

## Local Routes Change; Cedar Grove Opens March 20; Provides South Metro Connections

Nearly all MVTA local routes are changing effective March 20, 2010, in conjunction with the opening of the Cedar Grove Transit Station. Several express routes are also changing. Riders are advised to pick up new schedules:

### Route 420

- The western terminus of the route is moved from Granada and 149th to Health Partners at 153rd and Pennock in Apple Valley.
- Route deviation area for off-route pick-ups is reduced. Check schedule and map to see if a specific area outside the deviation area has been retained as a reservation stop.
- Eastbound and westbound time changes throughout schedule to improve reliability.

### NEW Route 437 (included on Route 445 schedule)

- Provides peak-only, reverse-commute service between Mall of America (MOA) and Eagan Transit Station (ETS).
- Eastbound trips depart MOA at 7:05, 7:35, and 8:05 a.m.
- Westbound trips depart ETS at 4:23, 4:53, and 5:23 p.m.

### NEW Route 438 (included on Route 440 schedule)

- Provides service between Cedar Grove Transit Station (CGTS) and commercial area along Cliff Lake Rd, with reservation stops at Oak Woods Apartments, Cub Foods, Target, and Blackhawk Park & Ride.
- Runs a counterclockwise loop de-



parting CGTS hourly from 8:50 a.m. to 3:50 p.m., returning to CGTS 20 minutes later.

### Route 440

- Route is realigned to serve Cedar Grove Transit Station. Southern portion of route is realigned to serve

Pennock Ave. and 140th St. west of Galaxie Ave. (area previously served by route 442).

- Northbound trips depart AVTS at 5:38 and 7:08 a.m. (skipping MN Zoo); at 8:33, 10:03 and 11:33 a.m. and 1:03 p.m. (via MN Zoo); and 2:33, 4:03, and 5:33 p.m. (serving MN Zoo to downtown Minneapolis).
- Southbound trips from CGTS depart at 7:50 a.m., 12:20, 1:50, 3:20, 4:50, and 6:20 p.m.; and from Gateway Ramp in downtown Minneapolis at 8:34 and 10:06 a.m.

### Route 441

- Saturday Service realigned to serve Cedar Grove Transit Station. No longer
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**MVTA Driver of the Year Celebration:** Seated from left, Joni Hamilton (Burnsville), full time driver of the year; Jesse Borchowiec (Lakeville), lead trainer and special award winner; Tony Carlisle (Eagan), part time driver of the year. Standing from left: Dan Schmitt, Schmitt & Sons owner; Sue Schmitt, Schmitt & Sons owner; Gary Hansen, Eagan Councilmember/MVTA Board Vice Chair; Wally Lyslo, MVTA Secretary/At-Large Representative; Beverley Miller, MVTA Executive Director; William Droste, Rosemount Mayor/MVTA Board member; Christine Kelly, Savage Councilmember and MVTA Board alternate; and Sharon LaComb, Apple Valley City Councilmember/MVTA Board member.

# Local Routes Change; CGTS Opens March 20 *(continued from page 1)*

passes Metcalf Junior High.

- Running times adjusted due to new routing. Northbound times held constant at Apple Valley Transit Station, arrive Mall of America three minutes later.
- Southbound trips depart MOA two minutes later, arrive AVTS three minutes later.

## Route 442

- Route realigned to serve Cedar Grove Transit Station.
- Route no longer serves Days Inn loop, nor Pennock Ave. south of 140th St. (Some Pennock Ave. service will be available on Route 440).
- Designated stops tentatively added on Cedar Avenue as follows: northbound at 147th St. and 142nd St.; southbound at 142nd St. and 149th St.
- Northbound trips depart Fairview

Ridges half-hourly from 4:54 to 6:54 a.m.; and from Burnsville Center at 7:18, 7:48, 8:18, 8:48, 9:48, and 10:48 a.m., half-hourly from 11:48 a.m. to 5:48 p.m., 6:48, 7:48, 8:48 and 9:48 p.m.

• Southbound trips depart Mall of America half-hourly from 7:18 to 9:48 a.m., 10:48, 11:48 a.m., half-hourly from 12:48 to 7:48 p.m., 8:48, 9:48 and 10:48 p.m.

