

**Agenda**

- |     |   |               |
|-----|---|---------------|
| 1.  | Call to Order<br>Roll Call  | Oral          |
| 2.  | Meeting Minutes<br>Minutes from December 14, 2017 Meeting (Motion Required) | Attachment 2a |
| 3.  | Guest Communications (limit 2 minutes)                                      | Oral          |
| 4.  | General Manager's Report  | Attachment 4  |
| 5.  | Committee Reports   |               |
|     | a. Finance  | Did Not Meet  |
|     | 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  |
| 6.  | Old Business  |               |
| 7.  | New Business  |               |
| 8.  | Resolutions - Roll Call Approval Required                                   |               |
| 9.  | Executive Session - Roll Call Approval Required                             |               |
| 10. | Adjournment   |               |

**Next Regular Meeting:**

**February 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**

**December 14, 2017**

**Board Members Present:**

Dominic Bellino, Vice President  
Rick Bissler, President  
Marge Bjerregaard  
Richard Brockett

Jeff Childers  
David Gynn  
Pete Kenworthy  
Tim Lassen

R. T. Mansfield, TPO  
Frank Vitale  
Karen Wise

**Staff Present:**

Claudia Amrhein  
Marcia Fletcher  
Frank Hairston

Carlell Howard  
Kelly Jurisch  
William Nome, Legal Counsel

Clayton Popik  
Rebecca Schrader  
Brian Trautman

**Members Not Present:**

Jerry Beach (excused)  
Brian Gray (excused)

Virginia Harris (excused)

Jeremy Moldvay (excused)

**Guests Present:**

Jacob Seckman

Michelle Seckman

Rick Seckman

**CALL TO ORDER**

President Rick Bissler welcomed everyone to the December 14, 2017, PARTA Board of Trustees meeting and called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m. An oral roll call followed, and a quorum was present.

Mr. Bissler noted that the meeting minutes from the November 16, 2017, Board meeting were distributed; and he entertained a motion to accept the minutes. Ms. Marge Bjerregaard made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Mr. David Gynn seconded the motion. **Motion to approve the minutes, as presented, passed unanimously.**

**GUEST COMMUNICATIONS**

Mr. Bissler asked if any of the guests would like to comment. They declined.

**GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT**

Mr. Bissler then called on Ms. Claudia Amrhein for the General Manager's report.

Ms. Amrhein thanked everyone for coming out to the last meeting of the year on a blustery evening and expressed appreciation for everyone's dedication throughout the year. She noted that one change was made to the agenda. In the Board packet, a draft resolution was prepared for the fuel bid, which was delayed on Friday. The information needed by Tuesday morning was received and two (2) separate resolutions have been prepared – one (1) for diesel and one (1) for gasoline. She indicated that she has a presentation tonight, which is the third part of the Board overview series of PARTA's transit service. She reminded the Board of her presentation in September that covered the basic three (3) types of transit service – fixed route, ADA complementary paratransit, and demand response. Demand response is also called door-to-door or Dial-A-Ride. Any of those three (3) names can be used interchangeably. In October, the demand response service was discussed along with the need to restructure that service going forward. A system needs to be created that would be resilient to decreasing revenues and the increasing costs to provide that service. The November Board meeting was busy discussing budgets. Tonight, the discussion will be more specifically about fixed routes and the requirements that go along with providing fixed route and ADA complementary paratransit service.

Ms. Amrhein began her PowerPoint presentation by saying PARTA is a public transit provider of a fixed route service. There are specific requirements for providers of fixed route services. PARTA is the only provider of fixed route service in the county as a regional transit authority. All policies are guided by Federal Transit Administration regulations. Some policies have many volumes and pages of regulations. For the purposes of a broad sweep, the regulations cover nondiscrimination in the provision of service, public participation, and providing full access to programs and services.

PARTA has 15 fixed routes and two (2) express routes. A fixed route operates along a prescribed route according to a fixed schedule. The schedules are printed, can be found on PARTA's app, are numbered, are assigned names, and have regular service hours, which are published.

One of the main nondiscrimination provisions that applies to fixed route service providers is the Americans with Disabilities Act, which covers virtually every part of PARTA's service. In general, it prohibits discrimination on the basis of disability. It requires that all programs and services are accessible. PARTA cannot deny anyone the opportunity to use its transportation services if an individual can use that service. PARTA can't prevent the use of fixed route service. ADA requires that any fixed route provider provide complementary paratransit service. It also requires, and this is a relatively new requirement in 2015, that reasonable modifications of policies and practices be made.

Another nondiscrimination provision applicable to providers of fixed route service is Title VI. Title VI prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, and national origin in the provision of all transportation programs and services. It's designed to ensure that the level and quality of public transportation is provided in a nondiscriminatory manner and to promote full and fair participation in public transportation decision-making without regard to race, color, or national origin.

Accessibility, in terms of ADA, applies to every part of PARTA's service. Fleet vehicles and equipment all must be accessible and working. Vehicles and equipment must be maintained and operable while in service. All buses have lifts and securement areas, which drivers must be trained to use. That must be offered to someone who is using a wheelchair or not using a wheelchair upon request. Individuals can't be denied the ability to use their mobility device because it's inconvenient. It must be safely secured. Accommodations must also be made for mobility aides and life support systems, such as oxygen and other types of mobility devices. Communication and public information about all routes must be fully accessible. Employees are trained to make sure they have a good understanding of these requirements. Reasonable modification of policies and procedures ensure that all services are accessible. The FTA realized that sometimes a policy or practice makes sense on its face and is practical, but it might

inadvertently prevent someone from being able to use the service. PARTA must evaluate each request on a case-by-case basis, which could include a variety of different factors, such as where the bus stops, the weather, or someone's health. When reasonable, decisions on special arrangements are made on the fly.

ADA complementary paratransit service is a major requirement of fixed route providers. It is often confused with the demand response or door-to-door. It is a different service. It is required as a safety net for persons who, even with all those accessible features, are not able to use the fixed routes. It mandates that if an eligible person is not able to use the fixed route, ADA complementary paratransit service must be provided and must be comparable to the fixed route service, which is within  $\frac{3}{4}$  mile of the fixed route. An eligible trip that is origin to destination within that corridor is considered complementary paratransit. Again, that's different than door-to-door service, which is not restricted within  $\frac{3}{4}$  mile and operates under different rules entirely.

Reasonable modification goes back to when an individual requests a modification to ensure that they can fully access the service. A determination is made as to whether the request is reasonable. Reasons that something might be considered not reasonable are that it's a fundamental alteration of service, it poses a direct threat to the health or safety of others, the individual doesn't need that modification to use the service, or it prevents an undue financial or administrative burden. Some of these the driver is not going to be able to determine on the fly. In that case, the driver would call dispatch and request that a road supervisor make that determination. All requests and responses are tracked as required by the FTA.

An example of how these fixed route service regulations apply is with the recent issue that has evolved with the fixed route bus stop that was added to Maplewood Career Center, which is located on the 70 Windham/Garrettsville route. This started in 2015-16 when a thorough review of the fixed routes was done. A good deal of time was spent studying routes with a consultant to determine whether service was being deployed in the best way and reaching the right populations. As a result of the review, and keeping within limited resources, a number of recommendations were brought to the Board. In a nutshell, those recommendations were proposed and designed to simplify service so it's easier to understand, to improve communication, and to make sure that lower income, transit-dependent communities are being connected to essential services like health care and grocery stores. As required, public comments were collected through a variety of means in public hearings, on line, or by phone and public notice was provided of the final decisions. A few modifications were made based on the public comments and the route changes were effective January 2017. One of those changes was adding a stop to the Maplewood Career Center (MCC) campus. The Windham/Garrettsville route runs up and down Route 88, which didn't change. What did change is that there were requests to have a regular stop on campus that would be extended to help the adult education program that operates later into the evening. The Windham/Garrettsville route services the hospital, the Social Security Administration, Fortis College, Freedom Town Hall, the Renaissance Family Center (which was an important thing to add because the folks in Windham did not have access to fresh food), Maplegrove Community Garrettsville/Sky Plaza, the Garrettsville/Garfield Plaza, and Hiram/Hiram College. The Raven route was also redesigned by dividing it into two (2) routes so that more of Ravenna is connected to service both Ravenna and Kent so that the connection can be made with other routes for transportation to Marc's on the far east side of Ravenna and the new Aldi's. The stop was added in January and conversations occurred starting in late September; but, for purposes of this conversation, written request was received to remove that stop from MCC and the letter indicated that PARTA was not welcome on that property. The bus was suspended from driving onto the property as part of the Windham/Garrettsville route on November 7 pending a public process, which is necessary prior to beginning a new service or making a major change to a service. The



stop also served as a reference point for demand response. The fixed route was entering the campus and demand response, which is scheduled service, was also using that stop as the pick up and drop off point. Demand response service was suspended on Friday, November 10, and the public hearing was scheduled for December 5 for the fixed route change.

