

**Agenda**

1. Call to Order  
Roll Call Oral
2. Meeting Minutes  
Minutes from January 25, 2018 Meeting (Motion Required) Attachment 2a
3. Guest Communications (limit 2 minutes) Oral
4. General Manager's Report Attachment 4
5. Committee Reports
  - a. Finance Scheduled to Meet 2/20
  - b. Personnel Did Not Meet
  - c. Facilities Did Not Meet
  - d. Operations/Planning Did Not Meet
  - e. Public Records Did Not Meet
  - f. Nominations Did Not Meet
  - g. By-Laws Met on 2/6 and 2/14
6. Old Business
7. New Business
8. Resolution - Roll Call Approval Required
  - #2018-02-01: A RESOLUTION BY THE PORTAGE AREA REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY (PARTA) BOARD OF TRUSTEES TO ACCEPT AND APPROVE THE COLEMAN PROFESSIONAL SERVICES – COLEMAN ADULT DAY CARE (CADS) TRANSPORTATION SERVICES AGREEMENT.** Attachment 8a
9. Executive Session - Roll Call Approval Required
10. Adjournment

**Next Regular Meeting:**

**March 22, 2018 @ 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 25, 2018**

**Board Members Present:**

Jerry Beach  
Rick Bissler, President  
Marge Bjerregaard

Jeff Childers  
Brian Gray  
Virginia Harris

Tim Lassar  
R. T. Mansfield, TPO  
Frank Vitale

**Staff Present:**

Marcia Fletcher  
Frank Hairston

Kelly Jurisch  
William Nome, Legal Counsel

Brian Trautman

**Members Not Present:**

Dominic Bellino (excused)  
Richard Brockett (excused)

David Gynn (excused)  
Pete Kenworthy (excused)

Jeremy Moldvay (unexcused)  
Karen Wise (excused)

**CALL TO ORDER**

President Rick Bissler welcomed everyone to the January 25, 2018, PARTA Board of Trustees meeting and called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m. An oral roll call followed, and a quorum was present.

Mr. Bissler noted that the meeting minutes from the December 14, 2017, Board meeting were distributed; and he entertained a motion to accept the minutes. Ms. Virginia Harris made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Ms. Marge Bjerregaard seconded the motion. **Motion to approve the minutes, as presented, passed unanimously.**

**GUEST COMMUNICATIONS**

None.

**GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT**

Mr. Bissler said the General Manager's report was distributed and he asked Ms. Kelly Jurisch to comment.

Ms. Jurisch said Ms. Amrhein couldn't attend the meeting tonight because she is at the nursing home with her mother, who is passing away. She said Ms. Amrhein has been with her mother the last couple of days. Ms. Jurisch said the Board will be notified when Ms. Amrhein's mother passes.

Mr. Brian Trautman said he would cover the General Manager's report in Ms. Amrhein's absence. He said he and Ms. Amrhein went to California and performed the Buy America audits on PARTA's new buses. They're coming along nicely. He said he made very few changes while on the line. Construction of the buses should be wrapping up sometime toward the end of February and arrive in Ohio sometime in March.

Moving on, Mr. Trautman said the CNG project is tracking nicely. There is another construction meeting scheduled for Wednesday; and Mr. Hairston and Ms. Manning are planning a ground-breaking ceremony for March 8. Some heavy equipment will be brought in soon to start the civil work, such as the basins and tiling. There is one (1) minor issue with ODOT not allowing PARTA to put in a second driveway. The county allowed the second driveway two (2) years ago, but then realized that they don't have the authorization to permit it because it is covered under ODOT's jurisdiction based on the property as it was acquired back in the era when Route 261 was developed. That development gave ODOT 975 feet of right-of-way down Summit Road. He said he had a meeting with ODOT and the architects on Friday and ODOT is not going to approve it because the driveway would be coming out into a divided section of the road. They would permit an access road in the grass for an emergency, but he doesn't think it makes sense to dump about \$100,000 into building an access road that's never going to be used. He asked if it would be less objectionable if an access drive was put further down the road to come out between the house on the hill and PARTA's property, across from Kent State University's parking lot, which would eliminate the drive coming out into the two (2) lanes that narrow into one on Summit Road. If ODOT approved that, and they seemed much more likely to do that, the design would have to be a standalone project in the future. PARTA will go ahead and submit what it thought was going to be approved through Portage County and may exercise an appeal, if there is a process for it. ODOT is holding their ground in accordance with their Access Management Manual. He said he doesn't remember the exact numbers, but there was a portion of this project that would not be built out. If there is a savings, it will be reported back to the Board to determine if that would be put in a capital replacement fund to move towards putting a driveway in further down the road.

Mr. Bissler said Ms. Amrhein's report also mentioned the fact that the current driveway was never approved by ODOT. He asked if PARTA received anything from ODOT approving it.

Mr. Trautman said ODOT doesn't have a permit on file for that driveway, which was built in the early 1980s. There aren't any drawings for the driveway from the 1980s. PARTA will submit current drawings to get the proper permit on file.

Mr. Gray asked for clarification on the location of the second driveway.

Mr. Trautman said it was going to be put in between the current driveway and the retention pond in case there was an emergency at the CNG station. This would allow for firetrucks to get in and people to evacuate without driving by the area of concern.

Mr. Vitale asked if the access road was just for safety and how PARTA would be impacted without it.

Mr. Trautman said it was going to be key card, gate-controlled access. Originally, the design was going to allow employees and visitors to use that drive and the main drive would basically be used for the buses.

Mr. Vitale asked if the case could be made from a safety standpoint.

Mr. Bissler said it's too close to the intersection of Route 261 and Summit Road.

Mr. Trautman said ODOT threw the safety issue back saying Summit Road narrows and could be unsafe for people coming around that corner. He said he doesn't dislike the idea of putting the driveway further down, but he wishes he would have known about the jurisdiction issue two (2) years ago.

Mr. Vitale asked if ODOT would allow PARTA to make the driveway a little bit wider or bigger.

Mr. Trautman said ODOT will not let him do a thing with that driveway. They already said it's liberally installed as it is, which is correct. It was widened in 2008.

Mr. Bissler asked if there were any other questions. Hearing none, he said there are no committee reports.

#### **FACILITIES COMMITTEE REPORT**

This committee did not meet.

#### **FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT**

This committee did not meet.

#### **NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE REPORT**

This committee did not meet.

#### **OPERATIONS/PLANNING COMMITTEE REPORT**

This committee did not meet.

#### **PERSONNEL COMMITTEE REPORT**

This committee did not meet.

#### **PUBLIC RECORDS COMMISSION REPORT**

This committee did not meet.

#### **OLD BUSINESS**

None.

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

#### **Resolutions**

Mr. Bissler said there are no resolutions.

#### **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Mr. Bissler said there is a request for an Executive Session.

Mr. R. T. Mansfield made a motion to adjourn for an Executive Session to confer with an attorney regarding disputes that are the subject of pending or imminent court action, which was seconded by Mr. Frank Vitale.

Mr. Bissler asked if there was any discussion. Hearing none, a roll call vote was taken as follows:

Jeff Childers  
R. T. Mansfield  
Marge Bjerregaard

Jerry Beach  
Frank Vitale  
Virginia Harris

Timothy Lassen  
Brian Gray  
Rick Bissler

The Board went into Executive Session at 7:12 p.m.

Mr. R. T. Mansfield made a motion to return to public session at 7:37 p.m., which was seconded by Ms. Marge Bjerregaard.

A roll call vote was taken as follows:

Jeff Childers  
Marge Bjerregaard  
Frank Vitale

Jerry Beach  
Timothy Lassen  
R. T. Mansfield

Virginia Harris  
Brian Gray  
Rick Bissler

### **ADJOURNMENT**

Moving on, Mr. Bissler asked for a motion to adjourn.

Ms. Marge Bjerregaard made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Brian Gray seconded the motion. **Motion to adjourn passed unanimously.**

The meeting adjourned at 7:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Marcia Fletcher  
Executive Assistant

**PARTA**  
**PORTAGE AREA REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY**

**BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
BY-LAWS COMMITTEE MEETING  
MINUTES**

**PARTA ADMINISTRATION BUILDING  
2000 SUMMIT ROAD  
KENT, OHIO 44240**

**February 6, 2018**

**Committee Members Present:**

Rick Bissler

Jeff Childers

R. T. Mansfield

**Staff Present:**

Claudia Amrhein  
Marcia Fletcher

Kelly Jurisch  
William Nome, Legal Counsel

**CALL TO ORDER**

Committee Chair Rick Bissler welcomed everyone to the February 6, 2018, PARTA By-Laws Committee meeting and called the meeting to order at 2:04 p.m. An oral roll call followed, and a quorum was present.