## Route 444

• Route realigned to serve Cedar Grove Transit Station. Routing is revised between Burnsville Transit Station and Highway 13 & CR-11 to use Travelers Trail. Buses will now make timed connections at Cedar Grove rather than at Metcalf Junior High. Arrival/departure timepoints are consolidated at BTS.

• Bus stops removed along Portland Ave and Parkwood Dr.; new bus stops added along Travelers Trail at Eagle



Ridge Dr., Portland Ave. and Parkwood Dr.

• Weekday northbound trips depart Savage Park & Ride half-hourly from 5:01 to 7:01 a.m. (skipping Burnsville Center), 7:31, 8:01, 8:31, 9:31, and 10:31 a.m., and half-hourly from 11:31 a.m. to 7:31 p.m., 8:31 and 9:31 p.m. (via Burnsville Center).

• Weekday southbound trips depart Mall of America at 5:35 a.m. (to BTS); 6:05, 6:35, and 7:05 a.m. (skipping Burnsville Center); half-hourly from 7:35 to 9:35 a.m., 10:35 a.m., half-hourly from 11:35 a.m. to 7:35 p.m., 8:35, 9:35, and 10:35 p.m. (via Burnsville Center).

• Saturday / Sunday: Southbound trips arrive at Savage P&R two minutes later. Times adjusted between intermediate timepoints in both directions.

## Route 445

• Most trips start or end at Cedar Grove Transit Station, but routing is revised. All trips travel via Blue Cross Rd. and no longer serve Metcalf Junior High.

• Weekday eastbound trips depart from CGTS hourly from 7:20 a.m. to 4:20 p.m., and depart from Mall of America at 4:40, 5:10, and 5:40 p.m., and hourly from 6:10 to 10:10 p.m.

- Weekday westbound trips depart Dodd & Opperman at 6:01, 6:31, and 7:01 a.m. (to MOA), hourly from 8:01 a.m. to 5:01 p.m. (to CGTS), and hourly from 6:01 p.m. to 9:01 p.m. (to MOA).
- Saturday / Sunday: westbound trips arrive MOA three minutes earlier. Eastbound trips depart MOA two minutes later, arriving Dodd & Opperman one minute later. Times are adjusted between intermediate timepoints in both directions.

## Route 446

- All trips shifted three minutes later.
- Northbound trips formerly at 5:07, 5:37, and 6:07 p.m.; and southbound trips formerly at 4:10, 4:40, and 5:10 p.m. are eliminated.

## Route 465

- All northbound start times from 8:27 a.m. to 7:26 p.m. are shifted such that most departures from Burnsville Transit Station fall at five minutes and 35 minutes after the hour.
- All southbound start times are shifted such that most arrivals at BTS fall at six minutes after the hour (refer to pocket schedule for specific details.)
- Southbound 4:10 p.m. trip revised to skip downtown, arriving BTS at 4:46 p.m.

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# Local Routes Change; CGTS Opens March 20 *(continued from page 2)*

- Final northbound timepoint and first southbound timepoint changed to Oak and Washington.

## Route 470

- Northbound departures moved as follows: 6:47 a.m. to 6:48 a.m. (at ETS), 7:16 a.m. to 7:18 a.m. (at ETS), and 8:07 a.m. to 8:08 a.m. (at Blackhawk Park & Ride).

## Route 477

- New routing on southbound trips leaving Gateway Ramp at 1:58 and 5:59 p.m. serving Cedar Grove Transit Station and Palomino Hills Park & Ride. (Mall of America no longer

5:59 p.m. serving Cedar Grove Transit Station and Palomino Hills Park & Ride. (Mall of America no longer served by route 477.)

## Routes 480

- Trips to/from Apple Valley begin/end at 140th & McAndrews.
- Buses to board at appropriate Apple Valley Transit Station platforms (northbound platform for northbound trips, southbound platform for southbound trips).
- Route 480 no longer serves Pennock Ave. south of 145th St.
- Designated stops tentatively added



on Cedar Avenue as follows: northbound at 147th St. and 142nd St.; southbound at 142nd St. and 149th St.

- Start/end times remain unchanged between AVTS and downtown St. Paul, but are adjusted along other portions of the route.
- Southbound Route 480P trips departing 5th St. layover at 5:34 and 6:04 p.m. are extended from Blackhawk Park & Ride to Palomino Hills Park & Ride.

## Cedar Grove Transit Station Rings in New Era of Service

With the opening of the Cedar Grove Transit Station (CGTS) on Saturday, March 20, the Minnesota Valley Transit Authority (MVTA) will begin to provide station-to-station service along Cedar Avenue, as well as provide improved connections between the MVTA communities of Apple Valley, Burnsville, Eagan, Rosemount and Savage. There will be timed connections between routes for those wanting to travel to the Mall of America or for those wanting to move from one MVTA suburb to another. The site will have service seven days per week. Seven routes (437, 438, 440, 441, 442, 444, 445) will serve Cedar Grove upon opening. In September, the MVTA will add service from Cedar Grove to the University of Minnesota, likely with two peak-period and two off-peak-period trips in each direction. GREEN

CGTS was constructed with a “green” build concept: the site is located on a former brownfield; it features LED accent lights which follow the roof-line and have changeable colors; the site uses burnished block and low volatile organic compound (VOC) paints to improve indoor air quality; “geothermal” heating and cooling is used in the building. Further, the site will display native Minnesota vegetation, including trees, grass and wildflower species, designed to reduce carbon emissions from mowing.

The site includes a total of 170 parking stalls. It occupies 768 square feet on 9-acre site and includes bike lockers and bike racks. The exterior of the building proudly displays regional Kasota stone for a warm, golden hue to the building; pedestrians will enjoy the patterned paver design nicknamed “raindrops on roses” due to the round “drops” of red pavers. Further, the site is designed to accommodate a future connection to Center-running BRT.

CGTS is an integral part of the City of Eagan’s redevelopment of the former Cedarvale shopping area located in the southeast quadrant of Highway 13 and Cedar Avenue. A walkable new urban community with easy access to mass transit is one of the City’s primary goals for the area as it works to create a viable and vibrant mixed-use development that will re-establish the area as one of the attractive gateways to the community. The addition of the transit station and its enhanced future connection to Cedar Avenue’s bus rapid transit system is expected to support the resurgence of Cedar Grove as a place to live, shop and work.



# New Transit Station Celebrated in Apple Valley



The MVTA, City of Apple Valley and Dakota County celebrated the Grand Opening of the Apple Valley Transit Station on Friday, Jan. 8, 2010, following the opening of the facility on Jan. 4.

Cutting the ribbon (above from left) were: Sen. Jim Carlson, Rep. Tara Mack, Apple Valley Chamber President Ed Kearney, US Senator Amy Klobuchar, Apple Valley Mayor Mary Hamann-Roland, and MVTA Chair/Burnsville Mayor Elizabeth Kautz. Also participating in the ceremony were Rep. Phil Sterner, Dakota County Regional Rail Authority Chair Will Branning and Hennepin County Commissioner/Counties Transit Improvement Board (CTIB) Chair Peter McLaughlin.

The Apple Valley High School Men's Ensemble (photo above right) provided musical entertainment.

As with any new facility, the MVTA experienced a few bumps with the opening: there were challenges heating the facility during the coldest days of winter, doors were constantly opening (a feature to accommodate mobility-challenged riders, but causing other issues and since resolved), and it was a new experience for riders to walk across the pedestrian overpass to return to their cars (please note: riders are not allowed to be picked up in the private parking lot adjacent to the South station).

Operations have settled into a routine - drivers and passengers are more familiar and comfortable with the facility. Dakota County will begin roadway improvements on Cedar Avenue this year, with completion slated for 2012.

## Dakota County Regional Rail Authority to discuss plans for Cedar Ave. on March 18

On Thursday, March 18, Dakota County Regional Railroad Authority will conduct an open house to provide updated information about transit services along the Cedar Avenue corridor, both now and into the future. The open house is from 4-7:30 p.m. in the atrium at the Dakota County Western Service Center.

There will be an opportunity to ask questions and share comments and observations for consideration as the project moves forward.

The open house will focus on implementation plans for bus rapid transit service along the corridor, stations, accommodations

for bicyclists and pedestrians, ridership projections, information about park & ride facilities and cost estimates for operations and maintenance.

During the open house, Dakota County staff will present draft recommendations for the Cedar Avenue Bus Rapid Transitway Implementation Plan and invite comments from the public. Dakota County's transit staff plan to present this information to the Dakota County Regional Rail Authority by the end of April.

