

The Fun Bus brings the gym to those who have none

By GREG GLASSNER
H-P Editor

It is shaped like a standard school bus, but the bright green paint job with multicolored balls bouncing down its flanks are a dead giveaway that this is not your regulation yellow bus.

Inside, the rows of seats have been replaced with well-cushioned mats and gym equipment designed to withstand the rigors of even the most rambunctious 2-7 year olds.

The Fun Bus – Fitness Fun on Wheels – is a rolling playground. The back door even opens to accommodate a slide.

Annette and Bryan Sklar of Montpelier took delivery of their bus just weeks ago and are already busy booking it for day care centers, preschools and birthday parties.

It is fully air conditioned in the summer and heated in the winter and rain can't spoil this parade.

Healthy exercise and play is

something that today's youngsters need more of, according to all studies. And anyone who has tried to plan a child's party knows how big a hit the Fun Bus would be if it pulled up in front of your house.

Annette Sklar was an instructional assistant at South Anna Elementary School before she and her husband bought the Fun Bus franchise for Hanover and Henrico counties, so she can tailor the fun and games to meet curriculum

needs.

Numbers? Colors? Spanish? No problemo.

The Fun Bus can give preschool teachers and day care providers with a little break during the daily routine and even a half-hour visit each week can give youngsters the exercise they need.

Sklar calls it "controlled chaos." Kids call it fun.

About the Fun Bus

Fun Bus, Fitness Fun on Wheels® was founded in 2001 by Kari D. Denton and her mother Dawn McGarry—then the co-owners of Kids Come First childcare center in Somerset, N.J.—as a novel and affordable way to bring fitness education to children.

Denton, a former elementary school teacher, and McGarry, a former mortgage loan officer, bought an old yellow school bus, ripped out the seats and turned it into a brightly colored, mobile gym filled with exercise equipment for kids.

Fun Bus was an immediate hit with vehicle-infatuated 2- to 7-year-olds, and a franchise was born.

When Fun Bus operators pull up to childcare centers, birthday parties or special events, the experience they deliver is both uniform and professional. Each bus is refurbished, decorated and equipped by Buses and Trucks, Inc. and Visual Effects, both in Linden, N.J. Exteriors are painted with bubble letters and multicultural images of children playing. Interiors are painted light green and filled with



Dylan Sklar enjoys demonstrating the apparatus on board his family's new bus.

safety-certified equipment such as barrels, tumbling mats, swings, climbing ropes and balance beams. Buses and Trucks, Inc. hardwires the vehicles with sound systems that make it easy for instructors to match dances, games and routines to thematic audio tracks.

Before the kids climb aboard, their parents sign a waiver form and give basic information about their children's health. They may inspect the bus, which is thoroughly cleaned after each party or fitness session, and ask questions. Because of height restrictions, only children ages 2 to 7 may participate, with a maximum of 15 kids on the bus at one time. There is no limit, however, on the overall number of children at

a Fun Bus event—groups may be rotated in and out of the vehicle as needed. The vehicle stays parked throughout the visit, and operators take the keys out of the ignition. Power for the heat or air conditioning comes from a generator beneath the bus.

As the kids dance, tumble, jump and climb, their instructors emphasize that exercise is fun. They keep the workouts loose but structured—children must have on their "listening ears" to take part. After a calming cool-down session, the kids slide off the bus to the tune of "The Electric Slide."

For more information on the Fun Bus, call Annette Sklar at (804) 262-4FUN (4386) or go to HanoverVA@funbuses.com.



Bryan and Annette Sklar and their son Dylan with their new Fun Bus.

Schedules

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Rural Point Elementary

Run: 1; Bus: 307; Start run at the intersection of: Mechanicsville Turnpike and Spring Run Road (7 am); Turn Left on Spring Run Road; Continue down Spring Run Road; Right on Ruffin Ridge (to end turn around); Right on Spring Run Road; Right on Studley Road; Right on Hanover Town Road; Left on Scott's Landing Road (to end turn around); Left on Hanover Town Road; Right on River Road (turn around at Spawm Run Lane); Proceed on River Road; Left on Summer Hill Road (pickup students to Studley Road); Right on Studley Road (no student pickups to Rural Point Elementary). Note: PM run reversed from AM run.