**GUEST COMMUNICATIONS**

None.

**OLD BUSINESS**

None.

**NEW BUSINESS**

Mr. Bissler asked if anyone had any comments on the current By-Laws.

Mr. Nome noted the reference in section II.A. **Appointment and Qualifications** that members of the Board are appointed pursuant to Ohio Revised Code (ORC) and the ordinances of the participating political subdivisions. Ordinances are passed by cities, not by townships, county commissioners, etc. Townships, county commissioners, etc. pass resolutions. He suggested adding "or resolutions" after the word "ordinances."

Mr. Bissler said Mr. Bellino contacted him and was questioning the part in section II.C. **Oath** that refers to the oath being administered by the Secretary/Treasurer of the Board. The Board hires the General Manager, who is also the Secretary/Treasurer. Mr. Bissler said the Board would be involved in the hiring of the General Manager and the Secretary/Treasurer if the positions were split. It makes more sense for the General Manager to designate the Secretary/Treasurer.

Ms. Jurisch said the General Manager's job description would have to be changed if the Board would split the positions and hire the Secretary/Treasurer. The current way is the cleanest.



Mr. Bissler said he read through Chapter 306 of the ORC and a lot of what's in the By-Laws comes directly from that chapter.

Mr. Nome said Section 306.34 of the ORC talks about Board officers selecting the president, vice president, secretary/treasurer, and other officers and employees. There is no temporary presiding officer in there. He said the first part of Chapter 306 refers to the county and the second part is regional. One section says that the Board shall appoint and fix the compensation of a secretary/treasurer, who shall be the fiscal officer and shall not be a member of the board. The other section says the secretary/treasurer is one of the board officers along with the president, vice president, etc.

Ms. Jurisch said there is disparity within the rules, but the By-Laws, as currently written, are fine. Moving on, she asked if there were any thoughts on changing section II.E. **Resignation, Removal** to reflect the number of allowed absences. Last month's Board meeting was close to not having a quorum. There are some continued absences due to outside activities from some members, excused or unexcused.

Mr. Bissler said currently, if there are three (3) unexcused absences, a recommendation is made to the appointing authority to remove the trustee from the board. Section II.E. indicates that the appointing authority may remove a member for misfeasance, nonfeasance, or malfeasance in office. He asked if three (3) unexcused absences would fall under any of those terms.

Mr. Mansfield said failing to show up would be nonfeasance. Misfeasance is a mistake, and malfeasance is a fraud.

Mr. Nome said it is impossible to require 100% attendance at Board meetings. There must be a way to come up with a reasonable designation on the excused/unexcused, particularly when all it takes for an excused absence is to call or email.

Mr. Bissler suggested indicating in the minutes if the absence is a trustee's first, second, or third. He noted that even if the Board had the ability to remove a trustee, nothing would stop the appointing authority from reappointing them. The nice part about a trustee excusing themselves from a meeting is that they can be notified if there won't be a quorum and asked if they could change their plans and come to the meeting.

Ms. Jurisch reiterated that 100% participation is not expected; however, there must be a quorum.

Ms. Amrhein pointed out that people aren't banging down the door to get on the Board. It takes a lot of effort to find people who are willing to serve. The appointing authorities typically don't do that.

Mr. Mansfield asked how his position on the Board should be dealt with in lieu of the fact that the Village of Brady Lake appointing authority no longer exists.

Mr. Nome said the position goes away on its own. The appointment is for a specific number of years; and at the end of that term, it is expired.

Mr. Bissler said there's no function for the Village of Brady Lake to appoint a new trustee. The Board today is based on a formula according to the amount of money that the different municipalities put into PARTA before it got sales tax. That's not true any more because it's all sales tax based, but it is his understanding that the last time they had to get the appointing authorities to redo their ordinances and resolutions was when the last community was added. It took years of prodding, pleading, and begging to sign off on it.

Mr. Nome said the first appointments for Aurora and Streetsboro were for terms expiring June 30, 2002.

Ms. Amrhein said the sales tax was approved in 2002.

Mr. Nome said the member communities could be asked to revise their ordinances and resolutions to remove the Village of Brady Lake and keep everything else in place, but for there to be a change in the composition of the Board, all member communities must agree 100%. A single "no" vote and it doesn't happen. No one community would be enriched by the representation on the Board since one seat would be removed. It shouldn't be a problem getting 100% agreement.

Mr. Bissler said Franklin Township would have every right to ask for two (2) positions.

Mr. Nome said there are many scenarios. Franklin Township could ask for an extra position since they've taken over the Village of Brady Lake's assets and liabilities. Brimfield could request a stand-alone appointment because of all the shopping available and the need for some regular bus lines running there.

Mr. Childers said he knows the Commissioners would love to have a fourth appointment. One of the most important things to the Commissioners is if the member would be going to the meetings or not.

Moving on, Ms. Jurisch pointed out that the **Order of Business** under V.H.2. has been rearranged many times. She suggested adding the phrase "unless otherwise necessary to conduct business."

Mr. Bissler agreed and questioned whether the order of business should even be in the By-Laws.

Mr. Nome said it's not unusual to include the order of business in the By-Laws so that there's continuity in order from one meeting to the next. What the order of business is can vary widely. He noted that resolutions weren't listed under Order of Business, which are regularly on the agenda. It could be included under Other business or as its own agenda item.

Ms. Jurisch said resolutions are usually covered under new business, which isn't even included. She suggested updating the Order of Business to the current list and indicating that the agenda can fluctuate if needed based on business necessity.

Moving on, Ms. Jurisch brought up the issue of combined meetings and including something in the By-Laws under VI.A. **Standing Committees**.

Mr. Bissler said years ago the Board came up with the idea that all members are appointed alternates in case there is not a quorum at a committee meeting. He thought it made sense to separate the committee members from the remaining Board members so there wasn't a gray area when it came time to vote. He also suggested identifying alternates at the beginning of the meeting.

Mr. Nome said that is why he suggests Board members indicate during roll call if they are a member of the committee.

Moving on, Ms. Jurisch said **Notice to News Media** under V.D. indicates that meetings will be provided to "news media which requests such notice." News media typically don't request notification for board meetings. She asked how the committee felt about including PARTA's



website as a form of notification. There have been situations where meetings needed to be changed abruptly due to schedule changes and not having a quorum, but the meeting wasn't able to be changed because the paper deadline had already ended, and a 24-hour notice was not able to be given.

Mr. Bissler said it doesn't say that the paper must publish it 24 hours ahead, it says that the notice must be given to them 24 hours ahead of time. He said if notice is given to the news media, put on Facebook, and put on PARTA's website, he doesn't see how PARTA could be noncompliant with the law.

Ms. Jurisch said the point is that a meeting could still take place even if it's past the deadline to get it published if the notice has been provided to the news media, is on the website, and is on any social media pages.

Mr. Mansfield said it is always best to be erring on the side of disclosure.

Mr. Bissler agreed and said by using web and social media, a good faith effort has been made.

Moving on, Ms. Jurisch suggested adding the word "official" or "approved" minutes under V.G. **Minutes**. Per public records requests, drafts are not provided. She would like something to say that "official" or "approved" minutes are provided.

Mr. Bissler agreed and asked about having a Public Records Commission meeting once a year.

Ms. Amrhein said a regular yearly meeting of the Public Records Commission is not required by PARTA.

Mr. Nome said the laws dealing with public records requires a Public Records Policy and a Public Records Commission. The law sets policies for county commissioners, township trustees, municipalities, and public libraries. RTAs aren't considered public bodies and subject to that law. As an RTA, PARTA took the spirit and letter of the law and came up with the Public Records Commission, which consists of the chair of each committee. Some things were specific, such as offering records to the Ohio Historical Society before they are disposed of. Some of the periods of time to hold things were specified, but not all of them. Guidance was taken from similar entities since there was no mechanism in place for RTAs. The last meeting of the Public Records Commission was December 15, 2016.

Moving on, Mr. Bissler suggested adding that the President only votes in the case of a tie under V.F.2. **Method of Action**.

Mr. Bissler asked Ms. Jurisch to make the changes as discussed to the By-Laws and to provide a copy to the committee for review. He pointed out that Attorney Mark Landes is willing to read through the By-Laws once the changes are made. He suggested meeting again on Wednesday, February 14, at 2 p.m.

Mr. Mansfield, Mr. Childers, and Ms. Jurisch all agreed on Wednesday, February 14, for the next meeting.

Ms. Fletcher pointed out that V.B. **Regular Meetings** notes that regular meetings will be determined in July. Currently, the regular meetings have been decided at the end of each year.

