

Julie Feather named Unsung Transit Employee for 2019

From Staff Reports

OAKLAND — Julie Feather was named the Unsung Transit Employee for 2019 at the annual meeting of the Transportation Association of Maryland, held in Ocean City at the end of September.

She was nominated for the award by GTS Director Mike Hill because of her unfailing dedication and commitment to the job. Feather has been with GTS for nearly 20 years, and the majority of those years has involved scheduling and dispatching.

“Julie’s work ethic and dedication to the job is impressive; she is responsible for scheduling 250-300 rides per day on average at GTS, and that can be very stressful in times of bad winter weather, a driver’s availability and any last-minute changes, which inevitably crop up,” Hill said. “Often starting her job by 5 a.m., she also is on-call a considerable amount in order to take calls from drivers and or to schedule after-hour medical transportation.”

In addition to scheduling demand response and non-emergency medical transportation rides, Feather also coordinates deliv-



Submitted photo

From left are Gary Blazinsky, president of the Transportation Association of Maryland, Julie Feather and Maryland Transit Administration LOTS Director Travis Johnston.

ery routes for the Meals on Wheels program and Head Start, both programs administered by Garrett County Community Action Committee.

“Julie has been scheduling and planning rides for so long she has developed an inherent database in her mind of

locations and destinations and how much time to allow for rides. With the increasing volume of ride requests, GTS is exploring software scheduling options which will assist her,” Hill said. “She does an incredible job behind the scenes to get people to where they need to go and back.”