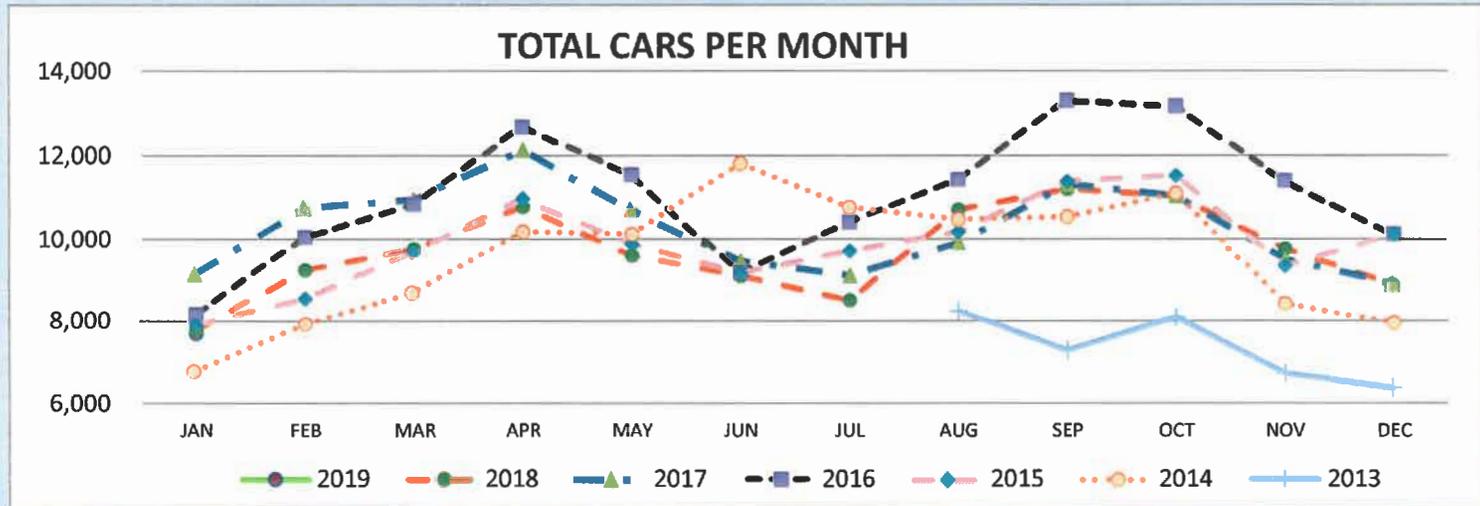


February 14, 2019





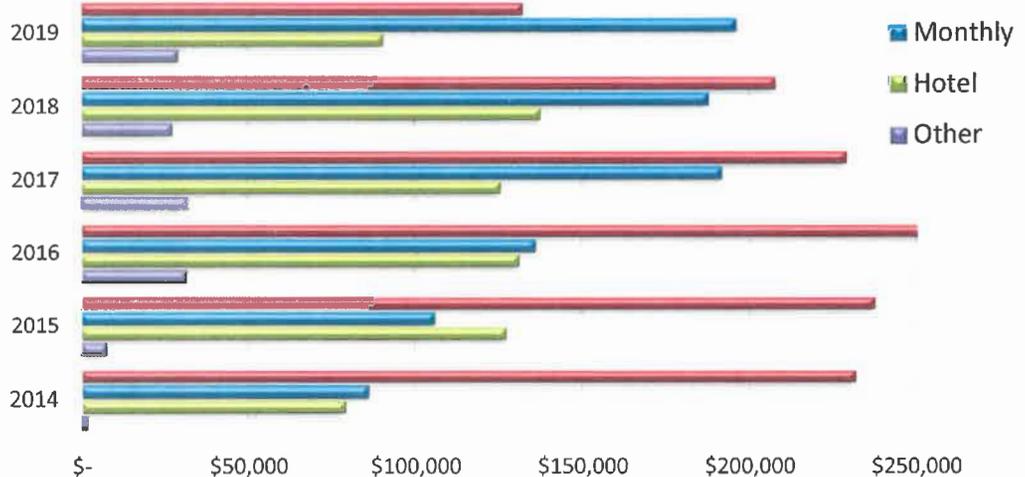
KENT CENTRAL GATEWAY JANUARY 2019 PARKING SUMMARY



