

## Metro Report Archives

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### Bulletin Board

- [West Hollywood Division](#) Spells Safety: B-I-N-G-O
- [Safety Information Effort](#) Reaches Crowds at Home Show
- [A look back](#) at 'Take your Daughters & Sons to work Day.'
- [Hot Contest Shaping Up for Rail Rodeo, Saturday, May 3](#) (April 29, 2003) A hot contest is shaping up among Metro Rail operators and maintenance specialists, Saturday, May 3, and MTA employees, their families and friends are invited to the big event at Metro Blue Line Division 11.
- [Honoring Employees' Relatives in the Armed Forces](#) (April 29, 2003) During a period when Americans are honoring those who are serving in the Armed Forces, MTA employees are giving special attention to their children and other relatives on active duty.
- [MTA Emergency Preparedness Fair](#) Scheduled Wednesday
- [Grateful Family Thanks MTA Dispatcher for Help, Reassurance](#) (April 24, 2003) A grateful family gathered in Bus Operations Control, Wednesday, to thank an MTA dispatcher whose quick work and reassuring manner helped resolve what might have been a tragedy.
- [BOC on Tour >](#) (April 24, 2003) A group of about 20 employees' children toured Bus Operations Control, Thursday, as part of MTA's Take Our Daughters and Sons To Work Day activities.
- [Patriotic 'Mule' is Symbol for Division 3 Maintenance](#) (April 23, 2003) They've painted a tow tractor "mule" red, white, and blue to show support of the American troops in Iraq.
- [Division 3 Employees Send 'Thank You' to MTA Marine](#) (April 23, 2003) North Los Angeles Division 3 operators Teresa Love and Pablo Riveros are sending care packages to Metro Bus Operator Randolph Montes, a Marine Corps reservist who was called to active duty in early February.
- [Venice Division Deep-Cleaned its 77 Buses on the QT](#) (April 22, 2003) Located near a residential area where noise levels have to be kept at a minimum, the maintenance crew at Venice Division 6 faced a problem: how to deep-clean its 77 buses without disturbing their neighbors.
- [South Bay GM Dana Coffey Honored by Belmont H.S.](#) (April 22, 2003) Metro South Bay General Manager Dana Coffey was among 30 teachers, administrative staff and community leaders recognized, recently, for supporting a youth-involvement program at LA's Belmont High School.
- [Funeral Services Set for Operator Janet Bryant](#)

- [RRC's New Chemical Warehouse Built for Environmental Safety](#) (April 17, 2003)  
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- OBITUARY [Jay Hammonds](#), a mail clerk at MTA Headquarters, dies.
- [23 MTA Employees Recalled to Military Duty](#) (April 11, 2003) Uncle Sam has recalled 23 MTA employees to military duty for "Operation Noble Eagle" – the war with Iraq.
- [metro.net wants to know:](#) Do you have a spouse, son, daughter or grandchild on military active duty?
- [Westside Residents Favorable to Unusual Hearing Format](#) (April 10, 2003) It wasn't the usual MTA public hearing, but residents reacted positively to the way the Westside/Central sector staff conducted a recent meeting on proposed service changes.
- [Operator's Heimlich Maneuver May Have Saved Patron's Life](#) (April 9, 2003) Call it beginner's luck. Operator Majd Bakir may saved a patron's life with a technique he used for the first time since he learned it 13 years ago – the Heimlich Maneuver.
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- [MTA BASKETBALL](#) Div. 5 Bruins Edge Gateway Gladiators, 40 – 37
- [Police Seeking Killer of MTA Mechanic Devron Lewis](#) (April 1, 2003) Los Angeles police are seeking the killer of MTA Mechanic Devron La Vell Lewis, 28, who was fatally shot about 11 p.m., Friday, as he drove home after his shift at West Hollywood Division 7.

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[Funeral services are scheduled](#)

## **Police Seeking Killer of MTA Mechanic Devron Lewis**



Devron Lewis

(April 1, 2003) Los Angeles police are seeking the killer of MTA Mechanic Devron La Vell Lewis, 28, who was fatally shot about 11 p.m., Friday, as he drove home after his shift at West Hollywood Division 7.

Witnesses said a man "stepped into the roadway" in the 5100 block of West Jefferson Avenue and began firing a gun at Lewis' 1992 Chevrolet Caprice. Lewis later died of his injuries. Funeral services are pending.

