

OCO's Oswego County Public Transit Expands Bus Service

4/1/09 - Fulton, NY - For those without access to a vehicle, traveling Oswego County can be a difficult task. However thanks to Oswego County Opportunities (OCO) **O**swego County **P**ublic **T**ransit (OPT), destinations throughout Oswego County are only a bus ride away.

Gary Mashaw, Director of Transportation for OCO and a member of the Oswego County Transportation Coalition, is proud of the services provided by OPT and is excited about the prospect of spreading the word about OPT and increasing the public's awareness of this effective and cost efficient transportation option.

“We are looking forward to maximizing the use of OPT and better educating the public on the transportation options that exist in Oswego County. Through partnerships such as the Oswego County Transportation Coalition and assistance from New York State our goal is to let the public know that even though Oswego County covers a very large area, our array of bus routes and transportation options make it easy for anyone to travel throughout Oswego County.” said Mashaw.

Oswego County Public Transit (OPT) provides a comprehensive bus service that is available to the public Monday through Friday. Operated through OCO's Transportation Division, OPT offers 12 bus routes that provide convenient transportation options to anyone in Oswego County. OPT's bus routes travel through the cities of Oswego and Fulton as well as the county's larger towns and villages including Mexico, Pulaski, Central Square, and Hannibal. Mashaw added that OPT has recently expanded that service and now offers routes that travel through Williamstown as well. Each route shares several connection points where riders can transfer to other OPT bus routes or one of CENTRO's bus routes making travel to points in all parts of Oswego County convenient and affordable.

According to Mashaw most buses operate between 5:30a and 6:30p. Each route offers designated pick-up / drop-off sites as well as transfer stops. In the event that people are unable to get to the designated OPT stops patrons also have the ability to flag down the buses at safe locations along the route. “Our buses will even deviate up to ¾ of a mile off its usual route to pick up individuals who are unable to get to the route. Arrangements for this service can be made by calling toll free at 1-877-484-3287,” added Mashaw.

In addition to the OPT bus service, a special Call-N-Ride service which provides curb-to-curb transportation for the elderly and persons with special needs in Oswego County. The service is available for medical, social or personal business. Sponsored by Constellation Energy, Call-N-Ride service is available Monday through Friday from 10a – 2p. Reservations for Call-N-Ride must be made 3 business days in advance and can be made by calling toll free at 1-877-484-3287.

Mashaw added that OPT is currently distributing information including maps of the bus routes, rates, and a complete guide to all of OPT's services to various agencies and human services providers throughout Oswego County as well as at high traffic areas where they can be easily picked up by the public.

For more information on transportation services offered through OCO you may contact them at 598-4773 or toll free at 1-877-484-3287 or visit oco.org/transportation.htm.



One of the **O**swego County **P**ublic **T**ransit buses makes a stop at the Super Wal-Mart Shopping Center on Route 3 in Fulton. Operated through OCO, **O**swego County **P**ublic **T**ransit (OPT) offers a wide array of bus routes and transportation options that makes it easy for anyone to travel throughout Oswego County. For more information you may contact them at 598-4773 or toll free at 1-877-484-3287.