For more information about the Open House, contact Sam O'Connell, Dakota County transit specialist, 952-891-7105 or via e-mail at [sam.oconnell@co.dakota.mn.us](mailto:sam.oconnell@co.dakota.mn.us). More information is also available at [www.dakota-county.us](http://www.dakota-county.us), search Cedar.

## Riders Asked to be out Early to Catch Southbound Buses on Marquette Avenue

The MVTA has received calls from riders expressing concern about the timing of southbound buses along Marquette Avenue.

"It is important to note," said MVTA Operations Manager Samantha Porter, "that when buses leave Gateway Ramp on time, they must operate with the flow of traffic and cannot 'hold-up' at any stops along Marquette."

She added that during the early or late portions of the peak-period, when the amount of traffic is lessened, it is possible for a bus to operate a bit early. Riders are always asked to be out five (5) minutes before the bus is scheduled.



As we look ahead, the MVTA is arranging to have demonstration vehicles from several bus companies. These vehicles could provide an option as a Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) vehicle, or as a vehicle to meet growing loads on express routes.

Riders were mixed in their recommendation about acquiring **Double-Decker** Buses as part of the MVTA fleet. Comments about what riders liked about the bus included:

- Great ride; nice being so high up
- Fits more people; less chance to have to stand
- Spacious and comfortable; quiet and high quality ride

Riders on the **Articulated** Bus were definitely interested in the MVTA acquiring more of the buses. Riders especially liked:

- Doorways wider, windows bigger, more seating, more comfortable
- Clean design, good heating, quiet and good view outside
- Open roomy smooth ride; looks nice; more doors
- Width of the aisle doors, more standing room, looks nice, visibility

## MVTA Marks 20th Year Since Founding

The MVTA was founded in 1990 and began offering transit service to its communities in 1991. During the next two years, the MVTA will acknowledge its history and look toward its future with special events, activities, news articles and more. These will include:

- Opening new stations in the Cedar Avenue Corridor (January and March 2010)
- Installing a Driver Assist System (DAS) which should lead to faster, more reliable run times by encouraging bus drivers to use the shoulders even under adverse weather conditions when the shoulder boundaries are obscured. (Spring 2010).

- implementing bus stops along additional MVTA routes (September 2010).
- Demonstrating vehicles for future consideration (throughout 2010).
- Recognizing the MVTA's provider performance statistics in the areas of breakdowns, fleet complaints, missed trips and more (the MVTA operates well above peer agencies in all areas).
- Creating a Service Investment Strategy, including data review, public input and establishment of goals consistent with the MVTA's Strategic Plan (estimated completion August 2010).
- Conducting a Customer Appreciation celebration (Fall 2010).

- Participating in community events, including parades, commuter fairs and more.
- Beginning new service to the University of Minnesota from the Cedar Grove Transit Station (September 2010).
- Launching Google Transit as its own Trip Planner on [www.mvta.com](http://www.mvta.com) as well as implementing other web-site improvements.
- Completing the installation of cameras on all MVTA buses (Spring 2010).
- Working with the region to bring Automatic Vehicle Locator (AVL) technology to MVTA buses, which will feed to real-time signs (Fall 2010).

# Riders Respond to MVTA's Survey

The MVTA conducted a system-wide, on-line survey of its riders in November, and received more than 500 responses. We thank you for your participation and for your valuable input.

Consistent with previous surveys, the majority of riders use the MVTA bus to travel to work (97 percent) and most travel 4-5 days per week on the bus (90 percent).

Key reasons listed for riding the bus include: Convenience, Saves Money, Subsidized by Employer, Avoids Stress of Driving, Environmental, Saves Time and Can Work/Read on the bus.

The MVTA asked about what riders know about Bus Rapid Transit (BRT), and learned that while many riders are not familiar with BRT, others are beginning to understand components of such a system, including: walking to transit stops, dedicated lanes for buses, level

boarding platforms, station-to-stations service, buses that look like trains on wheels and fast, frequent trips.

With the growing senior population in the region, the MVTA asked riders if they had a role in providing transportation for one or more seniors in Dakota and Scott County. At this point, the response was small, but the MVTA will watch for changing trends in transportation needs.