Run: 2; Bus: 187; Start run at the intersection of: Mechanicsville Turnpike and New Bethesda Road (7:07 am); Continue West on Mechanicsville Turnpike (pick up students to Pole Green Road); Make a u-turn on Mechanicsville Turnpike (no student pickup); Left on New Bethesda Road (Pick up students to Studley Road); Right on Studley Road; Left on Blakewood Drive (Turn around at Irmo Lane); Right on Studley Road (pickup students to Studley Site Drive); Left on Studley Site Drive; Left on Revolutionary Place (to end turn around); Right on Studley Site Drive; Left on Studley Road (pickup to Sir Bradley Court); Left on Sir Bradley Court (to end turn around); Left Studley Road; pickup students to Lady Elizabeth Lane; Left on Lady Elizabeth Lane (turn around at Laurel Lane); Left on Studley Road (no student pickup). Note: PM run reversed from AM run.

Run: 3; Bus: 82; Start run at the intersection of: Summer Hill Road and Santa Maria Drive (7:14 am); Continue west on Santa Maria Drive to Williamsville Road; Right on Williamsville Road; Right on River Road; Right on Gould Hill Road; Left on Arrowhead Road (turn around at dirt road on left) Left on Gould Hill Road; Left on Williamsville Road pickup students to Studley Road; Right on Studley Road no student pickups to Rural Point Elementary.

Run: 4; Bus: 56; Start run at the intersection of: Rural Point Road & Strawbank Drive (7:04 am); Proceed on Rural Point Road; Left on Pole Green Road (no student pickups); Left on Williamsville Road; Proceed on Williamsville Road to Pine Slash Road; Left on Pine Slash Road (turn around at Mahixon Trail); Left on Williamsville Road; Left on Rainier Drive (turn around at end); Left on Williamsville Road; Right on Studley Road (pickup students to Studley Farms Drive); Right on Studley Farms Drive (turn around at end); Left on Studley Road (no student pickups to Rural Point Elementary). Note: PM run reversed from AM run.

Run: 6; Bus: 231; Start run at the intersection of: Studley Road and E. Wenlock Drive (7:07 am); Left on Avondale Drive; Right on Pembroke

Drive; Right on Charlbury Circle; Left on Avondale Drive; Right on Sedgemoor Circle; Right on Grantham Drive; Left on Derwent Drive; Proceed on Brampton Drive; Left on Aldwynch Drive; Right on Grantham Drive; Left on Sedgemoor Circle; Right on Avondale Drive; Right on Studley Road; Right on Sentry Station Road (turn around at end); Right on Hobbs Crossing Road; Right on Greywood Drive (turn around at end); Left on Rural Point Road to Rural Point Elementary. Note: PM run reversed from AM run.

Run: 7; Bus: 282; Start run at the intersection of: Studley Road and Rural Point Drive (7:12 am); Right on Swannanoa Trail; Left on Possum Trail; Left on Elder Trail; Right on Swannanoa Trail; Right on Matedequin Trail; Left on Beaverdam Trail; Left on Studley Road; Right on Fenway Drive; Left on Chartwell Drive; Right on Robin Ridge; Right on Burkwood Drive; Left on Fenway Drive; Left on Strawhorn Drive; Left on Robin Ridge Drive; Right on Chartwell Drive; Right on Wrenwood Drive; Left on Strawhorn Drive; Left on Colesbury Drive; Right on Studley Road (no student pickups); Right on Shelton Pointe Drive (turn around at end); Right on Studley Road no student pickups to Rural Point Elementary.

Run: 8; Bus: 97; Start run at the intersection of: Blacksmith Drive and Rural Point Drive (7:25 am); Left on Blacksmith Drive (2nd); Circle and return to Rural Point Drive; Left on Studley Road; (pickup students to Royal Grant Drive); Left on Royal Grant Drive; Right on Glastonburg Drive; Left on Witheridge Drive (to end turn around); Left on Glastonburg Drive; Left on West Wenlock Drive; Continue onto East Wenlock Drive; Right on Penrith Drive; Left on West Wenlock Drive; pickup students to Studley Road; Left on Studley Road (no pickups to Rural Point Elementary).