A motive for the attack is not known. The gunman, who remains at large, is described as Hispanic, 17-22 years old, 5 feet 8 inches, weighing about 160 pounds. Detectives are asking anyone with information about the crime to call 213-485-2417.

Lewis joined MTA in November 1998 and worked as a service attendant at South Bay Division 18. He took technical training courses, passed the exam for Mechanic "C" and was transferred to Division 7.

"He was a hard worker with a good attitude," says Division 18 Maintenance Manager Ken Matsuno. "I hated to see him leave, but he wanted to improve himself."

"He was very professional," says Division 7 Maintenance Manager Ron Whitney. "He had a very bright future with MTA."

Lewis is survived by his father, Herbert Lewis, an MTA field equipment technician attached to the Regional Rebuild Center, and his mother, Sharron Lewis.

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 **MTA Basketball League News**

MTA Basketball League games are scheduled at 8 p.m. and 9 p.m., Tuesdays and Thursdays, at Rancho Cienega Sports Center, 5001 Rodeo Road, Los Angeles.

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**Div. 5 Bruins Edge  
Gateway Gladiators, 40 – 37**

By RICHARD WRIGHT  
(April 2, 2003) The Division 5 Bruins edged the Gateway Gladiators 40 - 37 in a nail-biter that wasn't decided until the final seconds of the game.

**Richard Wright** Creating turnovers and bad shots by the Bruins, the Gladiators led at

halftime 25 – 20. The Gateway team converted five 3-point shots – two by Anthony Hoang.

The second half was back and forth between the two teams. With the game tied at 34, the Gladiators scored on a 3-point shot by Matt Varughese to give the Gateway team it's final lead with 3:30 left to play.


Then, with the score tied at 37, the Bruins took the lead for good. Demetrius Lamar posterized the Gateway defender by dunking on a breakaway giving the Bruins a two point lead they never relinquished.


The Bruins held Gateway scoreless down the stretch, forcing the Gladiators to take outside shots.

Leading the way for the Bruins were Lamar, who scored a game-high 17 points, followed by J.C. Cotledge and Chanick Jones, who both scored 7 points.

Leading the way for the Gladiators, with 14 points, was Anthony Hoang. Darren Hanzy scored 7 points, while Matt Varughese chipped in 6 to round out the scoring.

Losses are never good, however, if the Gladiators continue to play hard as they have and make a few minor adjustments before the playoffs, they will beat some teams in the playoffs – and that's when the real season starts.

 <b>MTA Basketball League Scores</b> * Week 5 Results			
Division 5 Bruins	41	Gateway Gladiators	37
Division 18 Sonics	39	Division 8 Wildcats	17
Division 18 Lakers	39	Division 5 Clippers	9
Division 2 8- Ballers	45	Division 5 Raiders	30

<div> <b>MTA Basketball League Team Standings</b> * Standings after Week 5</div>	
Team	Won-Lost
Division 5 Bruins	4 - 1
Division 8 Wildcats	4 - 1
Division 18 Sonics	4 - 1
Division 18 Lakers	4 - 1
Gateway Gladiators	3 - 2
Division 2 8-Ballers	1 - 4
Division 5 Raiders	0 - 5
Division 5 Clippers	0 - 5

Richard Wright is a Metro Bus Operator at Venice Division 6.

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With souvenir torque wrenches in hand, 12 former service attendants celebrate their promotion to mechanic "C". Front row, from left are Jaime Anaya, Armando Solis, Robinson Feliciano and Amarjit Brar. Second row, Richard Caballero, Richard Perez and Lorenz Legazpi. Back row, Willie Reliford, Darryl Strickland, Perez Mondragon, Adam Lopez and Mario Bernabe.



PHOTO BY BILL HEARD

## **Maintenance Instruction Dept. Honors 12 Mechanic "C" Grads**

By LISA HUYNH

(April 3, 2003) Twelve service attendants have upgraded their training and skills – and they've been promoted to the position of mechanic "C".

The Maintenance Instruction Department honored the 24th class of service attendants, Thursday. Class members completed an 18-month mechanic "C" On-the-Job Training (OJT) program.