6 Month Lookback

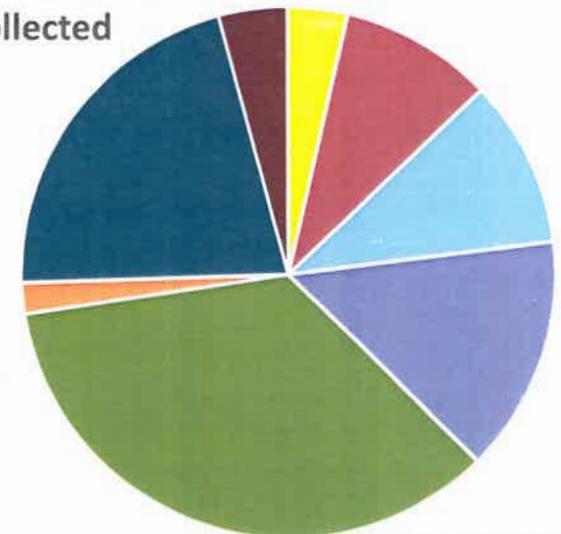
	Monthly	Transient	Illegal	Total	Cars/Day	Month	Last Year
Aug-18	3,892	6,810	-	10,702	345	26%	8%
Sep-18	4,594	6,603	-	11,197	373	5%	-1%
Oct-18	5,081	5,958	-	11,039	356	-1%	0%
Nov-18	4,314	5,445	-	9,759	325	-12%	3%
Dec-18	3,169	5,717	-	8,886	287	-20%	-6%
Jan-19	3,900	3,807	-	7,707	249	-13%	-1%

Annual Revenue By Source



Rate Types Collected

- \$1.00
- \$2.00
- \$3.00
- \$4.00
- \$5.00
- \$6 - \$9
- \$10 - \$15
- >15



RESOLUTION #2019-02-01**A RESOLUTION BY THE PORTAGE AREA REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY (*PARTA*) BOARD OF TRUSTEES AUTHORIZING THE GENERAL MANAGER, OR HER DESIGNEE, TO APPROVE EXPENDITURES FOR THE JAEKLE GROUP, INC.**

WHEREAS, *PARTA*'s Transit Development Plan (TDP) is a long-range planning exercise designed to guide *PARTA* during the next seven (7) to ten (10) years, consistent with *PARTA*'s mission; and

WHEREAS, the TDP developed in 2014 and updated in 2016 identified goals and strategies to enhance passenger mobility opportunities by building tools and programs to improve communication about transit services and improve ease of use for passengers, via the development of essential administrative, technology, and functional transit elements; and

WHEREAS, *PARTA* has acquired information technology systems and programs consistent with TDP goals, and relies upon a complex network of technology in the deployment of daily transit, parking, and CNG fueling services; and

WHEREAS, *PARTA* has determined that replacing the full-time position of IT Director is not in *PARTA*'s best interest and desires to develop a strategic multi-year plan for assessing and replacing information technology systems and components in consultation with The Jaekle Group, Inc., the current provider of professional and technical IT support services; and

WHEREAS, The Jaekle Group, Inc. has the technical capacity and is qualified to conduct a full network system inventory and mapping process to support development of a strategic and prioritized multi-year capital replacement plan for budgeting purposes; and

WHEREAS, The Jaekle Group, Inc. will provide information technology support for all servers, workstations, and network equipment, including maintenance and repairs; onsite and phone support; remote monitoring of servers; web hosting and E-Commerce hosting; and support inhouse IT staff on a day-to-day basis.

