

Date 3/12/15

The Republican

# \_\_\_\_\_

## GC Commissioners Approve '16 Garrett Transit Service Plan

The Garrett County commissioners unanimously approved Garrett County Community Action's fiscal year 2016 transportation grant application plan during their public meeting last Monday afternoon.

Community Action will apply to the Federal Transit Administration and the Maryland Transit Administration for funding to meet the public transportation needs of the general public, senior citizens, and disabled individuals. The private nonprofit organization provides bus rides through Garrett Transit Service (GTS).

"This keeps the wheels turning," said new GTS director Gregan Crawford about the grant application plan.

Community Action hired the former Garrett County commissioner on Feb. 1, following the retirement of longtime director John Hill.

Crawford said the funding request for FY 2016 operational needs is estimated at \$1,701,844. Of that, \$1,222,228 will come from federal and state programs. The remainder will be funded by Community Action and the county.

The total capital request is \$471,234, with \$422,773 of that coming from federal and state coffers. The remainder will be allocated by Community Action and the county. Capital funds will be used for preventive maintenance and to purchase three replacement vehicles, all designed to meet the special transportation needs of the elderly and persons with disabilities, according to Crawford.

He noted that the grant awards will "pass through" county government to GTS, as do many grants to other agencies and organizations.

The new director noted that GTS currently has a transit fleet of 21 buses, all with

Continued on Page A-8

## Approve Plan

Continued from Page A-1  
wheelchair lifts, that operate five days a week.

"We serve all demographics, with the majority riders being over the 55-69 age range," Crawford said, adding that many riders are over-70 years of age.

GTS provides assistance for a wide array of needs for residents, including delivery of Meals on Wheels, transportation to medical appointments in and out of the county, and transportation to work. He added that GTS operates as a "demand response service," as opposed to a "fixed route service."

Crawford also presented the following fiscal year 2014 CTS statistics to the commissioners:

- 110,190 passenger trips
- 626,083 service-miles traveled
- 38,896 service hours logged
- 2,236 miles per day traveled on average
- 394 trips per day on average
- Zero reportable accidents

The GTS plan will now be forwarded to the Maryland Transit Administration for its review and approval under the Statewide Special Transportation Assistance and other programs.

Individuals needing assistance with transportation may call GTS at 301-533-9010 for more information during regular business hours.

The commissioners' next public meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, March 17, at 4 p.m.