



WAVE Connection

A Newsletter for OCT Employees and Riders

Volume 2, issue 1

January / February / March 2008

**“The WAVE”
transported
183,934
riders in 2007**

**Fort Walton Beach
routes are up 61%**

**Crestview routes
are up 31%**

**Shuttles are up
14%**

**Overall that is a
33% increase
“The WAVE”
ridership for
Okaloosa County**

**Thank You
Thank You
to the Drivers
and Passengers
who make OCT
a success.**

Skidding and Hydroplaning in Rainy Conditions

Losing control of your car on wet pavement is a frightening experience. You can prevent skids by driving slowly and carefully, especially on curves. Steer and brake with a light touch. When you need to stop or slow, do not brake hard or lock the wheels and risk a skid. Maintain mild pressure on the brake pedal.



If you do find yourself in a skid, remain calm, ease your foot off the gas, and carefully steer in the direction you want the front of the car to go. For cars without anti-lock brakes, avoid using your brakes. This procedure, known as "steering into the skid," will bring the back end of your car in line with the front. If your car has ABS, brake firmly as you steer into the skid.

While skids on wet pavement may be frightening, hydroplaning is completely nerve-wracking. Hydroplaning happens when the water in front of your tires builds up faster than your car's weight can push it out of the way. The water pressure causes your car to rise up and slide on a thin layer of water between your tires and the road. At this point, your car can be completely out of contact with the road, and you are in danger of skidding or drifting out of your lane, or even off the road.

To avoid hydroplaning, keep your tires properly inflated, maintain good tread on your tires and replace them when necessary, slow down when roads are wet, and stay away from puddles. Try to drive in the tire tracks left by the cars in front of you.

If you find yourself hydroplaning, do not brake or turn suddenly. This could throw your car into a skid. Ease your foot off the gas until the car slows and you can feel the road again. If you need to brake, do it gently with light pumping actions. If your car has anti-lock brakes, then brake normally; the car's computer will mimic a pumping action, when necessary.

A defensive driver adjusts his or her speed to the wet road conditions in time to avoid having to use any of these measures.

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Doing your Part

The cost of driving alone is getting higher everyday and not just the price of gas. Transportation accounts for more than 30 percent of U.S. carbon dioxide emissions. According to the American Public Transportation Association (APTA), public transportation in the United States saves approximately 1.4 billion gallons of gasoline and about 1.5 million tons of carbon dioxide annually. According to Treehugger.com, if just one in 10 Americans used public transportation daily, U.S. reliance on foreign oil would decrease 40 percent. You will significantly reduce the amount of pollution you generate each day. In addition to better air you will be healthier and wealthier. Studies have shown that people who use public transportation regularly tend to be healthier than people who don't, because of the exercise they get walking to and from bus stops. According to an APTA study, families that use public transportation can reduce their household expenses by \$6,200 annually. In addition buses are 10 times safer than cars in a study done by Worldchanging.com.

Do your part and park your car. Walk or ride a bicycle for short trips, or take public transportation for longer ones.



Wear Your Seat Belt!

Without a doubt, seat belts are the most significant safety device ever invented. Seat belts provide impact protection, they absorb crash forces, and they keep you from being thrown out of the vehicle. Modern vehicles are built with "crumple zones," and seat belts are an integral part of the system. The belts hold you in place while the vehicle collapses around your "safe" zone. Belts help keep you in your place, in control, and better able to avoid a crash.

Driver Safety Tips

**We can all count on a
safe ride if we look
out for each other.**

Yield Anyway!

"Nobody ever yielded their way into a collision." If you are in doubt about who has the right of way, give it away. The other guy may be wrong, but you can still be hurt. Right of way rules are often misunderstood, and there are situations where the rules may not be clear to everyone. If there is uncertainty about which vehicle should have the right of way, give the other guy the road. When it comes to driving safely, it's not the principle, but the outcome, that counts.

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Serving Okaloosa County Since 1987



Okaloosa County Board of County Commissioners

James Campbell, Bill Roberts, Sherry Campbell, Don Amunds, and John Jannazo

County Administrator

Jim Curry

Tell us what you want to see in future editions of the *WAVE Connection*. Please Share any special news or fun stories of your experience with *Okaloosa County Transit* with us.

Email information to amcgill@co.okaloosa.fl.us

Or you can Tell Lisa at OCT reception.

Congratulations

Jerry Mathis is a grandpa to twins

Aidan and **Nadia**

January

- Raymond Junkins 1/2
- Emma Gilliland 1/3
- Kenneth Barnett 1/25
- Kyle Craner 1/26
- Wayne Hamlin II 1/28



February

- Maxie Jackson 2/10
- Carlos Teran 2/25
- Terry Thompson 2/28

March

- Teresa Stewart 3/19
- Ray Allan 3/22
- Clifford Florence 3/22
- Crystal Myers 3/26

Take Note

John Fick promoted to Driver Trainer-Paratransit

Tom Elsenheimer promoted to Driver Trainer-Fixed Routes

J.R. Rice promoted to Operations Supervisor-CV

Crystal Myers promoted to Administrative Assistant

LouJean Patton Promoted to Billing Supervisor

WELCOME

Kimberley Payne—FWB

Beverlee Woodhouse—FWB

Leon Blackshear—CV

Tonya Hamlin—FWB

Teresa Stewart—FWB

Congratulations

Driver of the Quarter

Tom Elsenheimer



Dates to Remember

Fort Walton Beach and Crestview Routes Will **NOT** operate on the following upcoming dates:

- Memorial Day—May 26
- Independence Day—July 4
- Labor Day—September 1



Other Notable Dates

March 9th—Day light Savings time. – Spring forward!



March 17th—St. Patrick's Day

March 20th—First Day of Spring

March 23rd—Easter

March 31st—April 4th—Okaloosa County Public Schools Spring Break

May 11th—Mothers Day

May 26th—Memorial Day



Safety and security are critical issues to passengers and transit employees alike. Various aspects of daily life and travel involve some risks, though rare. However, making your ride as safe and secure as it can possibly be depends on **everyone working together**.



LOOK

- Locate the nearest accessible exit – it may be an emergency door or window.
- Look around as you prepare to exit the transit vehicle or facility in order to avoid hazards, such as smoke, debris and unusual substances.
- Report anything hazardous or unusual to emergency personnel.
- Notice others who may need help and offer assistance. Children, the elderly and disabled individuals may require help.



LISTEN

- Pay attention to announcements.
- Listen and remain calm.
- Follow the instructions from transit employees and emergency personnel.



LEAVE

- Move quickly toward safety, leaving behind large or unwieldy objects like suitcases, strollers and heavy items.
- If evacuation is not possible through normal doors, use emergency doors or windows to exit safely.
- Be on the lookout for hazards and people to help, and listen to transit employees and emergency personnel while you leave the area.



BE Involved.

BE Informed.

BE Alert.

BE Prepared.

These 4 “B’s” are your ticket to a SAFE, SECURE ride.