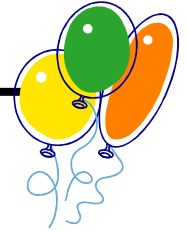




# News Advisory

## Blue Water Area Transportation Commission

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### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

August 31, 2011

### **SAVE THE DATE: YOU'RE INVITED!**

### **Blue Water Area Transit Celebrates 35 Years of Service**

### **Community Open House: September 30th, 3-5 p.m.**

PORT HURON, MI — Blue Water Area Transit invites you to attend a Community Open House to celebrate their 35-Year Anniversary on Friday, September 30, 3-5 p.m., 2021 Lapeer Avenue. The event will include tours of the modern facility that has housed transit operations since 2006. There is no charge to attend.

Tours will include the opportunity to view oil portraits that recognize four community leaders for serving during the past 35 years as chairs of the Blue Water Area Transportation Commission. These are Raymond E. Straffon, Miles M. Benedict, William E. Smiley, and James M. Fisher. The BWATC is comprised of representatives from the charter township of Fort Gratiot and the city of Port Huron. The portrait artist is Linda Stoutenburg.

Blue Water Area Transit continues a proud tradition of innovation that has served the Port Huron area for more than a century. It started with a single horse-drawn trolley that transported passengers from the Grand Trunk Railway station to the downtown area. Port Huron then became one of the nation's first communities to switch to electric streetcars in the 1880s and one of the first to operate motor coaches when they became popular in the 1930s.

Following an eight-year hiatus, Blue Water Area Transit renewed motor coach service in September 1976. Since then, BWATC has carried more than 22 million riders and continues the tradition of innovation by producing its own compressed natural gas alternative fuel since 1996. BWAT is now the largest producer of CNG and runs the largest fleet of alternative fuel buses in Michigan.

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