

2 speak at hearing on MOCO Transit rate

By Tom Marshall
Senior Advocate writer

Judith Goldie and Pat Rhoads agree MOCO Transit provides an invaluable service to the community and want it to continue to do so.

Rhoads takes MOCO Transit to get Montgomery County Senior Citizens meals daily Monday through Friday and regularly to medical appointments.

Goldie said she takes MOCO Transit literally everywhere in the county.

Both spoke Tuesday at a public hearing conducted by Gateway Community Action to discuss a proposed increase in the cost from \$1 a trip to \$3 per trip. The hearing was held at city hall.

MOCO Transit currently offers 12 trip multi-tickets for \$10, but says that will have to increase to \$25 for 10 rides.

At that cost, Rhoads told Gateway Community Action representatives that some of her friends may not be able to afford the service.

On a personal level, Rhoads said she can readjust her budget to make it work. Goldie suggested making fewer trips to reduce costs.

Gateway and Mayor Al Botts offered a partial solution—an increase in donations from the public—to offset the \$17,000 shortfall the service experienced last year.

“Without local buy-in the transportation program can’t last,” Evan O’Neal with Gateway said.

Botts encouraged businesses, churches, civic groups, individuals—anyone—to provide the matching funds the service needs to operate.

GCA operates on a 50-50 match with the help of government funds to

keep the service going. The Dept. of Transportation provides the vehicles.

O’Neal noted that many businesses benefit from the service and can buy multi-tickets to ensure that many of their customers who ride MOCO Transit can continue doing so.

Rhoads said half the church population comes from senior citizens who could benefit from having rides to services. The service is covered by Medicaid and Medicare, Gateway says.

But not only seniors utilize the service. It is open to anyone 18 or older.

The service had 2,500 riders last year, according to Gateway.

O’Neal told Rhoads and Goldie Gateway hates to raise the rate, but has to do so continue operating unless more donations can be found.

Botts asked O’Neal to calculate how much money it would take to continue the service at \$1 or at a slightly higher rates.

He said the city and county might be able to help, but added he could make no promises. The City Council and Fiscal Court already provide funds for the program as do Camargo and Jeffersonville. Gateway also relies on donations from local businesses, community groups, grants, etc.

The mayor said more public donations could be a real difference maker in helping the seniors and others who utilize the service.

O’Neal encouraged the public to contact him personally at evan.oneal@gatewaycaa.org to arrange a donation. You can also call 800-927-1833, ext. 3400 to do so.

Gone fishing ...



The Montgomery County Sportsmen Club had several shooters in the Kentucky State Tournament. These are award winners, from left, Charles Lane, Chris Jones, Mike Shields, Mike Huff and Bill Altman. Photo submitted.

Kentucky participates in nationwide campaign to curb impaired driving

As Labor Day approaches, Kentuckians are reminded to celebrate the end of summer safely by planning for a sober, designated driver if festivities include alcohol.

“Our top priority is keeping Kentuckians safe,” said Gov. Andy Beshear. “If you are under the influence and choose to get behind the wheel, you put everyone on the road in danger, including yourself. Let’s work together to eliminate preventable crashes by committing to celebrate responsibly.”

Although impaired driving enforcement is a year-round effort, crashes tend to increase over holiday weekends. That’s why the Kentucky Office of Highway Safety (KOHS) is joining the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) and law enforcement agencies across the country in the “Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over” campaign, which runs from Aug. 13 through Sept. 1, 2025.

“It is never acceptable to drive impaired,” said Kentucky Transport

Cabinet (KYTC) Secretary Jim Gray. “Alcohol, drugs and even prescription medications can impair your ability to operate a vehicle safely. You may feel ‘OK,’ but impairment slows your judgment, coordination and reaction time.”

According to the KOHS, last year in Kentucky, there were 4,260 total crashes involving an impaired driver, resulting in 2,062 injuries and 185 deaths. Last year, 45 alcohol related crashes involving only a motorcycle were reported, resulting in 41 injuries and six deaths.

During the 2024 Labor Day holiday weekend, there were 76 crashes involving an impaired driver, resulting in 44 injuries and one death.

The following tips are recommended to stay safe:

- Before the festivities begin, plan a way to get home safely at the end of the night;
- If you’re impaired, use a ride-booking company or taxi, call a sober friend or family member or use public transportation to get home safely;
- If you see an impaired driver, safely pull over and contact law enforcement. You may dial the Kentucky State Police

toll-free line directly at 800-222-5555 or call 911. Provide a vehicle description, license number, location and if possible, direction of travel;

• If you know people who are about to drive or ride while impaired, take their keys and help them make other arrangements to get to

their destination safely;

- Wear a seat belt. It is not only the law, but it is also the best defense against an impaired driver. Buckling up helps prevent injury and death if you are involved in a crash.

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Curtis Bailey was part of the first-ever Kentucky 4-H Archery National Team to the National 4-H Shooting Sports Championship in Grand Island, Neb., June 22-27. The event was held at the Heartland Public Shooting Park with 4-H competitors from 40 states represented and hosted by Nebraska 4-H. Over the course of the week Curtis participated in three types of competitions that included field archery, FITA and unmarked 3D. He brought home 10th in the nation in the field archery category of the contest. He is shown, standing second from right, with the other archery team members from Kentucky who include, left to right, Sarah Grider, Adam Curran, Solomon Pangallo, Will Tabor, Bailey and Braydon Roberts. Kneeling in front is the team's coach Nathan York.