

# New free shuttle for West Oakland seniors

By Cecily Burt  
STAFF WRITER

OAKLAND — If all goes well, come February, a new free shuttle service will be taking West Oakland seniors for a ride — to the grocery store, post office, senior center and health center, that is.

The goal is to improve seniors' health and nutrition by making it easier and safer for them to see a doctor, buy groceries or have a midday meal at the West Oakland Senior Center, said Susan Garbuio, ex-

ecutive director of Bay Area Community Services.

The wheelchair-accessible shuttle will operate from 10:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. four days a week. It will collect passengers from five senior housing facilities and deliver them to the West Oakland Health Center, the Gateway Shopping Center, the Main Post Office, Sears, or BART at 14th Street and Broadway, and the West Oakland Senior Center in time for lunch. An attendant will assist passengers on and off the van.

Because many older resi-

dents do not drive, a lack of safe, affordable and accessible transportation not only prevents them from obtaining critical services, it also contributes to feelings of isolation. Other seniors may be too frail to take public buses or fear crime.

The new shuttle is not the answer for everyone, however. Passengers must be able to walk or get a ride to one of five pickup locations.

The senior shuttle is funded by a \$50,000 grant from the San Francisco Foundation via the 7th Street McClymonds Neigh-

borhood Improvement Initiative, and \$40,000 from the city of Oakland's Measure B.

For more information about the shuttle, call 613-0330.

---

*The shuttle will pick up passengers at these senior housing facilities: Saint Mary's Gardens, 10th and Market streets; Beth Eden, 1100 Market St.; Lottie Johnson Memorial Home, 970 14th St.; Oak Center Towers, 1515 Market St.; and Saint Patrick Towers, 1212 Center St.*