NOW, THEREFORE, LET IT BE RESOLVED by the Portage Area Regional Transportation Authority (*PARTA*) Board of Trustees that:

1. The General Manager, or her designee, be given authority to approve expenditures to The Jaekle Group, Inc. not to exceed \$95,000 for information technology support for 2019.

CERTIFICATION:

The undersigned duly qualified Board President, acting on behalf of the Portage Area Regional Transportation Authority (*PARTA*), certifies that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of a resolution adopted at a legally convened meeting of the Board of Trustees held February 28, 2019.

Date

Rick Bissler, President
Board of Trustees

Attested

Commissioner Clyde in 'listening mode'



Lisa Scalfaro, Record-Courier

Above: Portage County Commissioner Kathleen Clyde says she is in "listening mode" as she meets with boards and other officials throughout the county.

Former state representative says new role is a 'perfect fit'

By **DIANE SMITH**
Reporter

A month into her tenure as a Portage County Commissioner, Kathleen Clyde says she's still in "listening mode," settling into her new role.

Clyde, who spent eight years as a state representative, was barred from seeking re-election because of term limits. She was appointed to the seat in December after former Commissioner Mike Kerrigan resigned.

She said former state elected officials who want to stay in public service take many paths after term limits end their tenure. Some run for another office, as she tried to when she ran for Secretary of State unsuccessfully this fall. Others seek a local office instead. Clyde said two of her fellow former House of Representatives colleagues have become county commissioners, in Franklin and Hamilton counties.

"I'm happy to have this opportunity that fell into my lap," she said. "It feels like a perfect fit."

Kerrigan was appointed com-



Portage County Commissioner Kathleen Clyde pledges to keep her door open as she serves the county's residents.

missioner in 2017 after the death of Commissioner Maureen Frederick. In November, he won election for the final two years of her term. A month later, however, Kerrigan resigned, citing personal reasons related to his wife's career. Clyde, who recently lost the Secretary of State race to Republican Frank LaRose, was one of the first Democrats to seek appointment to Kerrigan's seat. She said she plans to seek election to the remainder of the term in 2020.

The Democratic Central Committee appointed her to the post on Dec. 20, and she was sworn into office the next day.

"It's a big honor to be able to do a position like this," she said. She said the job will enable her to make changes in the community that she has called home all of her life. Clyde, an attorney who grew up in Garrettsville, lives in Kent.

She said many people believe that state representatives spend most of their time in Columbus, something she said is not true. "This has always been my home base," she said.

Clyde said she is in "listening mode" as she travels around Portage County. She has been "listening" at several boards in Portage County, including the Portage Development Board, the Portage Area Regional Transportation Authority and the Board of Elections. The last one is especially important to Clyde as a very vocal advocate for voting issues throughout her life in public service.

"This is a new role, and I want to make sure I'm taking different things into consideration," she said. "It's like starting on square one."

Clyde said she wants to focus on

See Page A2 | Clyde



Clyde

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fighting the opioid epidemic and “bringing good paying jobs to Portage County,” something she said she focused on at the state level. She also believes she is uniquely positioned to advocate that local government funds be returned to communities. She plans to use her “family” of connections with current and former state officials, including State Sen. John Ecklund and her successor, State Rep. Randi Clites, whom she considers a friend.

She pledges to keep her door open as she learns how to best address issues that are important to local residents.

“It’s a pretty cool job,” she said. “I’m excited to have the opportunity to do all kinds of things.”

Reporter Diane Smith can be reached at 330-298-1139 or dsmith@recordpub.com.

Lisa Scalfaro, Record-Courier

Portage County Commissioner Kathleen Clyde says she is in “listening mode” as she meets with boards and other officials throughout the county.

Clyde embraces latest role

Democrat serves as Portage commissioner after eight years as state representative

By Diane Smith
Record-Courier
GateHouse Media Ohio

A month into her tenure as a Portage County commissioner, Kathleen Clyde says she's still in "listening mode," settling into her new role.

