



NEWS RELEASE
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Contact: Paula Leary, NRTA Administrator (508) 325-9571

FIFTH ANNUAL NATIONAL DUMP THE PUMP TO BE HELD ON JUNE 17
Take Public Transportation to Save Money and Help the Environment

Nantucket, MA - With people still struggling economically and concerned about saving energy, the Nantucket Regional Transit Authority (NRTA) is partnering with other transportation systems nationwide to participate in the Fifth Annual National Dump the Pump Day, Thursday, June 17.

According to NRTA Advisory Board Chair Patricia Roggeveen, "Public transportation makes an important contribution to the economic health and quality of life for Island residents and visitors. The NRTA plays an important role in reducing traffic congestion, taking people to shop, run errands and getting people to and from work."

Sponsored by the American Public Transportation Association, the 2010 event is a day that encourages people to ride public transportation and save money instead of driving their cars. According to APTA, the average household spends 18 cents of every dollar on transportation, and 94% of this goes to buying, maintaining, and operating cars, the largest expenditure after housing. Started in June 2006 when national gas prices were \$3.00 per gallon, this national day emphasizes that public transportation is a great option to help people save money.

"Being part of this important national event is a wonderful opportunity for us to encourage people to leave their cars at home and ride the NRTA. It also allows us to say thank you to our loyal customers and welcome new riders", stated NRTA Administrator Paula Leary.

The NRTA is offering half fares all day on June 17 and as an added incentive, riders can register to win one of two 26" bicycles. Vouchers may be obtained on the buses and should be turned into the driver, dropped off at the NRTA office at 3 Chestnut Street, or the Greenhound Building by noon Friday, June 18. Winner will be announced on Monday, June 21.

"Dump the Pump Day is a great event everyone on Nantucket can support. We hope new riders will see how easy and convenient it is to catch the bus," said Melissa Philbrick, spokesperson for Greenhound, LLC. Greenhound, a nonprofit project established by Wendy Schmidt, President of the Schmidt Family Foundation, is working to enhance transportation on Nantucket by exploring ways to improve access to downtown while reducing congestion and our environmental impact. "By collaborating with NRTA and Nantucket Visitor Services, we have tried to provide a facility at 10 Washington Street that will encourage residents and visitors alike to explore Nantucket gently – by bus, on bike, or on foot," said Philbrick.