

LETTER — MAX helps riders connect with their community

By **Jon DeHaan**

Reader contributor

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Recommend

Kathryn Gray recommends this.



Holland Township, MI — I support MAX Transit and invite the Holland community to vote “yes” on the MAX millage renewal.

I began riding the MAX bus about a year ago. I had suffered two strokes in 2009. After spending a period of time going through the rehabilitation programs at Mary Free Bed Rehabilitation Hospital and Holland Hospital, I was ready to continue my workouts on my own. I found a great facility at Evergreen Commons, but I was unable to drive. The MAX bus provided just the service I needed. I now ride the MAX to Evergreen Commons three days a week. The drivers are always prompt and courteous. Without the MAX, I would not have the mobility and freedom that I now can enjoy. I want to thank the community for supporting the MAX bus service.

MAX Transit is hands down the most affordable transportation option for Holland area senior citizens. Riding the MAX is cheaper than owning and operating a car or hiring a private transportation service without compromising my independence of getting around town. For seniors aged 65 and up, it is free to ride. MAX Transit bus drivers are very helpful and courteous to elderly riders. That is just one of the many ways MAX strives to go above and beyond the basic public transportation system. Riding MAX enables me to travel around Holland with ease, stay connected with the community and also reliably gets me to various medical appointments. This year, as an added bonus, MAX will be providing a free shuttle during the Tulip Time festival.

The MAX Transit Authority operates on a humble budget but helps generate nearly threefold in economic return to the local economy. A substantial portion of their budget comes from a millage. Five years ago, voters passed the MAX Transit millage which levied up to 0.4 mills. The millage allowed MAX Transit to expand its service routes and hours of operation. Most notably, it allowed MAX to provide reduced fares for seniors, people with disabilities and Medicare cardholders. Today these numbers have been reduced even further, providing free rides for seniors and cardholders. Without the millage being passed, these amenities would not be possible.

On May 3, the MAX Transit Authority will be seeking a millage renewal on the local ballot. It is imperative that the renewal be passed so that riders can continue to enjoy the many benefits MAX Transit provides.

Jon DeHaan

Holland Township

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