Clyde, who spent eight years as a state representative, was barred from seeking re-election because of term limits. She was appointed to the seat in December after former Commissioner Mike Kerrigan resigned.

She said former state elected officials who want to stay in public service take many paths after term limits end their tenure. Some run for another office, as she tried to when she ran for secretary of state unsuccessfully this fall, losing to Republican Frank LaRose. Others seek a local office instead. Clyde said two of her fellow former House of Representatives colleagues have become county commissioners, in Franklin and Hamilton counties.

"I'm happy to have this opportunity that fell into my lap," she said. "It feels like a perfect fit."

Kerrigan was appointed commissioner in 2017 after



New Portage County Commissioner Kathleen Clyde sits at her desk recently. [LISA SCALFARO/RECORD-COURIER]

the death of Commissioner Maureen Frederick. In November, he won election for the final two years of her term. A month later, however, Kerrigan resigned, citing personal reasons related to his wife's career. Clyde was one of the first Democrats to seek appointment to Kerrigan's seat. She said she plans to seek election to the remainder of the term in 2020.

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Getting input

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AREA HAPPENINGS

G.E. Retirees meet Friday at English Pub

The G.E. Retirees will meet at 9:30 a.m. Friday at the English Pub Bistro, 320 E. Main St., Ravenna. The meeting is open to all General Electric Co. employees.

Blood drive slated in Ravenna

An American Red Cross blood drive will be held from 2 to 7 p.m. Friday at Immaculate Conception Parish Hall, 251 W. Spruce Ave., Ravenna.

To schedule a life saving donation, go to RedCrossBlood.org or use the Red Cross Blood Donor app and enter Sponsor Code: Ravenna. The Red Cross encourages scheduling in advance. The blood drive is open to the public and walk-in's are welcome as the schedule allows.

PARTA hosts open house for departing employee, Joe Yensel

PARTA will host an open house, which is open to the public, for departing employee Joe Yensel, from 4 to 6 p.m. Tuesday at the Portage Area Regional Transportation Authority Headquarters, 2000 Summit Road, Kent.

Yensel is moving in a new direction after spending 20 years supporting public transportation in Portage County. Yensel and his wife, Jen, a psychologist, are the new owners of The Cole Center in Cuyahoga Falls, where they offer services and assistance to support families and children who are working to identify and overcome learning and education-based challenges.

Yensel began his transit career in 1998 with Kent State University Campus Bus Service. In 2004, PARTA contracted with KSU to run the campus bus service and hired Yensel to oversee the development of the campus division.

Since 2014, Yensel has served as director of IT and parking operations, focusing on building PARTA's parking business at the Kent Central Gateway Multimodal Facility in

downtown Kent, while implementing significant transit IT projects, including electronic fareboxes, Spot PARTA real-time bus tracking, a ride call reminder system, and numerous other passenger information enhancements.

Yensel said public transit has shaped his life both professionally and personally. "Transit has not only allowed me to support my family; it has fostered my connection to the community, providing a chance to have an impact on the lives of people who are often overlooked. The opportunity to engage and learn from people from across a spectrum of backgrounds has been invaluable in my life."

"I'm thrilled for Joe and wish him great success and happiness in his new role," said Claudia Amrhein, PARTA's general manager. "Joe has been an integral part of PARTA's growth and developing partnerships within the community. He is passionate about enhancing quality of life for everyone, and he lights up when he talks about helping kids and their families through The Cole Center."

Genealogy meeting is Tuesday

The Randolph Branch of the Portage County District Library will host its next Genealogy Club meeting from 6 to 7 p.m. Tuesday at the Randolph Community Center (located behind the library).

Guest speaker Yolonda Van Dyne will give a presentation regarding the website, FamilySearch.org. Laptops will be provided, but those interested in attending are encouraged to bring their cell phones and tablets. Call 330-325-7003 for registration or more information.

