

# LTS to serve handicapped, elderly residents of Bennet

By Jeff Goodwin

An agreement between the village of Bennet and the city of Lincoln will provide elderly and handicapped residents of Bennet with transportation to and from Lincoln.

Dick Rohde, general manager of the Lincoln Transportation System, said the service will start Sept. 24.

Rohde said similar service is already offered to residents of Hickman and Waverly. Those communities have had service since August.

Rohde said citizens of Bennet were interested in the service.

"LTS was approached by citizens in Bennet with this idea," Rohde said. "They stimulated the officials in Bennet."

Rohde said the response in Hickman and Waverly also has been good.

"Our ridership has been pretty good," he said. "We haven't experienced a decrease or increase. It (the ridership) has been about the same as it was before."

Rohde said the city used to provide free transportation to rural communities in Lancaster County but was forced to discontinue that arrangement two years ago. The county continued the service

for one year but was forced to abandon it for financial reasons.

Rohde said it was doubtful that the city would make a similar arrangement with any other community.

"I don't think we'll do that," Rohde said. "We would have to consider carefully before we took on any more responsibilities like this."

Rohde said the service, provided by a van, would be available once every two weeks.

The services in Waverly and Hickman run once a week.

People using the service must pay \$1.50 for each way, except for residents of Waverly who only pay \$1 each way.

Rohde said the cost of the service to Bennet was approximately \$2,000. "It's about the same for the services in Waverly and Hickman," he said.

Rohde said future service is uncertain. "We're glad to be able to provide the service this year," Rohde said, "but the contracts are up next year and we'll have to review them very carefully. Our first duty is still to provide service to the citizens of Lincoln."

The agreement, which was passed by the Lincoln City Council on Monday, must be approved by the mayor's office.

# Crimestoppers rewards reports

"A lot of people who know something about a crime don't know who to report it to, or are afraid they will be identified," said Kathy Roth. Roth is a member of the board of directors. Crimestoppers, a public service group for people to contact about unsolved crimes.

Roth said Crimestoppers is strictly for unsolved crimes. If you know anything about a crime in progress, you should call 911 or the police, Roth emphasized. Crimestoppers offers rewards for information leading to the arrest of persons

who have committed as yet unsolved crimes.

According to Roth, Lincoln Police Chief Dean Leitner said all areas of crime are down in the city this year. "This isn't necessarily because of Crimestoppers," Roth said, "but I think Crimestoppers has maybe contributed to it."

Roth said Crimestoppers can ultimately improve campus safety. "If students would take an active role in reporting things they see, I think we could have a lot safer campus."

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