

## Ways to Be Green and Save Money



- Use reusable cloth bags instead of plastic
- Turn off lights during the day
- Unplug electronics not in use
- Plant a tree
- Use plants to improve indoor air quality
- Buy local goods and produce
- Adjust your thermostat by a few degrees
- Wash your clothes in cold water
- Borrow books from the local library rather than purchase
- **VANPOOL, TAKE THE BUS, WALK or RIDE YOUR BIKE**



## Meet DART's New General Manager -- Elizabeth Presutti

The DART Commission promoted Chief Development Officer Elizabeth Presutti to be the next General Manager of DART. Her first day was July 1st.

"It is a great honor to be selected for this responsibility," Presutti said.

Presutti has more than 12 years of transit industry experience, most recently as the Chief Development Officer at DART. In that role, she was deeply involved in launching many initiatives critical to the future growth of the public transit in Greater Des Moines.

Those include the construction of DART Central Station, a new transit center in downtown Des Moines; the implementation of new technologies such as an online trip planner and an automatic-vehicle locator system using GPS; and the development of a long-range transit plan called DART Forward 2035.

Presutti replaces General Manager Brad Miller, who after five years at DART is taking over as the Chief Executive Officer of the Pinellas Suncoast Transit Authority in St. Petersburg, Fla. His last day at DART was Tuesday, June

28. Presutti, 35, lives in downtown Des Moines with her husband, Christ Naumann, a Sales, Inventory and Operations Planning Manager with Ingersoll Rand.



"Rideshare is one of the most successful vanpool programs in the Midwest, judging by the exceptional number of vans on the road today," said Presutti, who was directly involved in the RideShare program in her former position at DART. "I've admired its steady growth in my time here as Chief Development Officer. As General Manager, I am committed to seeing its ongoing success. I want to assure our local customers that the program will continue to offer a good service for a reasonable price."

## On The Road - Off The Phone

The National Safety Council published the following information as part of their June 2011 public service campaign:

Using a phone to talk, text and surf the internet distracts drivers in three ways:

1. **Physically - taking your hands off the wheel**
2. **Visually - taking your eyes off the road**
3. **Mentally - taking your mind off the road**



Hand held devices remove the physical and visual aspects, but the phone conversation still distracts driver's attention. While vanpool drivers are not using their phones on the road, those around you may be. Please share the word with your family and friends; phone use while driving is an accident waiting to happen.

## REMINDER:

**Slow down and drive defensively. Are you letting your guard down behind the wheel?** With increasing numbers of cyclists, and farm vehicles on the road, not to mention road construction and flood detours – now is not the time to be lax in our driving skills. Be sure that you are always well-rested, patient, and allow ample time for your commute. Be sure you slow down, and increase your following distance.

**Do not drive in the “fast” lane.** Since you are all going the speed limit, there is no reason to stay in the left lane unless passing a slow moving vehicle or your turn is approaching. Be courteous to those drivers looking to get a ticket... and move over.

**State Fair Bus Service, Aug 11-21, 2011.** Hop on the #1 Fairgrounds Route for a quick and easy direct trip to the Fair, or catch it from one of the three FREE Park & Ride locations: State Capitol, Southeast Polk School (Hwy 163) and with NEW Expanded hours Center Street Park & Ride(7th & Center). Buses will operate from all locations 8:30 a.m. - Midnight every day of the fair. Show your State Fair advanced admission ticket at one of the three Park & Rides and ride DART for 1/2 price roundtrip fare!  
**Visit [ridedart.com](http://ridedart.com) or call 515-283-8100 for information**

### DART RideShare

1100 DART Way  
Des Moines, IA, 50309  
Phone: 515.288.7433  
Fax: 515.283.8135  
Email: [rideshare@ridedart.com](mailto:rideshare@ridedart.com)

### DART Commission

Angela Connolly	Christine Hensley
Bob Mahaffey	Tom Gayman
Ted Boesen	Steve Van Oort
Skip Conkling	Gaye Johnson
Steven Brody	

General Manager  
Elizabeth Presutti

RideShare Manager  
Rebecca Lovig

RideShare Assistant  
Paula Covington

## The Manager's Corner

### **Do a Google search for vanpool stories and here are some of the headlines you will find:**

February 22, 2011, Napa County Transit board considers scrapping vanpool program. April 9, 2011; County to Consider Fate of Ag Vanpool Program. June 6, 2011; State Cuts Funding for Vanpool Hawaii. May 31, 2011; DART Mulls Increase Fare for RideShare. In light of such depressing headlines, I am pleased the DART commission agreed back in November of 2010 to help support our program by covering 20% of the cost of our operations, allowing RideShare to continue to grow without passing all of the costs on to our riders.

RideShare will see a fare increase with the October 2011 fares, but continues to strive towards providing the highest quality of service, at the most economic price

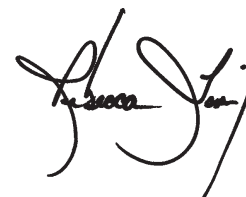
possible. The average commuter in our program travels 84 miles per day, making the average fare increase less than 36 cents per trip.

In addition to the fare increase, drivers will see the cost per mile for personal use adjusted for the first time in more than 15 years. Currently, drivers who exceed their personal mile allotment are charged a rate of .50 cents per mile. Going forward, drivers will be assessed the IRS mileage rate as it is published each year on July 1. Drivers of seven-passenger vehicles will see a decrease in the number of free personal miles, from the current 200 miles per month to a reduced allotment of 150 free miles per month.

RideShare is also working on a fare policy that will be presented to the DART Commission at their next

monthly meeting. The fare policy would allow for bi-annual fare adjustments at a percentage not to go beyond 5%. Additional language would allow for a fuel surcharge on a need-be basis should fuel prices take a sudden jump.

For most people, RideShare is not a replacement for their car; it is an experience, a group support system and an environmentally and economically friendly way to commute. DART is in the business of moving people, and we are committed to providing you service for a value for many years to come. We appreciate all of our riders and drivers, and look forward to serving you well into the future!



## Paula's Ponderings

**Everyone give a great big warm welcome to ... Summer Time.** It is nice to have some warm weather and I hope you all enjoyed your 4th of July holiday.

We all know how great it is to relax in a RideShare van on the way to and from work each day, but I thought I would be Captain Obvious and list the 10 Best Things you can accomplish if you ride on a RideShare Van:

- 1) Catch up on work
- 2) Text
- 3) Take up a hobby, like knitting or Sudoku
- 4) Meet new people
- 5) Meditate/ Sleep
- 6) Burn calories walking between your drop off

and work

- 7) Listen to music
- 8) Read a good book
- 9) Save money on gas
- 10) Relax and leave the driving to someone else.

There are so many more great benefits to participating in RideShare, that I thought I would start the list. Email me and let me know what you like best about your van: [pcovington@ridedart.com](mailto:pcovington@ridedart.com). It could end up in the next newsletter.

### **On to more good news:**

This year we had a RideShare van in the Ames 4th of July Parade. I would like to thank John

Burnett-Larkin for setting the entry up and walking in the parade, rider Anne Kimber for walking and Martha Wilson for driving the van and throwing candy. We all had fun on a hot 4th of July morning. If you would like to enter your van in a hometown parade, feel free to contact us and we can talk about the options.



**If you have questions, comments or story ideas, please send them to:** DART RideShare, 1100 DART Way, Des Moines, IA 50309; call 515.288.RIDE; or email [rideshare@ridedart.com](mailto:rideshare@ridedart.com).