



ST. FRANCOIS COUNTY COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP'S

Partnership Report



September 2019

Adding Value, Bringing Hope

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SMTS to Offer County Bus Service

Working in any social work position or with an assistance agency, it is a quickly learned that one of the biggest barriers that the citizens of St. Francois County has is transportation.

SMTS Director of Operations Ginny Smith addressed Desloge Chamber of Commerce members at their monthly luncheon on Tuesday to unveil the newest undertaking by the transportation company.

SMTS launched "SMTS Connect" on Aug. 5 to take a huge bite out of the barrier of transportation. The route will be a deviated route and at initial start-up will encompass the towns of Farmington, Park Hills, Leadington, Desloge, and Bonne Terre. "SMTS Connect" is for anyone to ride as long as they are able to pay their fare.

Buses will run in 60-minute loops and there will be a south route (Bus A) and a north route (Bus B) with Mineral Area College as the "transfer station" for individuals to go from one route to the other.

The new transportation will feature four types of stops.

First, the "transfer" stop will always be at Mineral Area College. This stop is for individuals to transfer from a north route to a south route bus and vice versa. There is no charge to board the bus at the transfer stop regardless of whether an individual is transferring from another bus, starting there, or boarding after shopping.

The second type of stop is the "always stop" which as it implies, is a set of stops where the bus will make a stop every time it completes the loop. Always stops for the north route or B Bus include the DFS office in Park Hills, East Missouri Action Agency (EMAA) in Park Hills, EMAA Desloge, St. Francois Heights Apts., Walmart in Desloge

(Lawn and Garden Entrance), and Bonne Terre City Hall.

Always stops for the south route or Bus A include Walmart in Farmington, Whispering Pines Apts., Country Mart in Farmington, Ben-Nor Senior Apts., Birch Tree Apts., and the West Industrial Park Hager Lake Pavilion.

The third type of stop is the "request stop." Just as the name says, a request stop has to be requested by the rider. There are three ways this can be done: the rider can ask the bus driver to stop there to exit the bus; the rider may ask the driver to be picked up at a later scheduled request stop on the same day; or the rider may call the SMTS office at least 30 minutes prior to the scheduled request stop time and ask to be picked up.

Request stops for the north route include Leadington Plaza, Leadington Apts., Social Security Administration Office in Park Hills, Park Hills Country Mart, Flat River Apts., Park Hills Save-a-Lot, and Bonne Terre Country Mart.

Request stops for the south route include Farmington Senior Center, Hilltop Apts., St. Francois County Courthouse, the VA Clinic in Farmington, and the Ministerial Alliance Food Pantry in Farmington.

In addition, bus drivers are allowed to deviate one-fourth mile from the route to pick up or drop off a rider, however, this must be arranged at least 24 hours in advance by calling the SMTS office.

One of the biggest concerns that came up in the Desloge Chamber meeting was "will individuals in the community be able to afford to ride the bus?" Smith told the chamber that the fares for riding the bus are as little as \$2.

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Our Mission

To build, nurture, and strengthen families, insuring that every person has the opportunity to become a healthy, productive, and contributing member of the community.

Our Goals:

- Parents Working
- Healthy Children & Families
- Children & Families Safe in Homes & Communities
- Children Prepared to Enter School
- Children & Youth Succeeding in School
- Youth Ready to Enter Adulthood

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SFCCP Board Meetings
 (Open To The Public)
Wednesday at Noon,
October 9, 2019
Training Room at SFC Weber Rd. Facility
1101 Weber Rd., Farmington, MO

Tune In To These Monthly Radio
Programs on KREI
with Mark Toti & Mike Ramsey
Community Partnership Radio Show
3rd Thurs., 9:30 a.m. and
on KFMO 4th Mon., 7:35 a.m.

Missouri Vietnam Wall Run 2019



Liberty Riders of America™ will be hosting the Missouri Vietnam Wall Run 2019™ that will take place on September 21, 2019, the day after National POW/MIA Recognition Day, to honor POW-MIA's that are still unaccounted for and to honor Vietnam Veterans. This is Missouri's first statewide motorcycle run to the new Missouri National Veterans Memorial in Perryville, an exact replica with every detail of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Wall in Washington, D.C. The ride starts in Springfield, Missouri and participants can ride the entire route, or join at one of the stops.

There are estimated to be a couple hundred bikes leaving Springfield and many more riders joining in at the designated stops. On the website, there is also a St. Louis group listed that will meet with the larger group at Fredericktown that anyone can join. In addition, a tour bus has been chartered to transport several Vietnam veterans and a guest round trip from Springfield at no charge to them.

There is **no charge** to participate in this event and all vehicles are welcome to follow the group.