The issue is that MCC is trying to limit PARTA's service to door-to-door only (demand response service). PARTA's position is that as a public transportation provider of fixed route services, it cannot agree to limit service to only demand response.

The problem is that the Windham/Garrettsville route still runs along Route 88. Removing the MCC stop does not remove MCC from the fixed route service area. As a fixed route service provider, PARTA is subject to FTA nondiscrimination regulations. Removing that stop has both Title VI and ADA compliance implications because servicing MCC from Route 88 presents safety concerns and interferes with PARTA's ability to provide ADA-compliant service.

Ms. Amrhein shared one scenario where an individual could be riding the Windham/Garrettsville fixed route to get to MCC. The bus will stop on Route 88. The driveway is more than 900 feet long, and sometimes it snows. The question this raises is: Can a disabled individual safely board and alight on Route 88? It's a two (2) lane highway that is narrow, there aren't sidewalks, and the speed limit is 45 or 55 mph. Stopping a bus on Route 88 to have the driver get out, deploy the lift, load the passenger onto or off of the lift, and then let them cross the street is a problem. Can a disabled individual get to the building? This might be dependent on weather, medical conditions, or environmental factors. Conditional ADA eligibility may apply for someone with COPD, which might aggravate certain conditions and not others. Someone who's sight impaired, darkness might be an issue; whereas, broad daylight isn't. It's specific to the individual and there's not one blanket answer for any situation. Therefore, banning PARTA from providing fixed route service presents a problem for servicing MCC. What would happen in those instances? The person would ask the driver to drop them off in the parking lot. The driver would determine that request is reasonable, except for the restriction that MCC has placed on PARTA that only door-to-door service is allowed. It prohibits fixed route service on their campus. Windham/Garrettsville is a fixed route. In that instance, PARTA would have to deny them access to MCC, which violates PARTA's requirements and ADA.

Another scenario could be a disabled individual, who is not able to use the Windham/Garrettsville fixed route to get to MCC for some reason. PARTA then must evaluate whether it is an eligibility ADA complementary paratransit trip. Does the trip begin and end within the  $\frac{3}{4}$  mile corridor? If it does, and they're eligible, PARTA is required to provide that service. That is not door-to-door service. It operates under different rules. The restriction by MCC to only allow door-to-door service prohibits PARTA from providing required complementary paratransit service on campus.

It boils down to the fact that PARTA provides public transportation. People have the right to access MCC via the Windham/Garrettsville route. PARTA can't agree to restrict access to destinations along a fixed route. Disabled individuals have the right to request reasonable modifications and may require ADA complementary paratransit service. As a provider of fixed route service, PARTA can't restrict public transportation to provide demand response exclusively along a fixed route. Decisions must be made because of issues with demand response service, which include declining revenues, increasing costs, and increasing demand. Countywide demand response service fits Portage County because it's largely rural, but many transits provide strictly complementary paratransit  $\frac{3}{4}$  mile. PARTA tries to be there for everybody, which is why the service is being reviewed to determine how it can be changed to make sure that the people who really need the service can get it, which is part of PARTA's mission. PARTA cannot agree to limit service to demand response, particularly when the fixed route has been developed specifically to be able to build a network of transportation that is based more on the fixed regular service than it is on the demand response.

How can transportation service be restored? By MCC allowing PARTA to provide public transportation, removing the restriction limiting service to door-to-door only, rescinding the designation of PARTA as a third party not authorized to use the property, and allowing a shelter to be installed near the driveway to provide a safe, covered place for individuals who use that service.

Ms. Amrhein concluded by asking if there were any questions.

Mr. Vitale asked for clarification on the bus stop on Route 88; specifically, if the area where the shelter would be placed was public property and if there was a right-of-way.

Mr. Nome said there is a right-of-way along all state highways, which includes Route 88. The State of Ohio owns the right-of-way to State Route 88. The Board might want to consider going into executive session since there has been discussion between PARTA and legal counsel for MCC regarding pending or imminent court action.

Mr. Bissler thanked Ms. Amrhein and then moved on to committee reports.

#### **FACILITIES COMMITTEE REPORT**

This committee did not meet.

#### **FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT**

Mr. Dominic Bellino said there is not much new from the Finance Committee. The committee went through the November numbers and end of the year budget. It was a little bit higher than last month, but still a healthy surplus that will help with capital projects coming up. The minutes are detailed, and the reports have been distributed. The committee recommends three (3) of the four (4) resolutions. One (1) resolution isn't financial; two (2) have to do with fuel; and one (1) is for the Portage County Board of Developmental Disabilities contract, which has been finalized. There will not be a Finance Committee meeting in January. The next meeting will be on February 20.

Mr. Bissler thanked Mr. Bellino and asked if there were any questions. Hearing none, he said no other committees met.

#### **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**

Mr. Bissler asked Ms. Rebecca Schrader to present the service awards.

Ms. Schrader said once a year, employees and Board members are recognized for their service: one (1) year, three (3) years, five (5) years, 10 years, and up. Employees who received service awards are listed on the door. Board members receiving service awards are: Pete Kenworthy - one (1) year; Frank Vitale - one (1) year; Jerry Beach - five (5) years; Virginia Harris - 15 years; and R.T. Mansfield - 15 years.

Mr. Bissler thanked all Board members for their time and energy in volunteering to serve on the Board and then moved on to the resolutions.

**Resolutions**

Mr. Bissler said the first resolution under New Business is #2017-12-01.

**#2017-12-01: A RESOLUTION BY THE PORTAGE AREA REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY (PARTA) BOARD OF TRUSTEES AUTHORIZING THE AWARD OF A CONTRACT TO MANSFIELD OIL CO. TO PROVIDE DIESEL FUEL FOR 2018 AND AUTHORIZING THE GENERAL MANAGER, OR HER DESIGNEE, TO SIGN A FEDERAL EXCISE TAX EXEMPTION CERTIFICATE ON BEHALF OF PARTA. THIS IS A JOINT PURCHASING VENTURE WITH AKRON METRO RTA, WESTERN RESERVE RTA, AND STARK AREA RTA, ET AL.**

Mr. Bissler entertained a motion to approve the resolution. Mr. R. T. Mansfield made a motion, which was seconded by Mr. Dominic Bellino.

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

Frank Vitale - Yes	Karen Wise - Yes	Jeff Childers - Yes
David Gynn – Yes	Timothy Lissan – Yes	R. T. Mansfield - Yes
Marge Bjerregaard - Yes	Richard Brockett – Yes	Rick Bissler – Yes
Pete Kenworthy - Yes	Dominic Bellino – Yes	

Mr. Bissler said the next resolution is #2017-12-02.

**#2017-12-02: A RESOLUTION BY THE PORTAGE AREA REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY (PARTA) BOARD OF TRUSTEES TO RATIFY THE PORTAGE COUNTY BOARD OF DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES (PCBDD) CONTRACT.**

Mr. Bissler entertained a motion to approve the resolution. Mr. David Gynn made a motion, which was seconded by Mr. Timothy Lissan.

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

Karen Wise – Yes	Timothy Lassar - Yes	Jeff Childers - Yes
David Gynn - Yes	Marge Bjerregaard - Yes	R. T. Mansfield - Yes
Frank Vitale - Yes	Richard Brockett – Yes	Rick Bissler - Yes
Dominic Bellino - Yes	Pete Kenworthy – Yes	

Mr. Bissler said the next resolution is #2017-12-03.

**#2017-12-03: A RESOLUTION BY THE PORTAGE AREA REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY (PARTA) BOARD OF TRUSTEES TO AMEND THE TEMPLATE IN THE PERSONNEL POLICY, WHICH INCLUDES THE FIREARM POLICY FOR MOTOR VEHICLES AND THE FIREARM POLICY FOR BUILDING/PREMISES.**

Mr. Bissler entertained a motion to approve the resolution. Ms. Marge Bjerregaard made a motion, which was seconded by Mr. David Gynn.

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

Dominic Bellino – Yes	Timothy Lassar - Yes	Frank Vitale - Yes
R. T. Mansfield – Yes	David Gynn - Yes	Marge Bjerregaard - Yes
Karen Wise – Yes	Richard Brockett - Yes	Rick Bissler - Yes
Pete Kenworthy - Yes	Jeff Childers - Yes	

Mr. Bissler said the next resolution is #2017-12-04.

**#2017-12-04: A RESOLUTION BY THE PORTAGE AREA REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY (PARTA) BOARD OF TRUSTEES AUTHORIZING THE AWARD OF A CONTRACT TO MANSFIELD OIL CO. TO PROVIDE GASOLINE FOR 2018 AND AUTHORIZING THE GENERAL MANAGER, OR HER DESIGNEE, TO SIGN A FEDERAL EXCISE TAX EXEMPTION CERTIFICATE ON BEHALF OF PARTA. THIS IS A JOINT PURCHASING VENTURE WITH AKRON METRO RTA, WESTERN RESERVE RTA, AND STARK AREA RTA, ET AL.**

Mr. Bissler entertained a motion to approve the resolution. Mr. Pete Kenworthy made a motion, which was seconded by Mr. Frank Vitale.

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

Jeff Childers – Yes	Pete Kenworthy – Yes	Marge Bjerregaard - Yes
Frank Vitale – Yes	Richard Brockett – Yes	R. T. Mansfield - Yes
Karen Wise – Yes	Dominic Bellino – Yes	Rick Bissler - Yes
Timothy Lassar – Yes	David Gynn - Yes	

Ms. Amrhein asked Mr. Clayton Popik to give an overview of the upcoming route changes, as mentioned in her report.

Mr. Popik said with the opening of Aldi's, it seemed appropriate to extend at least one of the Ravenna routes during the next sign up period, which starts in January. The benefit of that is the bus would be able to pick up at the Bryn Mawr nursing home, which was a concern that was voiced a couple years ago during public hearings. Two (2) stops were picked up on the Raven East (#85) route and a couple more trips will be added up to Hiram. Garrettsville has done some economic development with a movie theatre and grocery store. They've also talked about a coffee



house. There were an odd number of trips on that Windham/Garrettsville route going in and out of Hiram. Hiram pointed out that they could leave in the evening, but had no way of getting back. One (1) trip was added in the evening and one (1) more trip was added in the middle of the day.

### EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mr. Jeff Childers made a motion to go into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing 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:

Dominic Bellino - Yes	Jeff Childers - Yes	R. T. Mansfield - Yes
Rick Bissler - Yes	David Gynn - Yes	Frank Vitale - Yes
Marge Bjerregaard - Yes	Pete Kenworthy - Yes	Karen Wise - Yes
Richard Brockett - Yes	Tim Lassen - Yes	

The Board went into Executive Session at 7:38 p.m.

Ms. Marge Bjerregaard made a motion to return to public session at 8:15 p.m., which was seconded by Mr. Timothy Lassen.

A roll call vote was taken as follows:

Karen Wise - Yes	Pete Kenworthy - Yes	Marge Bjerregaard - Yes
Frank Vitale - Yes	David Gynn - Yes	Rick Bissler - Yes
R.T. Mansfield - Yes	Jeff Childers - Yes	Dominic Bellino - Yes
Tim Lassen - Yes	Richard Brockett - Yes	

Mr. Childers made a motion that the Board of Trustees issue a statement of support for the General Manager's actions on the Maplewood Career Center situation as set forth in the presentation she gave earlier this evening. Ms. Marge Bjerregaard seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

### ADJOURNMENT

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

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

The meeting adjourned at 8:17 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Marcia Fletcher  
Executive Assistant

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

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**GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT**

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

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**No Committee Meetings or Resolutions.** Happy New Year, and thank you for your willingness to serve as a board trustee in 2018. No committee meetings are scheduled in January, as is customary to allow for year-end processing and closeout. In addition, we have no resolutions to bring forward in January. The next **finance committee** meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, February 20, at 11:30 a.m. We will provide food and welcome all board members to attend committee meetings.

**Request for Executive Session at January Board Meeting.** I am requesting that the Board hold an executive session to discuss pending or imminent court action concerning Maplewood Career Center. PARTA reinstated general public Dial-A-Ride (demand response, DART) service on January 9 consistent with current PARTA policy and FTA regulations. Fixed routes will deviate to and from Maplewood as required by FTA regulations, other reasonable modification guidelines, and in compliance with complementary paratransit requirements under the ADA.

**Medicaid Transportation Consultation.** Later this month, senior staff will meet with a Medicaid transportation consultant to identify options, risks and benefits of pursuing certification as a Medicaid transportation provider. As we discussed during the board meetings in September and October 2017, exploring Medicaid certification is a component to consider as we plan the restructuring of our demand response (DR) service for 2018 and beyond. In sum, the need for DR is growing while funding to support it continues to diminish. As contractual support decreases, more local dollars are needed to offset the cost to provide service. The goal will be 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.”

**Passenger Information Display System (PIDS) Installation at the Gateway.** As authorized via Resolution #2017-10-02, Redmon Group is scheduled to install five (5) display monitors in the Gateway on January 24 and 25. Acquiring a PIDS is part of the Automated Vehicle Location (AVL) “Real Time” project, funded by remaining grant dollars from the NEORide New Freedom Grant and \$40,000 local match. The displays will provide real-time bus arrival and departure information as part of our ongoing effort to improve transit information availability to our passengers and the community. The displays will be located in the lobby of each stair tower, in the passenger waiting room, and in the bus bays. A graphic and description of the display design is included in this packet.

**CNG Project Updates. Fuel Station Construction.** Clean Energy is scheduled to submit final plans for design and construction of the CNG fueling station on January 19. The overall project timeline is still on course, with June 2018 remaining the target date for construction completion. Second Driveway and Curb Cut. ODOT has denied our request to add the new, secondary driveway and curb cut on Summit Road, due to minimal spacing requirements between the drives and the location from the SR 261 intersection. Portage County approved our request to add the second driveway and curb cut in early

2016, but without consulting with ODOT, which controls the right of way along this section of Summit Road. ODOT further determined they could not locate a permit for the existing driveway, which was constructed years before PARTA purchased the property, and is requiring us to submit plans and apply for a permit for the existing driveway. Based on a conference call with ODOT staff, it is not likely that ODOT will reverse its decision on the location of the second driveway, so we will move forward with the fueling station project without it for the time being. A possible alternative may be to move the second driveway to the east of the existing drive. Transit Buses. The first two (2) Axess 35' low floor transit buses currently are in production at the Eldorado National California plant located in Riverside, CA. I accompanied Brian Trautman and Blair Taseff, our TESCO Bus sales representative, to complete an FTA-required inspection to verify that the manufacturer's bid specifications comply with the solicitation and that the buses are actually being built to the bid specs. I've included some photos of the inspection process on both buses, along with a graphic showing the design for the new CNG buses.