The program, which was implemented in 1974, is conducted over an 18-month period. It includes nine months of classroom instruction and nine months of supervised on-the-job training at an operating division.

The students must commit to attend four-hour classroom sessions two times a week for 36 consecutive weeks.

"They learn everything that pertains to bus equipment, electrical systems, brake systems and engine diagnostics," says Senior Maintenance Instructor Steve Mullaly.

The 12 new mechanics are all now working at the operating divisions.

"This program is a great opportunity for anyone who wants to move to the next level in this career," says Mullaly. "I'm very proud of this group of guys. They all did really well."

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CNC Lathe machine uses a 12-tool turret station that rotates to make the parts; it has a durable plastic door to shield out flying debris.



PHOTOS BY JENNIFER YEHL

## RRC's New High-Tech Machine Turns Out Precision Bus Parts

By JENNIFER YEHL

(April 4, 2003) Support Shops mechanics at the Regional Rebuild Center (RRC) recently acquired a high-tech machine capable of automatically producing and replacing tools and automotive parts within minutes.

Manufactured by HAAS Automation Inc. of Ventura, the CNC Lathe can turn out replacements for rare, expensive and irregular-shaped parts on the spot, eliminating the hassle of having to order and wait for the parts to be delivered.

"In the past we had to throw away and replace big expensive parts, but now we can just repair them," says Support Shops Machinist Fred Wenzel. "Repairing something only costs a few dollars as compared to spending much more for a new part."

The \$108,000 lathe is specifically designed to make tools that are round, such as bolts, plates and bushings. It is also capable of repairing pieces such as the threading of a worn-out part.

To run the machine, the part is first drawn up on a computer. The machine software then illustrates the entire operation and transfers the information to the CNC Lathe.



The operation is first drawn on a computer before being processed to the CNC Lathe.

Below, the CNC Lathe can make parts, such as bushings used for gear housings, in as little as two and a half minutes.





"This machine has increased our capabilities for doing things," says Bill Dellosa, Support Shops Equipment Maintenance supervisor. "The machine requires one person to do a job that usually takes two to three people to do. It saves a lot of time and can do a lot of things that we cannot do by hand"

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## Six Named 'Employee of the Month' for 2nd Quarter

(April 8, 2003) Six employees have been named MTA "Employee of the Quarter" for the second quarter of FY 2003.



[Click on logo above for photos and full report.](#)

**Carmen Sison Mayor** has been acting manager of the Compensation Unit for almost two years. She has demonstrated superior leadership and excellent organizational skills. With her guidance, the unit has managed to deliver prompt service to its customers.

**Catherine Manzo**, a community relations officer for the Gateway Cities service sector, has worked closely with local governments to host a successful welcome reception for the Gateway Cities general manager. She also organized, publicized and assisted with presentations for three community meetings.

**Ron Jongeling**, a Metro Blue Line maintenance specialist, designed and built a base for the tire-cutting saw machines, built an overhead crane lifter for traction motors, researched and acquired a lifting mechanism for axle/wheel sets. These and other projects resulted in considerable savings for MTA.

**Michael Morris**, a service attendant leader at San Gabriel Valley Division 9, often searches for products that will improve bus cleanliness and employee safety. An example is a product that reduces water spot build-up on bus windows – a possible hazard to operators and mechanics who drive buses.

**Gary Hamilton**, a systems electronic communications technician at the Regional Rebuild Center, played a vital role by providing telecommunications support when offices were being established for the San Fernando Valley, San Gabriel Valley, Gateway Cities and South Bay service sectors.

**Marjorie Morris-Threats**, a senior contract administrator in Contract Administration, is being recognized for her contribution to the successful award of the Materiel and Maintenance Management System (M3) contract. As a key member of the project team, she provided direction and leadership during the solicitation process.

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## **Funeral Services Set for Division 7 Mechanic Devron Lewis**

(April 8, 2003) Funeral services have been scheduled for Devron La Vell Lewis, 28, a West Hollywood Division 7 mechanic who was killed March 28 as he drove home from work. ([See article](#))

The funeral will be held at 1 p.m., Saturday, April 12, at First Methodist Church, 304 East Spruce Ave., in Inglewood.



Devron Lewis

Viewing hours are scheduled after 4 p.m., Thursday, April 10, and from 8 a.m. on Friday, April 12, at Simpson Family Mortuary, 3443 West Manchester Blvd., in Inglewood.

