

Safety Newsletter

Southwest Area Regional Transit District

April, May, and June 2021

Quarterly Newsletter

Reminders:

- Make sure a pre-trip inspection is being done correctly and complete
- Do not use your cell phones while driving, please use mic.
- Assist clients on and off the bus, always ask if they need assistance.
- Place the phone in the cup holder.
- Do not leave straps in the floor place them back in the rails, it is not safe to use a trash can or anything else to hold straps, they have to be returned to the tracks for safety reasons.

SWART Celebrates 9th. Year Anniversary

The Southwest Area Regional Transit District (SWART) proudly celebrates its 9th anniversary since its inception on June 1, 2012. The TxDOT funded program has seen many successes over the last nine years including favorable audits, federal recognition for program management, statewide recognition for rural system of the year, various state awards for its staff, multiple capital funding for rolling stock and building enhancements, additional service provisions, developed new routes, and acquired certification training for its staff.

"It is hard to believe that we are celebrating 9 years as a standalone system but are more amazed at the dedication of our staff, regional stakeholders, and board of directors that has given us the capacity to flourish and grow. Our goal remains reminiscent to our vision, 'Be the leader in quality public transportation in the Southwest Region.'", states SWART General Manager, Sarah Hidalgo-Cook.

SWART intends on celebrating its 9th anniversary by promoting its Annual "Try Transit" Week which will take place June 7th -11th. The customer orientated week will hold a series of events to show appreciation to their riders and the communities served. Monday, June 7th will be "Half Priced Fare Cards" Day while Tuesday June 8th is "Ride for Free" Day for all local transportation routes throughout the region. On Wednesday, June 9th SWART will host an Open House from 11 AM to 2 PM at their Uvalde Station located at 713 East Main, inviting the community to visit the station and enjoy refreshments. On this day customers will also receive gifts of appreciation throughout the region. The Eagle Pass Station located at 2224 Del Rio Blvd. will host its open house on Thursday, June 10th from 11 AM to 2 PM. On Friday, June 11th customers throughout the region can enjoy "Ride for Free" Day for out-of-town routes. "Everyone in the community is welcomed to stop by our local offices and meet the staff and learn more about SWART." adds Hidalgo-Cook.

SWART would also like to honor and recognize their board of directors for all their support and guidance. "We are beyond blessed to have an active board of directors who have a vested interest in public transportation in the Middle Rio Grande Region" Hidalgo-Cook. SWART's Board of Directors include Dimmit County Judge Francisco Ponce and his appointee Christine Guerrero, Edwards County Judge Souli Shanklin, Kinney County Judge Tully Shahan who serves as Vice-Chair, La Salle County Judge Joel Rodriguez, Maverick County Judge David Saucedo, Real County Judge Bella A. Rubio who serves as Chairperson, Uvalde County Judge Bill Mitchell and his appointee Maggie Del Toro, and Zavala County Judge Joe Luna and his appointee Judge Lupe Valerio.

SAFETY COMMITTEE

Cynthia Rodriguez — Uvalde

Francisco Villalobos— Eagle Pass

Carlos Mallen—Eagle Pass

Jesus Puente—Eagle Pass

Jesus Rodriguez—Eagle Pass

3 available Vehicle Operators from the county service area.

The Committee members will be meeting quarterly to tackle any safety issues or concerns. Feel free to bring any issues to those members as needed.

Your concerns are greatly appreciated.

Happy
9th
Anniversary

SWART celebrates 9 years

Important dates/recipes

Safety Meeting News

Drive Safely !



SWART

Don't forget to visit
our web site



April Birthdays

Juan Rodriguez -4/14

Lidia Wrede-4/14

Alejandro Ruiz-4/26

May Birthdays

Carlos Mallen 5/6

Magda Salinas -5/9

Raul Macias-5/10

Remy Reyes 5/20

June Birthdays

Sarah Cook-6/2

Guillermo Canales-6/25



Julio Vasquez , Vehicle Operator from Eagle Pass attends PASS training with Frank Villalobos, Safety and Training Technician in Eagle Pass.



