MetroWest Regional Transit Authority & Kiessling Transit~Edition 8, Volume 25, November 6, 2023





Hub Happenings



November Holidays

November 1 - All Saints Day November 1-2 - Dios Los Muertos November 5 - Daylight Savings November 11 - Veteran's Day November 23 - Thanksgiving November 24 - Black Friday November 27 - Cyber Monday

Native American Heritage Month

Relationship Building and Partnerships

By: Jim Nee, MWRTA

As a public transit agency situated within the MetroWest corridor of Massachusetts, we here at MWRTA are acutely aware of the critical role that local, state, and federal partnerships play in the orchestration of effective and efficient public transportation networks. Our collaborative efforts with entities such as the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) Region 1, the Massachusetts Department of Transportation (MassDOT), the City of Framingham, and other regional transit partners are vital in addressing the multifarious needs of our transit-dependent population in driving regional economic growth.

The partnership with the FTA Region 1 is important for obtaining the necessary federal capital funding and adhering to federal regulations that govern our operations. This relationship ensures that we are aligned with national safety and service standards, which bolsters public confidence in our services. The FTA's support extends beyond funding, providing technical assistance that enhances our operational capabilities and enables us to pursue innovative solutions in mobility.

Our collaboration with MassDOT is equally indispensable. As the state's primary transportation agency, MassDOT facilitates critical linkages between our local initiatives and state-wide transportation objectives. MassDOT not only aids in securing state operating funds and resources but also ensures that our local projects contribute to a cohesive and integrated state transportation framework. This synergy allows for a seamless transit experience for our riders, whether they are commuting within the MetroWest region or connecting to the broader Massachusetts transit system.

Within the MetroWest region, the City of Framingham serves as a hub of economic and social activity. Our partnership with Framingham is instrumental in fine-tuning our services to the pulse of the city's transit needs, guaranteeing that we provide comprehensive access to employment centers, educational institutions, and other critical amenities. Framingham's support is crucial for local planning and securing community backing for our projects, which is vital for project success and sustained ridership. This is not to mention the fifteen other communities which are vital to our daily success as well.

Furthermore, our engagements with neighboring public transit agencies ensure a coordinated approach to regional mobility challenges. These partnerships are vital for developing interagency policies, scheduling coordination, and sharing best practices that enhance the quality and reach of our services across the municipal boundaries. By working in tandem with these agencies, we are better positioned to provide an integrated and efficient transit system that responds adeptly to the region's needs.

In essence, the partnership between our public transit agency, FTA Region 1, MassDOT, the City of Framingham, and our regional partners epitomizes the essence of collaborative governance in public transportation. It is only through this robust intergovernmental ecosystem that we can leverage the strengths of each party, culminating a transit system that not only meets the current demands of the MetoWest region but also possesses the adaptability to evolve with its future transportation needs. As we continue to navigate the complexities of transit planning and execution, the importance of these partnerships remains the linchpin in our mission to provide safe, reliable, and sustainable transportation for all members of our community.

Wellesley Catch Connect

Total monthly ridership: **3,785**

Employment Opportunities

Click Here To See All Employment Opportunities

Click banners below to view individual job listings.



Demand Response and Fixed Route Drivers

Mechanic/ Fleet Technician

Finding a job, you love is no easy feat, but if you ask the people who work at the MetroWest Regional Transit Authority, they've found purpose with their employment and you can too!

MWRTA serves 16 communities in the Greater Boston area. If a person isn't taking the "T" but uses public transportation, they're riding with the MWRTA.

Why would you want to drive for the MWRTA?

There are a plethora of reasons!

For starters, there's a \$4,000.00 sign on bonus for drivers, a 401k, and paid vacations. Health insurance and dental coverage is provided by Blue Cross Blue Shield. Also if you need flexibility in your schedule, this is the place to find it.

Driving for the MWRTA allows you to work part or full time. You can be a demand response driver, assisting the elderly and people with disabilities, or, if it better suits your needs, you can drive a fixed route to different stops throughout your shift. If you don't have a class C CDL, worry not, as you can get hired with just a regular driver's license. Then instead of paying thousands of dollars out of pocket for a CDL, MWRTA will pay to train you while you spend nothing. That's right, you'll get paid for something you would normally have to pay for!

If you're seeking employment within a company that cares, MWRTA is the place you're looking for. Helping people is their number one priority. Whether it's getting folks to and from work, or transporting them to life-saving medical appointments, you'd be making connections that will leave you feeling fulfilled every day.

MWRTA values diversity, both in the people they employ and those they serve. Their goal is to make everyone feel welcome, comfortable, and accepted. So, whether you're a retiree looking for a new career, or you're sick of long commutes, the MWRTA offers a professional and fulfilling work environment. There is room for growth and advancement opportunities and a flexible schedule along with a great benefits package.

For more information on how to drive for the MWRTA, please check out the website at MWTRA.com/careers, call (508) 935-2222, or email jobs@mwrta.com

Service Updates

By: Emily Van Dewoestine, MWRTA

On Monday, November 6, 2023 MWRTA revised the MathWorks Express Shuttle schedule, starting and ending the morning shift 45 minutes later. This allows us to provide more service during the peak hours of travel for employees. Service in the evening shift was slightly adjusted to allow better travel in between campuses for employees. Schedules can be found at www.mwrta.com.

