

# Transportation Matters

## Centro Begins Night Service in Auburn



County Legislator Ray Lockwood cuts the ribbon kicking off night service in Auburn. He's joined by (l to r) Fingerlakes Mall Manager Gina Speno, Centro of Cayuga General Manager Bill Hutson, Auburn Mayor Dennis Lattimore, CNYRTA Board Member Darlene Lattimore, Bass Pro Assistant Manager Mark Winger, and CNYRTA Executive Director Frank Kobliski

Centro has extended its service hours in the City of Auburn, providing the first ever night-time public bus service in the city.

Centro now operates three additional weeknight trips on its Routes #1, #2, #3, and #4, extending service to at least 10:30pm, and on weekends, two additional trips have been added, extending service to at least 7:30pm.

"It's off to a great start," said Centro General Manager Bill Hutson. "The new routes were a direct response to the dramatic increase we've seen in ridership over the past year and half."

Ridership on Centro routes in Auburn jumped 29% in fiscal year 2005, including an increase in every month over the previous year (see chart). Centro restructured its routes and replaced its fleet of city buses in Spring 2004. Centro attributes the dramatic increase to several factors including higher gasoline prices, improved route system and the new buses. The new "low floor" buses are equipped with air conditioning, mobility ramps, electronic destination signs and a lower first step when entering the buses. The new routes have reduced the need for transfers and can provide a "one-seat" ride to anywhere in the system.

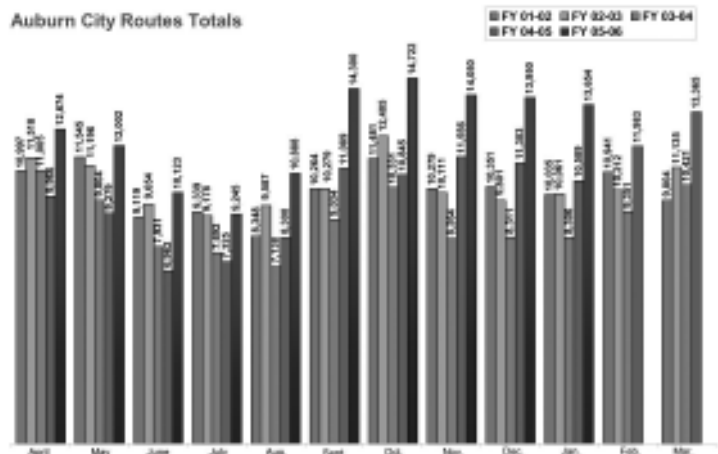
"There's no doubt that rising gas prices have enticed more people to try public transportation," said Hutson. "We're doing what we can to give them a reason to come back."

The longer hours should also help Auburn's fastest growing retail location - the area surrounding the Fingerlakes Mall. The extended hours provide bus service to the mall until 10:00pm on weeknights, and 7:40pm on weekends.

"With the growth of the mall, we have also had a growth in the employee base," Fingerlakes Mall Manager Gina Speno told the Auburn Citizen. The new routes should be a benefit to both shoppers and mall employees. "The new routes will be very helpful."

The new service is operating on a six-month trial basis, but is off to a successful beginning. "We had people calling about the service as news began to leak out weeks before we started," said Hutson.

Auburn City Routes Totals



## Centro Increases Service on Erie Boulevard and Court-Park St. Routes

New early morning service to Erie Boulevard-Shoppingtown Mall and additional midday trips on Centro's #52 Court-Park Service highlight service enhancements effective June 26, 2006 in Syracuse and Onondaga County.

Centro has added three weekday morning trips to Shoppingtown on its #68 Erie Boulevard/Shoppingtown route. Two of the trips are extensions to the mall on existing trips. The third is a full roundtrip leaving Downtown at 8:05am weekday mornings. Centro hopes the new trips will better serve the early morning workforce in that area. Centro is also adding a Saturday night trip leaving Shoppingtown at 9:45pm that will serve Salt Springs Road, South Salina Street and Nedrow beginning June 24, 2006.

On the #52 Court-Park Street route, Centro has added several midday trips to provide better connections to downtown and more frequent service to Shop City. In all, six round trips have been added between 9:30am and 4:15pm each weekday.

All of Centro's Route 88X service connecting the North Syracuse/Route 11 corridor with the University Hill area will now travel to College Place on the campus of Syracuse University.

Centro has also simplified its routing on its #74/#274/#374 Solvay routes by having all trips operate on Tompkins St. for both the inbound and outbound service. Buses will no longer operate on Bryant or Whittier Avenues.

On Centro's #64/#66 Western Lights route, some time adjustments have been made to provide better service to Bellevue Manor.

Several other routes have had minor time or routing service changes. New **GREEN** schedules are now available.

# Centro Loses Long-time Employee, Safety Advocate



*Gerald E. Deitz, Sr.*

Gerald E. “Jerry” Deitz, Sr, a 39-year employee of Centro, recently passed away after a brief illness. During his nearly four decades at Centro, Deitz held many management positions after starting his career as a Bus Operator.

He also devoted much of his time as an advocate for traffic safety. Deitz was a founder of Centro’s annual “Lights On” motorcade that brought awareness to the dangers of drunk and drugged driving. He was also a member and past president of the New York State Traffic Safety Board Association. His efforts to promote safe driving earned him praise among his peers. In 1996, Onondaga County instituted the Gerald E. Deitz Individual Traffic Safety Service Award and named Jerry its first recipient.

At Centro, Deitz will be remembered for his kindness to people and his devotion to his job. He will be deeply missed. As Jerry signed all of his correspondences, we hope everyone has “a nice and safe day!”

## Centro Assists Officers as they Honor Fallen Officer



Centro provided bus service for hundreds of Law Enforcement personnel attending the Funeral of New York State Trooper Craig Todeschini. Todeschini was killed on duty while in pursuit of a speeding motorcyclist in Pompey Hill. On April 28, 2006, Centro operated shuttles from the New York State Fairgrounds to the Holy Family Church in Fairmount.

## Centro Reaches out to Excellus Workers



Centro held an informational session at Excellus after an emergency situation forced the closing of a downtown parking garage used by many employees. Centro customer service representatives informed Excellus workers of their public transportation options.

## Centro Receives Honor for Community Work



The Onondaga County District Attorney’s Advisory Council presented Centro with its Corporate Award, honoring a local organization for its work assisting law enforcement in the community. In presenting the award, the Council noted Centro’s service providing buses as shelters at emergencies, providing victim transportation to emergency housing, having bus drivers serve as extra eyes and ears for police and for hosting the annual “Lights On” motorcade to call attention to the dangers of drunk driving.

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