Many riders have been using the bus service for years, but more than nine percent of the riders reporting riding less than one year.

Some 97 percent of survey respondents reported that the MVTA service meets or exceeds their expectations. The MVTA asked riders to list the agency's top two strengths and riders reported:

- Friendly, courteous, well-trained drivers

and customer service.

- Clean, comfortable, well-maintained buses.
- On-time buses and frequent schedules.

Riders were also asked to list the MVTA's two areas needing improvement. These are being carefully reviewed for future policy or other changes. They include:

- The need for more buses, operating more often, to eliminate overcrowding.
- The need for new means of discouraging cell phone use on buses.
- The need to better manage park & ride facilities, where riders parking in illegal spots make it difficult for others to navigate.

The MVTA will continue to conduct periodic surveys, and riders are always welcome to send comments to the MVTA via e-mail at [www.mvta.com](http://www.mvta.com) or by completing customer comment cards available on buses.

# MVTA Celebrates Drivers of the Year

The Minnesota Valley Transit Authority (MVTA) presented its 2009 Driver-of-the-Year awards at a recognition dinner following the MVTA February Board meeting. In addition, a special award was presented to Lead Trainer Jesse Borchowiec for his exemplary efforts in the training of drivers.

William Droste, Rosemount Mayor and member of the MVTA Board prefaced the awards ceremony by saying, "Drivers are the key to our success. The MVTA is known for providing high quality service and we couldn't do so without the many tremendous drivers we have. The Driver of the Year dinner is a way for us to let drivers know how much we appreciate them and the work they do."

The 2009 Driver-of-the-Year recipients are:

**Joni Hamilton**, Schmitt & Sons Transit Full-time Driver; and

**Tony Carlisle**, Schmitt & Sons Part-Time Driver.

**Joni Hamilton** has been a commercial driver since 1995 and has been driving for Schmitt & Sons Transit since 2008. She previously drove School Bus for Medicine Lake Lines and First Student. While at First Student she earned an Employee of the Month award. Currently she drives three local routes: 426 (shuttle between Burnsville Transit Station and southern Burnsville), 441 (Saturday service in Apple Valley) and 445 (service between Eagan and the Mall of America).

Hamilton graduated from high school in 1978 and has taken some writing and computer classes at an area Community College. She has also worked for School District 196 as a Student Support Assistant, helping with students who needed  
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**Joni Hamilton**

# MVTA Celebrates Drivers of the Year (continued from page 6)

special attention in the classroom. She is involved as a “greeter” and at the coffee bar at her church. She enjoys weekend getaways, camping, movies, flying in an ultra light, spending time with family and good friends, and road trips.

“I enjoy meeting new people and encouraging others,” she said. “I love my customers – seeing them on a daily basis and on weekends – they are my extended family. And, when an opportunity arises and there is a need to be met, I’m always there for support.” Tina Blaz, Burnsville Bus Garage Operations Manager for MVTA, stated, “Joni has a very loyal base of customers, particularly on Route 426. A recent survey conducted on the bus generated a lot of compliments.”

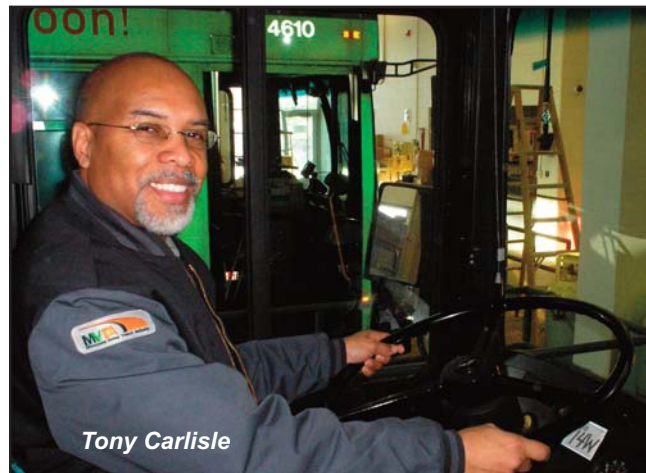
Riders commended this driver, saying, “The driver is pleasant, courteous and knows how to communicate with people. She is very respectful and has safety as Number One” and “I just wanted to drop a line to let you know that the driver of Route 426 is wonderfully professional. She is always cheerful and helps me get excited to go to work each day. She is often a boost to my day on the way home, too.” And finally someone wrote, “Always a good experience. Friendly and efficient driver.”