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Safety Issues

- Make sure walkers are secured at all times.
 - Illegal U turns in the middle of the street are prohibited.
 - Do not use vehicles that are not equipped with cameras. It's for your own safety.
 - Check ramps, make sure they are properly secure before opening doors.
 - Be accurate on pre-trips.
 - Incident/accidents Reports need to be turned in within 24 hours that an incident/accidents occurs not days later.
 - Park buses in their designated spots. For no reason should we have vehicles parked under the canopy.
 - Mechanical failures need to be reported to the Vehicle Technicians, not to your Supervisor.
 - Gassing up vehicles at the end of your shift is a must and they need to be cleaned as needed.
- Asegúrese de que los caminantes estén asegurados en todo momento.
 - Los giros ilegales en U en medio de la calle están prohibidos.
 - No utilice vehículos que no estén equipados con cámaras. Es por tu propia seguridad.
 - Cheque la rampa, asegúrese de que estén correctamente seguros antes de abrir las puertas.
 - Sea preciso en los viajes previos.
 - Estacione los autobuses en sus lugares designados. Sin ninguna razón deberíamos tener vehículos estacionados bajo el dosel.
 - Las fallas mecánicas deben ser reportadas a los Técnicos del Vehículo, no a tu supervisor.
 - El gasing up vehicles al final de su turno es una necesidad.

TML Comparison Report

Please note that this report reflects as of March 31, 2021

Fund Year	Workers Comp.	General Liability	Auto
2020/2021	1	0	1
Contribution	23,108	139	28,718
Loss Ratio	2.1%	0.0%	5.4%
Fund Year	Workers Comp.	General Liability	Auto
2019/2020	1	0	5
Contribution	36,734	268	45,424
Loss Ratio	1.5%	0.0%	10.7%

“A team is not a group of people who work together. A team is a group of people who trust each other.”

— Simon Sinek

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Important dates to remember:

⇒ Don't forget to clock in daily, and submit your timesheet. If you have any questions or problems with EWS, contact Laura Herrera, Finance Assistant at 830-278-4155 ext. 3039

Simple recipes

Pork Chop Skillet Dinner

Ingredients

- 4 pork loin or rib chops, 1 inch thick
- 1/4 cup (50 mL) beef or chicken broth
- 4 medium potatoes, cut in fourths
- 4 carrots, cut into 1 inch pieces
- 4 medium onions, cut into fourths
- 1/4 tsp (1 mL) pepper/3/4 tsp (3 mL) salt/ fresh parsley if desired



Steps

Remove fat from pork. Spray 12-inch nonstick skillet with cooking spray; heat over medium-high heat. Cook pork in skillet about 5 minutes, turning once, until brown.

Add broth, potatoes, carrots and onions to skillet. Sprinkle with salt and pepper. Heat to boiling; reduce heat. Cover and simmer about 30 minutes or until vegetables are tender and pork is slightly pink when cut near bone. Sprinkle with parsley.

Do Not Let your COVID-19 Guards Down

We must remain alert that COVID-19 is a contagious illness that poses the possibility of exposure in any public place where people are present. Despite life seeming more "normal" than in previous months, COVID-19 will be part of our reality for the foreseeable future. We must stay vigilant, especially as the Texas Department of Health reports recent increases in the numbers of confirmed cases of the virus around the state.

Now is not the time to let our guards down. The same best practices that helped us flatten the curve this spring are critical now. They include:

- Wearing face coverings indoors and outdoors where a six-foot distance from others is not possible
- Continued physical distancing
- Frequent and proper hand-washing
- Avoiding touching your face

Staying home and away from others if you are sick

As the priority is to keep everyone safe in the communities, we must continue to take personal responsibility when it comes to protecting ourselves, our loved ones and everyone with whom we come in contact.

These small steps — even the ones that seem strange or inconvenient — should be habit by now, and they remain critical practices.



Open House in Uvalde!!!

June 9, 2021

Special gratitude to all the staff that made the open house in Uvalde and Eagle Pass possible.
Great Teamwork!!



Open House in Eagle Pass!! June 10, 2021



