

Support Benzie Bus, vote Aug. 6, says reader

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Letter to the Editor

July 11, 2024

TO THE EDITOR:

On Aug. 6 we have the opportunity as a community to make one of the most impactful steps in ensuring safe and reliable transportation for Benzie County residents.

The millage proposed by Benzie Bus will allow hundreds of employees to continue getting timely rides to work, seniors to do their daily tasks about town, students to get to and from school and extracurricular activities, and patients to get to medical appointments.

This millage reflects the rising costs all of us are facing and will equip Benzie Bus to continue offering competitive wages and even provide CDL training to prospective drivers. The other significant increase is in parts and supplies for the existing (aging) fleet, as like many organizations, Benzie Bus remains subject to supply chain delays in the delivery of new vehicles.

Finally, the August millage will allow Benzie Bus to explore long-requested ride options like Sunday service to area churches, expanded health rides to five days a week, and increased Saturday service, which was up 30% this year. In a coordinated effort with the VA, Benzie Bus hopes to include in their phase II growth plan service to the VA hospital in Saginaw. And to accommodate working Benzie residents, phase III calls for extending ride hours to 10 p.m.

Benzie Bus is dialed into the county's needs and responsibly utilizes its funding. As opposed to other measures we will be voting on in the near future, 100% of this millage will remain in Benzie County, continually re-investing in our community's well-being.

Low cost public transportation is a pipe dream in many communities, and we are so fortunate to have this available to our citizens. Keep Benzie Bus on the road and vote Aug 6.

Liz Negrau

Frankfort

July 11, 2024

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