

The Rapid offers money-saving alternative

By Shawn Zalewski

GVL News Editor

to get to off-campus living centers including Hightree, Boltwood, Campus West, Country Place, Hillcrest and two stops at Campus View. The route will be streamlined to pick up directly on Lake Michigan Drive, 48th Avenue or Pierce Street to shorten the route and increase capacity. The final two stops are at the Kirkhof Center and Mackinac Hall. Students living at Copper Beech will be picked up off of 48th Avenue.

Last year, 1.2 million students rode the Rapid to get from campus to where they needed to go, an increase from 800,000 during the 2004-2005 academic year, Babson said.

She added that there will be a new service for students wishing to go downtown. The Weekend Connector route will combine the 51, 50 and 37 routes, taking students from off-campus apartments through the Allendale campus, Pew Campus, CHS and then continuing to the Rapid Central Station, located at 250 Grandville SW in Grand Rapids. From there, students can access all of the routes, including Rivertown Crossings and Woodland Mall.

The Weekend Connector Service will have extended weekend hours, including running until 2 a.m. on Friday and Saturday. Full hours and schedules will be available on the GVSU bus schedule Web site on Aug. 22.

"We are really excited about the new route this year. This will allow students that live in the apartments to go downtown for dinner or a concert without needing their car," Babson said.

Route 38, the Allendale Express route, will not run this year due to lack of funding and low ridership, Babson said.

The university Web site will soon have a link at <http://www.gvsu.edu/bus>. Students can also visit <http://Ridetherapid.org> for more information.

The Grand Valley State University bus service will offer additional routes and hours this year to better assist the GVSU community.

As part of tuition costs, the bus service is free to any student or staff member with a valid GVSU identification card. Beginning with the start of classes on Monday, all of the university's busing routes will run at their regular hours from 7 a.m. to midnight Monday through Thursday and will also include the new Weekend Connector with extended hours.

For students with classes at the Pew Campus in Grand Rapids, the Campus Connector (route 50) starts on the Allendale Campus and runs downtown with stops on Wilson, Kinney, Collindale, Covell, Garfield and Seward Avenues while completing its journey in front of the Eberhard Center. The Campus Connector will run Monday through Thursday from 7 a.m. to midnight and Friday from 7 a.m. to 6 p.m.

An additional bus will join the Campus Connector fleet, allowing faster service, said Erin Babson, operations manager of the Pew Campus and Regional Centers. Buses will leave campus every eight minutes, improving from the 10 minute wait in past years, Babson added.

The university's Cook DeVos Center for Health Sciences is within reach via the CHS Express (route 51), which takes students from the Pew Campus stop at the intersection of Lake Michigan Drive and Seward Avenue to the Center for Health Sciences on Michigan Street.

The new Copper Beech townhouses will join eight other locations to make up the Off-Campus Apartment Shuttle (route 37). Students can take this route

GVSU Alternate Bus Schedule

Thursday, August 24th — Sunday, August 27th

WESTBOUND

Pew Campus	Meijer	Kirkhof
8:00AM	8:13AM	8:25AM
9:00AM	9:13AM	9:25AM
10:00AM	10:13AM	10:25AM
11:00AM	11:13AM	11:25AM
12:00PM	12:13PM	12:25PM
1:00PM	1:13PM	1:25PM
2:00PM	2:13PM	2:25PM
3:00PM	3:13PM	3:25PM
4:00PM	4:13PM	4:25PM
5:00PM	5:13PM	5:25PM
6:00PM	6:13PM	6:25PM
7:00PM	7:13PM	7:25PM
8:00PM	8:13PM	8:25PM
9:00PM	9:13PM	9:25PM
10:00PM	10:13PM	10:25PM
11:00PM	11:13PM	11:25PM
12:00AM	12:13AM	12:25AM

EASTBOUND

Kirkhof	Meijer	Pew Campus
8:30AM	8:44AM	8:55AM
9:30AM	9:44AM	9:55AM
10:30AM	10:44AM	10:55AM
11:30AM	11:44AM	11:55AM
12:30PM	12:44PM	12:55PM
1:30PM	1:44PM	1:55PM
2:30PM	2:44PM	2:55PM
3:30PM	3:44PM	3:55PM
4:30PM	4:44PM	4:55PM
5:30PM	5:44PM	5:55PM
6:30PM	6:44PM	6:55PM
7:30PM	7:44PM	7:55PM
8:30PM	8:44PM	8:55PM
9:30PM	9:44PM	9:55PM
10:30PM	10:44PM	10:55PM
11:30PM	11:44PM	11:55PM
12:30AM	12:44AM	12:55AM

No Service Provided at this time on Sunday

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