**PARTA Employees Support Local Families.** December was a busy month for supporting local efforts to help people within our community. It's an honor to work with our PARTA employees who always come through to extend a helping hand. PARTA employees contributed to:

*Skeels Community Centers – Christmas Toy Collection \* Center of Hope/Kent Social Services – Turkeys \* Passages – Hat and Gloves for Tots \* Center of Hope/Kent Social Services – Canned Food Drive \* Safer Futures – Adopt-A-Family Program \* PARTA Employees – Assisted PARTA employees who need help with the season demands.*

**Service Reports. Ridership.** Total county fixed route and demand response ridership was down by 14.05% in December as compared to December 2016. County trips performed through December totaled 457,855 as compared to 532,684 trips performed through December 2016. Overall ridership, including campus service, remains down just 2.85% with KSU ridership increasing by 5.02%. Total system ridership for 2017 came in at 1,254,670 as compared to total system ridership for 2016, which totaled 1,291,434. Work on the Summit Street project has stopped for the winter months. The project has detoured routes since 2015 and is a contributing factor to ridership fluctuation. Completion of the project is expected during summer 2018. ADA Complementary Paratransit Service. ADA on-time compliance was 99.28% in December as compared to 99.56% in November. Of 279 trips, 2 trips were performed 2 minutes and 14 minutes late.

**General Public (non-ADA) Demand Response On-Time Performance.** On-time performance for general public, non-ADA trips decreased to 78.09% in December, as compared to 78.95% in November. Ridership decreased by 15.07% as compared to November. As compared to December 2016, trips are down with 89,874 trips performed through December 2017 as compared to 105,954 trips performed through December 2016.

**Vehicle Preventative Maintenance (PM).** On-time compliance with established PM inspection schedules was 95% in December as compared to 97% in November.

**Parking.** Total cars parked in the deck in December decreased by 6% as compared to November and 12% as compared to December 2016. However, revenue increased in 2017, primarily driven by monthly pass sales.

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).

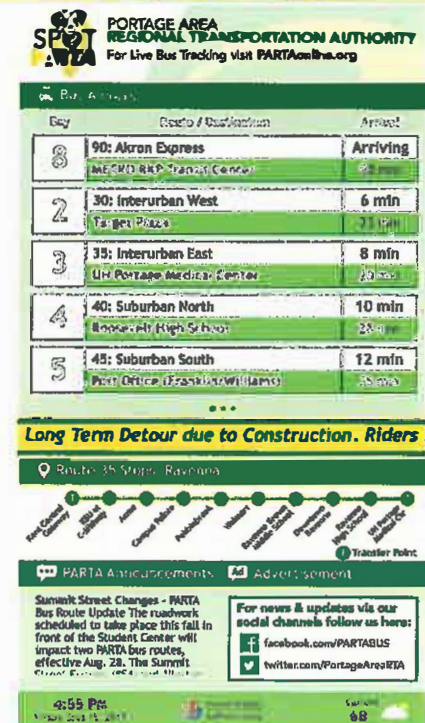
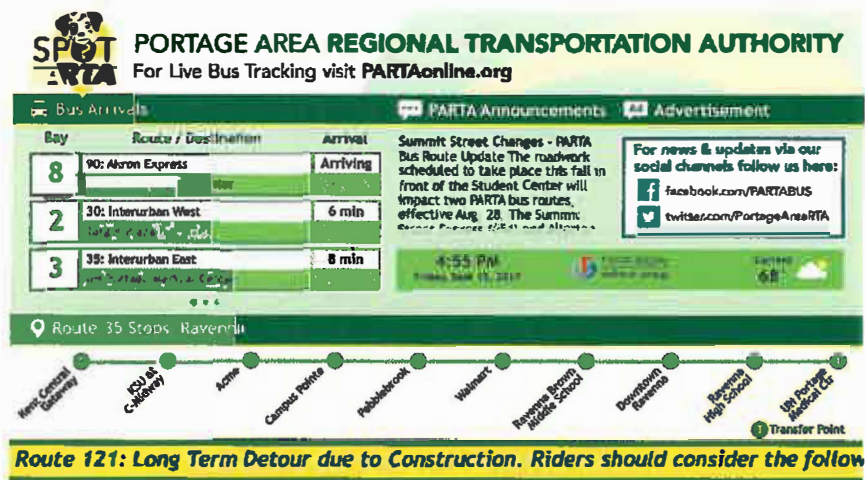
## Passenger Information Display System (PIDS)

### Installation at Kent Central Gateway

1/24-1/25/18

PARTA will be installing 5 displays at the Kent Central Gateway to improve transit information availability to our passengers and the community. The displays will be in the lobbies of each stair tower, passenger waiting room and in the bus bays.

Each display includes a button that will read the text allowing for the visually impaired to utilize the information.







\* Graphic colors and placement are representative, the final product may vary. Full Color Print 3M IJ180C with 3M 8519 Overlaminant.

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**PARTA (new logo) – Axess CNG**

Accepted by:

X \_\_\_\_\_

Installations will ONLY be scheduled upon signed approval of design & invoice. Workmanship of install is guaranteed for 6 months. Client understands that vehicle graphics are meant to be viewed from 5ft - 10ft away they will not be perfect. Vinyl installations may result in small imperfections as this can be normal, such as color variations from design layout, bubbles, wrinkles, seams, alignment and patches. We do not warranty wrap install due to rust, loose paint, dents or any other customer vehicle surface imperfections due to wear and tear or age. Client understands that when washing vehicle it is recommended that it be hand washed and not pressure washed. ALL SALES ARE FINAL.









# Kent Central Gateway Report

## December 2017

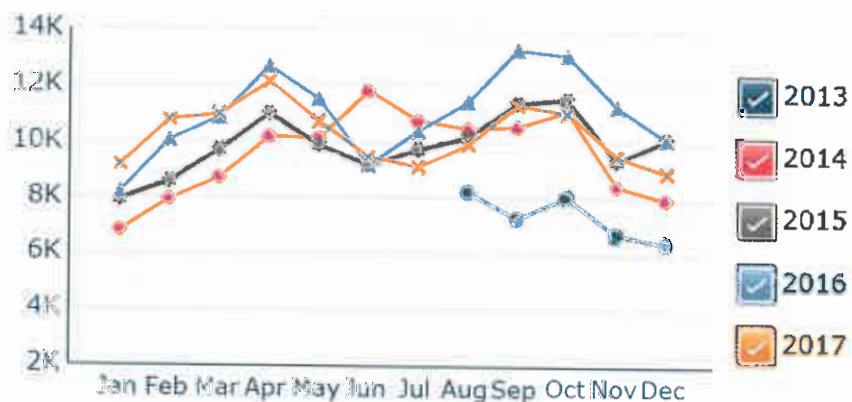
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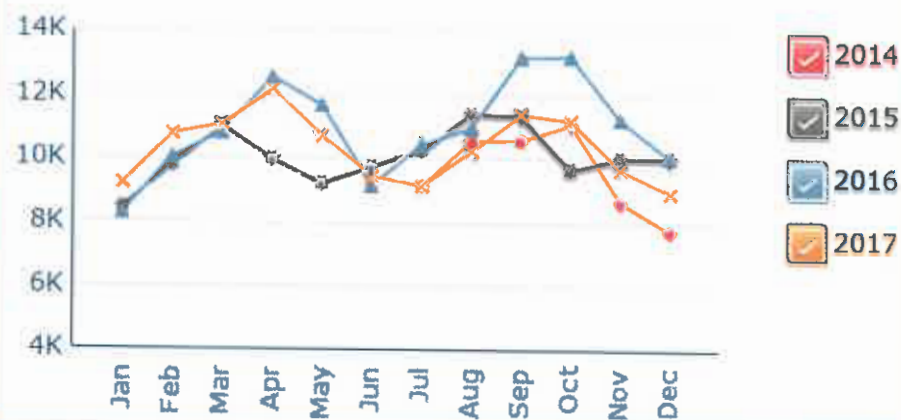
Revenue

