

New Year, New...Everything!

2013 brings the future to public transportation in Savannah-Chatham County! Our Joe Murray Rivers, Jr. Intermodal Transit Center will open later this year, ushering in exciting new technologies and improvements to our service. Full details can be found on our website, but here are some highlights.

- ★ The new transit center will provide a convenient, comfortable, one-stop-shop for commuters, pedestrians, cyclists, tourists, and Greyhound travelers.
 - Climate-controlled waiting areas with vending machines and other amenities
 - Off-street bus bays providing safer transfer sites for passengers and surrounding traffic
- ★ Buses in the downtown area will run on a pulse system—on the hour, half-hour, or other regular interval, easy to remember. Each board change we've done since June 2012 has helped us shift toward this timing while keeping the adjustments small and gradual for the community.
- ★ Real-time data displays for sharing up-to-the-moment information.



What else is new?



- ★ The next board change is scheduled for March 25, 2013.
- ★ CAT CUB: introducing smaller vehicles to increase efficiency on routes with limited ridership.
- ★ Our newest ferry, the Mary Musgrove, is already a local favorite for her quieter ride and beautifully detailed interior.

Best Practices: Safety

Less Distracting, More Driving

According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), dialing a phone while driving increases a teen's risk of crashing by 6 times, and texting while driving increases the risk by 23 times. Talking or texting on the phone takes everyone's focus off the task of driving.

If you want to text while you travel, Catch a CAT! But if you're going to drive, then for everyone's safety, please remember this: Eyes on the road, hands on the wheel. All the time.

Did You Know?

Our last newsletter shined the spotlight on Civil Rights leader **W.W. Law**, who just so happens to be the focus of this year's Savannah Black Heritage Festival. Celebrated throughout the month of February, the Savannah Black Heritage Festival—founded by W.W. Law—has adopted "Living the Legacy: Celebrating the Life of Westley W. Law" as its theme this year.



REMEMBER:

St. Patrick's Day is right around the corner, and the parade will be held on Saturday, March 16th.

SPOTLIGHT: OPERATOR FREDDIE LAMAR

Chatham Area Transit (CAT) is overflowing with civic-minded employees who are actively involved in our local community. One person in particular stands at the forefront: Freddie Lamar. Freddie began his career as a bus operator with the Savannah Transit Authority in 1977. He retired 30 years later, then had a change of heart and returned to Chatham Area Transit in 2009 as a part-time operator. Upon his return he stated, “I didn’t know that I would miss the passengers so much.” And you can believe his passengers missed him too!

Just this year, Freddie was recognized by the Savannah-Chatham Metropolitan Police Department (SCMPD) for over 20 years of volunteer service. Freddie has become a staple among the SCMPD volunteers and a friend to those in the communities of Savannah and Chatham County. It is commonplace for people to wave or blow their horn as they pass Freddie while he’s on duty for CAT.

Also recently, during CAT’s Holiday Extravaganza and Safety Recognition Program in December 2012, Freddie was honored with the Executive Director’s Award for being the most positive and encouraging employee in the workplace. Dr. Chadwick Reese selected Mr. Lamar as the first recipient of the award stating, “Freddie has become the unofficial ambassador of Chatham Area Transit. His positive spirit, humor, and willingness to always assist his coworkers made the choice easy.”



With typical modesty, Freddie commented on his recognitions, “I love giving back to the community. I always try to inspire others to do the same.” Congratulations, Freddie. You deserve it!

Photos on right of Freddie, family, and friends from CAT Operations & Maintenance Facility groundbreaking and Freddie as CAT mascot, Tipper.



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