If you have any questions regarding these changes, or want to leave feedback or suggestions, please email info@mwrta.com or call (508) 935-2222.

Maintenance

By: Bruce Willens, MWRTA

Hi All,

As we get closer to Turkey Day, let's hope the weather stays warm! At least until the New Year. Maintenance has been busy with making sure all of the snow and ice equipment is ready to go! We have also been waiting for the last two new Fixed Route buses, and we just ordered another six CNG buses and are hoping to see them in July now that the strike is over.

More good news to come.

Be safe! Bruce

Travel Training & Outreach By: Linda Murtagh and Lisa Long, MWRTA



MetroWest Regional Transit Authority "Keeping People Moving Through Public Transportation"

Earlier this month Call Center Manager Lisa Long and HR Manager Linda Murtagh attended Senate President Karen Spilka's 55+ Health & Wellness Fair at Keefe Tech Vocational High School. The Health & Wellness fair is an annual event that gives attendees access to exhibitors with information on a range of topics including mental health, healthy cooking, fraud and scam protection, Medicare, and many other topics. MWRTA has been attending for over 10 years, making sure that area seniors know about their transportation options throughout MetroWest.

Framingham Intermodal By: David Scott, MWRTA

Hi All from the Banana Lot. We would like to thank the City of Framingham, Gerry Hartwell, MWRTA Director of Facilities, and Daniel Fitch, MWRTA IT Consultant for working hard together to upgrade the cameras at the Commuter Rail Northside Lots. The new cameras are functioning well and provide added security to the area.

Thanksgiving is coming up, so here's a great idea for using up those leftovers.

12 Jumbo Shells
1 C. Turkey Meat
1 C. Mashed Potatoes
1 C. Stuffing
4 OZ. Shredded Cheddar
1 1/4 C. Gravy
Salt & Pepper

Combine the turkey meat, mashed potatoes, stuffing, and 1/2 the cheese in a food processor and pulse gently. Fill shells with the mixture. Spread 3/4 C of gravy in a 1 QT. baking dish, add shells on top with left over stuffing mix, gravy, and cheese. Bake at 350 for 25 - 30 minutes and **enjoy!**

Blandin Updates By: Joy Glynn, Paula Doucette, Tyler Terrasi



"Fall has always been my favorite season. The time when everything bursts with its last beauty, as if nature had been saving up all year for the grand finale." - Lauren DeStefano, "Wither"

The MWRTA was recently featured within a segment highlighting Disability Employment Awareness Month on "The Frame," Access Framingham's weekly newscast. The segment featured the MWRTA

Call Center, which has increased access to opportunity and removed barriers to employment for numerous residents with disabilities throughout MetroWest. You can watch the interview below!

The MWRTA remains committed to advancing diversity, equity and inclusion in the workplace and throughout the community.



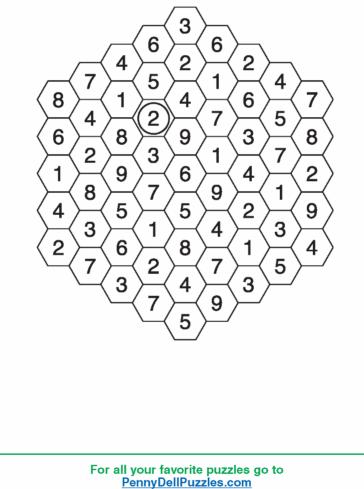
Puzzle Corner By: Kathy Cibelli, MWRTA



HEXAGON HUNT

In this diagram of hexagons (six-sided figures), there are 10 "special" hexagons. These 10 are special because the six hexagons surrounding each of them contain numbers that are not only different from one another, but are also different from the number in the "special" center hexagon. We've started you off by drawing a circle in one of the 10 "special" hexagons. Can you find the other 9 in less than 3 minutes?

Note: A hexagon may belong to more than one group, and a "special" hexagon may also be one of the surrounding hexagons in another "special" hexagon group. Solution is on the next page.



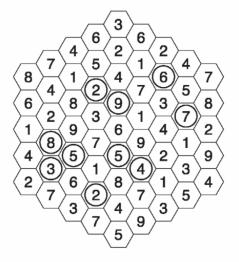
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Please enjoy this puzzle provided by Kathy of the MWRTA Call Center! Answers to this puzzle are below.

Puzzle Answer Key

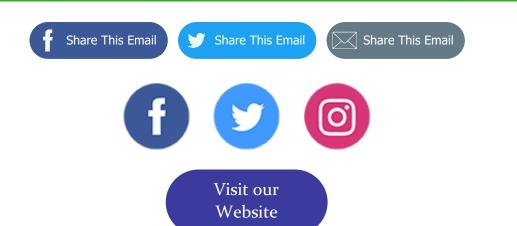


HEXAGON HUNT SOLUTION



For all your favorite puzzles go to PennyDellPuzzles.com

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MetroWest Regional Transit Authority | 15 Blandin Ave, Framingham, MA 01702

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