Lewis is survived by his father, Herbert Lewis, an MTA field equipment technician attached to the Regional Rebuild Center, and his mother, Sharron Lewis.

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Those who have never attended can experience the fun of the Roadeo in an eight-minute video just released by Operations Central Instruction.



ILLUSTRATION BY IRA CAMP.

### **OCI Offering Videotape Featuring Annual MTA Bus Roadeo**

(April 8, 2003) Many employees – even bus operators and mechanics – have never attended the MTA Bus Roadeo, a family-oriented event scheduled, July 19, at Santa Anita Racetrack.

But now, those who have never attended can experience the fun of the Roadeo in an eight-minute video just released by Operations Central Instruction.

“We wanted to generate excitement about the Roadeo,” says TOS Ira Camp. He and TOS Frank Cecere, who narrates the presentation, prepared a video that depicts the bus driving and maintenance competitions and family activities.

The video includes interviews with Central City Division 1 Operator Sam Morales, the 1991 and 2000 Roadeo winner, and operators Roberta Jones of Division 1 and Betty James of North Los Angeles Division 3, both of whom participated in past Bus Roadeos.

“The operators are center stage,” says Camp. “They explain what the Roadeo has meant to them.” The video also explains the procedures for operator participation in the Roadeo.

In addition to encouraging participation by more operators, the video is intended to attract employee volunteers to help judge the preliminary events, set up the Roadeo equipment, audience and dining area, and help with food preparation and service.

Copies of the videotape have been provided to the service sectors for distribution to the operating divisions. Each tape has three presentations of the Roadeo feature. The feature also is available from OCI on video CD.

Bus Roadeo finals for operators and mechanics are

scheduled to begin at 8 a.m., Saturday, July 19. The event will last until about 2:30 p.m. Four days of preliminary events are scheduled from Wednesday, July 9, to Saturday, July 12. All events take place at Santa Anita Racetrack, Gate 6.

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## **'Take Our Daughters & Sons to Work Day' Set April 24**

(April 9, 2003) MTA will mark its ninth year of participation in "Take Our Daughters & Sons to Work Day," April 24.

This year's theme – "A New Generation at Work" – emphasizes the benefits girls and boys can receive by observing adults at work.

Expanded this year to include sons, the event gives employees an opportunity to share their career experiences in the transportation industry with their children. The event is aimed at kids in grades 3 through 8, ages 8 to 13.

Activities will include tours of Bus Operations Control, Union Station, MTA Library and the Security Control Room. Six workshops also are scheduled with topics including "The Winning Interview" and a presentation on public speaking by members of Toastmasters International.

The operating divisions have scheduled separate activities for the children of Transit Operations employees not located at MTA Headquarters.

### **Notify children's schools**

Because "Take Our Daughters & Sons to Work Day" is not a state-sanctioned event, parents should notify their children's schools before taking them out of school for the day.

Employees also should have their supervisor's approval before registering their child to participate in the event. Registration forms will be available from departmental coordinators. To ensure sufficient tour guides and chaperones, all children must be registered in order to participate in the planned activities.

For information about the event, employees may contact project coordinator Valerie Wade at 922-7055. Department coordinators and volunteers should contact Norma Elston-Adams at 922-2344 or Valarie Harrison-Boyer at 922-1241.

Other members of the event planning team are Kathi Harper of Human Resources, Patricia Royster of Bus Operations Control, Barbara Harris of Division 20, Bill Hesser of Accounting, Danielle Grossman of Communications, Kathy Hendry of Pension & Benefits and Senior Officer Loretta Ferem of Security and Law Enforcement.

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## Operator's Heimlich Maneuver May Have Saved Patron's Life

By LISA HUYNH

(April 9, 2003) Call it beginner's luck. Operator Majd Bakir may have saved a patron's life with a technique he used for the first time since he learned it 13 years ago – the Heimlich Maneuver.



Metro Bus Operator Majd Bakir

### Heimlich How-to

Late in the evening of March 20, Bakir, 44, was near the end of his Line 484 run on Valley Boulevard. A passenger rushed forward and told the 13-year veteran that another passenger was choking.

Visit the the [Heimlich Institute](#) web site to find instructions and illustrations on [how to apply](#) the Heimlich Maneuver.