Ms. Jurisch said July is, for purposes of the By-Laws, the Annual Meeting. The question would be if the new President doesn't take over in July, should that be changed to August.

Mr. Bissler said another issue for him is that when the new officers are voted in, the President takes over the moment they are elected. He said it would make sense that whoever gets voted in would have an opportunity to be prepared to run the meeting as opposed to suddenly having to finish the meeting. He suggested adding language that officers will take office after the end of the Annual Meeting under III.C. **Election.**

Ms. Jurisch said she had one more thing to discuss. Under VI.2. **Personnel**, the General Manager's evaluation is not in there and she would like to have that added.

Mr. Bissler agreed and asked if there was anything else for the good of the order.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

Hearing nothing further, Mr. Bissler asked for a motion to adjourn.

Mr. R. T. Mansfield made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Jeff Childers seconded the motion.  
**Motion to adjourn passed unanimously.**

The meeting adjourned at 3:22 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,




Marcia Fletcher  
Executive Assistant

**PARTA**  
 2000 Summit Road  
 Kent, Ohio 44240

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**GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT**

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**TO:** PARTA Board of Trustees   
**FROM:** Claudia B. Amrhein, General Manager  
**DATE:** February 2018

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**Committee Meetings and Resolutions.** The finance committee will meet on Tuesday, February 20, at 11:30 a.m. to review 2017 year- end financial reports and Resolution #2018-02-01. We'll provide lunch and as always, all board members are welcome to attend committee meetings.

**#2018-02-01: A RESOLUTION BY THE PORTAGE AREA REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY (PARTA) BOARD OF TRUSTEES TO ACCEPT AND APPROVE THE COLEMAN PROFESSIONAL SERVICES – COLEMAN ADULT DAY CARE (CADS) TRANSPORTATION SERVICES AGREEMENT.**

**Coleman Adult Day Transportation Service Agreement.** Resolution #2018-02-01 sets forth a new agreement with Coleman Professional Services effective April 1 to continue transportation for persons participating in adult day services at Coleman Adult Day Center, replacing the contract established in 2006. Under the new terms, PARTA will invoice Coleman the approved Passport Waiver programs service rate, currently \$2.12 per trip mile, per client for eligible clients. For clients not eligible for funding through these sources, PARTA will invoice Coleman at a rate of \$.75 per mile for subscription/guaranteed service. Updating the service agreement with Coleman is an important step in our efforts to work toward restructuring our demand response service model. Pending review by the finance committee, we'll bring forward Resolution #2018-02-01 at the February meeting.

**CNG Groundbreaking Ceremony Set for March 8.** Mark your calendars and plan to attend a groundbreaking ceremony on Thursday, March 8, at 10 a.m. to celebrate the start of construction of the first CNG fueling station in Portage County. The ceremony will proceed rain or shine, followed by a reception in the board room.

**By-Laws Committee Formed and Meeting.** The by-laws committee met twice in February to initiate a review of the board's governing document. The committee is working to draft revisions for consideration by the full board at a later date. The by-laws were last amended in 2010.

**Ohio Transit Systems Celebrate "Ohio Loves Transit Day" on February 14.** The Ohio Public Transit Association (OPTA) sponsored a statewide initiative on February 14 to highlight the benefits of transit in Ohio. PARTA and other participating transit agencies offered free rides on the fixed routes, offered giveaways, and engaged with their communities to raise awareness of the many ways public transit helps to move Ohio forward.

The initiative promoted transit's role in providing safe, reliable, affordable transportation to ensure that thousands of individuals have access to work, medical facilities, grocery stores, and other essential services and destinations. Transit drives Ohio's economy by making it easy for consumers to visit malls, plazas, and other shopping venues. Ohio's public transportation systems strive to meet the needs of Ohio's growing senior population. Transits' specialized services and senior-friendly vehicles make it easy for older Ohioans to maintain an independent lifestyle. Ohio's transit systems also provide a vital link to thousands of people with disabilities and their family members. Urban and rural systems help ensure

that persons with disabilities can remain actively involved in their communities by providing rides to work, job training programs, medical appointments and adult day care facilities.

**National Transit Driver Appreciation Day.** On Friday, March 16, PARTA will join transit authorities across the nation in celebrating "Transit Driver Appreciation Day." PARTA is proud of the work of all our employees and is pleased to thank the men and women who serve as the face of PARTA every day, our bus drivers. PARTA bus drivers make driving a bus look easy. We know our passengers trust and appreciate our bus drivers, because they tell us so. But we also know that it isn't easy to perform the work of transporting people day in and day out. Our drivers are specially trained to safely operate buses in all types of weather and traffic conditions, while keeping on schedule, collecting fares, and interacting with and assisting passengers with mobility limitations and special needs.

**2018 – Overview of Major Initiatives.** Senior staff will meet next week to review 2017 and set goals for 2018 within the framework established in the Transit Development Plan (TDP). "Front burner" initiatives will include breaking ground, constructing, and opening the CNG fueling station. In addition, promoting the availability of natural gas fuel to area fleet owners will be integral to building a base of public users. Finalizing contracts to support demand response (DR) service, determining the best method to tap into Medicaid and other funding sources to support eligible transportation, and bringing forward recommendations for restructuring our demand response service platform also will be key priorities. As discussed during 2017 board meetings, the need for DR is growing while funding to support it continues to diminish. Regulatory changes have impacted the way DD boards and other human service transportation providers offer service resulting in decreasing shared-ride contract service. Establishing new contracts and updating others will help to alleviate the need to rely solely on local dollars to offset the cost to provide service. Ultimately, our goal is to design a DR service structure that will be sustainable and resilient against funding uncertainties, changing regulations, and the ongoing cost to provide service while balancing the promise made with the passage of the sales tax – "Moving the People Who Need It Most" – in 2018 and beyond.

Ridership. Total county fixed route and demand response ridership is up by 3.69% in January as compared to last year. County trips performed through January totaled 35,084 as compared to 33,836 trips performed through January 2017. Overall ridership, including campus service, is up by 10.85% with KSU up 15.74%. Total system ridership is 101,143 through January 2018 compared to 91,247 in January 2017.

ADA Complementary Paratransit Service. On-time performance for ADA complementary paratransit service remains excellent at 99.98% in January as compared to 99.28% in December. Of 311 trips, 5 trips were performed between 4 minutes and 24 minutes late.

General Public (non-ADA) Demand Response On-Time Performance. On-time performance for general public, non-ADA trips decreased to 78.00% in January, as compared to 78.09% in December 2017. Ridership increased by 15.31% as compared to December. Trips are up with 7,344 trips performed through January 2018 as compared to 6,993 trips performed through January 2017.

Vehicle Preventative Maintenance (PM). On-time compliance with established PM inspection schedules was 99% in January as compared to 95% in December.

Parking. Total cars parked in the deck in January decreased by 13% as compared to December and by 15% as compared to January 2017. January revenue figures are not yet available.

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 [camrhein@partaonline.org](mailto:camrhein@partaonline.org).





**PARTA**

**IS BREAKING  
NEW GROUND**

IN PORTAGE COUNTY...

Building the First  
**CNG** Fueling Station

JOIN  
US!

**MARCH 8, 2018**  
**10:00AM**  
2000 Summit Road • Kent, Ohio

**TO RSVP CALL:**  
**Sharon Westover at 330-678-7745**  
[www.partaonline.org](http://www.partaonline.org)



**PARTA/PPTAFI**  
**"MASTER THE COURSE"**  
**Drive down Randolph Road**  
**to**



**Registration begins on:**  
**Monday, February 19, 2018**  
**on line or by phone**

[https://www.planmygolfevent.com/31428-PARTA\\_2018](https://www.planmygolfevent.com/31428-PARTA_2018)

**Save The Date**

**FRIDAY, MAY 18, 2018**



**PARTA / PPTAFI**  
**14th ANNUAL GOLF OUTING**  
**Paradise Lake Country Club**  
**Hole Games, Putting Contests, Awards &**  
**Prizes**  
**For information or to register**  
**contact:**  
**Sherrie MacDonald**  
**(330) 678-7745 ext. 138**  
**or**  
**Sharon Westover**  
**Ext. 101**