- **6:30 a.m.** registration begins at Mike's Unique Mall at 3335 W. Sunshine Street in Springfield, Missouri
- **8:00 a.m.** Depart Mike's Unique Mall
- **9:30 to 10:00 a.m.** stop at Garden Inn in Cabool, Missouri,
- **11:10 to 11:45 a.m.** stop at Current River Express in Van Buren, Missouri
- **1:05 to 1:30 p.m.** stop at Wal Mart Super Center in Fredericktown, Missouri
- **2:30 p.m.** arrive at the Missouri National Vietnam Memorial Wall in Perryville, Missouri.
- **3:00 p.m.** POW-MIA Ceremony will take place at the Vietnam Wall.
- **8:00 p.m.** Vietnam Veterans Honor Ceremony honoring all Vietnam Vets along with Bikers on the Square annual Chinese Lantern release at the Perryville town square, where the annual Bikers on the Square Rally is also being held that offers fun, food and live music.

Guest speakers at the 3:00 p.m. ceremony:

- **Major General James Livingston**, Medal of Honor Recipient (the U.S. highest military decoration) for his heroic actions in the Vietnam War and served active duty in Marine Corps for 33 years before retiring.
- **Charles Crandell**, Ex-POW Navy and awarded for his actions in the USS Pueblo Incident of 1968, captured by North Korean forces – POW January 23, 1968 until his release on December 23, 1968.
- **Jim Eddleman**, one of the founding members of the Missouri National Veterans Memorial and Vietnam Veteran who was involved in Tet Offensive in 1968. Eddleman and his wife donated 46 acres in Perryville so the memorial could be built.
- **Jackie Smith**, Hall of Fame tight end, who played in the NFL for the St. Louis Cardinals and Dallas Cowboys, will sing the National Anthem.

Other dignitaries will also be present at the ceremony. Honor Guard will be posting the Colors along with a black balloon release with replica dog tags with all remaining missing servicemen from Missouri.

Also joining the run from Springfield to Perryville is **Adam Sandoval**, YouTube star who ventured out on a two year road trip called ScootinAmerica with his dog, Scooter, visiting all Harley Davidson dealerships in the U.S. to raise money and awareness for our military and their families.

The run will be escorted by the Missouri Highway Motor Patrol and several Springfield, Missouri and Joplin, Missouri motor patrol officers along with MoDOT assisting.

The Vietnam soldiers did not get the respect they so richly deserved when they returned home from the war. Everyone is encouraged to attend this event to show your support as we honor and express our appreciation to Veterans and their families, who sacrificed their all so we can be free today!

For more information on the run or to contact us, go to www.missourivietnamwallrun.org or follow the Facebook event **Missouri Vietnam Wall Run 2019**.

—Submitted by Mary Taylor, Liberty Riders of America

Resource Fair Offered to Older Foster Youth

The Chafee program through Preferred Family Healthcare will be holding a resource fair for older foster youth ages 14-23 on October 1st from 5-7 p.m. at the Farmington Public Library Community Room. We are currently seeking local resources in the area that may like to set up a table at the resource fair and

provide these youth information and enrollment opportunities for any programs they may be eligible for. Table reservations are free! If interested, please contact Cat Leonard at 573-747-8500 or email her at caleonard@pfh.org.

SMTS

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For a single ride, the cost is \$1 per boarding per person. This means that an individual who wants to go from the DFS office in Park Hills to Farmington Walmart and then back will pay \$2 for the round-trip ride.

The organization will also offer an all-day pass for \$3 per person which includes unlimited boarding for the day of purchase (Hand stamp required at first boarding). In addition, an all-day family pass for up to five individuals can be purchased for \$6 and includes unlimited boarding for the day or purchase as well. All persons in the group must board and exit the bus at the same locations at the same times. Children under 5 ride free.

Prepaid punch cards will also be available. A \$10 card will allow 12 boarding (two free) and a \$20 card will allow for 26 boarding (six free). Monthly and annual passes will also be available and include unlimited boarding. Monthly passes are \$35 and annual passes are \$315. Monthly passes require the rider's name to be printed legibly on the card and are subject to verification. Annual passes will be sold only from December through mid-February and must be purchased at the SMTS office or by special arrangement (these require rider's photo on the pass).

"It is important to note that as of this time, purchases may only be made in the form of cash and cash fares bought on the bus must be exact – drivers will NOT have change," said Smith. "Because of the paperwork that has to be done to set up the

routes or change the stops the route that you see now will be the way it is for at least one year."

"We hope to be able to add the cities of Leadwood, Terre du Lac, and possibly Bismarck after the first year of service."

Some reminders that Smith gave during the meeting was that at this time the stops have no shelters although they are asking local businesses to perhaps consider providing some. Also buses may deviate 10 minutes from the schedule, all riders must wear seat belts and children must be in safety seats as required by law (not provided), riders are asked to be courteous to each other that includes being mindful of shopping bags and other belongings, and service animals are welcome.

It is important to note that regular buses will not be able to accommodate riders with mobility devices (wheelchairs, walkers, etc.) however, there will be an alternate bus running to accommodate these riders.

