

Shuttle takes Maricopa workers to Phoenix

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Terri Kingery at The Duke

By KAT

Staff photo by Gloria Savko

Celebrating the debut of Maricopa Shuttle and Limo Service are, from left, Courtney Tyler, president of the Maricopa Chamber of Commerce board of directors; Udoamaka Obiekia, owner of the shuttle service; Brent Billingsley, transportation manager for the city of Maricopa; and Mark Molus, vice president of the chamber board.

Downtown stops provide access to public transit

By GLORIA SAVKO
Staff Writer

Udoamaka Obiekia believes he can help local residents who commute to downtown Phoenix save time, money and gas. It is easy, he said, if they let his new Maricopa Shuttle and Limo Service do all the driving.

"If people can get into this, they will stop driving," Obiekia said. "And most of all, they don't have to be in traffic."

The service is designed for people who work in the central

business district with drop-off and pick-up points at Third Street and Third Avenue at Fillmore, Washington and Jefferson. Transportation to a park-and-ride site at 40th Street and Pecos Road also is available. From these points, commuters can use public transportation to get to their jobs.

"My goal is to educate people how to use transit and connect with buses," he said. "The good part is they don't have to pay parking."

Obiekia, a native of Nigeria, has lived in Maricopa for a year and has a passion for transportation. He came to the city from Los Angeles, where he said he worked as a bus driver and that an injury forced him to quit after six years of service.

"At least now I can be a part of what I like - what I love - again."

A one-way trip from Maricopa to downtown Phoenix costs \$15; roundtrip is \$20. Roundtrip to the park-and-ride is \$10.

Obiekia said the fare to Sky Harbor Airport is \$25 and, after his drivers meet Homeland Security requirements, the fare will be \$25 from the airport. Service also extends to West Mesa, Ahwatukee, Tempe and Casa Grande.

Maricopa Shuttle opened for business on Monday, April 16. The company's fleet consists of two vans, each of which seats 11 people plus a driver, and a limousine that carries seven passengers. The service is available daily.

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Arizona gas prices on a 10-week rise

Gas prices in Arizona have risen 10 percent in the last 10 weeks, according to a report from the U.S. Energy Information Administration.