Hamilton and her husband, Carl, live in Burnsville.

**Tony Carlisle** has been driving for Schmitt & Sons for about five years – starting as a full-time driver, currently working as a part-time driver, and soon to return to full-time status. He has driven a variety of routes, serving all the cities in the MVTA service area: Apple Valley, Burnsville, Eagan, Rosemount and Savage (including local and express service). “Tony is a very versatile driver,” said Operations Manager

Tina Blaz. “He can’t stand occupying the passenger seat, and is wonderful with customers.”

Carlisle also brings a broad background of experience to the job. He graduated from the Minneapolis College of Art & Design with a Bachelor’s Degree in Fine Arts in 1982. In 2007, he earned a certificate in Massage Therapy from the Everest Institute. He worked as a producer, director and writer of commercials for KMSP television for more than 20 years. He has also operated his own businesses as a photographer and web-site designer. Currently, he also works as a masseur at a local spa in downtown Minneapolis and he is a member of the Associated Bodywork and Massage Professionals. He was previ-



ously involved in an amateur radio club in Burnsville. He also enjoys golfing in the summer and computers in the winter.

One rider sent the following note for Carlisle: “Tony - it's been so pleasant to see you each morning – to be greeted by a friendly person and ride a bus that we all know would arrive safely to our destination. You are the best driver (Route 480 has ever had and many others on the bus feel the same. May God bless you on your next route. You will be missed. Thank you!”

“I have always enjoyed driving for work or family vacations,” Carlisle said. “And, I love the variety of driving many different routes for the MVTA – from the small flex routes to the peak-period express buses to downtown Minneapolis or St. Paul.”

A resident of Eagan, Carlisle has one daughter.

Criteria in qualifying as a Driver-of-the-Year include:

- The driver must have received one or more customer comments commending superior driving or customer service;
- The driver must have been recognized at a monthly meeting during the past year;
- The driver must have an excel-

lent safety and attendance record.

- The driver must be recognized by his/her peers as a leader.

The award consists of a plaque, an MVTA personalized jacket and hat, and an MVTA scarf. The runners-up this year were 2nd Place – Rick Brastad of Prior Lake; and 3rd Place – Brenda Pagel of

Burnsville.

A special award was also presented to **Jesse Borchowiec**, lead trainer for Schmitt & Sons. Borchowiec has worked for Schmitt & Sons since late 2001. His story is the American dream – he was born in Poland and after graduating from high school joined a dairy company where he worked his way up to manager. He was married in 1973 and he and his wife, Sophie, moved to Chicago that year. He didn’t speak any English at the time, but attended night school to study the

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# Modified Service Schedule Listed for Good Friday

The Minnesota Valley Transit Authority (MVTA) will operate a “reduced service” schedule on **Good Friday** (April 2), with some express trips not operating. The MVTA Offices will be open on April 2. There will be changes to the following routes:

## Route 460 – Northbound

*These trips will not operate:* 6:32, 6:55, 7:25 and 7:48 a.m.

*These trips will change:* 6:37 a.m. leaves at 6:34 a.m., 6:59 a.m. trip departs at 6:57 a.m.,

7:21 a.m. leaves at 7:22 a.m.; and 7:28 and 7:52 a.m. trips depart at 7:27 and 7:51 a.m.

## Route 460 – Southbound

*These trips will not operate:* 3:31, 4:11, 4:44 and 5:06 p.m.

*These trips will change:* 3:26 p.m. trip leaves at 3:28 p.m.; 3:41 p.m. trip departs at 3:43 p.m.; 4:16 p.m. trip departs at 4:13 p.m.; 4:30 p.m. trip leaves at 4:29 p.m.; 4:35 p.m. trip departs at 4:33 p.m.; 4:38 p.m. trip departs at 4:39 p.m.; 4:49 p.m. trip leaves at 4:46 p.m. and the 5:02 p.m. trip will depart at 5:04 p.m.

## Route 470 – Northbound

*This trip will not operate:* 6:53 a.m. from Eagan Transit Station

## Route 470 – Southbound

*This trip will not operate:* 4:57 p.m.

