

NEWS RELEASE



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Pocono Pony Bus Service Coming to The Mountain Center

Tobyhanna, PA— Getting public transportation from Coolbaugh Township to the Bartonsville/Tannersville area will be a lot easier, now that The Mountain Center (TMC) has been added to the Pocono Pony's bus services.

Starting on Monday, Jan. 15, the Blue North/South Fixed Route will be extended to TMC, which is located at 354 Memorial Boulevard/Route 611 in Tobyhanna. Service will run from Monday through Friday, with the daily schedule starting at 8:11 a.m. and the last southbound bus departing at 6:11 p.m. Buses will leave every hour and 15 minutes.

"We are thrilled that public transportation will be more accessible for so many people in our Coolbaugh Township neighborhood, from families and working parents to senior citizens," said Tim Lee, executive director of Pocono Services for Families and Children, which runs TMC. "It will make job opportunities, shopping, and health care more within reach for so many people."

The route extension is part of several schedule changes planned by the Monroe County Transit Authority, kicking off on Martin Luther King Jr. Day. There will also be more service on Saturday and more destinations countywide, explained Rich Schlameuss, assistant executive director of the Monroe County Transit Authority, which runs the Pocono Pony.

"We feel there is a need to provide the new stop because of all the agencies and programs now at The Mountain Center, and the number of people using those services," said Schlameuss.

Destinations along the expanded Blue Route will include the Mount Pocono Walmart, Mount Airy, the Crossings, NCC Monroe Campus, Giant, and Saint Luke's Hospital in Bartonsville. Buses going from Saint Luke's to TMC will run from 7:15 a.m. to 6:15 p.m.

The Pocono Mountain Public Library will also be a new stop along the line.

The rear parking lot (by the gym) at TMC will be used for the Park 'N Ride, Lee said. He said visitors to the building have been excited about the news.

A full schedule can be viewed and printed at www.gomcta.com.

The Mountain Center is an educational and community facility that opened in September 2016, in the former Coolbaugh Elementary Center. Half the building is used to teach children from infants to third grade, with most of the children in the Head Start and Pre-K Counts programs. The community service half of the building houses a senior activity center and nonprofits/ organizations like Habitat for Humanity, Women's Resources, Feeding Families Ministry, Crossroads Community Services, Maternal and Family Health Services, and AARP SCSEP. The constituent services office of State Rep. Maureen Madden is also housed there.

PSFC's mission is to provide resources for the evolving needs of community children and families, in support of efforts to achieve their goals. Besides The Mountain Center, the organization has an East Stroudsburg Center and classrooms in schools within the East Stroudsburg Area School District.

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