Additional

### Cars Entering Total

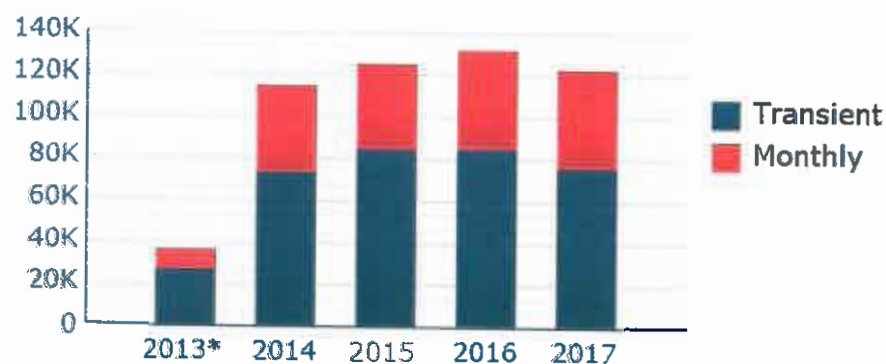


### Cars Exiting Total



### Entries per type

Previous Years Adjusted to Current YTD



### Entries

	Monthly	Transient	Illegal	Total	Car/Day	%Last M	%Last YR
Sep-17	4,139	7,173	-	11,312	377	14%	-15%
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%

### Exits

	Monthly	Transient	Illegal	Total	Car/Day	%Last M	%Last YR
Sep-17	4,198	7,141	43	11,339	378	11%	-14%
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%





# Kent Central Gateway Report

## December 2017

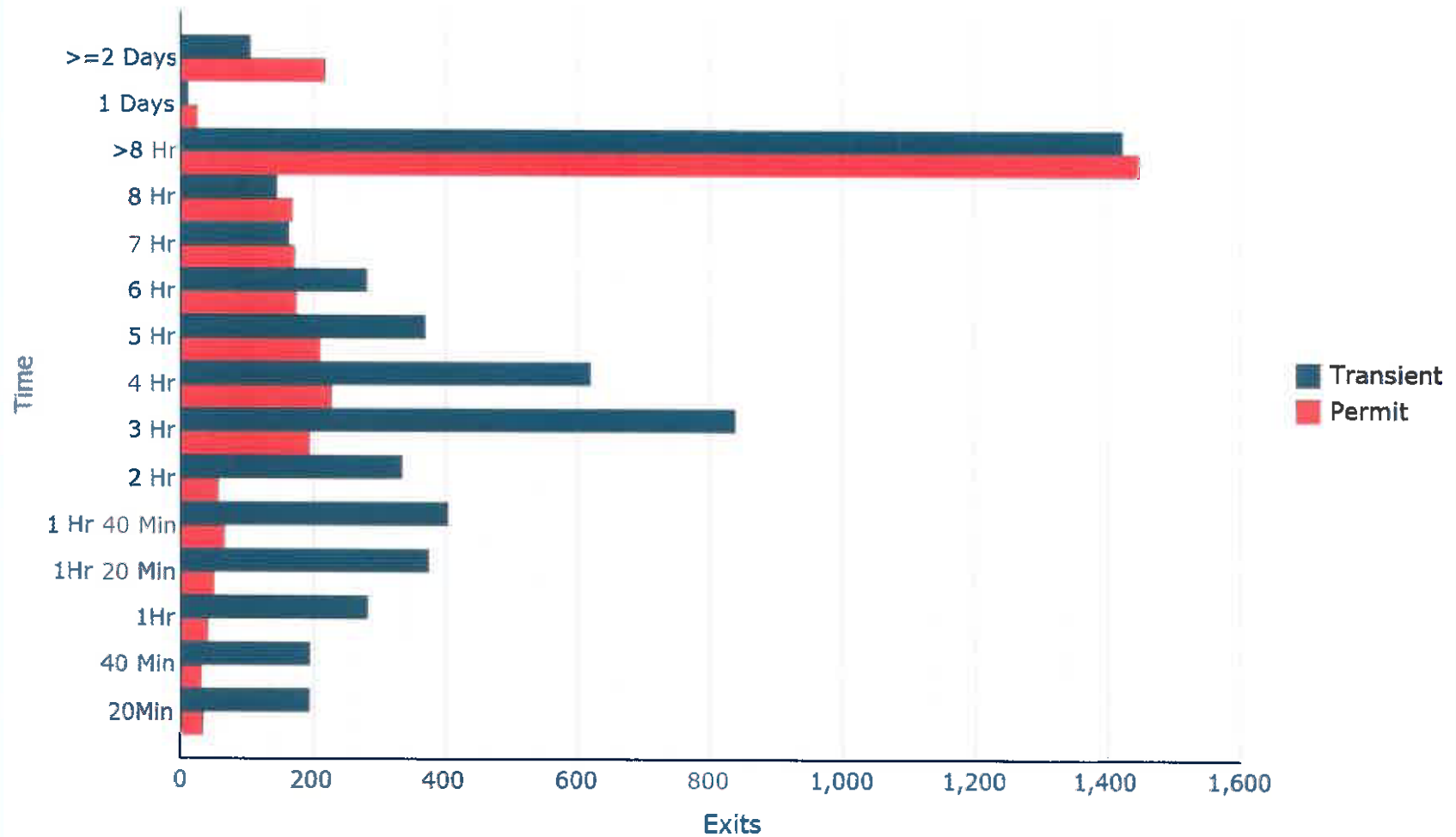
Usage

Duration

Revenue

Additional

### Duration Report





# Kent Central Gateway Report

## December 2017

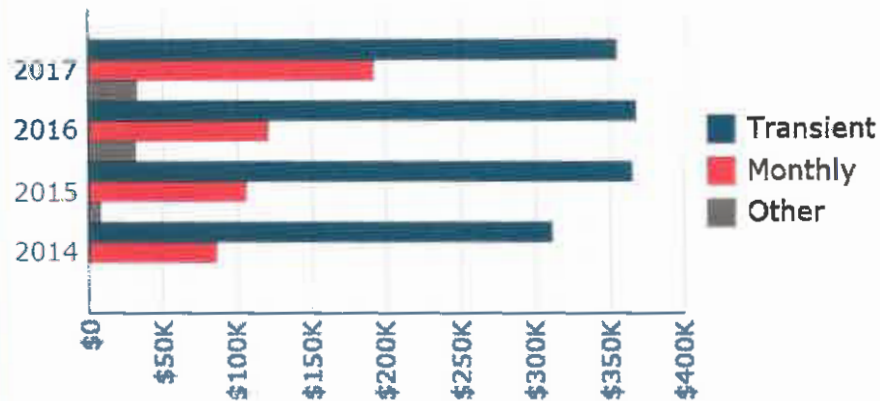
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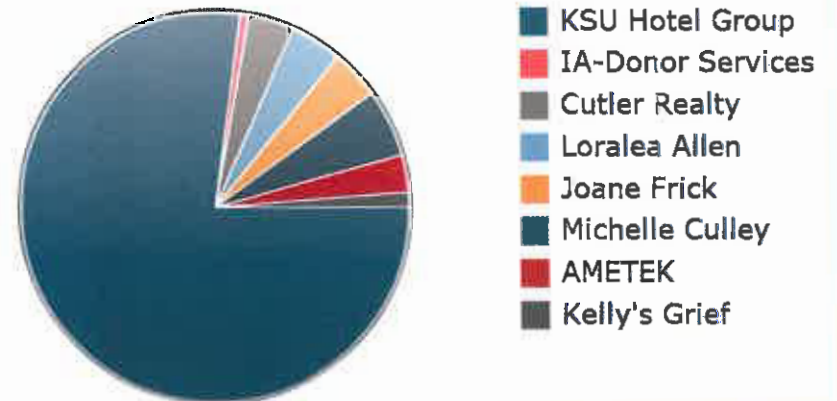
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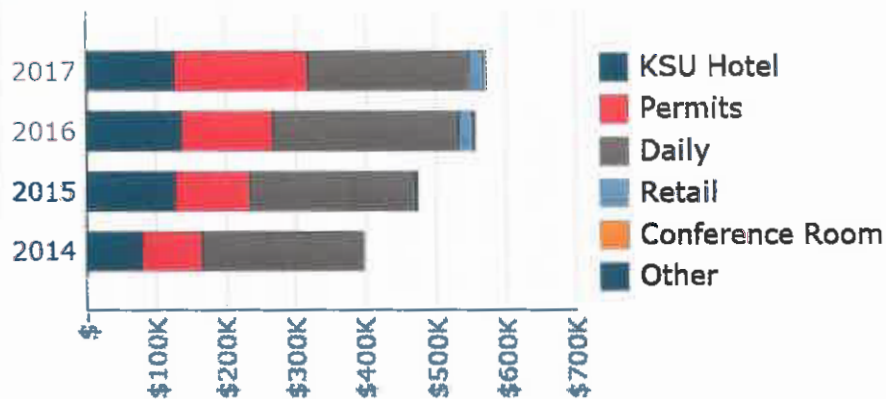
### Revenue By Category



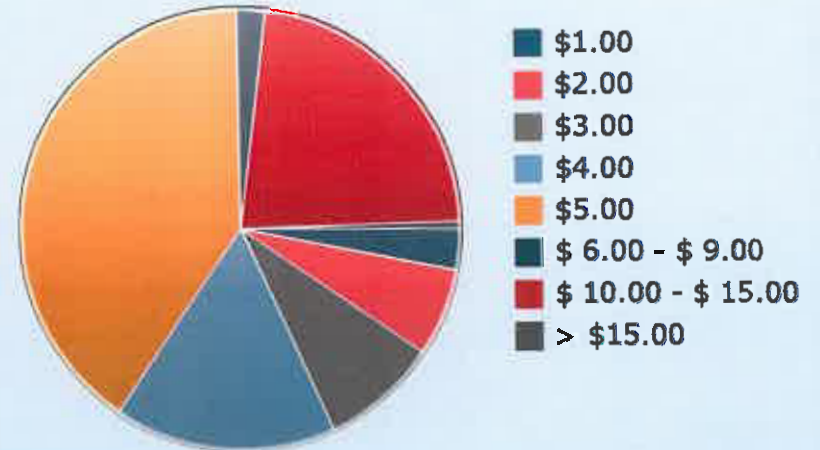
### Enet Validation



### Revenue By Source



### Rate Types Collected



## **Determined Ravens seek turnaround season**

**By JONAH ROSENBLUM / Staff Writer**

Posted Dec 13, 2017 at 12:01 AM

Updated Dec 13, 2017 at 7:45 PM

The Ravens form two lines at James L. Coll Gymnasium the Thursday afternoon before their first game against Woodridge.

Each group has to hit 12 layups in 25 seconds — or they do it again, or worse, have to run.

It sounds simple, but it's not.

After making (or missing) a layup, the shooter has to rebound the basketball and toss it roughly halfway down the court, so the person on the other line has a ball to take to the hoop. With three or four basketballs flying around the court, as one side misses and one side makes, as the timing gets thrown off, it gets messy.

At one point Thursday, one side was at 10 layups with roughly eight seconds to play, then missed four straight to end the drill. The frustration began to build.

"You're screwing up the outlet," one kid muttered.

"I don't want to hear it," coach Sonny Tilden said.

Later, the coach adds, "If we miss this many layups (Friday against Woodridge), it's going to be a long night."

### **A NEW LEAF**

There were a lot of long nights in 2016-17. At times, it seemed like every night was a long night as the Ravens finished 0-23.

Of Ravenna's 23 losses, 10 were by 30-plus points, including a 54-point loss to Benedictine to end the season.

"They would get behind, and it would be over with," Tilden said. "I want to compete. I don't want to go through something like we went through last year."

Tilden, in his second year coaching the Ravenna boys, along with many successful seasons coaching the Ravens girls, said this year's team carries a different attitude. It showed Tuesday, as the team picked up its first win under Tilden, a 51-48 triumph over Springfield.

"The kids would give up (last year), and I don't think this team will give up," Tilden said.

Sure enough, with an assist from Tilden, who moved the number of layups they needed to hit Thursday from 12 to 10, the Ravens passed their layup drill, and excelled when it came to their defensive drills.

Defense is where the Ravens will win their games, after all. On that opening Friday against the Bulldogs, they planned to switch defensive schemes every possession, a rarity in basketball. Tilden recalled one time when Ravenna upset a much more talented Kent Roosevelt squad with a similar strategy.

"I would like to do that every game," Tilden said, though he didn't commit to the strategy. "It confuses a coach."

## ALL ABOUT DEFENSE

Every coach talks about defense. A lot.

But the Ravens are particularly reliant on defense.

Last year, Ravenna struggled, big time, shooting the ball. Tilden agonized about it all season long.

These Ravens certainly appear to have more offensive potential.

Just look at 6-foot-8 Amil Stikes-Jenkins, who returned to Ravenna from CVCA. Or Isaiah Bradley, last year's leading scorer, and Kymani Jones, who both have the athleticism to drive to the basket. Bowen Brown has flashed promising post moves. The 6-4 forward Donovan Kelly "can jump out of the gym," per Tilden, even sending home a dunk last year.

Still, until someone proves they can pour in 20 points per game, the Ravens are going to have to rely on their defense. And if their offense is a work in progress, their defense is another story.

"Our coach is a very defensive guy," Jones, a senior, said. "We know that our offense will come. We have shooters, we have big men, but defense wins games."



Bradley is a uniquely good defender, leaping into passing lanes and ripping the ball away from post players.

"He's got great, quick hands," Tilden said. "He gets a lot of steals. He picks up some fouls where I don't think they are fouls, but he's so quick, the officials don't know what to do."

Jones is a sight to see, especially practicing the Box-and-One defense prior to Ravenna's opener against Woodridge. The defense is just what it sounds like — four players form a box and the fifth chases one player around the court. Jones, an All-District defensive back, is perfectly suited for the job.

"It's just like playing man-to-man on the football field," Jones said. "I have my man and there's nothing to worry about except your man."

Best of all, because Ravenna has no player that Tilden needs to keep on the floor for all 32 minutes, he can run the kids ragged a bit on the defensive end.

"We can go nine, 10 deep," Tilden said. "You can get tired. We'll just rotate players in."

#### UP FOR THE CHALLENGE

On Friday, the Box-and-One pitted Jones against Mason Lydic, as talented a scorer as there is in the PTC.

Jones didn't mind.

"He likes the challenge," Tilden said. "He wants to guard people and he says, 'Coach, let me have him,' and I like that in a player."

For years, Tilden said, Jones would take the PARTA bus to practice — and would make it to every single practice, for all three sports he played at Ravenna.

"Kymani is someone special to me," Tilden said. "He was always on time for everything. For someone to do that, that's something."

Jones said he just wants to leave the hardwood with a better taste in his mouth than after last year's 0-23 mark.

"The main thing is, we just want to have a way better season than last year," Jones said. "I don't want to leave that example for the younger guys, and the guys who will be seniors next year. I want to be an example for them."

This year's group is tight-knit. Several played together over the summer — and won a fair number of games.

In Thursday's practice, Tilden's Ravens seemed receptive.

After a pass to the sideline, Tilden told Bradley, "Make them throw it over the top. Watch the passing lane." Sure enough, the next play, Bradley cut off the angle, forcing a lob over his head, which he nearly snagged with a graceful leap. A lob versus a line drive can be the difference between an open 3-pointer — or having to reset.