Routes will run from 7 a.m. until 7 p.m. Monday through Saturday (no Sunday buses) and will not run on major holidays and during inclement weather. For any questions please contact SMTS at 1-866-349-8525

"SMTS will hold a public meeting on this new bus system on Thursday at the Farmington Public Library beginning at 10 a.m. We will be giving out some free passes and other small prizes at the event," said Smith.

Matt McFarland is a reporter for the Daily Journal. He can be reached at 573-518-3616.

Community Events and Activities

- **Inspiration on the Runway:** Visions of Hope brings the 2nd annual "Inspiration on the Runway" event on **Thursday, September 5**, which will include an evening of shopping, dining and fashion. Doors open at the Centene Center for the event at 5:30 p.m. followed by dinner at 6:15 and an evening of INSPIRATION! Proceeds benefit the Visions of Hope vocational and social training program. Single tickets are \$35 each or purchase a table of 6 for \$200. Go to www.visionsofhoperesale.com for more information and to purchase your tickets. Limited to 150 tickets.
- **Diabetes Self-Management Class:** Recognized by the American Diabetes Association, this free six-week program helps those affected by diabetes, including family members and caregivers, learn skills to more effectively manage symptoms. It can be combined with other programs and treatments. The next six-week session begins on **September 5th** at the Farmington Public Library at 9:30 a.m. To register, call 573-431-1947, ext. 102 or 151.
- **Seeds of Wisdom Conference:** This 16th annual women's conference is a highlight of the year. This year the event will be on **Thursday, September 12** at the Centene Center from 8:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. The event is free but registration is required. Hear inspiring speakers about health and wellness and enjoy the many information booths available to you. Continental breakfast and lunch are complementary. Go to www.parklandhealthcenter.org/seedsofwisdom for more information.
- **Non-Profit Ministry Fair and Concert:** Do you have a non-profit ministry that reaches out to the community and you'd like to share that information? Here's your chance on **September 14th!** Just \$35 per booth and that includes two free tickets to the **Adelaide concert**. 1st 20 registrants receive VIP tickets! More info at www.yfcalive.info.
- **2nd Annual Pit Boss Competition:** A signature event of Park Hills Leadington Chamber of Commerce to be held in conjunction with Crusin' for a Cause to benefit the Park Hills Meals on Wheels. The event is on **Saturday, October 5**. Registration is now open. Visit <https://business.phcoc.net/events/calendar> for all the details.
- **Girls Night Out:** United Way of St. Francois County is hosting the annual Girls' Night Out event at Twin Oaks Winery. The fun happens on **Thursday, October 24** from 5-7 p.m. \$20 per person plus an unwrapped toy for the Season of Hope program. This event is a blast every year and a great fundraiser for an amazing cause right here in your county! Contact Clay Whitener at (573) 760-8929 or director@unitedwayofsfcc.org for more information.



United Way of
St. Francois County



If you would like to be removed from our mailing list, please call 573-760-0212 or email tiffany@sfccp.org.

SFCCP Board of Directors

Karen Adams - SEMO Mental Health - Retired
Rob Baker - East Missouri Action Agency
Cynthia Barton - Board of Probation & Parole
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Kim Buckley - Central School District
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Chris Saylor - BJC Behavioral Health
Skylar Schwartz - Central School District
Al Sullivan - SFC I.D.A.
Alan Wells - 9-1-1 Joint Commission
Becky Yount - West County School District

RECCURRING CLASSES & SUPPORT GROUPS

- ◆ **Childbirth & Breastfeeding Classes:** Offered by Parkland Health Center. FREE to all participants.
 - Childbirth Classes** are on the 2nd Saturday of each month, 8 to noon
Open to any expectant parents.
 - Breastfeeding Classes** are on the 1st Monday of each month
from 5-7 p.m. Open to any new or expectant mom.For more information on either of these classes, call 573-760-8500 or visit www.parklandhealthcenter.org/baby.
- ◆ **Diabetes Self-Management Class:** Free classes provided by Parkland Health Center on the **1st and 3rd Wednesdays of each month** from 1-3 p.m. at the Farmington Public Library. For more information, call 760-8396.
- ◆ **Diabetic Class:** Parkland Health Mart Pharmacy is offering a free class on the **3rd Thursday of each month** in Farmington at Midwest Health Group at 1 p.m. For more info, visit parklandrx.com.
- ◆ **Life After Loss Support Group:** Sponsored by Heart & Soul Hospice, the group is a safe place to process grief, learn healthy coping skills & connect with others. Open to public. **3rd Thursday each month**, 4:30-6:00 p.m. at 412 Cayce St., Farmington. Please call 756-7066 or email farmingtonhospice@pmma.org.
- ◆ **NAMI Connection Recovery Support Group & Family Support Group:** Both meetings are on the **2nd Thursday of each month** at 7 p.m. at the LIFE Center for Independent Living, 725 E. Karsch Blvd., Farmington. Call 573-701-4185 for more information. www.nami.org.