Spaghetti dinner set in Kent

A spaghetti dinner will be held from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. Friday at the First Christian Church of Kent, 335 W. Main St., at Mantua Street. The cost is \$9 for adults, \$3 for children 4 to 10, and free for children younger than 4. Meatless sauce and carry-out orders will be available. A bake sale will be held during the dinner, which is open to the public

Experts: Prepare for dangerously cold wind chills

Staff and wire reports

Frigid temperatures are expected to roll through the region this week, with low temperatures below zero and high temperatures predicted to be in the single digits.

The National Weather Service in Cleveland says very cold temperatures are expected from Tuesday night until Thursday with dangerously cold wind chills.

Warming center to be open in Ravenna

A low of 5 degrees below zero is expected on Tuesday night in Ravenna and a high of 2 degrees below zero and a low of 12 degrees below zero is predicted for Wednesday.

Temperatures will remain cold on Thursday, with the high expected to be around 3 degrees

and the low on Thursday night 5 degrees below zero in Ravenna. Temperatures will start to warm up on Friday, with a high near 20 degrees and a low around 9 degrees.

The Center of Hope, 1081 W. Main St., in Ravenna will open Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday

and Friday as a warming center. The hours are 8 p.m. Tuesday to 9 a.m. Wednesday, 3 p.m. Wednesday to 9 a.m. Thursday, 8 p.m. Thursday to 9 a.m. Friday and 8 p.m. Friday to 9 a.m. Saturday. PARTA will offer free transportation to the center.

According to Tom Schmidlin, a certified consulting meteorologist who works in the geography

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Prepare

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department at Kent State University, the coldest temperature in the past 32 years was 24 degrees below zero on Jan. 19, 1994. The highest temperature that day was 3 degrees below zero, the coldest high temperature in that same time period. The temperature was below zero for 56 hours between Jan. 17 and Jan. 20 of that year, Schmidlin said.

Last year's coldest

temperature was 9 degrees below zero on Jan. 7 and the coldest high temperature was 10 degrees on Jan. 5 of last year.

According to Schmidlin, the coldest temperature in the winter is typically about 6 degrees below zero. About 1 and 4 winters has temperatures that reach 10 degrees below zero and about 1 in 8 winters gets down to 15 degrees below zero.

The weather system is likely to move across northern Ohio and northwest Pennsylvania. Summit, Portage, Cuyahoga and

Geauga counties will all be affected by the weather.

"We're going to be feeling it big time," Jeff Masters, meteorology director at the private Weather Underground, said. "It's going to be the coldest air in five years."

Masters said the cold snap is due to the polar vortex, the gigantic circular upper air weather pattern in the Arctic region enveloping the North Pole, splitting into three pieces in late December because of an occasional weather condition called "sudden stratospheric warming."

One chunk of that trapped cold air went to Siberia, another to Scandinavia, and the third piece is heading through Canada. On Wednesday, it will be over northern Michigan somewhere, he said.

It's a system some forecasters have dubbed "Barney" because computer forecast models show the cold air as chubby purple blobs, said Ryan Maue, a meteorologist with the private forecasting company weather.us.

Watch Record-Courier.com for updates on any closings or delays.

Keeping those in need



warm and fed

Lisa Scalfaro, Record-Courier

James Clark, a guest at the warming center, at the Center of Hope, eats breakfast in the dining room. The Center of Hope is open as a warming center at 1081 W. Main St. in Ravenna.

Ravenna Center of Hope opens doors as warming center

By **KAITLYN MCGARVEY**
Reporter

The Center of Hope in Ravenna is keeping its doors open around the clock until 3 p.m. on Friday to ensure anyone in need can stay safe during the frigid weather.

"It's not just overnight stay, we're here all day," said Lajoyce Harris, the program manager of the Center of Hope. "That's just to get them out of the cold."

The Center of Hope, 1081 W. Main St., is there to provide those in need with good meals, hot beverages and warm beds. It also will be open from 8 p.m. Friday until 9 a.m. Saturday.