# Kent Central Gateway Report

## January 2018

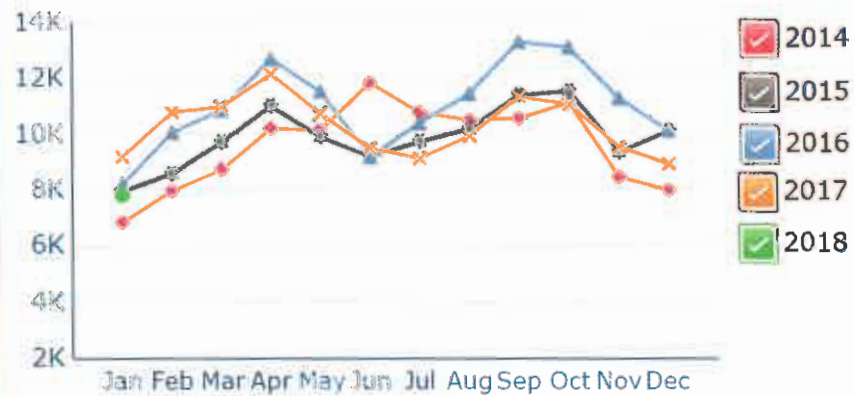
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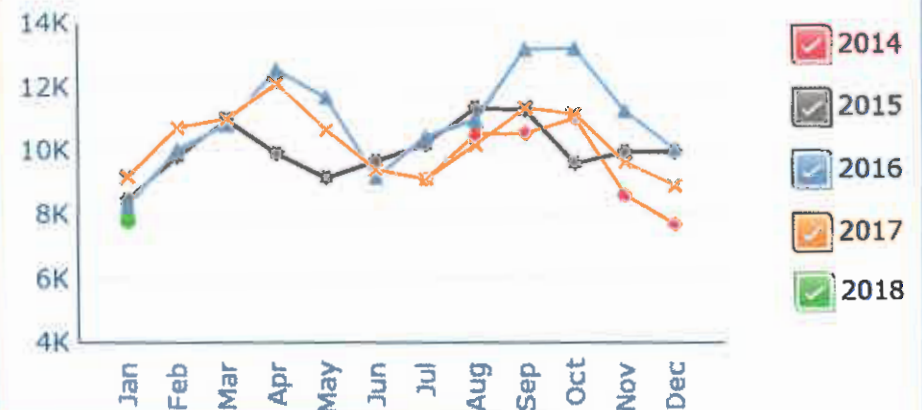
Revenue

Additional

### Cars Entering Total

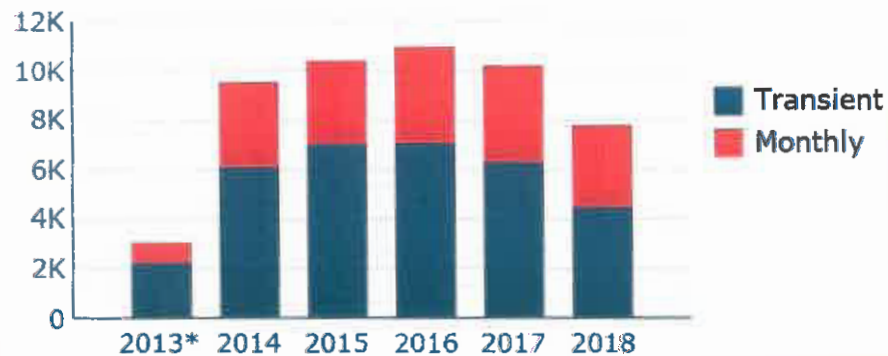


### Cars Exiting Total



### Entries per type

Previous Years Adjusted to Current YTD



### Entries

	Monthly	Transient	Illegal	Total	Car/Day	%Last M	%Last YR
Oct-17	4,376	6,663	-	11,039	356	-2%	-16%
Nov-17	3,828	5,672	-	9,500	317	-14%	-16%
Dec-17	2,792	6,114	-	8,906	287	-6%	-12%
Jan-18	3,627	4,163	-	7,790	251	-13%	-15%

### Exits

	Monthly	Transient	Illegal	Total	Car/Day	%Last M	%Last YR
Oct-17	4,384	6,759	61	11,143	359	-2%	-16%
Nov-17	3,846	5,705	72	9,623	321	-14%	-15%
Dec-17	2,846	6,040	67	8,886	287	-8%	-12%
Jan-18	3,368	4,405	28	7,773	251	-13%	-15%





# Kent Central Gateway Report

## January 2018

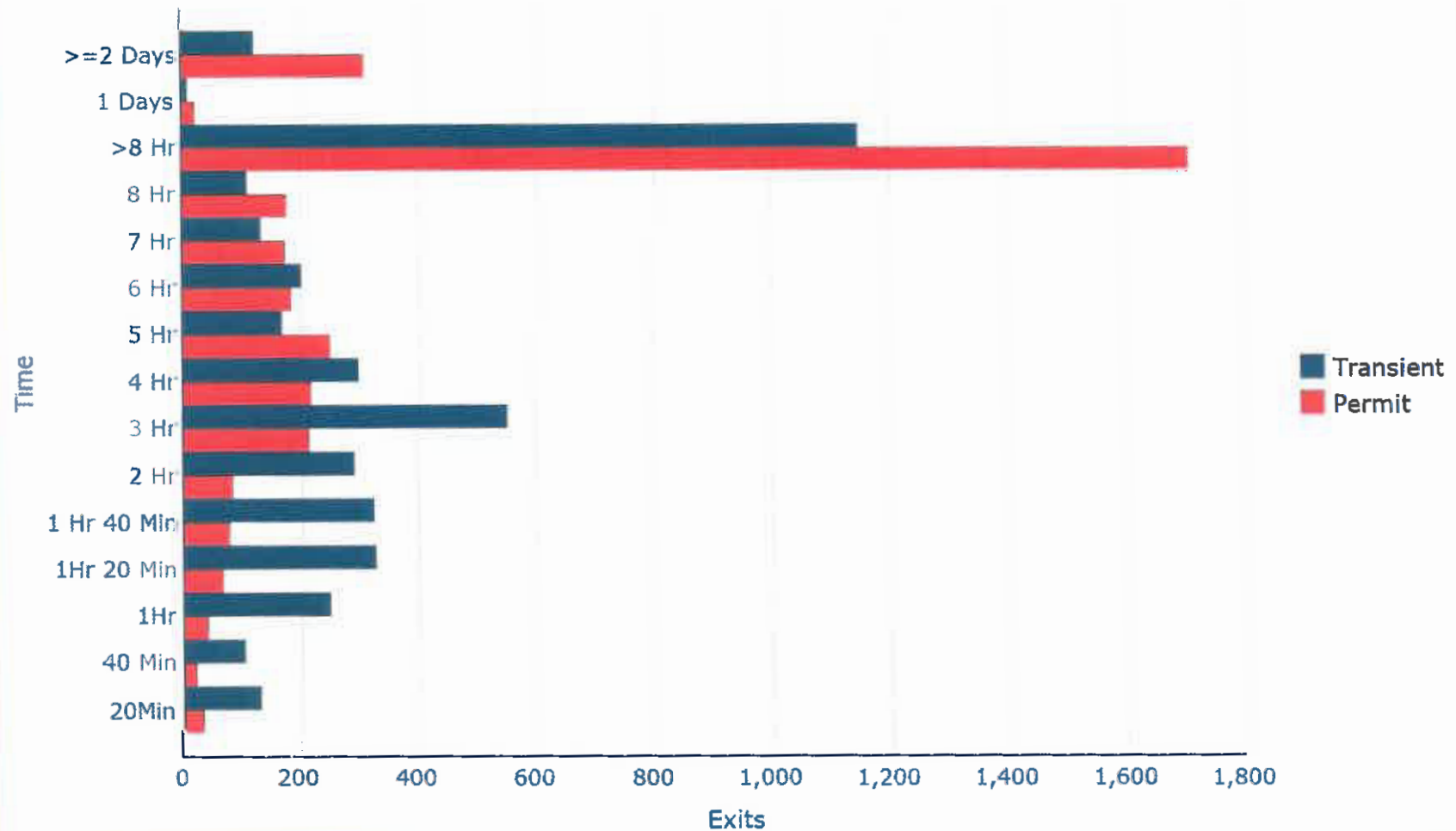
Usage

Duration

Revenue

Additional

Duration Report



**RESOLUTION #2018-02-01****A RESOLUTION BY THE PORTAGE AREA REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY (PARTA) BOARD OF TRUSTEES TO ACCEPT AND APPROVE THE COLEMAN PROFESSIONAL SERVICES – COLEMAN ADULT DAY CARE (CADS) TRANSPORTATION SERVICES AGREEMENT.**

**WHEREAS**, CADS has agreed to enter into an agreement with PARTA for transportation services for the term beginning April 1, 2018, and ending on March 31, 2019; and

**WHEREAS**, CADS has agreed to pay PARTA for transportation services at the current Passport Waiver service rate of \$2.12 per trip mile, per client; mileage starting at the point of client pick-up and ending at destinations for clients funded by PASSPORT, United Health Care, Care Coordination; and

**WHEREAS**, CADS has agreed that the per mile, per client rate will adjust in the future as needed to match the Passport Waiver service rate currently approved for CADS transportation; and

**WHEREAS**, CADS has agreed that mileage will be calculated using Google Maps or PARTA's Trapeze scheduling software, whichever is the fastest route; and

**WHEREAS**, CADS has agreed that PARTA will invoice CADS at \$.75 per mile for subscription/guaranteed service for clients not eligible for funding through these programs; and

**WHEREAS**, PARTA will provide transportation for persons eligible for adult day services needing round trip or one-way transportation from their home address in Portage County to CADS at 6695 North Chestnut Street, Ravenna, OH.

