

JUNE 2015

# The connection

The City of Groveport's Media Hub

## CITY OF GROVEPORT

Topic	Pages
General News	1, 18

## PARKS & RECREATION

Topic	Pages
General News	2
Fitness	3
Adult Athletics	4
Youth Athletics	4 - 5
Aquatics	6 - 7
Classes & Special Events	8
Sports Medicine Minute	9
Important Dates	10

## SENIOR CENTER

Topic	Pages
General News	11

## COMMUNITY AFFAIRS

Topic	Pages
Adult Programs	12 - 14
Youth Programs	15 - 16
Important Dates	17

## "GREAT" Solution to Rickenbacker Public Transit Issues

For the past several years, local officials have wrestled with the question of how to provide better, more efficient bus service into the Rickenbacker area. At least two regional initiatives have been launched since 2008 trying to address the issue of providing last mile, door-to-door services for employees whose primary means of transport may be mass transit. Both efforts were unsuccessful, largely due to the fact that there was no central agency to coordinate a program.

With unemployment in central Ohio dropping to record lows in recent months, local companies have been struggling more than ever to attract and retain workers, especially during their peak hiring season. It's not uncommon for local distribution centers to hire 1,500-2,000 seasonal employees. Many local companies have reported that the lack of adequate public transportation in the Rickenbacker area is one of the top barriers to recruitment. Many of these companies have approached the City asking for assistance to solve the problem.

After several meetings with Groveport businesses, COTA, and the Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission, the City decided to take the lead in the creation of a workforce transportation program linked to existing COTA service, providing door-to-door shuttle service to employers located within City limits. The service, to be called Groveport-Rickenbacker Employee Access Transit (GREAT) is scheduled to launch in Mid-September.

Bob Dowler, who has served the City since March 2006 as Senior Transportation Coordinator, was recently named Director of Transportation. He will oversee the newly-created Transportation Department, which will include both senior transportation services and the GREAT service.

Jeff Green, *Finance Director/Assistant Administrator*

