

ABOUT TOWN



Geoff and Andrew Lynch



An early Jitney

Manhattan Transfer

Hampton Jitney celebrates 35 years on the road.

WITH A TAGLINE OF “Here. There. Everywhere.”, Hampton Jitney has most famously been connecting both summer visitors and locals to the Hamptons for 35 years. Weighty responsibility? Yes. But it’s one the family-run business has unquestionably mastered since its inception. Originated by Jim Davidson in 1974, today’s Hampton Jitney (which

is based in Southampton) began as a small fleet of vans equipped with trailers that shuttled bikes and beachgoers between the hamlets. “He lost his shirt that first year,” says current president Geoff Lynch.

But the idea stuck. Lynch’s parents bought the outfit from Davidson in the mid-’80s, and Davidson’s eventual concept—luxurious motorcoaches with flight attendant-esque service blazing a straight shot from Manhattan to the Hamptons—made motorcoach travel more civilized. “It changed the impression of bus travel for a lot of people in this area,” says Lynch, who operates the company with his brother (and vice president), Andrew.

Bred partially out of environmental necessity—the company blossomed during the oil crisis of the ’80s and helped to alleviate gas-guzzling traffic—Hampton Jitney continues to stay true to its green conscience. The company recycles everything, including water and oil, and each coach conceivably takes 55 cars off the road per full trip. Nearly 50 Jitney vehicles carry tens of thousands of people to and from the East End each year. But beyond the numbers is an operation devoted to its community (the Jitney sponsors local events like Hamptons Collegiate Baseball and operates charter services with school districts, tours and corporations), its customers (both year-round and visiting) and its employees. Some drivers have been with the company for 30 years or more, watching generations of families grow with them. And while the summer season is still key, the company is constantly conceptualizing how to expand its core year-round schedule westward (Brooklyn and lower Manhattan have recently been added to the route maps). “This company was born out here,” says Lynch. “It started out in Bridgehampton in a potato barn.”

And we couldn’t be happier that it was.

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