*This trip will change:* 4:45 p.m. trip moved to 4:57 p.m.

## Route 477 – Northbound

*This trip will not operate:* 7:08 a.m.

*These trips will change:* 7:03 a.m. trip departs at 7:06 a.m.

## Route 477 – Southbound

*This trip will not operate:* 5:17 p.m.

## Driver of the Year *(Continued from page 7)*

language. He worked for a steel company with his father-in-law for a number of years, and then moved to Minnesota in 1984.

Once in Minnesota, Borchowiec worked for Data Sales and Company in a variety of positions in shipping and receiving, also earning his Class C license so he could drive truck for the company. He started at Schmitt & Sons as a bus driver, working his way

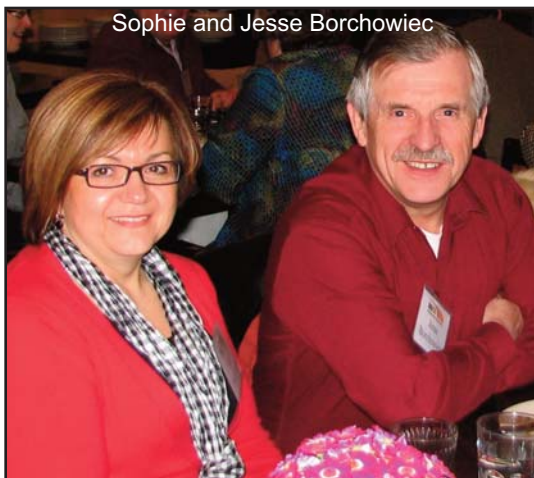
up to lead trainer. His office is at the Eagan Bus Garage. As lead trainer, Borchowiec oversees the training program for Schmitt's. Before each driver gets out on the road

alone, he does a ride along giving the final ok that the driver is ready to “solo.” He reviews all service change information and has an eagle eye for finding small inconsistencies. He is responsible for instructing, examining and qualifying drivers to operate their vehicles in a safe and efficient manner and also evaluates the performance of drivers on the job. Borchowiec is also a member of the Schmitt's Safety Committee and helps to evaluate all

accidents.

He has been very involved in his church in the Polish community in northeast Minneapolis, including serving on church committees for more than a decade. He has two children – his son, Christopher, served in the United States Marines for five years and currently lives with his wife and children in Colorado.

Borchowiec's daughter, Nina, is in



Sophie and Jesse Borchowiec

her last year at University of Wisconsin-Stout studying Environmental Science. She will graduate in May with a BA degree.

Hobbies include traveling, fishing, swimming and carpentry. He loves his

sports – especially soccer and football. But, we are told that Borchowiec is the happiest when he is spending time working on his cabin up north. He has built nearly the entire cabin by himself. One day, he dreams to be a general contractor and build his own house.

When training new drivers, Borchowiec is a stickler for detail when discussing the farebox. And, it's based on his own experience when first learning how to issue a

transfer. Each farebox has a green sticker showing drivers the key combination for various transactions. Jesse couldn't get transfers issued and was quite concerned. Project Manager Connie Massengale finally met him at the Mall of America to help resolve the problem, and it turns out Jesse was pushing the key combination on the green sticker, rather than on the actual farebox.

Drivers are very complimentary toward this trainer, although they note that when he gets excited, “he is a bit hard to understand – because he's speaking in Polish.” Borchowiec sets a professional tone with the drivers and earns their respect.

He and his wife live in Lakeville.

*News that Travels* is published by the MVTA, Beverley Miller, Executive Director; Robin Selvig, Editor.

For more information contact the MVTA at 100 East Highway 13, Burnsville, MN 55337 or call (952) 882-7500. Web-site: mvta.com; E-mail: mvta@mvta.com.

MVTA Board Members are: Will Branning (Dakota County Commissioner and MVTA Chair); Gary Hansen (Eagan City Councilmember and MVTA Vice Chair); Jane Victorey (Savage City Councilmember and MVTA Treasurer); Wally Lyslo (at large representative and MVTA Secretary); Sharon LaComb (Apple Valley Councilmember); Dan Kealey (Burnsville City Councilmember); William Droste (Rosemount Mayor); Jon Ulrich (Scott County Commissioner); and Greg Lind (at-large alternate representative).