

Williamsburg Area Transit Authority Newsletter

Volume 27 *Mark Rickards, Executive Director*

March 1, 2010

WAT BUS OPERATOR OF THE YEAR



Figure 1 Wanda Hawkins accepts her award from Executive Director Rickards and Operations Director Sisco.

The 7th annual WAT (now WATA) Employee Recognition Event was held Sunday, February 28, at the W-JCC Community Center where employees and guests enjoyed a potluck dinner as several awards for safety and years of service were handed out. Wanda Hawkins was named Full-time Operator of the Year. Wanda earned the award for her safety record, customer service skills and her dedication to both WATA

passengers and fellow operations staff. Gregory Crawford was recognized as the Part-Time Operator and Grady Horner was honored as the On-Call Operator. ☞



Figure 2 Recognition Committee Members line up for a photo at the Annual Event.

Drumwright to Head Regional Planning Group

Richard Drumwright was elected Chair of the Hampton Roads Transportation Planning Organization Technical Transportation Advisory Committee (TTAC). Richard is the first representative from a public transit agency elected to the Committee Chair. TTAC is the technical advisory committee to the Hampton Roads policy organization which makes decisions for regional transportation projects. Richard will serve a two-year term.

Richard also received recognition Sunday for 30 years of service as an employee of James City County and WATA. Richard, we THANK YOU for your years of service and leadership! ☞



You Spoke, We Listened!

The Williamsburg Area Transit Authority held a Public Forum on February 11 (Figure 3) to solicit input on fare pricing and pass distribution. Among those present were a contingent of students from William & Mary who gave comments and suggestions on the Green Line and the Williamsburg Trolley. Other area stakeholders shared their ideas which will be of great value as WATA develops its pass and fare program to be introduced this spring. This program will offer WATA passengers more options on fares and, for the first time, a weekly and/or monthly pass. ☞



Figure 3 WATA Planning Director Richard Drumwright leads discussion at Public Forum.



Why worry about parking in New Town, High Street and Merchants Square?

TAKE THE TROLLEY!



Figure 4 WATA stop at Legacy Hall covered by snow.

Snow Presents Challenges to WATA Fleet

On three separate occasions, January 30, February 6, and February 10, WATA Services were disrupted or discontinued due to major snow/ice events that made local streets unsafe to navigate. In each case, advance notice of the closings was given to the public. In spite of the weather, WATA continued to provide limited service by utilizing smaller vehicles which were dispatched to pick up any stranded passengers. The good news is that there were no accidents and no complaints were recorded about stranded passengers or lost trips. We are also pleased to note that CW buses missed no service time; much like WATA, CW used smaller vehicles to transport its passengers.

Thank you to our operators, our customers, and our staff for the service and effort during these winter storms. ☞



Driver Profile: Sharon Summers

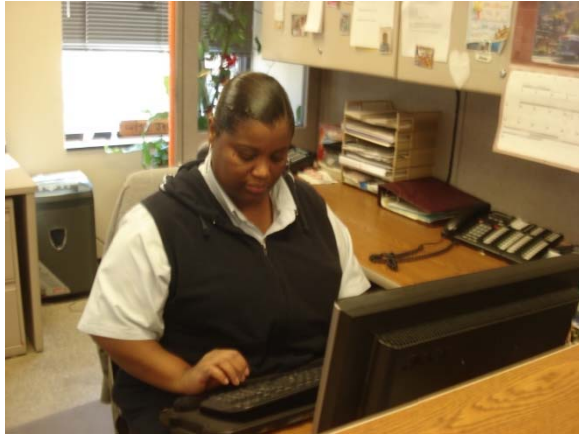


Figure 5 Sharon is multi-talented – drives a bus and works in WATA's office, too!

Years as WAT employee: Eight

Best thing about being a driver: Guys trying to get my number!

Favorite food: A seafood dinner

Favorite movie: Avatar

Favorite book: Harry Potter Series

Favorite TV show: Saturday Night Live

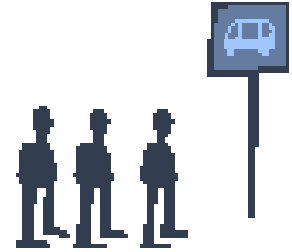
What you would do if you won the Lottery: Buy a new home with a basketball court and playground

Favorite Williamsburg restaurant: Applebee's



Hobbies: Cooking

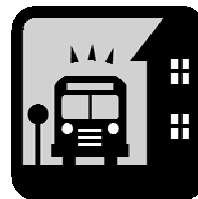
Interesting Fact: Sharon likes to substitute ingredients in a recipe to find a new, delicious dish!



THE LAST STOP

Remember that all WATA Board meetings are open to the public and the next one is scheduled for March 18 at 10:00 a.m. at the Quarterpath Recreation Center. On the agenda for this month are the pass and fare program, an advertising policy, banking and marketing brochure procurement updates, as well as the final report on the feasibility for a facility.

Lastly, starting in March, there are two new WAT stops on the Gray Line: Route 60 at Blow Flats Road, and Route 60 at Lee Hall Baptist Church. ☞



GREEN AND GOLD ROUTES ON SPRING BREAK

March 6-13, 2010 The Green Line which serves The College of William and Mary will be on spring break as students take a break from the campus. ☞



Figure 6 A special treat for WATA staff.