Run: 9; Bus: 92; Start run at the intersection of: Chamberlayne Road and Mimosa Hill Lane (7:04 am); Continue north on Chamberlayne Road to Pine Ridge Road; Right on Pine Ridge Road (to end and turn around); Left on Smithport Drive; Right on Clay Farm (to end turn around, then to other end and turn around); Right on Smithport Drive; Right on Pineridge Road (to end turn around); Left on Chamberlayne Road (no student pickups); Left on Rural Point Road (pickup students to Georgetown Road); Left on Georgetown Road; Left on Ivanhoe Drive; Left on Highbury Drive (to end turn around); Left on Ivanhoe Drive; Right on Korona Drive; Left on Fenholloway Drive; Left on Placida Circle; Right on Windermere Drive; Right on Georgetown Road; Left on Rural Point Road (pickup students to Lindsay Meadows Drive); Left on Lindsay Meadows Drive; Left on Lynhill Court (to end turn around); Right on Lindsay Meadows Drive; Left on Rural Point Road (pickup students to Rural Point Elementary).

Run: 10; Bus: 103; Start run at the intersection of: Georgetown Road and Shannondale Road (7:15 am); Left on Crossdale Lane (turn around at

Crossdale Lane Cul-de-sac); Left on Shannondale Road (turn around at Shannondale Court); Left on Covebrook Lane; Left on Rotherham Drive (turn around in Rotherham Drive Cul-de-sac); Left on Georgetown Road (no student pickups to Fire Lane); Left on Fire Lane (turn around at end); Left on Pollard Creek Road (pickup students to Studley Road); Right on Studley Road (no student pickups to Rural Point Elementary). Note: PM run reversed from AM run.

Run: 11; Bus: 89; Start run at the intersection of: Hanover Courthouse Road and Georgetown Road (7:15 am); Left on Foxal Road (turn around at end); Left on Georgetown Road; Left on Chestnut Church Road (turn around at Antler Lane); Left on Georgetown Road; Left on Sugarloaf Drive; Right on Peanut Lane (turn around at Millpond Lane); Right on Sugarloaf Drive (turn around at Sunglow Drive); Left on Georgetown Road pickup student to Windermere Drive; Left on Rural Point Road no student pickups to Rural Point Elementary.

Run: 12; Bus: 170; Start run at the intersection of: Hanover Courthouse Road and Georgetown Road (7:08 am); Continue north on Hanover Courthouse Road picking up students to Fire House Road; Right on Fire House Road; Right on Normans Bridge Road (turn around at first road across bridge); Continue on Normans Bridge Road to Hanover Courthouse Road; Right on Hanover Courthouse Road (turn around at cut lane); Continue on Hanover Courthouse Road to River Road; Left on River Road (turn around at 7041 River Road); Left on Hanover Courthouse Road, no student pickups to Rural Point Road; Left on Rural Point Road, no student pickups to Rural Point Elementary.

Run: 13; Bus: 287; Start run at the intersection of: Mossy Brook Road & Strawbank Drive (7:15 am); Right on Birchbark Lane (turn around at end); Left on Strawbank Drive; Left on Rural Point Road (no student pickup); Left on Spring Hill Road (to end turn around); Left on Rural Point Road (no student pickup); Right on Pine Slash Road (pickup students to Olde Thomas Court, turn around); Proceed on Pine Slash Road; Right on Rural Point Road (no student pickup); Right on Count Kristopher Drive (to end turn around); Right on Rural Point Road (no student pickup); Right on Hartford Oaks Drive (to end turn around); Right on Rural Point Road To Rural Point Elementary.