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

1. The Transportation Services Agreement with CADS is accepted and approved.
2. The General Manager is authorized to execute this Transportation Services Agreement.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Rick Bissler, President  
Board of Trustees

\_\_\_\_\_  
Attested

Transportation Services Agreement  
Between  
Portage Area Regional Transportation Authority (PARTA)  
And  
Coleman Professional Services-Coleman Adult Day Care

This contract for transportation services between Coleman Professional Services, an Ohio not for profit corporation, (hereafter referred to as Coleman), and the Portage Area Regional Transportation Authority, a political subdivision of the state and a body corporate with all the powers of a corporation (hereafter referred to as PARTA) was made and entered into on the later of the dates which this document was signed below.

- Coleman operates Coleman Adult Day Care (hereinafter referred to as Coleman Adult Day) to keep individuals out of nursing homes, assist family members and caregivers in keeping their loved ones in a comfortable home environment for as long as possible by offering a progressive medical model of health care and may arrange transportation to from the Coleman Adult Day Care facility.
  - PARTA is in the business of providing public transportation to the residents of Portage County. PARTA is willing to provide transportation services for Coleman Professional Services to and from Coleman Adult Day Center.
1. **Scope.** Transportation is to be provided by PARTA. This is for persons eligible for adult day services needing round trip or one-way transportation from their home address in Portage County to 6695 N Chestnut St, Ravenna, OH 44266.
  2. **Cost.** The cost of this service will be the Passport Waiver service rate approved for Coleman Adult Day Services transportation, currently \$2.12 per trip mile, per client; mileage starting at the point of client pick-up and ending at destination for clients funded by PASSPORT, United Health Care, Care Coordination. The per mile, per client rate will adjust in the future as needed to match the Passport Waiver service rate currently-approved for Coleman Adult Day Services transportation. Mileage will be calculated using Google Maps, or PARTA Trapeze scheduling software, i.e. fastest route.
  3. **Billing and Default.** For clients not eligible for funding through these programs, PARTA will invoice Coleman Professional Services at .75 cents per mile for subscription/guaranteed service. This service will operate on a net 30 payment policy. Late payment will be a breach of terms and default of the agreement and subject to immediate termination.
  4. **Curing Default.** Such default as specified above may be cured by immediate payment in full of any and all amounts owed to PARTA (**OPTIONAL**-and payment of a security deposit in the amount of an average monthly bill for this service. After one year of timely payments such security deposit shall be refunded with interest. If any payment is delinquent while PARTA is holding a security deposit, the security deposit shall be applied to the delinquent invoice and a new security deposit may be required to prevent termination of the agreement.).
  5. **Hours.** Scheduling. Coleman Adult Day's normal hours of operation are 7:30 am to 5:00 pm Monday-Friday. Client arrival and departure shall be within these time parameters



- based on the determination of Coleman Adult Day and the client. Coleman Adult Day and PARTA will mutually agree to coordinate all schedules based on client needs.
6. **Group Bookings.** On a limited basis, Coleman Adult Day may request group bookings from Coleman Adult Day Center to locations throughout the county and return trips from these locations to Coleman Adult Day Center. PARTA will at its sole discretion provide these trips at PARTA's Elderly and Disabled fare rate on a per client basis.
  7. **Direct Contact.** PARTA agrees to have a direct contact available to respond to phone calls during normal business hours. PARTA agrees to have an after-hours direct contact phone number available for Coleman Adult Day staff, attendees, and their families to cancel transportation if necessary. Coleman Adult Day shall provide the name(s) of employee(s) authorized to schedule transportation for their clients, necessary telephone numbers to coordinate services and detailed emergency notification procedures.
  8. **Service.** PARTA drivers will abide by PASSPORT Code of Ethics and rules. PARTA shall pick up all clients within a 30 minute "window" period. Normal service will include driver assistance from door of residence to the PARTA vehicle and from the PARTA vehicle to point of sign-in at Coleman Adult Day. PARTA driver is not expected to aid inside client residence. PARTA reserves the right to refuse client assistance to/from residence or Coleman Adult Day location when, in the driver's judgment, unsafe conditions exist that could affect safe assistance in a timely manner. Any such circumstances will be reported to Coleman Adult Day immediately.
  9. **Delays and Cancellations.** Coleman Adult Day and PARTA agree to communicate all cancellations between the respective parties. Either Coleman Adult Day or the client must provide PARTA a notice of cancellation. Cancellations require a two-hour notice from the beginning of the pick-up window. If a cancellation notice is not received timely by PARTA, potential penalties to the client will be imposed up to and including temporary or permanent termination of PARTA services. PARTA and Coleman Adult Day both reserve the right to delay or cancel transportation when hazardous road conditions or adverse weather exists or is forecast to occur within 8 hours, with proper and timely notification to Coleman Adult Day or PARTA of said delay or cancellation.
  10. **Liability.** As a public institution PARTA is subject to the laws of the State of Ohio, including without limitation the Ohio Constitution and applicable sections of the Ohio Revised Code. As such, (i) to the extent permitted by Ohio law, PARTA agrees to be liable for the acts and omission of its officers, employees and agents engaged in the scope of their employment arising under this Agreement, and (ii) specifically, in lieu of PARTA's obligation to indemnify Coleman Adult Day under this Agreement, PARTA hereby agrees to be responsible for any and all liability, claims, costs, expenses or damages arising from any claim with respect to PARTA's role in connection with this Agreement. The foregoing shall not be construed as an obligation to indemnify or defend Coleman Adult Day for damages arising out of the negligent acts of Coleman Adult Day or its officers, employees, agents and volunteers. To meet this obligation, PARTA agrees to maintain continuous coverage for Auto Liability, General Liability, Property Damage and Errors and Omissions. The limits for each line of coverage shall be a minimum of \$5m per occurrence. As proof of coverage, and without granting further legal rights, PARTA shall provide a certificate of coverage to Coleman Adult Day. Coleman Adult Day herein agrees to hold PARTA harmless and to indemnify PARTA from all damages, costs, legal expenses involved in any suit brought by another party as a result of negligence on the part of Coleman Adult Day.
  11. **Amendment of the Agreement.** This agreement may be amended, in writing from time to time upon mutual agreement by PARTA and the Coleman.
  12. **Termination of the Agreement.** This agreement may be cancelled by either party with thirty (30) days written notice.

- 13. Term of the Agreement.** This agreement is in effect from April 1, 2018 through March 31, 2019.
- 14. Dispute Resolution.** Disputes arising from the contract should be resolved by General Manager of PARTA and the President and CEO of Coleman Professional Services.
- 15. Insurance.** PARTA shall obtain and maintain continuously for the term of the contract, at its own expense, insurance and/ or self- insurance covering PARTA's operations. As a public institution PARTA is subject to the laws of the State of Ohio, including without limitation the Ohio constitution and applicable sections of the Ohio Revised Code. As such, (i) to extent permitted by Ohio law, PARTA agrees to be liable for the acts and omission of its officers, employees and agents engaged in the scope of their employment arising under this Agreement, and (ii) specifically, in lieu of PARTA's obligation to indemnify Coleman under this Agreement, PARTA hereby agrees to be responsible for any and all liability, claims, costs, expenses or damages arising from any claim with respect to PARTA's role in connection with this Agreement.
- 16. Civil Rights.** PARTA hereby agree that the hiring of employees, or the contracting for services or, the performance of work under this Agreement, that no person shall by reason of race, color, religion, sex, age, handicap, national origin, or ancestry discriminate against any citizen of this state in the employment of a person qualified and able to perform the work to which this Agreement related and that no contractor or subcontractor shall, in any manner, discriminate against, intimidate, or retaliate against any employee hired for the performance of work under this Agreement on account of race, color, religion, sex, age, handicap, national origin or ancestry.
- 17. Severability.** If any term provision, covenant or condition of this agreement is held by a court of competent jurisdiction to be invalid, void, or unenforceable, the remainder of the provision shall remain in full force and effect and shall in no way be affected, impaired or invalidated
- 18. Interpretation.** This Agreement shall be construed, interpreted, and the rights of the parties determined, in accordance with the laws of the State of Ohio, and any action to enforce terms of this Agreement shall be brought in Portage County.
- 19. Agreement.** Both parties to this Agreement accept all the terms and conditions outlines in the Agreement as governing the relationship of the parties and provision of services described herein.
- 20. Force Majeure.** PARTA shall not be responsible or liable for delay or failure in the performance of the promises and agreements on its part to be performed hereunder, if such delay or failure be due to any cause beyond its control, such as, but not limited to, strikes, differences with workmen, scarcity of labor, fires, floods, storms, accidents, breakage of machinery, scarcity of materials or fuel, transportation embargoes, scarcity of cars, governmental regulations or orders, perils of navigation, acts of public enemies, mobs or rioters, or acts of God.
- 21. Entire Agreement.** The foregoing sets forth the entire agreement between the parties hereto, and shall be governed and construed in all respects in accordance with the laws of Ohio applicable to contracts made and to be performed in the State of Ohio, and without regard to principles of conflicts of law.
- 22. Authority.** Both parties whose signatures appear below hereby warrant that they are fully authorized and entitled to enter into this agreement, and do so agree on the date written below by affixing their signature below:

