



TRANSIT TIDBITS

Issue 153 JANUARY 2025

THOUGHT FOR THE MONTH OF JANUARY 2025

Every day is a new opportunity to
change your life.

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WELCOME TO JAMESTOWN
Maureen Wegenke, Director
James River Public Transit

Jamestown is very excited (albeit a bit nervous) in hosting the 2025 DTA Rodeo. Although we are not a big city with all the amenities, there's plenty to see and do here, and we're ready to show you the best of Jamestown. Here's a quick rundown of local activities and places of interest.

First of all, we have a variety of local restaurants that will satisfy most any palate. From the Buffalo Grill with their fine cuisine and unique atmosphere, to the Drift Prairie Brewing Company where you can try a sampler of locally brewed ales and try a pan of lavash (my favorite). Hondo's Hideaway has outdoor seating with a great view of the reservoir. Babbs has your morning (afternoon or evening) fix for specialty coffees and pastries or sandwiches, while Wooly's is just a fun place to meet for drinks after a long day. We also have Chinese, Italian, and Mexican restaurants and so much more that are sure to please.

Thinking you will be bored? Think again! We have plenty of things to keep you busy. Of course, you can't leave Jamestown without seeing the largest buffalo, exploring the Frontier Village and visiting the Buffalo Museum. Pitstop Sports for the sports

enthusiasts has axe-throwing, golf and laser shooting simulators, along with beverages and tasty snacks.



Play disc golf, walk the trails or just sit and enjoy the scenery at Jamestown Reservoir Island. Rent a kayak at a kayak kiosk at several locations along the river.



Check out the Jamestown Speedway for racing and Motocross activities. And, if you're up for an adventure, take a tour amongst the bison or try your luck at the Escape Room at the old jail in the Stutsman County Courthouse (reservations 48 hrs in advance).



If shopping is more your style, check out some of our local boutiques. The Melted Crayon and Simply Dweh Boutique has a little bit for everyone, while Junk in the Trunk and Grandma Gerties Attic showcase treasures from repurposed items, antiques and collectibles. Hand Pick'd Boutique features trendy and modern women's clothes of all sizes. The Story Nook is a whimsical children's bookstore with charming gifts for the kids/grandkids in your life.

These are just a few highlights of what Jamestown has to offer. So, while we may not be big, we pride ourselves on our unique experiences. We hope to see you at the DTA Roadeo and Conference this year!

**DTA Board Meeting Scheduled
January 27th and 28th
Mobridge, SD**

**GOLDEN VALLEY/BILLINGS
Karen Schmeling, Director
Golden Valley/Billings County**

Greetings from the Golden Valley/Billings County Council on Aging! Our public transit serves the citizens of Golden Valley and Billings counties. We have six vans in use. The oldest one received hail damage last May when Beach was hit by a strong storm. It will be repaired and ready to be sold soon. We received the newest van last November. Being on the western edge of the state we put a lot of miles with trips to Bismarck, Dickinson, Bowman, Williston and Miles City, MT.

Multiple times each week we are told that we are very appreciated by our communities. The pictures are of my daughter's house in Beach after the hailstorm and our newest van.



Daughter's Home



New Van

PUBLIC TRANSIT VERY IMPORTANT IN RURAL COUNTIES

**Sally Kliniske, Director
Pembina County Meals and
Transportation**

The goal of public transportation is to enhance the access in rural areas to health care, shopping, education, employment, public services, and recreation. In rural counties, enhancing the access to these services is often a challenge. Residents of rural counties often have to travel many miles to access medical care and other essential services. Pembina County is a rural

county in northeast North Dakota. Pembina County Public Transit provides services to county residents to access all of these important needs. We strive to meet the needs of everyone who calls us for a ride. We have 6 vehicles, 5 used on a regular basis and 1 back-up vehicle. We serve every community in Pembina County. Recently we were able to provide rides to 30 different residents of Pembina County. To an urban area this isn't a big number, a medical stop can be just a few blocks away. In a small rural county one medical trip can be 50 or more miles away. On this particular day all 6 vehicles were used. Three passengers used a wheelchair. We took 2 passengers to dialysis in Grand Forks (86 miles one way), two passengers to an eye specialist in Fargo (166 miles one way), 5 other passengers to medical appointments in Cavalier and Grand Forks, 6 people to places of employment, 2 people shopping, 2 people to a senior citizen meal site, 11 students to school/after school activities. We picked up passengers in every corner of Pembina County-Walhalla, Backoo, Cavalier, Pembina, Drayton. Not every day is this busy or has this many passengers. We are thankful we have enough vehicles and part time drivers to assist the residents of Pembina County with accessing the essential services that enhance their live

**2025 DTA CONFERENCE
Host City - Jamestown, ND
September 12th through the 17th
Host Hotel – Baymont by Wyndham
Rodeo & Conference – Jamestown
Civic Center**

SUCCESSFUL BUILDING PROJECTS

Dale Bergan, Director
Cities Area Transit

Here is a little bit of what has been taking place in Grand Forks for the past couple of years. Grand Forks was successful in receiving two grants for the two major building projects. The first phase beginning in 2019 and completed in late 2020 and the second phase of the project beginning late 2023 and just finished. The total project cost was projected to be approximately \$16 million and so far, we are \$720,000 plus under budget. It was a lot of work following and watching contractors and making sure it was done properly, the way it was planned. Oh yes, we had change orders, because when you open up walls of a 41 year old building all the wrong items get exposed. We lived out of the city public works department for a year during the first phase but we were able to stay in the building during the second phase. It is a beautiful and spacious facility with room to grow and it is enjoyed by everyone. No more cold spots in the building or complaints about a cold building. The lights are all automatic throughout the building. Yes, no more light switches that are forgotten to be shut off. There is plenty of space for training and meetings and vehicle parking. We also doubled our fuel capacity with the new fuel island and pumps.

We welcome anyone to stop by to see what was done and in the near future we hope to be holding training clinics here in Grand Forks.

TRAINING UPDATE

Contact Information

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rod@southcentralseniors.org

PASS Training and Defensive Driving classes were held in Watertown, SD, on

December 30th and 31st. Thanks to Aaron Thompson, Andy Sharp, Bryce Lambert

and everyone at CTWSI for making these classes possible.

Are you or someone from your agency Interested in becoming a PASS trainer? CTAA now offers PASS - Train the Trainer certification 100% online. It's never been easier to become a PASS trainer. Please contact Rod for more info.

If you have drivers/staff in need of training or re-certification and would like to inquire about or schedule a class, please contact Rod using the information listed above.

Tidbit Articles:

Please contact me with articles for your agency.

Recycle:

Please share your Transit Tidbit with your staff and any interested persons.

Address:

Directors, please check with your bookkeepers as well as the rest of your staff to assure they have the correct DTA Mailing Address.

Thanks to all!



Jacquie Senger, Executive Director, DTA

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