

2nd Annual Walk for Rides is right around the corner!

ITNBluegrass is excited to announce its second annual Walk for Rides, to be held in conjunction with Mayfest at Gratz Park on Saturday, May 8, from 1-4 p.m. This year's Walk for Rides will include a short scavenger hunt in historic downtown Lexington. There will be fantastic prizes for the teams and individuals who win in each category of the scavenger hunt.

In addition to the hunt, ITNBluegrass will have a booth at Mayfest (both Saturday and Sunday), which will feature nearly 100 homemade quilts for sale and a visit from "Mother Goose," aka Marlene Thompson, one of our member-riders.

Walk for Rides is a very important fundraiser for ITNBluegrass, not only for the much-needed financial support, but also to build a sense of community among those who participate and to bring awareness to the issue of senior mobility. Please consider becoming a sponsor of Walk for Rides or participating as a team or individual.

For more information, contact ITNBluegrass at 859-252-8665. You can also visit www.WalkforRides.org to register online or use the pledge form on the last page of this newsletter.



Spring Facts

Total Members by March 2010

205
(not all are riders)

Total Rides in March:

409

Total Rides to Date

(April 15)

4,846

CORRECTION!

Just recently, we raised the same-day pick-up fee to \$5.00 and the same-day mileage to \$2.25. Price changes go through the national organization, and shortly after the date of implementation (April 15), ITNAmerica told us that the system couldn't support two different daytime pick-up fees. So, same-day pick-ups continue at \$3.00 and the slightly higher mileage.

Unfortunately, the pick-up fee was changed to \$5.00 for all rides for a period of 2-3 days. These pick-ups will be credited \$2.00, so if you see this on your April bill, you'll know why.

Bulletin Board

Welcome to:

Our newest volunteer drivers: Mary Duke, Mollie Heron, Gohary Kamdar, Helen Kientz, Tammy Margolies, Beanie Pederson, Carolyn Purcell and Kathleen Richardson.

Our newest board member: Jim Knoblett.

Meet Volunteer Driver Linda Ransdell...

Volunteer driver Linda Ransdell has been a member of the Lexington community for 36 years. In 1974, she and her husband moved to town so that he could pursue his career as an optometrist. The couple has three grown children as well as two grandchildren.

Linda, who is originally from South Charleston, West Virginia, is recently retired from the Fayette County school system where she worked for 30 years. She started out as a teacher and eventually became an Educational Diagnostician. In this position, she tested students for potential behavioral and learning problems so that they could receive the appropriate help. In her spare time, Linda enjoys reading, walking, and gardening. In fact, she is president of the Hoe 'n Hope Gardening Club and attends meetings regularly.

Linda says she was encouraged by her daughter, who works for Cincinnati's Council on Aging, to drive for ITN*Bluegrass* and began doing so in January 2010. She says that her experience has been "wonderful," and one that she has "thoroughly enjoyed." She also emphasized her appreciation for the dispatchers (Walt and Barbara) who she described as "...easy to work with, friendly, and very flexible. They allow you to do as much or as little as you want to do."



...And Member Rider Ruth Kitchen

This issue, we feature one of our most prolific riders. Ruth Kitchen has been riding with ITN*Bluegrass* since the day we started in September 2008 and currently uses us every weekday! She attends an exercise class at Central Baptist twice a week and audits a vocal class in the School of Music at UK three times a week. Ruth doesn't sing, but loves hearing those who do. She takes these classes as a Donovan Scholar and says this is her best one yet.

Before she retired, Ruth was registrar and Director of Admissions at the Lexington Theological Seminary for 30 years. She and her late husband had two children: their son lives in Versailles and their daughter in Kalamazoo, Michigan. Ruth has six grandchildren.

Ruth stopped driving because she developed macular degeneration and her family worried about her continuing to drive, even in the neighborhood. It was hard to give up, she says, but the correct decision. She still gets out quite a bit and enjoys lunches and concerts with friends. When she's home, she loves to sit on her porch and look at her azaleas.

Ruth also has a wonderful sense of humor. Regarding ITN drivers, she says, "I haven't had a lemon yet!" and commented that they have all been very nice and polite. As for ITN*Bluegrass*, she says, "It has been a godsend to me."



Letter from the Executive Director: Gale Reece



Spring has definitely sprung in the Bluegrass. This has been the most beautiful spring I remember in many years. The lovely weather following an extremely cold and snowy winter has manifested itself in a tremendous increase in rides. We are thrilled that everyone is getting out!

Volunteers: yes, we could really use you! If you have considered driving for ITN and just not made the call, we could really use you now. Driving our members is the most rewarding aspect of my work. You can prepare for your own future driving needs by volunteering and build your transportation account at \$0.33 per mile or donate these funds to a friend, relative or a group fund that will redistribute to those who need rides. If you would like to speak with a volunteer before you decide to train, just let us know.

You will read elsewhere in the newsletter about our celebration of Walk for Rides at Mayfest in Gratz Park during Mother's Day weekend. This year, our Walk will be a scavenger hunt in the historic area around the park. We will be giving away a handmade quilt as our grand prize! There will be other quilts for sale all weekend. Come down and join the fun. Bring your friends or children/grandchildren to learn some history and support ITN.

Last month at a national aging conference in Chicago, I learned that many fine minds are focusing on the issues that face all of us retiring in the next 20 years. The speaker that made the strongest impression on me spoke of each of us needing to take personal responsibility for our health. We can maintain our financial health by saving for the future, nutritional health by the eating right and exercising, and emotional health by giving back and being productive during our later years.

Let ITNBluegrass assist you in your efforts to remain active and productive. Volunteer at the library, a hospital, your church or synagogue or visit shut-in friends. Use us while you are still driving: at night, to the airport, on a rainy day, on Nicholasville Road in later afternoon, to drop your car off for service, or to have your eyes dilated. Become a member or a Friend of ITNBluegrass to help us grow and be strong for generations to come. **We need your financial support, now!**

Gratefully yours, Gale GW Reece

We 'll Drive Customers to your Door. *Literally.*

Healthy Miles and Ride-and-Shop are programs of ITN that encourage businesses to show their commitment to the community, public safety and their senior and/or visually-impaired customers. With the economy getting a little better, we think it's time to invite local businesses—businesses our riders patronize—to participate. Here's how it works: A business joins ITNBluegrass at an annual membership of \$100 then subsidizes its ITN customers at a small charge per ride. We take care of all the administrative costs, advertising and paperwork.

If you own a business and want to know more or know of a business (medical or retail) that might be interested, please give Laura Dake a call (859-252-8665). She'd be happy to deliver some information about the programs. The annual impact from an ITN on the local business community is about a half-million dollars!

Walk for Rides Contributions & Pledge Form

Please cut out this form and mail with donations (or bring to Walk for Rides on May 8) to:

ITNBluegrass
1206 N Limestone St.
Lexington KY 40505

Visit www.WalkforRides.org to contribute online!

I cannot join in the Walk for Rides but have enclosed a gift of: (Circle one)

\$50 \$100 \$250 \$500 \$1000 Other \$ _____

My Fundraising Goal (optional):

\$ _____

| Name | Pledge |
|-------|----------|
| _____ | \$ _____ |
| _____ | \$ _____ |
| _____ | \$ _____ |
| _____ | \$ _____ |
| TOTAL | \$ _____ |

Tel: 859.252.8665 | Fax: 859.252.4393
www.ITNBluegrass.org

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED