

\$15,000 from Elmview keeps Central Transit running through summer

Elmview Donates to Central Transit

Elmview recently donated \$15,000 to Central Transit, allowing the bus service to operate during the summer months. Pictured from left are CWU Director of Police Mike Luvera, Elmview director Bruce Tabb and HopeSource Transportation Manager Bob Richey. (Contributed)

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Thanks to a \$15,000 donation from Elmview, Central Transit will continue operating during the summer months.

Increased operating costs and a decrease in local funding recently jeopardized the continued service of Central Transit during the summer, according to a news release from HopeSource, which provides Central Transit service. Anyone in the community can ride Central Transit, and no fare is charged.

“Despite a reduction in the hours of service this past year, we were well aware that services would have to be discontinued unless additional local funding was added to the existing budget,” said Bob Richey, transportation manager for HopeSource.

In past years, under the direction of former Central Washington University Police Chief Steve Rittreiser, CWU provided additional funding to Central Transit in addition to the contracted \$75,000, Richey said. With Rittreiser’s departure from CWU plus budget constraints the university has been facing, the additional funding went away this past fiscal year — July 2011-June 2012. Richey said it resulted in a significant decrease in the number of hours Central Transit operates, and is the reason the bus service was scheduled to close this summer.

Elmview director Bruce Tabb received approval from the Elmview Board of Directors to donate \$15,000 to Central Transit, ensuring no disruption of service.

“Our grant agreement with the Washington State Department of Transportation requires a dollar-for-dollar local match which commits a community to support the programs that benefit it,” Richey said. “Elmview’s generous donation will provide access to an additional \$15,000 of WSDOT funding needed to keep the doors open.”

Elmview has provided financial support to Central Transit in the past, Richey said.

HopeSource is seeking local contributions that will allow Kittitas County to claim the remaining \$10,000 of the approved WSDOT budget for the next fiscal year. To contribute, call Richey at 925-1448.

“The additional funding would allow Central Transit the opportunity to restore some of the service hours we were required to reduce last year,” Richey said. It also would allow for much needed repairs to the Central Transit busses, he said.

For July 2012 – June 2013, CWU’s contract remains at \$75,000. With Elmview’s \$15,000 contribution, it brings Central Transit’s local funding up to \$90,000, which is matched by \$90,000 from WSDOT, totaling \$180,000, Richey said.