Bakir, who's assigned to San Gabriel Valley Division 9, immediately pulled the bus over. He hurried back to the passenger and found him in distress.

Without hesitation, Bakir moved behind the man and wrapped his arms around him. Clasp his hands together in a fist, he thrust sharply upward into the man's abdomen in an effort to expel whatever was choking him.

"I wasn't nervous at all," says Bakir. "I was actually very calm. I knew I had to do something right away because he wasn't breathing and he was turning red."

### He began breathing

After several attempts with the Heimlich Maneuver, the man, who appeared to be in his 50s, was able to breathe again.

"Ironically, he wasn't choking on anything," says Bakir. "I assume that it was an air pocket or something."

Bakir asked the patron if he needed an ambulance or immediate medical attention, but he declined. Instead, he thanked Bakir for saving his life and was dropped off at his stop.

When Bakir pulled the bus into the Division 9 yard, his supervisor told him the patron, Stephen Bennette, had called to commend him for saving his life.

"I try to do something good every day," says Bakir, "because I know one day, it will pay off."

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Held in the social hall of a church in Westwood, the April 1 hearing on proposed service changes for Metro Westside/Central set the tone for community participation.



### **Westside Residents Favorable to Unusual Hearing Format**

(April 10, 2003) It wasn't the usual MTA public hearing, but residents reacted positively to the way the Westside/Central sector staff conducted a recent meeting on proposed service changes.

Held in the social hall of a church in Westwood, the April 1 hearing was conducted informally by General Manager Tracy Daly. She worked the audience Oprah-style, passing a microphone to those who wished to comment.

"The audience seemed to like it," says Daly. "It seemed to change the tone from that of a normal public hearing."

Afterward, many of the 30 attendees visited a group of information tables where scheduling, operations and maintenance staff answered questions about the proposed changes. The residents also could provide written comments for the hearing record.

A court stenographer, on hand for the hearing, also was available to record any additional comments the residents wished to make.

"Conducting the hearing this way allowed us to really interact with our customers," says Daly. "Our service planning staff also got some ideas from what the residents had to say."

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## Do You Have a Relative on Active Duty?

(April 11, 2003) Do you have a spouse, son, daughter or grandchild on military active duty? Metro.net wants to know.

<a href="#">GO TO&gt;</a> <a href="#">metro.net report</a>
<a href="#">23 MTA Employees Recalled to Military Duty</a>

With thousands of Americans serving in the armed forces or being recalled from the Reserves during the war with Iraq, MTA wants to acknowledge the sacrifices of its employees and relatives of employees.

To date, 22 full-time MTA employees have received active duty orders and are on military leave, along with a small number of part-time employees. Others are waiting for orders.

You can send information about your spouse, son, daughter or grandchild to metro.net editor Bill Heard at [heardw@mta.net](mailto:heardw@mta.net) or fax information to the editor at 213-922-2704.

Please answer the following questions about your service member: Name, age, rank, branch of service, relationship to employee. If the service member is an employee, include job title and department or operating division.

Information is due to the editor by close of business, Friday, April 25.

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Co-workers gathered to say a patriotic farewell to Cary Stevens, an equipment maintenance manager at the Regional Rebuild Center. A Naval Reserve commander, Stevens was recalled for "Operation Noble Eagle" – the war with Iraq.



PHOTO BY BILL HEARD

**Operation USO Care Package** [USO web site](http://www.usocares.org/home.htm) tells people how to put together care packages for service members and includes a list of appropriate items: Go to> <http://www.usocares.org/home.htm>

## 23 MTA Employees Recalled to Military Duty

- List of [MTA employees recalled to active duty](#)
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(April 11, 2003) Uncle Sam has recalled 23 MTA employees to military duty for "Operation Noble Eagle" – the war with Iraq.

Of the 22, a total of 14 are serving with Army units, while four are in Air Force units. Three were activated to serve with the Marine Corps and two with the Navy. All are men, except for two – Metro Rail Operator Ana Diaz, recalled for service with the Air Force, and Metro Bus Operator Nykea Davis, recalled for service with the Army.

Virtually all of the Reservists recalled, to date, expect to serve on active duty for a year, and two could be away for 18 months or more. Military orders for other employees are in the pipeline.

"We owe our deepest gratitude to these employees who are fighting alongside their active-duty comrades to preserve freedom," says CEO Roger Snoble. "Our thoughts and prayers are with each of them and their families, as well as our wishes for their safe return."

### MTA Employees Recalled to Active Service

- **James Arend**, 49, Sgt. 1st Class, Army National Guard, Metro Rail Operator

**Bertrand Ball**, 39, Specialist, Army Reserve, Division 18 Bus Operator

- **Joshua Blackmon**, 36, Specialist, Army National Guard, Division 10 Bus Operator
- **Walter Brady**, 50, Specialist, Army National Guard, Division 15 Bus Operator
- **Harvey Brown**, \* 58, Air National Guard, Division 7 Transportation Operations Supervisor
- **Ana Diaz**, 34, Senior Airman, Air National Guard, Metro Rail Operator
- **Nykea C.Davis**, 29, Pvt. 1st Class, Army National Guard, Division 10 Bus Operator
- **Rivers A. Jacques, Jr.**, 43, Command. Sgt. Maj., Army Reserve, Transit Security Lieutenant
- **Harris D. Johnson**, 45, Maj., Army Reserve, Division 3 Bus Operator
- **Robert Jones**, 35, Lance Cpl., Marine Corps Reserve, Transit Security Officer
- **Richard Kelly**, 43, Specialist, Army National Guard, Division 3 Mechanic "A"
- **Chol Kim**, 35, Senior Airman, Air National Guard, Division 15 Transportation Operations Supervisor
- **Salvador Llamas**, 30, Staff Sgt., Marine Corps Reserve, Division 7 Equipment Maintenance Supervisor
- **John W. Mathis**, 38, Lt., Naval Reserve, Procurement Dept., Contract Administrator
- **Bryan Miller**, 40, Tech. Sgt., Air National Guard, Division 10 Mechanic "A"
- **Randolph Montes**, 33, Lance Cpl., Marine Corps Reserve, Division 3 Bus Operator
- **George Murillo**, 27, Specialist, Army National Guard, Transit Security Officer
- **Michael W. Prather**, 45, Sgt., Army Reserve, Division 18 Bus Operator
- **David Rojas**, 42, Specialist, Army National Guard, Division 1 Bus Operator
- **William Ruiz**, 44, Sgt., Army Reserve, Regional Rebuild Center, Truck Driver/Clerk
- **James Sherman**, 42, Maj., Army Reserve, Division 7 Bus

Operator

- **Cary M. Stevens**, 50, Cmdr., Naval Reserve, Regional Rebuild Center, Equipment Maintenance Manager
- **Jorge Uribe-Rivera**, 32, Sgt., Army Reserve, Division 15 Bus Operator

\* Rank is not known.

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- **Cary M. Stevens**, 50, Cmdr., Naval Reserve, Regional Rebuild Center, Equipment Maintenance Manager
- **Jorge Uribe-Rivera**, 32, Sgt., Army Reserve, Division 15 Bus Operator

\* Rank is not known.

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## **Mail Clerk Jay Hammonds Died Last Weekend**

(April 15, 2003) Jay Hammonds, a mail clerk in Records and Mail Services, died at his Los Angeles home sometime during the past weekend.

Hammonds, 39, was found Monday morning by his sister, June Taylor. The cause of death is not known. Funeral services have not been scheduled.

"Jay was a very vibrant man, an asset to our department," said Dan Colonello, Mail Services supervisor. "We'll miss him greatly."



**Jay Hammonds**

A native of Nashville, Tenn., Hammonds joined MTA in September 1994. Off duty, he was coach of the MTA Headquarters basketball team, the Gateway Gladiators.

He is survived by a 19-year-old daughter, his mother and father, two sisters and a brother.

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## **Funeral Services Set, Monday, for Jay Hammonds**

(April 17, 2003) Funeral services have been scheduled on Monday, April 21, for MTA Mail Clerk Jay Hammonds, who died last weekend at his Los Angeles home.

The funeral will be conducted at 11 a.m., Monday, at Bethel AME Church, 79th and Western in Los Angeles.

Viewings have been scheduled from 3 p.m. to 8 p.m., Saturday, April 19 and from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., Sunday, April 20 at Solomon Mortuary, 10625 South Broadway, between Imperial and Century in Los Angeles. For more information, call 323-757-1754.

A native of Nashville, Tenn., Hammonds joined MTA in September 1994. Off duty, he was coach of the MTA Headquarters basketball team, the Gateway Gladiators.

He is survived by a 19-year-old daughter, his mother and father, two sisters and a brother.

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**Jay Hammonds**

## RRC's New Chemical Warehouse Built for Environmental Safety

By JENNIFER YEH

(April 17, 2003) The Regional Rebuild Center celebrated another step toward safety in the workplace with a ribbon-cutting ceremony, April 4, at its new chemical warehouse.

Commissioned by the Materiel Department, the warehouse is designed to be environmentally safe for storage of hazardous materials, as well as to make handling of materials easier for employees.

The warehouse replaces the old employee lunchroom, which was moved to a new location.

Safety features include an extensive sprinkler system, air conditioning system, adjustable racks, chemical-resistant coated floors, and a raised curb, which acts as the primary containment in case of accidental leaks, spillage or fire.

### Spark hazard reduced

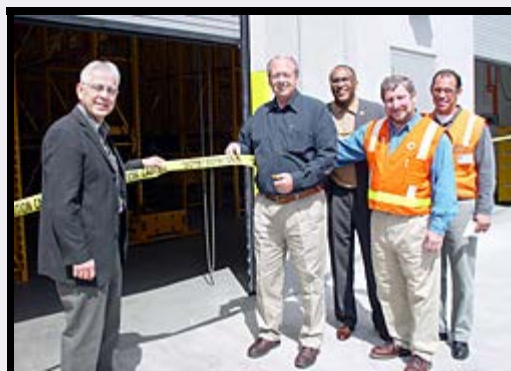
The warehouse operates through a STAK system, a pallet racking system designed to maximize both space and safety. It uses air rather than electricity to operate the STAK system, reducing any potential spark hazards.

"With this system, no vehicles are needed in the warehouse, eliminating the hazards associated with vehicular traffic," says Dieter Hemsing, director of Inventory Management.

The million-dollar project took four years of planning and six to eight months of actual construction by MTA engineers and outside contractors.

"We had to make sure our timelines were met and the

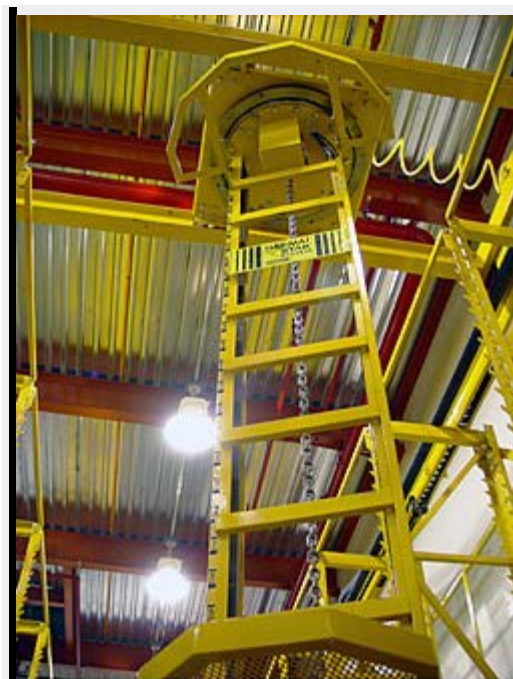
PHOTOS BY JENNIFER YEH



Welcoming new facility are, from left, Ted Montoya, DEO of Procurement; Paul Lewicki, Materiel Manager and Project Manager; Lonnie Mitchell, Executive Officer of Procurement; Dieter Hemsing, Director of Logistics; and Peter Ocampo, Owner AP Construction.



The chemical warehouse provides 4,300 square feet of 15-foot high adjustable storage racks that maximum storage capacity and easy retrieval for hazardous materials.



STAK System, which is air motor driven, reduces the need for vehicles in the warehouse.

funding was right before we went along with it," says Logistic Materiel Manager Paul Lewicki, who managed the project. "All of these features work together to ensure a safe environment for our employees."

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*Shhhhh!*

## Venice Division 6 Deep-Cleaned its 77 Buses on the QT

By JENNIFER YEH

(April 22, 2003) Located near a residential area where noise levels have to be kept at a minimum, the maintenance crew at Venice Division 6 faced a problem: how to deep-clean its 77 buses without disturbing their neighbors.