For Coleman:

Printed Name: Nelson Burns

Title: President and CEO

Address: 5982 Rhodes Road

City, St. Zip: Kent, Oh 44240

Signature: 

Date: 2/14/2018

For PARTA:

Printed Name: Claudia B. Amrhein

Title: General Manager

Address: 2000 Summit Rd.

City, St., Zip: Kent, Oh 44240

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

# Bridging the racial divide



Lisa Scalfaro, Record-Courier  
Krsnaa Fitch sits between Travis Lee and Frank Hairston during a Kent Interfaith Alliance for Racial Reconciliation and Justice Events meeting.

## Church leaders, members gather to take stand for togetherness

By KELLY MAILE  
Reporter

Kent Interfaith Alliance for Racial Reconciliation and Justice (KIFA) is trying to understand what it's like to walk in the shoes of a person of color.

What's different about KIFA is they're a predominantly white group of faith leaders responding to racist acts across the country and close to home.

After the shooting at an African Methodist Episcopal Church in Charleston, South Carolina, in 2015, the Rev. Bill Myer reached out to the Rev. Dr. L.A. Gatewood of the AME Church in Kent to form the group. About 400 people — black and white — marched in solidarity from First Christian Church of Kent to the AME Church across town.

"We expected maybe 50 people marching," said pastor Julie Cory of the First Christian Church of Kent. "It was then we recognized the need for dialogue between races and churches."

The group has organized vigils and marches in response to police shootings of unarmed black men, but now they want to create a place where the community can engage and work through racial issues together.



The Rev. Julie Fisher from Christ Episcopal Church at the Kent Interfaith Alliance for Racial Reconciliation and Justice Events meeting.

"We need to be sharing stories between races because there's a lot of education that needs to take place for white people who don't realize what it's like to walk in the shoes of a person of color," said the Rev. Christie Anderson from Unitarian Universalist Church of Kent, who is also a manager at Kent Social Services.

On Martin Luther King Jr. Day, about 20 people

came to KIFA's new monthly film series and watched clips from the movie "Selma" and had a positive conversation about how racism impacts the Kent community.

"One concern is how white a group we are," said the Rev. Julie Fisher from Christ Episcopal Church. "Then the African-American members among us said, 'Take more responsibility

for this' because racism is not an African-American problem. It's a white problem."

Frank Hairston, member of the UUC of Kent and the Portage NAACP who meets and holds talks about racism after Sunday services, said once others see the organization's efforts, they will come.

"It's important the churches come together, because what we have on Sundays is the worst time for segregation," Hairston said. "By us coming together, we show the rest of the community we can come together."

When the AME Church in Kent was vandalized with hateful messages twice and when vandals attacked King Kennedy Community Center in Ravenna, shattering the center's front glass door and Skeels-Mathews Center, which also serves a predominantly African-American neighborhood in Ravenna, it was even clearer why the organization needs to be here.

Krsnaa Fitch, a longtime member of KIFA who goes to the UUC of Kent, said letting go of fears and stereotypes is a "big leap of faith" for people. She recalled how awkward it was for an elderly woman to go with her to the AME Church

See Page A2 | Divide

# Divide

From Page A1

in Kent.

"She had never been to a black church," Fitch, of Cuyahoga Falls, said. "She thought she would be imposing. She did end up going, but it was a huge culture shock for her to just step into a black church. That fear actually prevents them from connecting."

Hairston envisions a mass coming together of black and white congregations on Sundays in Kent.

"I'm hoping the pastors and people in this organization will pray together,



Lisa Scalfaro, Record-Courier

**Kent Interfaith Alliance for Racial Reconciliation and Justice Events members meet to discuss their mission. From left are Krsnaa Fitch, Frank Hairston and the Rev. Julie Fisher.**

hang together, love to-  
gether and show the rest of

the community what it's  
truly about," Hairston said.

KIFA is looking to sponsor a tea time for peace in March, which will allow people in the community to get to know Muslims in their community. The group's next film series will include clips from the documentary "13th" and discussion at 7 p.m. on Feb. 20 at First Christian Church of Kent.

"No one is telling this group, 'You have to do this,'" said Travis Lee, the newest member of the group from Akron. "For me as a black man, that gives me fuel. It takes a lot of heart to say, 'You're right. White people are doing some things, but that's not me.'"



## **Natural gas buses, fuel station will save PARTA money, help environment**

**By BOB GAETJENS / Reporter**

Posted Jan 31, 2018 at 5:05 PM

Updated Jan 31, 2018 at 5:56 PM

Compressed Natural Gas is one strong option for the future of fuel, and Portage Area Regional Transit Authority is giving it a nudge toward viability in the county.

The county's public transportation agency is building a compressed natural gas station, which will be open to the public, at its facility on Summit just east of Loop Drive in Kent, according to PARTA Director Frank Hairston.

PARTA has also installed digital tracking signs at its Kent Gateway facility on Erie Street. The signs will help riders keep track of routes and arrivals, among other things.

With plans to purchase compressed natural gas-powered buses and build Portage County's first compressed natural gas station, PARTA Operations, Maintenance and Facilities Director Brian Trautman said the agency hopes area residents consider the new fuel source when purchasing cars.

"It'll look just like a regular gas station; it'll have a canopy and the whole 9 yards," Trautman said of the station, which is estimated to cost \$2.8 million. "We're hoping it creates some opportunity for other folks," he said.

Without someone committing money to new infrastructure, fleet managers and area motorists won't change over to compressed natural gas, which Hairston and Trautman said is better for the environment.

"Infrastructure is everything," said Trautman. "You've got to have the infrastructure. Until they put in gas stations, there was nowhere to fill your car."

The same is true for compressed natural gas or hybrid vehicles.

Trautman said a groundbreaking is set for sometime in March, and the station should be completed around the first week of May.

The station will be funded by federal Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Grant money, he added.

In addition, PARTA and Summit County's METRO RTA are receiving about \$2.5 million from Akron Metropolitan Area Transportation Study to purchase compressed natural gas buses.

PARTA's \$920,000 will be spent on buses through 2022, according to AMATS. METRO is receiving \$1.56 million for bus purchases

"We have two that will be finished here in late March," Trautman said. "They're in production right now in Riverside, California."

By the end of 2020, he said the agency plans to have purchased eight compressed natural gas buses.

Trautman said the introduction of compressed natural gas vehicles is a "matter of diversity" for PARTA.

"We're trying to eliminate our carbon footprint," said, explaining that compressed natural gas vehicles burn fuel cleaner than diesel or regular gasoline. "There's also a healthy push from the federal government for clean and green. There are grant funds available out there for clean energy, and that's what we're tapping into."

Hairston said PARTA also has a charging station for hybrid vehicles at the Kent Gateway facility and is planning one on Summit Street as well.

Summit County METRO RTA Director of Maintenance Jarrod Hampshire said there's also an economic argument in favor of compressed natural gas (CNG) over diesel.

"We've actually had CNG on the property since the early 2000s," he said. "We see an average cost savings of 30 to 40 cents per mile."

The fuel costs are about \$2.10 per gallon for diesel and \$1.50 per gallon for compressed natural gas. With buses getting about 3.8-4.2 miles per gallon, that difference can add up, said Hampshire.