The center is well-stocked with soup, fruit, potato chips and other treats that are expected to last well into the week. Ample donations of winter clothing such as coats and scarves have also helped those in need brave the elements. Blankets and other winter gear are always needed, Harris said.

"Definitely we could not do this



Slow cookers with hot food are available along with dried goods and pastries for guests at the Center of Hope warming center at 1081 W. Main St. in Ravenna.

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Opens

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without the generous donations of our community," Harris said. "The donations have been overwhelming."

The center operates also, in no small part, thanks to the help of volunteers. The Ravenna Center of Hope uses Facebook to help recruit community members. Typically two volunteers work one of three four-hour shifts between 8 p.m. and 9 a.m. Currently, all spots for volunteers are filled.

Aside from offering food and a warm place to go, the center, with the help of PARTA buses and Emerald Transportation, is also able to provide free transportation.

Harris is grateful for the outreach of the community, the volunteers and the leaders that help run the center. Plenty of supplies are available to help people of any



Lisa Scalfaro, Record-Courier

Lajoyce Harris, program manager for the Center of Hope in Ravenna, drops a bag at a cot that was used by a guest for the night. The Center of Hope is open as a warming center at 1081 W. Main St. in Ravenna.

age in need.

"It's important for me not standing in the background," Harris said about

those who visit the shelter.

"I want to be right with them. Whether it's serving them that orange juice or

helping them get their food back to their stations. I just get excited about being able to help others."

Life Times

MLK BREAKFAST held at Skeels Community Center

The annual Martin Luther King Jr. Day Breakfast was held Jan. 21 at the Skeels-Mathews Community Center in Ravenna with 75 people in attendance.

Serving as mistress of ceremonies was Kevonia Bunch of the Skeels Youth. DeAngelo Williams of the Skeels Youth gave the invocation.

Following breakfast, those attending sang "Lift Every Voice and Sing" accompanied by Ralston Purkiss, Skeels Volunteer, on piano.

Skeels Youth member Jamari Gibson welcomed the guests to the event. Soloist Kayla Purkiss, Skeels Volunteer, sang "One Night with the King."

Gabrielle O'Neill, Youth Volunteer, introduced the guest speaker, Rachel Harris, Youth Volunteer.



Volunteers serve food at the MLK Breakfast at the Skeels-Mathews Community Center.



Lajoice Harris hugs Kayla Purkiss as she arrives at the MLK Breakfast.



Lucille Johnson and Richard Jones sing together at the MLK Breakfast.



Rachel Harris, a youth volunteer, gives the keynote address at the MLK Breakfast.



Ralston Purkiss plays as Kayla Purkiss sings "One Night with the King."



Linda Sanders, the cook at the Skeels-Mathews Community Center, checks on the biscuits.



Shirley Powell cooks eggs for the 75 people in attendance.



Skeels Volunteer Ralston Purkiss plays during the MLK Breakfast.



The community comes together at the Skeels-Mathews Community Center for the annual MLK Breakfast.

Kevin Graff photos, Record-Courier



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Record-Courier
www.record-courier.com

Winners will be notified on March 1st



1-877-RIDE RTA
www.PARTAonline.org
TTY: 330-676-5100



PARTA offers free fares on Thursday

Free bus rides will be offered in Portage County as part of a state-wide promotion of public transit.

The Portage Area Regional Transportation Authority will be joining other local transit agencies throughout the State of Ohio, in celebrating "Ohio Loves Transit" with free rides on the local fixed routes and Akron Express on Thursday.

Throughout the week there will be activities on Facebook for free passes. On Thursday, fares will be free on local fixed routes and Akron Express and there will be candy distribution on the buses.

PARTA phones down; substitute number available

Posted Feb 11, 2019 at 2:13 PM

Updated Feb 11, 2019 at 2:21 PM

Telephone lines at the Portage Area Regional Transportation Authority are down, but riders who need to schedule service or who have questions can reach the authority at an agency cell number, 330-677-3244.

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BLACK HISTORY
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