

Trips Report from Tina Muncy- MSAC's Volunteer Trip Leader

(With input from staff in the office 😊) August 12, 2021

I feel like I need to update you on the lack of trips this summer. Along with our need to restart programs gradually during the pandemic, we are having some significant problems with our MSAC van leased from Green Mountain Transit (GMT). The van is about twelve years old, and the roof leaks now enough so that I would not want to take anyone out in it if there was even a chance of rain. Clearly that is a problem, and GMT can't repair it effectively enough at any reasonable cost. Janna has worked on several congressional earmark requests and grants. Earmark requests were not funded and a large grant application in July awaits September for results.

The city is discussing this issue and I am hoping they will put a van in the city budget to be used by not only us, but other City departments. If that were actually to happen, it would not be in time for a new van this Summer or Fall. Hence, for the time being, we will only plan new trips on a larger rented bus, which makes trips more expensive.

I realize that many of you are now concerned about the rise in COVID cases around the country. Please know that our policy is to have everyone on any currently scheduled bus or van trip (August 19 and 23) wear masks while they are on the bus or van. Based on the COVID situation in Vermont as of August 11, we have decided to hold off on scheduling any additional trips this Fall until further notice. None of us want to be ill!! I promise to keep you posted as we progress and hope you are all having a great summer.