METRO opened a compressed natural gas station just for its fleet in 2015 at 416 Kenmore Blvd., and Hampshire said the \$4.5 million facility should pay itself off after five or six years. A public compressed natural gas station is located nearby.

Trautman said some alterations were needed at PARTA's garage to accommodate the vehicles, the fuel tanks of are located on the roof. He also said PARTA mechanics are going through training so they can properly care for the new buses. One of those considerations is safety.

“When you have a gas leak normally, you have a big puddle on the ground,” he said, explaining compressed natural gas leaks go on the ceiling. “It’s a different protocol for maintenance and service.”

Better route information at Gateway

PARTA also is in the process of erecting digital tracking signs at its Kent Gateway facility, said Hairston.

Joe Yensel, PARTA director of information technology, said four of five digital displays have were installed last week, and the fifth was to be installed Wednesday.

“All of our routes scroll the bottom to show where they go,” he said. “We’re trying to communicate better with customers.”

The signs show bus arrival time estimates based on real time, he added.

The displays are a mix of 55-inch and 65-inch screens, he added.

Reporter Bob Gaetjens can be reached at 330-541-9440, [hgaetjens@recordpub.com](mailto:hgaetjens@recordpub.com) or [@bobgaetjens\\_rpc](https://twitter.com/bobgaetjens_rpc).

## By the Numbers

\$1.2 million: Approximate cost of a hydrogen fuel cell bus

80: The total number of vehicles in PARTA’s fleet

\$2.8 million: The estimated cost of the planned compressed natural gas station on Summit Street in Kent

30 cents to 40 cents: The amount per mile METRO saves on operation of the CNG buses over diesel buses

5: About the number of years METRO thinks it will take for a new CNG station to pay for itself



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# Going green, saving green

**PARTA  
moving  
toward  
compressed  
natural gas**

**By BOB GAETJENS**  
Reporter

Compressed natural gas is a strong, environmentally friendly option for the future of fuel, and Portage Area Regional Transit Authority is giving it a nudge toward viability in the county while hopefully saving money in the long run.

The county's public transportation agency is building a compressed natural gas station, which will be open to the public, at its facility on Summit just east of Loop Drive in Kent, according to PARTA Director Frank Hairston.

PARTA has also installed digital tracking signs at its Kent Gateway facility on Erie Street. The signs will help riders keep track of routes and arrivals, among other things.

With plans to purchase

See Page A5 | Green



**PARTA has installed new electronic tracking signs at its Kent location. PARTA Information Technology Director Joe Yensel looks up at the indoor tracking sign at the ticket booth.**

Lisa Scalfaro, Record-Courier

## Green

From Page A1

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The same is true for compressed natural gas or hybrid vehicles.

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The station will be funded by federal Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Grant money, he added.

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buses.

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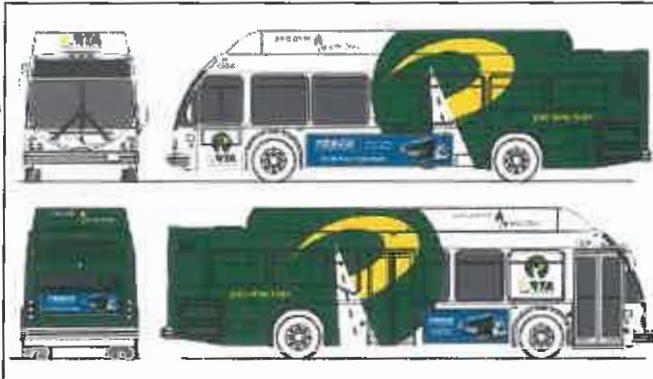
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Submitted graphic

**PARTA's new natural gas buses will have a new look.**

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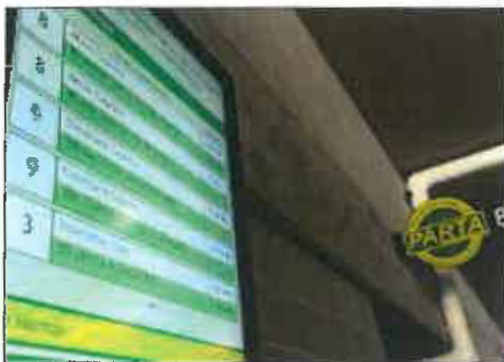
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Lisa Scalfaro, Record-Courier

**New informational signs at PARTA's Kent Gateway hub will help riders determine bus arrival time.**



# Warming center open Friday, Sunday, Monday in Ravenna

By STAFF REPORT

Posted Feb 1, 2018 at 9:32 AM

Updated Feb 1, 2018 at 10:51 AM

RAVENNA — With bitterly cold temperatures expected over the weekend, The Center of Hope will serve as a warming center for those in need over the next three days.

The center, at 1081 W. Main St., will be open Friday, Sunday and Monday from 4 p.m. to 8 a.m.

Those interested in volunteering may call 330-298-8430.

The warming center opens for those who do not have adequate shelter overnight when temperatures fall below 10 degrees. There is no charge, and visitors must leave the following morning.

Transportation will be available via PARTA bus No. 35 on the Interurban Line. The bus will run from 4 to 11:30 p.m., and riders must let the driver know they are going to the Center of Hope for warming purposes.

Kent Social Services will not be open as a warming center during this time.



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D8 • Thursday, February 1, 2018

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

Record-Courier, Kent, Ohio



On June 19, 1865, Union General Gordon Granger led federal troops to Galveston, Texas to announce the end of the Civil War and that the slaves had been freed. The news came two and half years after — the signing of the Emancipation Proclamation. After hearing the news, the crowd of newly freed slaves celebrated and danced in the streets.

The name "Juneteenth" comes from combining the words 'June' and 'nineteenth', the day that General Granger announced the end of slavery in Texas.

In the 1870s a group of former slaves raised \$800 through local churches to purchase ten acres of land and created Emancipation Park which now hosts Juneteenth celebrations

In 1980 "Emancipation Day in Texas" became a legal state holiday in recognition of Juneteenth. Juneteenth is an officially observed state holiday in 42 states and in the District of Columbia.



1-877-RIDE RTA  
[www.PARTAonline.org](http://www.PARTAonline.org)  
TTY: 330-676-5100

## **Portage recycling sees uptick in 2017**

**By Matthew Merchant / Reporter**

Posted Feb 10, 2018 at 8:29 PM

Updated Feb 10, 2018 at 9:47 PM

Oil-stained concrete lies vacant inside the warehouse where mountains of compacted bales of recycled materials once stood. The stacks of aluminum cans, cardboard boxes and potato chip wrappers used to reach to the ceiling of the Portage County Solid Waste District's facility on Mogadore Road.

Now, all the baling is done miles down the road at Akron's Waste Management facility. Equipment sold off and steel plates over the loading bays, the area is now home to gleaming new automated trucks and a stack of blue Single Stream bins.

With the loss of baling equipment and need for processing came the loss of some jobs. But what the district lost in jobs — Director Bill Stiner said the positions were nearly all retirements — it gained in time, allowing for longer routes.

And with the increased automation of collection trucks under the new Single Stream system came quicker circulation of those routes. The district's 13 drivers now service more than half of Portage County.

"The Ohio EPA (Environmental Protection Agency) told us a few years back that they expected us to drop 20 to 30 percent of our customer base. In reality, we've increased our customers by more than 10,000 homes," Stiner said.

In 2016, the district processed 10,793.51 tons of recyclable materials. In 2017, with the Single Stream system in full swing, the district collected 12,535.15 tons — a roughly 16 percent increase.

Some of that tonnage came recently: Around the Christmas holiday, crews saw more cardboard this year than ever before. But why?

"Online shopping. People are ordering off Amazon and other places and the cardboard just keeps piling up," Stiner said.

Single Stream collection, where all recyclable materials are put into one bin, allows for bigger collection bins, a point of contention for some residents of the county. Despite the criticism, Stiner said the 95- or 65-gallon bins are much a more effective and user-

friendly containers compared with the 16- or 18-gallon open-faced bins.

In 2018, the district is looking to fine-tune the quicker collection routes throughout the county. It's working with the county GIS department to use the detailed geographic information system to map more efficient routes in each community.

Last year, the district added Rootstown, Suffield and Ravenna townships along with the city of Streetsboro to the growing roster of communities it services. And drivers saw an increase in participation along existing routes.

"It's been absolutely fantastic," Stiner said. "I'd like to see the entire county use our service. It just makes sense. We can do this quickly, we can do it cheaply, and it's better for the entire community."

Beyond 2018, Stiner said the district is hopeful that cleaner-burning compressed natural gas engines, like those used in some PARTA buses, can be adapted to the recycling haulers. Plus, with PARTA planning to build its own CNG station in Kent, the district could fill up quickly.

