Upcoming Events:

- If you or someone you know is interested in becoming a part-time driver for the RTA please contact us at 1.800.839.5005 or visit www.rta8.org and fill out an application on our Contact Us page.

- RTA is looking for volunteer drivers in Delaware County! If you are interested contact Bridget at 563-690-5761 or BBartlett@ecia.org.

- The RTA will have its last Learn to Ride Session in Jackson County on Tuesday December 2nd at 11:30am at the Jackson County Senior Center on 1000 East Quarry Street in Maquoketa. Participants will be given a ride on an RTA bus to give “hands on” experience.

- The RTA will be closed November 27th & 28th in honor of Thanksgiving and December 24th & 25th in honor of Christmas.

Do you have a suggestion or bright idea?
Contact Bridget Bartlett (563-690-5761) for any suggestions or story ideas for the quarterly newsletters!

Inclement Weather
Typically the RTA does everything we can to keep our buses running on schedule; however, there are times when that is not possible especially during winter weather conditions. Iowa winters seem to be getting colder and colder and extreme weather conditions make the roads much more dangerous. The RTA follows the lead of the schools in each rural county. Our policy states that if schools are cancelled or delayed, RTA’s out of town routes will follow suite but IN TOWN routes will continue as normal to the best of our abilities. Safety is RTA’s first priority therefore if the roads are too dangerous, RTA may decide to delay or cancel routes independently. The RTA posts delay or cancellation announcements on KMCH (Manchester), KMAQ (Maquoketa), KATFM (Dubuque), & KDST (Dyersville) radio stations, on KWWL and KCNR, as well as our Facebook page and website. You can find our website at www.rta8.org and our Facebook page at https://www.facebook.com/theDDJR.TA
Project Pass Program

Region 8 Regional Transit Authority (RTA) and Project Concern recently received a Women’s Giving Circle grant award to establish the Project Pass Program. The grant will fund approximately 133 trips to low income women and children to Iowa City for medical appointments. Out of three grants awarded, Project Pass was the top award winner. “The RTA provides trips to Iowa City for medical appointments various times throughout the month however the cost is $30 round trip. For some families, this cost is too much and they forgo important appointments for medical care. With the ongoing partnership between the RTA and Project Concern, we can continue to offer passes to individuals in dire need,” stated Bridget Bartlett Mobility Coordinator for the RTA.

The RTA was formed in 1978 as a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization for the purpose of connecting the elderly, disabled, youth and low income citizens in Delaware, Dubuque and Jackson counties to critical services like healthcare, counseling, nutrition, childcare, education, employment, and social venues.

Project Concern, a non-profit social service agency in Dubuque for over 45 years, assists low-income individuals and families meet their basic needs, such as food and shelter. The 211 call center at Project Concern is a free phone number that provides residents in Dubuque, Delaware and Jackson counties confidential information and referrals. 211 also serves as the community’s Homeless Hotline and is available 24 hours a day/7 days a week.

Driver Spotlight:
Sandy Smith

Meet Sandy Smith who drives for the RTA in Dubuque County. Sandy has lived in Dubuque since 1976 but was born and raised in Knoxville Tennessee. Sandy has been driving for the RTA since August of 2012.

Sandy is always helping her passengers and enjoys the little things about her job like zipping up someone’s coat, or tying someone’s shoes. Sandy says her passengers are appreciative and she loves hearing them sing songs and laugh on the bus, it warms her heart. She states that she “hopes the RTA continues the wonderful service they are providing to our clients and to the community. All of our clients need help in some way and by providing this service, the RTA is giving many people a purpose to live.”

In her free time Sandy likes to fish and boat on the river, loves working in her garden and tinkering around in her yard, spending quality time with her dog “Bella” and doing volunteer work. Sandy is a big Bronco’s fan and enjoys snow skiing in the winter and camping/traveling throughout the year.

Sandy enjoys living life to its fullest in health, love and happiness. Sandy likes to live by the motto: “Never forget to be kinder than necessary, for everyone you meet is fighting some kind of battle!”

Thank you Sandy for your wonderful service to the RTA and to your community! Your positive spirit enlightens us all!

The RTA is looking for part time drivers! If you or someone you know is interested contact 1.800.839.5005 or visit www.rta8.org on our “contact us” page to download an application!