

# Transportation Matters

## Centro Debuts New Website!



The Central New York Regional Transportation Authority now has a new and improved website to help customers access information they need. The new look (see left) provides easier access to all of Centro's routes for its bus systems in Cayuga, Oneida, Onondaga and Oswego counties. The new schedule layout provides replica versions of Centro's printed schedules, and a web version that provides additional route details.

Special sections exist for college students who rely on Centro's bus services to get around and to/from various local campuses and for persons with disabilities who utilize various transportation services provided by Centro.

Also included on the website:

- ✔ A procurement section to make it easier to do business with the CNYRTA
- ✔ An interactive Human Resource section allowing people to respond to job opportunities over the internet
- ✔ Downloadable applications for Call-A-Bus

Centro hopes to debut two exciting services on its website in coming months: Text Messages for Service Alerts; and a Trip Planning option. We encourage you to visit the new site, at the same web address as before - [www.centro.org](http://www.centro.org).

## New Buses on the Road in Utica



Centro has put two new buses into service in Utica featuring amenities to assist passengers. The buses are equipped with "Low Floor" technology

and ramps for persons using mobility devices.

"Low Floor" buses make it easier for people to board by reducing the need to climb steps to get on the bus. The mobility ramps allow individuals who use wheelchairs or other mobility devices to board more quickly at the front doors of the bus. Current buses use mobility lifts at the rear door entrance.

"We are continuing to upgrade our fleet in order to provide the best transportation services to our community," said Centro of Oneida General Manager Ron Bucciero. "These buses will make it easier for people to use our services and will speed up the boarding process."

The buses are the first new vehicles put into service since Centro took over the Utica Transit Authority in April 2005. Centro had previously refurbished the existing fleet during the first few months that followed the commencement of services in Oneida County.

The new 35-foot vehicles also include electronic destination signs and air conditioning. The vehicles replace older ones that have reached the end of their useful lifespan.

## Centro Unveils Refurbished Bus

Centro and Carrier Corporation have unveiled a completely refurbished bus that will be used to provide transportation services for Central New York's disabled community.



The bus is unique to the Centro fleet as it can accommodate up to seven (7) persons using mobility devices simultaneously.

"For many years, this particular bus has been an integral part of our commitment providing the best transportation possible for persons with disabilities. Because this body style and chassis are no longer in production, we felt it was necessary to invest a significant amount of resources to keep this bus in our fleet for years to come," said Centro Executive Director Frank Kobliski. "This would not have been possible without the generosity of the Carrier Corporation and the hard work and dedication of our maintenance employees."

The restoration process took four months and included the installation of a rear-mounted air conditioning system donated by Carrier Corporation - a unit valued at more than \$24,000.

In addition, the bus features a completely refurbished body, refurbished driver and passenger seats, a new electronic destination sign, new exterior LED lights and many other upgrades.

## Centro Services Explained at Annual Networking Day



Centro Project Manager Betty Petrie addressed attendees of the 13th Annual Networking Day at Le Moyne Manor in Syracuse. The all day event provided a networking opportunity for local agencies that serve persons with disabilities. The goal is to build partnerships with community and natural supports to further community inclusion.

Petrie explained Centro's many services designed to provide accessible transportation for disabled individuals. The event was sponsored by the Onondaga County Health Department, Onondaga Case Management Services, ARISE, Exceptional Family Resources and the CNY Developmental Services.

## Centro State Fair Shuttles Set Record for Ridership



Centro set a record for the number of rides provided to the annual New York State Fair from its Park-N-Ride shuttles in Onondaga, Cayuga and Oswego Counties.

Centro provided 243,226 rides on its three-county Park-N-Ride system, a 13% increase over last year's total of 214,765. The increase comes during a year in which overall State Fair attendance was essentially flat, increasing 0.2%.

Centro's service from the Regional Market continues to be most popular location for State Fair Park-N-Ride users, providing more than 60,000 rides, up 20% from last year. Increases were also seen at the Park-N-Ride locations at Downtown Syracuse (20%), Seneca Mall (10%), Shoppingtown Mall (25%) and the various services from Cayuga County (95%) and Oswego County (34%).

## Bus Operator Advances to International Roadeo

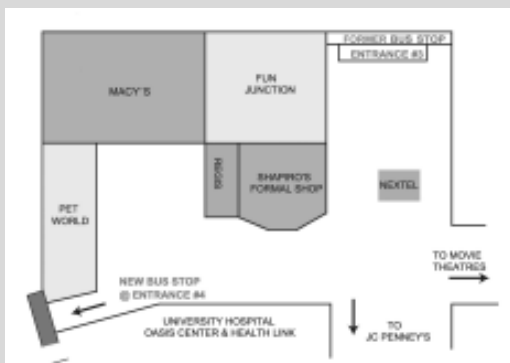
The Central New York Regional Transportation Authority will send one of its Bus Operators to compete in the International Bus Roadeo in Austin, Texas next spring. Martin Davis, a Bus Operator from Utica finished in 9th place in the New York State Roadeo in Brooklyn, earning a spot in the International Bus Roadeo.



*Bus Operator Martin Davis will participate in International Bus Roadeo*

Bus Operators from all over the country will compete in the international roadeo testing their skills and dexterity by conquering sharp turns, reverses and serpentine curves---all within a seven minute time interval. The competition will also test the driver's safety habits, appearance, passenger stops, and smoothness of operation.

## Centro Moves Bus Stop at Shoppingtown



Centro has moved its bus stop location at Shoppingtown Mall from Entrance #3 on the east side of the mall, to Entrance #4 on Shoppingtown Mall's north side, next to Pet World. The change affects ALL Centro routes that provide service to the mall.

Centro buses will enter and leave the mall on the access road off Kinne Road and will no longer serve the east side of Shoppingtown Mall. Customers with questions should contact Centro at 442-3400.

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