

# Vote yes for Benzie Bus on Aug. 6

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Letter to the Editor

July 29, 2024

TO THE EDITOR:

Over the last 17 years the Benzie Bus has proven to be an invaluable resource to people of all ages, abilities and walks of life.

As a routine rider in 2010 and 2011, when my daughter and I were sharing a car, I got to know the “neighborhood” that develops when one rides the bus routinely with others riding the same routes. Fellow riders were retirees, those temporarily unable to drive due to illness or surgery, others who did not possess a driver’s licenses and teachers traveling to work in our schools.

I also met a robust group of youth who rode to their schools of choice, and who were getting rides home after participating in after school programs such as athletics, drama, Seeds programs and tutoring. For those youth, the Benzie Bus provided a lifeline to diverse activities beyond the classroom and safe travel back to their homes.

Since that time, the Benzie Bus has added additional services like prescription delivery service, airport transportation, Health rides (non-emergency medical transportation, including caregivers) and free Night Owl rides on holidays, providing safe transportation to those who are celebrating.

As the demand for Benzie Bus service continues to grow, the blended funding sources that keep the wheels on the busses rolling are crucial (federal and state funding, grants, millage assessments and the fares paid by riders).

While Benzie Bus is unable to control, or predict, federal or state funding from year to year, the passing of the millage will lock in consistent local funding for the next five years, ensuring continuity of current services and the opportunity to offer expanded services.

Please join me in voting yes for the Benzie Bus millage on Aug. 6. As a community, let us ensure that Benzie Bus will continue to be there when you need them, and for as long as others need them. We are a community that is better when we are connected.

Anne Noah

Benzonia Township

July 28, 2024

Letter to the Editor