Washington Henry Elementary

Run: 1; Bus: 158; Start run at the intersection of: Atlee Road at Carneal Lane (7:10 am); Continue South on Atlee Road to Windsor Drive; Right on Windsor Drive; Right on Eleanor Drive; Left on Lucille Road; Left on Lake Terrell Drive; Left on Thelma Lou Road; Right on Eleanor Drive; Right on Windsor Drive; Right on Barnette Avenue; Left on Addie Drive; Left on Burr Drive; Right on Barnette Avenue; Right on Windsor Drive; Left on Troub Lane; Right on

Bink Place (turn around at end of cul-de-sac); Proceed on Bink Place; Left on Troub Lane; Left on Windsor Drive; Right on Gold Coast Lane; Right on Buckard Drive; Proceed on Elwin Drive; Left on Ellerson Drive; Left on Timberlake Green Drive; Left on Buckard Drive; Proceed on Elwin Drive; Left on Ellerson Drive; Right on Meadowbridge Road; Left on Atlee Road (no student pickups); Right on Mann Drive no student pickups to Washington Henry Elementary. Note: PM run order is same as AM run.

Run: 2; Bus: 162; Start run at the intersection of: Atlee Road and Summer Walk Parkway (7:06 am); Right on Meadowbridge Road; Left on Ellerson Drive; Right on Shire Parkway; Right on Shire Court (turn around in Shire Court Cul-de-sac); Right on Shire Parkway (turn around in Shire Parkway Cul-de-sac); Right on Keshire Trace (turn around in Keshire Trace Cul-de-sac); Right on Shire Parkway; Left on Ellerson Drive; Right on Meadowbridge Road; Left on Spring Valley Road; Right on Burnside Drive; Right on Newman Drive; Left on Hillcrest Lane; Right on Burnside Drive; Left on Atlee Road; Left on Summerwalk Parkway; Right on Ellerson Green Place (turn around at Ellerson Green Terrace); Left on Summerwalk Parkway; Left on Atlee Road (no student pickups); Right on Mann Drive to Washington Henry Elementary. Note: PM run order is same as AM run.

Run: 3; Bus: 207; Start run at the intersection of: Meadowbridge Road and Ellerson Station Drive (7:20 am); Turn on Ellerson Station Drive and continue to Mary Mundie Lane; Right on Mary Mundie Lane; Left on Apricot Lane; Left on Baneberry Drive; Left on Ellerson Station Drive; Right on Wonderland Lane; Right on Ellerson Farm Drive; Right on Franklin Lane; Left on Tangle Oaks Drive; Right on Tangle Pond Lane; Left on Oak Bower Lane; Right on Tangle Ridge Drive (to end turn around); Left on Tangle Oaks Drive; Right on Franklin Lane; Left on Ellerson Farm Drive; Right on Carneal Lane; Left on Atlee Road; Right on Mann Drive to Washington Henry Elementary. Note: PM run reversed from AM run.

Run: 4; Bus: 174; Start run at the intersection of: Shady Grove Road and Academy Drive (7:16 am); Right on Culley Drive (turn around at end); Right on Academy Drive; Left on Verdi Lane; Right on Pole Green Road; Right on Bell Creek Road; Left on Left Flank Road (turn around at Bell Creek CDC); Right on Bell Creek Road; Right on Pole Green Road; Right on Antique Lane (turn around at end); Right on Pole Green Road; Left on Shady Grove Road; Right into Shady Grove United Methodist Church (turn around in parking lot); Left on Shady Grove Road (pickup students to Washington Henry Elementary). Note: PM run order is same as AM run.

Run: 5; Bus: 295; Start run at the intersection of: Merrillake Court and Silkwood Drive (7:22 am); Left on Redberry Lane (turn around in Redberry Lane Cul-de-sac); Left on Silkwood Drive; Left on Summer Walk Parkway; Right on Shady Ridge Lane (turn around at Springset Lane); Right on Summer Walk Parkway (turn around at end); Continue on Summer Walk Parkway; Left on Atlee Road (no student pickups); Right on Mann Drive to Washington Henry Elementary. Note: PM run order is same as AM run.

Run: 6; Bus: 156; Start run at the intersection of: Holly Ridge Road at Rainey Drive (7:05 am); Left on Atlee Road (pickup students to Atlee

Library, turn around); Right on Atlee Road; Right on Rollins Lane; Right on Stywalt Lane; Right on Russet Lane; Right on Atlee Road; Left on Atlee Springs Drive; Right on Meadowsweet Drive; Left on Winter Spring Drive (turn around at Snowstraw Place); Right on Meadowsweet Drive; Left on Atlee Springs Drive; Cross over Atlee Road to Quailfield Road; Left on Compass Drive; Left on Wanda Drive; Right on Kaye Drive; Right on Colmar Drive; Left on Jane Lee Circle; Left on Holly Ridge Road; Right on Briarthorn Court (turn around in cul-de-sac); Right on Holly Ridge Road; Right on Atlee Road; Right on Marc Gregory Court (turn around in cul-de-sac); Left on Atlee Road; Continue to Washington Henry Elementary. Note: PM run reversed from AM run.

