

Ozaukee taxi to Milwaukee bus stops aids commuting workers

To Ozaukee Press:

Members of the Ozaukee County Transportation Initiative were happy to see the Ozaukee Press coverage of the shared-ride taxi service and the announcement of the cross county transit connection to Milwaukee. Riders are now able to take the shared-ride taxi service and cross the southern county line to reach three Milwaukee County bus stops, giving riders direct access to a total of six Milwaukee County transit systems bus routes.

The article reported the increased demand for services, particularly for our elderly or disabled community members. The Ozaukee County government clearly demonstrates that it is working hard to optimize its transportation services. The shared-ride taxi connection with the Milwaukee transit system will have a major impact on people and families, especially those that struggle to find and maintain employment due to a lack of affordable, dependable transportation options.

The changes were approved by the county Public Works Committee as a result of a yearlong community effort led by Ozaukee County Transportation Initiative that involved Ozaukee Transit, Seek Staffing, the United Way of Northern Ozaukee, the Grafton Chamber of Commerce, Interfaith Caregivers of Ozaukee and others in the business, non-profit, governmental and educational community.

Through survey data, this initiative revealed the need for on-demand transportation that crosses county lines, especially by individuals going to and from full-time jobs.

The joint effort gained more flexible transportation options for senior and disabled members of the community. Starting in March, Interfaith Caregivers of Ozaukee will expand services to clients when it brings its wheelchair accessible van program to the community.

Ozaukee Transit recently reached out to the Southeastern Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission to help prepare a more robust transit development plan. Once that plan is drafted, the public will have an opportunity to give input at information meetings planned later in 2017.

Access to transportation is important to

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

the community and will shape our future economic health and quality of life.

Barbara Bates-Nelson

United Way of Northern Ozaukee
Ozaukee Transportation Committee

To keep pace with area schools, Grafton referendum must pass

To Ozaukee Press:

A year after the failed \$47.7 million referendum, the Grafton school district has lost 42 students to open enrollment (a record) and 20 additional students left the district for private schools. How many other families didn't even consider moving to Grafton because of the state of our facilities?

If something isn't done to reverse this trend, Grafton will continue to lose more students and fewer families will choose to move here. With a meager 1.7% yearly increase in the sale price of homes in Grafton (far behind that of our neighbors), perhaps this has already started.

On April 4 we have a chance to do something about these disturbing trends by voting yes on the \$39.9 million school referendum. This referendum was crafted after significant feedback from the community and is full of needs. We're surrounded by some of the absolute best schools in the state and we risk falling further behind if this referendum doesn't pass. The needs of our district will not go away if this referendum fails; now is the time to invest in our kids and our community.

I'm running for school board because I refuse to believe that Grafton can't be one of the most attractive school districts on the north shore area— attractive for top administrators, teachers and families. As a homeowner and father of three kids who will be educated in Grafton's public schools, I'm 100% invested in making Grafton a truly great school district. I have almost 20 years of experience in investing and finance and believe this experience will be an asset to the board.

I want all the kids of Grafton to have every opportunity possible after they graduate.

Jerry Rossi
Grafton