The kids listen well, Tilden said. Quite a few simply say, "Yes, sir," and, "No, sir."

"This is a good bunch of kids," Tilden said. "They adjust well. They listen to me. We want to win. They really want to win."

After all those blowouts from a year ago, Tilden hopes to avoid a repeat. Last year, Ravenna lost 19-of-23 by double digits. This year, the Ravens lost to the Bulldogs by 30 — but followed that performance with that elusive first win.

"I don't want the kids to give up," Tilden said. "I just want them to play hard. I really do think we'll win some games."

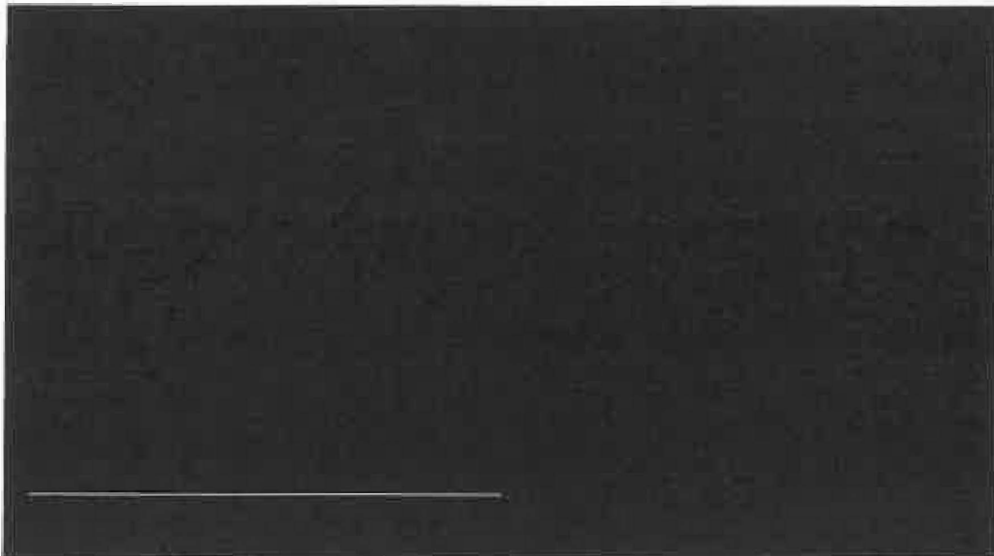


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#### **MOST POPULAR STORIES**



## Warming center open in Ravenna

By STAFF REPORT

Posted Dec 26, 2017 at 2:35 PM

Updated Dec 26, 2017 at 2:46 PM

Those without adequate shelter from single-digit temperatures are invited to stay overnight at The Center of Hope in Ravenna several nights this week.

The Center's warming center opens when temperatures fall below 10 degrees. The stay is free but visitors must leave the following morning.

The Center of Hope is located at 1081 W. Main St. in Ravenna. It will be open as a warming center at the following times:

- From 4 p.m. Wednesday to 8 a.m. Thursday;
- from 4 p.m. Saturday to 8 a.m. Sunday;
- from 4 p.m. Sunday to 8 a.m. Monday;
- from 4 p.m. Monday to 8 a.m. Tuesday; and
- from 4 p.m. Tuesday to 8 a.m. Wednesday.

PARTA will allow riders to get free rides to The Center of Hope on the Interurban Line from 4 p.m. until the last bus at 11:30 p.m. on the above days.

Anyone interested in becoming a volunteer for The Center of Hope may call 330-298-8430.



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### **MOST POPULAR STORIES**



# Warming centers open in Ravenna, Kent through Jan. 7

By Matthew Merchant / Reporter

Posted Dec 30, 2017 at 6:28 PM

Updated Dec 30, 2017 at 8:00 PM

More cold temperatures are on the way for the first week of the new year, so warming centers will be open at Family and Community Services' Center of Hope in Ravenna and Kent Social Services through Sunday, Jan. 7.

» Center of Hope, 1081 W. Main St., Ravenna. Hours are 4 p.m. to 8 a.m.

» Kent Social Services, 1066 S. Water St., Kent. Hours are 8 p.m. to 6 a.m.

Warming centers open for those who do not have adequate shelter overnight when temps fall below 10 degrees. There is no charge and visitors leave the next morning.

Transportation will be available to the centers for free via PARTA bus No. 35 on the Interurban Line. This free transportation service will begin at 4 p.m. and run until the last bus at 11:30 p.m. Riders will need to notify the driver that they are going to the centers for warming purposes.

F&CS is also looking for volunteers to help staff the centers. Female volunteers are especially needed. Volunteers must be 18 or older. Please call 330-298-8430.

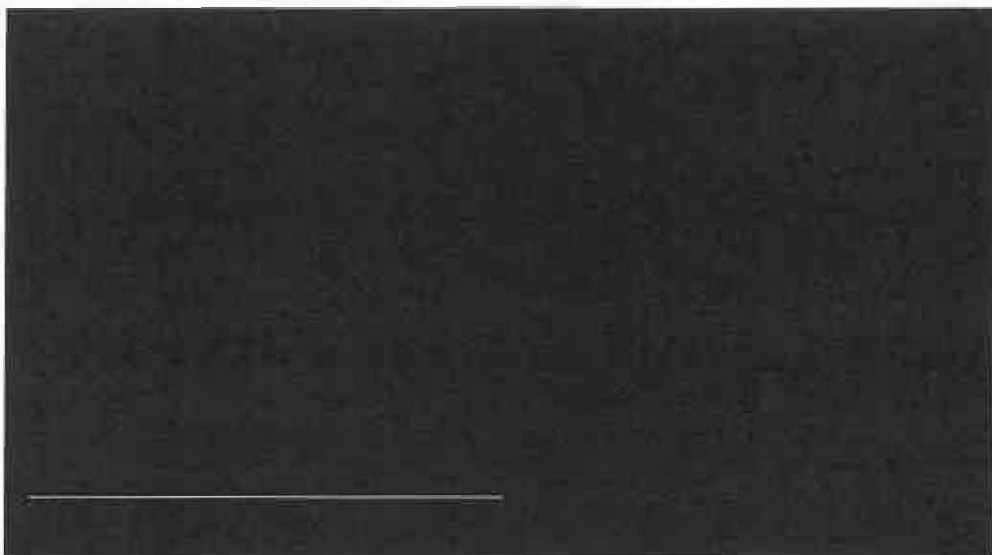


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## MOST POPULAR STORIES





## **Warming centers seek volunteers and donations**

**By Kelly Maile / Reporter**

Posted Jan 2, 2018 at 6:34 PM

Updated Jan 2, 2018 at 7:15 PM

After staying open overnight for a week, the warming station at the Center of Hope in Ravenna is running out of food and volunteers.

“We started using supplies for our regular hot meals for the warming station,” said Marquice Seward, assistant program manager of Kent Social Services. “We asked folks to donate pots of soup so we’re not taking away from the food we usually use for mealtime.”

On Monday evening, the Center asked the community for donations on Facebook and businesses responded within a few hours with soup, hats and gloves. John Biscardi, co-owner of Black Iron Grille, brought in a big kettle of beef soup. Guido’s delivered pasta and others brought in pork and sauerkraut and leftovers.

“Everybody is just a blessing,” said Donna Difiore, a volunteer at the Center of Hope that preps the food, staffs the center and works the 4 to 8 p.m. shifts. “I’ve been doing this five years. Each year, there’s a different story that we’ve helped a family or helped a mother or somebody get back on their feet. It’s tiring, but it’s worth it. It’s a blessing to see changed lives and to help somebody get out of the cold.”

Volunteers staff the Center in four hour shifts from 4 p.m. to 8 a.m. welcoming visitors and offering hot soup and chili.

