

Press Release

From the Office of Mayor April Capone Almon

Town of East Haven, CT

SATURDAY AUGUST 14, 2010--This year's traditional Senior Day celebration on the East Haven town green became even more special with the fulfillment of one of the Mayor's campaign promises. Mayor April Capone Almon, along with members of the East Haven Lions Club, American Medical Response Vice-President Fred DellaValle and Democratic Town Committee members James Krebs and Frank Capone unveiled the new East Haven Senior bus solely to provide transportation to out-of-town doctors' visits for East Haven Senior Citizens. The conversion van with wheelchair lift and handicapped access was donated by American Medical Response and painted and refurbished with the generosity of resident Frank Capone, the East Haven Lions Club and Redjack Auto. The Mayor explained "This vehicle, donated to the town and staffed by volunteers, will provide many East Haven Senior Citizens with much-needed transportation free of charge. It is my pleasure to turn a goal of my 2007 campaign into a reality."

The town currently leases a mini bus for shuttling East Haven Seniors within the town but the terms of the lease do not allow it to travel beyond city limits. During the 2007 campaign many seniors expressed to the Mayor, then still a Councilwoman that they had difficulty getting to out-of-town doctor's appointments. Many elderly folks do not drive out of town and some do not drive at all. This van will help fill the gap between depending on family members and other forms public transportation.

Scheduling will be handled by the East Haven Senior Center and the amount of time the van can be out on the road will depend on the number of volunteer drivers available. Several folks, including Frank Capone, have obtained a livery license specifically for the purpose of driving the newly added van. Mr. Capone stated "It was a lot of fun working with the administration to get this van on the road to help East Haven Seniors. I'm glad that we could give them something they had been asking for over a decade."

The Mayor went on to say "Volunteerism has been a cornerstone of my administration and this project embodies that spirit. Our Cosey Beach Park and Splash Pad were built with the help of volunteers and donations and the project to obtain and staff this van has taken the same path; we are providing new services to residents through the help of community generosity."

Anyone with a livery license interested in volunteering should contact the East Haven Senior Center at 203-468-3277.