Run: 7; Bus: 101; Start run at the intersection of: Shady Grove Road & Old Oaklawn Drive (7:15 am); Proceed on Shady Grove Road (pickup students on Shady Grove Road to Studley Road); Right on Studley Road; Left on Wyattwood Road (turn around at Wyattwood Road Cul-de-sac); Right on Studley Road; Cross over Shady Grove Road; Continue on Studley Road; Left on Rural Crosse Drive; Left on Winter Spring Drive; Right on Atlee Lake Court (turn around at end); Right on Rural Crosse Drive; Right on Studley Road; Left on Twin Oaks Road; Left on Oakfield Lane; Left on Fayemont Drive; Right on Studley Road; Left on Rutland Road; Left on Fayemont Drive; Left on Sherton Drive; Right on Rutland Rd.; Left on Studley Road; Right on Atlee Road; Right on Chamberlayne Road (pickup on Chamberlayne Road to Huntington Woods); Right on Huntington Woods Drive (turn around at Huntington Woods & Sugar Wood Drive); Right on Chamberlayne Road; Right on Shady Grove Rd.; Right on Quail Creek Drive; Left on Cardinal Creek Dr.; Left on Quail Creek Dr.; Right on Shady Grove Road (pickup students to Washington Henry Elementary).

Run: 8; Bus: 217; Start run at the intersection of: Timberlake Lane and McKenzie Drive off Chamberlayne Road (7:22 am); Proceed to end of McKenzie Drive (turn around using graveled drive left of blue house); Right on Chamberlayne Road; Right

on Crown Colony Parkway; Right on Braxton Way (turnaround on Braxton Way); Right on Crown Colony Parkway – to end turn around; Right on Sir Michael Lane – turn around at La Gorce Place; Right on Crown Colony Parkway; Right on Assembly Way – to end turn around; Right on Crown Colony Parkway; Left on Chamberlayne Road (no student pickups); Left on Hanover Crossings Drive pickup students to Shady Grove Road; Left on Shady Grove Road picking up students to Washington Henry Elementary.

Run: 10; Bus: 139; Start run at Meadowbridge Road & Atlee Road (7:20 am); Right on Atlee Road; Right into Rainbow Station Day Care; Right on Atlee Road (no student pickups); Right on Grove Road (entrance to the northern parking area); Continue left going around MOB II (Medical Office Building II) to the parking area; Follow the parking area access road to the back of the rear lot; Left on access road to the Bon Secure Day Care Facility; Return to Atlee Road; Right on Atlee Road; Right on Lansdowne Road; Left on Del Ray Drive; Right on Mann Drive; Left on Shady Grove Road (no student pickups); Right on Old Oaklawn Drive (no student pickups); Right on Studley Road to Advent Church Day Care (circle the parking area); Left on Studley Road (no student pickups); Right on Shady Grove Road; Right on Chamberlayne Road; Right on Hanover Crossing Drive; Left on Shady Grove Road to Washington Henry Elementary.

Run: 11; Bus: 49 (PM only); Start run at Washington Henry Elementary (2:30 pm); Right on Mann Drive; Left on Shady Grove Road; Right on Old Oaklawn Drive; Right on Studley Road; Right on Burkwood Club Drive; Right on Advent Christian Daycare Drive; Stop at Advent Christian Day Care; Left on Burkwood Club Drive; Left on Studley Road; Left on Shady Grove Road; Right on Meadowbridge Road; Right on Atlee Road; Stop at Rainbow Station Day Care; Right on Atlee Road; Right on Grove Road; Stop at Bon Secour Regional Memorial Day Care.

End of Eastern Hanover School Bus Schedules



A school bus on the lift gets a last-minute going over at the bus garage before the start of a new school year. (H-P photo by Nick Liberante)