They're also finishing the process of incorporating recycling charges into homeowners' property tax bills as a service fee.

Reporter Matthew Merchant can be reached at 330-298-1127 or [mmerchant@recordpub.com](mailto:mmerchant@recordpub.com).

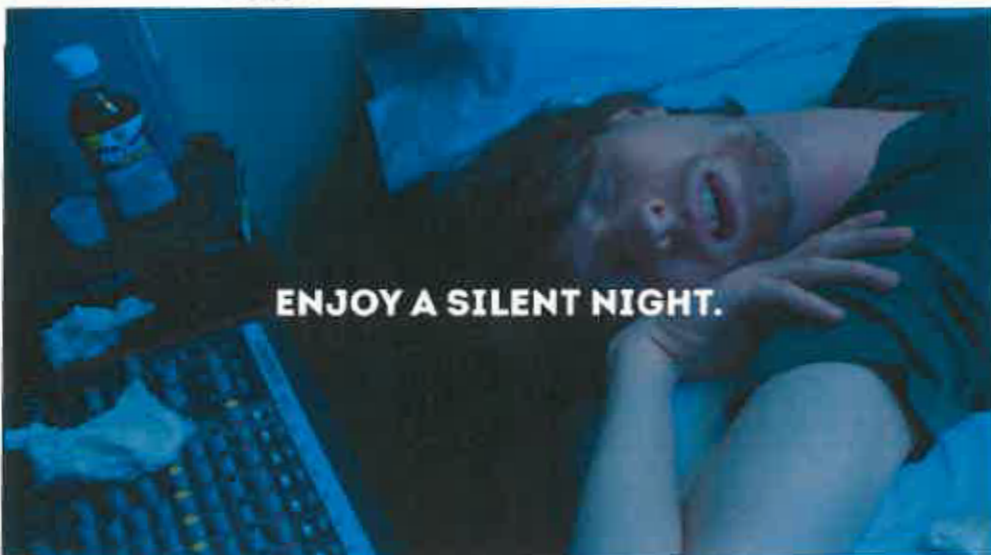


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## **PARTA to celebrate “Ohio Loves Transit” Day on Wednesday**

**By Staff Report**

Posted Feb 12, 2018 at 5:19 PM

Updated Feb 12, 2018 at 5:29 PM

The statewide initiative is in done in cooperation with the Ohio Public Transit Association to celebrate public transit throughout Ohio.

To celebrate this day, PARTA will be offering free rides and on all fixed route buses (except the Cleveland Express). In addition, SPOT will be out with the ride patrol giving out free giveaways during the day.

Additionally, Portage Commissioner Mike Kerrigan will be riding the 9:45 a.m. Interurban East — Route 35 bus from the Kent Central Gateway to work at the Portage County Administration office in Ravenna.

For more information about PARTA or Ohio Loves Transit Day visit

\_\_\_\_\_ or \_\_\_\_\_



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## **BRIEFS**

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### **Free PARTA rides on Wednesday**

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For more information about PARTA or Ohio Loves Transit Day visit [www.partaonline.org](http://www.partaonline.org) or [www.ohioneedstransit.org](http://www.ohioneedstransit.org).

# Finding a balance

Couple married for 27 years juggles many interests

By KELLY MAILE  
Reporter

Between full-time jobs, ice carving exhibitions and dog shows, Mitch and Becky Schrader are busy, but they always find time for each other.

At an ice carving event in downtown Kent on Saturday, Becky named her husband's ice sculpture "Balance" — "because we're always trying to find balance between our own pursuits and supporting each other."

Mitch, who grew up in Kent and works at Kent State University, travels all over in the winter for ice sculpting events. Becky goes with him to assist, but lately she's been volunteering for Pups and Pages with their therapy dog and qualifying for the national agility competition with their show dog.

"We try to be at each other's events, but a lot of times we're double booked on the weekends," Becky said.

This year, Mitch, also an avid cyclist, qualified to compete in the Long-Distance Duathlon World Championship in Switzerland in September. This trip is special because it's on their wedding anniversary.

"It's a 10K run, a 150K bike and then a 30K run in the alps of Switzerland," Mitch said. "We're going to make a good vacation of it. We will be in Paris having dinner on our wedding anniversary this year."

Mitch, 48, and Becky, 47, got married 27 years ago after high school. Mitch, who went to Kent Theodore Roosevelt High School, and Becky, who went to GlenOak High School, met while Mitch was working in food service at Kent State.

"He said, 'May I help you?' and I



Amanda Woolf, Record-Courier

**Becky Schrader holds ice rings for her husband, Mitch Schrader, as he balances them on an elephant's trunk at the end of his ice sculpting day at the Hometown Bank Plaza in downtown Kent on Saturday afternoon.**

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# Balance

From Page A1

said "Yes, you can," Becky said, and they've been together ever since.

"I was able to put her through school by working at the university," Mitch said. Becky, who graduated with an accounting degree, is now the director of finance for PARTA.

Even after moving to Uniontown, "we're still very connected with the Kent community," Mitch said.

Mitch was 19 when he began ice sculpting. Becky recalled one time the newspaper took a picture of him carving downtown and she was caught

standing in the background in her bus service uniform watching him.

"It was very cool," Becky said. "I've seen it for so long, I've turned more critical. People will say, 'that's so amazing.' I'll say, 'It's a little crooked.'"

When they got married, they opened their own wedding ice carving business. Ice sculptures were on display at their wedding in 1991 at the Rusty Nail, which has since closed.

"We were so young. It was very low-key," said Becky, who recalled the night before their wedding, they went to get onto a bus in Kent with a chainsaw because they didn't have their own car. Another time, Mitch stole her clothing iron for a piece he was working on.

Mitch said like anything that takes

time, his craft and their marriage have come a long way. In Kent, he made a detailed, elaborate carving of an elephant balancing rings and a few years ago he made a heart sculpture for Becky, who is "always by his side."

Their faith in God and each other has gotten them through hard times.

"With marriage, we choose to make it work," Mitch said. "There's good and there's bad. It takes two to get married. Only takes one to get divorced. We choose every day to wake up and make it work."

On Valentine's Day, they might go out to dinner, but years ago they made a pact that "we do special things for each other when we need it and not when the calendar says we should."

Wednesday 14th of February 2018

# Public News Service



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## Ohio Transit Systems Spread Valentine's Day Love



There are 61 transit systems in Ohio serving an estimated 3 million people each weekday. (Raymond Wambsgam/Flickr)



February 14, 2018

COLUMBUS, Ohio – Some Ohio transit systems have a sweet Valentine's Day gift for their riders. The [Ohio Public Transit Association](#) (OPTA) has deemed today "Ohio Loves Transit Day," a new observance to acknowledge the vital role of transit in the state and encourage ridership.

Katherine Manning, an OPTA volunteer who also is director of planning for the Portage Area Regional Transit Authority, said each weekday, more than three million Ohioans depend on transit for transportation.



"Whether we're talking about seniors or disabled individuals, students, people who need to get to work," Manning said, "we wanted one day to really celebrate how awesome it is that we have such great public transit, and how important it is to continue to invest in public transit."

Ohio has 61 transit systems, many of which are celebrating with valentines and giveaways. Several are also providing free trips on fixed routes – including systems in Butler County, Dayton, Lancaster, Medina, Pike County, Portage County, Stark County and Youngstown.

The 2015 Ohio Statewide Transit Needs Study found that in order to serve unmet demand, public transit systems in Ohio need to provide an additional 37 million trips over current levels.

Manning contends better investments are needed for the future.

"We need to, as a state, really look at making sure that we fund transportation in a way that makes sense for us," she said. "And long term, what we really need is to find a more stable funding source for transportation."

Public transit is funded through a combination of federal, state and local dollars. State funding plummeted from \$40 million in 2000 to about \$7 million in 2014, and federal investments also have decreased.

Starting in 2019, the loss of local sales-tax revenue from health-care services provided by Medicaid Managed-Care Organizations will reduce transit funding by about \$38 million annually.

Mary Kuhlman, Public News Service - OH

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## Kerrigan takes ride on PARTA

**Portage County Commissioner Mike Kerrigan, right, takes a selfie with his wife, Heather, along with the Claudia Amrhein of the Portage Area Regional Transportation Authority and Spot, PARTA's mascot to recognize the "Ohio Loves Transit" campaign. The Kerrigans rode a PARTA bus from the Kent Central Gateway to downtown Ravenna where Mike works after getting breakfast for Valentine's Day in downtown Kent.**  
Matthew Merchant,  
Record-Courier