“I’m having a hard time getting people, especially women, for the midnight-to-4 a.m. shifts,” Difiore said.

The warming station opened the day after Christmas when temperatures fell below 9 degrees. Most nights, there’s at least seven people sleeping on cots at the Center.

“We had two people the first night. I think four the second night. Seven the third. It’s all a blur,” Difiore said. “We have a married couple that’s here this week. We’ve had a few new people. A lot of people come in to get warm or something to eat and leave. We’re accommodating a lot of people.”

The Center of Hope in Ravenna and Kent Social Services will remain open overnight this week as warming stations for those in need of a place to stay amid below freezing temperatures.

"It's for anyone who might be homeless or someone who is facing emergency if they're pipes burst at home," Seward said. "That's the purpose of the warming station. It's for people that really desperately need it."

The station at Kent Social Services is open from 8 p.m. to 6 a.m. this week.

"The centers open when temperatures are below 10 degrees," Seward said. "It looks like we will be open all of this week through Sunday."

PARTA is providing free rides to the Center from 4 p.m. until the last bus at 11:30.

The center is up and running this week, but still is in need of donations and especially volunteers.

Anyone Interested in becoming a volunteer at the Center of Hope may call 330-298-8430.

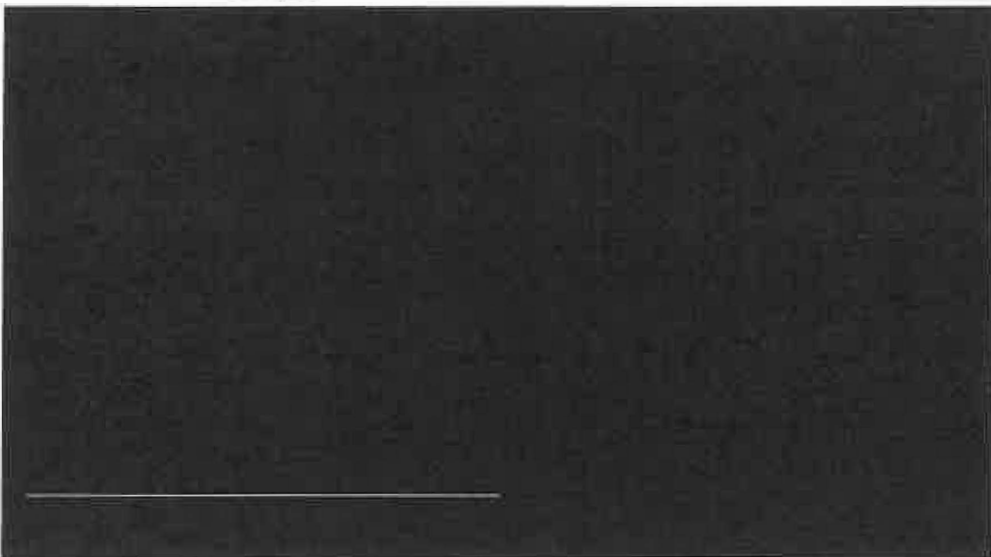


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### **MOST POPULAR STORIES**



## Senior Life

By Sally Kelly

Posted Jan 5, 2018 at 12:01 AM

No question winter is here ... full blast. Maybe your reaction was the same as mine: shut down life, close the door, turn the heat up, and make a hot cup of tea! Well, that lasted about 24 hours, and then I had to get out of the house ... had to go do something, had to get re-involved.

Now that we are a couple weeks into frigid temperatures, and bad road conditions, what are your plans to get re-involved?

Do not let bad roads keep you alone inside. Invite a friend to go out to McDonald's for lunch ... call a friend who is comfortable driving in slush and snow, or call the Portage Area Regional Transportation Authority (PARTA) and schedule a door to door ride with them (330-678-1287).

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Once you decide to GO, where are you going to go? Maybe just a walk through Walmart, that lunch at McDonald's with a friend, or maybe a visit to a senior center.

For those of you who do not already attend one of our area's senior centers you, like many others, may be confused about what the Portage County (Ravenna), Aurora, or Streetsboro centers are and who goes there.

This is the best description of a senior center that I can find: "A senior center is a non-institutional organization that provides social, physical, and mental support for its members by offering various participatory programs. The members are independent and require no assistance to function. They may require walkers or wheelchairs for mobility but require no assistance with bodily functions or eating and suffer no mental impairments such as Alzheimer's or dementia."

Does this sound like you? Maybe you could be a center participant.

Maybe this year you will visit one of the area's senior centers. Live in Aurora? Try its senior center (330-995-91480). Or, the Portage County Senior Center has participants from all over the county even though it is located in Ravenna (330-297-3456). There is also a senior center in Streetsboro (330-626-2398).

There are many other programs for seniors located throughout our county as in Garrettsville, Randolph, Rootstown and Windham. In order to find out the meeting dates and locations, contact the trustees in these communities.

The Skeels-Vernon L. Mathews Community Center in Ravenna also offers programming for senior citizens; call 330-297-0192 for details.

Immaculate Conception Church in Ravenna sponsors the Young At Heart program on the third Monday of each month (contact Elizabeth Francis at 330-297-5647 for specific details).

If you are sitting at home alone and are looking for a new experience, save this information, and give it a try.

---

Another opportunity to meet some new people (to have a conversation with someone other than your dog or cat) is the New Adventure Widows & Widowers social group which meets for dinner and conversation on the second and fourth Wednesdays of each month. They also meet for breakfast every Saturday morning at 7:30 a.m. at Bob Evans at 175 Howe Ave., in Cuyahoga Falls.

For more information, contact Kathy Pfenninger at 330-630-9275.

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I recently received information from Dawn Ruffo, the coordinator for the Streetsboro Senior Center, that they will be offering chair yoga on every second Monday of the month from 11 a.m. to noon. They do charge \$10 for each session.

For more information about what other activities are being offered, contact Dawn at 330-626-2398.

---

As I mentioned a couple of months ago, the Portage County Senior Center has a new director, and she has some great ideas for new programming. (330-297-3456)

For instance on Fridays, she is still sponsoring an Art Group at 9 a.m. and cards and dominos at 1 p.m.

Tai Chi classes are now being offered twice a week on Monday and Wednesday mornings at 10:30 a.m.



On Wednesday mornings they are offering a variety of programs including one called "Slips, Trips & Falls," and another on diabetes education, as well as chair yoga.

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I understand that it is difficult to walk into an established group of people, when you feel like you are the odd man out! BUT, I guarantee that you will feel like a new person, a person with a new friend, a person with something to do, a person with a new outlook on life. Being involved can change your whole mental attitude and in turn your health ... believe me, studies have been done and it is true.

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Happy New Year, make this the year of a new you!

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Sally Kelly

330-687-9501

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#### **MOST POPULAR STORIES**



## **Portage warming center open through Wednesday**

Posted Jan 15, 2018 at 10:39 AM

The Center of Hope in Ravenna has reopened its warming center through 8 a.m. Wednesday.

Family & Community Services, which provides the service in Portage County, will only be opening the Ravenna site, at 1081 W. Main St. The warming center operations are being consolidated to more efficiently use volunteers and resources. No warming center services will be available at Kent Social Services.

Everyone needing a warm place to stay will be welcomed at the Center of Hope. During the first critical cold spell this winter which started Dec. 26 and lasted until Jan. 7, the sites averaged up to 12 people a night, including some families.

Warming centers open when temps fall below 10 degrees for those who do not have adequate shelter overnight. There is no charge and visitors leave the next morning.

The Center of Hope will be open 24 hours on Monday and Tuesday and until 8 a.m. Wednesday.

Transportation will be available for free via PARTA's bus No. 35 on the line between Kent and Ravenna. This free transportation service will begin at 4 p.m. each day and run until the last bus at 11:30 p.m. Riders going to the Center of Hope will need to notify the driver that they are going to the Center of Hope for warming purposes.



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### **MOST POPULAR STORIES**