Division 6 has some of the oldest coaches in the fleet – buses that require extra effort to clean and maintain. To accomplish the deep-cleaning project, the maintenance crew had to find a new approach.

First, the crew divided the work so that each shift would be responsible for a portion of the cleaning process.

The second shift service attendants, who fuel and service the buses, determined which were in the worst shape and which areas of the buses needed the most attention. Then they scheduled their work to take care of the most difficult jobs.

### Detailed cleaning jobs

"Our buses go through the worst part of town," says Service Attendant Leader Jermani Martin. "We get a lot of etching and graffiti, so that's why we have to do really detailed cleaning jobs."

Some members of the second shift volunteered to change to the first shift to handle the deep-cleaning function when there was time and space in the yard and when the noisy work wouldn't disturb the neighborhood.

The bus floors were cleaned on weekends, when the division gets its turn to use a dry-ice machine that makes removing gum and other sticky substances easier. Supervisor Dick Travers and the division service leaders coordinated the whole process.

PHOTOS BY JENNIFER YEH



To clean the plastic panel above, Mechanic "A" Leader J.P. Edrich sands it down and then paints over it with a matching color. Below, a rear door access panel before the cleanup process.



Venice Division Service Attendant Leader Jermani Martin advocates "detailed cleaning jobs."



"One area that we focus on is the front and back doorways - that is the first and last thing the patron sees," says Assistant Maintenance Manager Bruce Buck. "We have to make the best impression for the people on the bus."

### **Mechanics did their part**

The mechanics did their part as well.

Day shift employees painted the wheels, when necessary. The second shift handled graffiti damage, including the etching of the interior of the bus.

Second shift mechanic leader J.P. Edrich came up with a new approach towards that etching. He color-matched the body panels, and painted over the etching with a paint designed for bathrooms. The difference, especially on the older TMC coaches, was amazing.

The third shift handled seat, window and window guard change outs – which could be done with hand tools and without running the buses – both of which are requirements for noise abatement.

As of April 15th, deep cleaning of all 77 of the Division 6 buses had been completed.

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## **Funeral Services Set for Operator Janet Bryant**

(April 22, 2003) Funeral services for Depot Division 2 Operator Janet Bryant, who died, April 15, have been set for Saturday, April 26.

Services will be conducted at 10 a.m. at Beula Baptist Church, 1454 East 100th St., Los Angeles, one block east of Central Avenue.



Janet Bryant

A viewing is scheduled from 6 p.m. until 8 p.m., Friday, April 25, at South Los Angeles Mortuary, 1020 West 94th St., Los Angeles. For information, phone 323-757-3173.

Bryant, 47, died at her Line 200 layover zone at Hill Street and Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard. She was transported to Kaiser Permanente West Los Angeles Medical Center where she was pronounced dead.

"Janet was an excellent employee with a good work ethic. She never had a miss-out," says Division 2 Transportation Manager Diane Frazier. "She was a very good person with a bubbly personality, who was loving to her family and friends."

Bryant joined MTA in July, 1997 and had been assigned to Division 2 since 2000. She worked previously at Venice Division 6.

A native of Honolulu who lived in Los Angeles, Bryant is survived by her husband, Gregory; a daughter, Pshyra; son-in-law Dion Richardson; a granddaughter, Sydney; and a brother.

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## South Bay GM Dana Coffey Honored by Belmont H.S.

By RICH MORALLO

(April 22, 2003) Metro South Bay General Manager Dana Coffey was among 30 teachers, administrative staff and community leaders recognized, recently, for supporting a youth-involvement program at LA's Belmont High School.

Along with Coffey, several faculty members, neighborhood contacts and agency

representatives were honored for helping steer the students from gangs and violence, helping improve school attendance and involving youth in community projects.

The honorees received plaques and certificates from the state Assembly and the City of Los Angeles during an awards program at the school.

"We had all contributed in some way to supporting the Direction Program, which is committed to inspiring students to become more involved in educational, social, school and community activities, while promoting high self-esteem and pride," Coffey said.

### Importance of a career

In March, Coffey and Senior Human Resources Analyst Jeannette Bell visited Belmont High School to talk to Junior ROTC cadets about the importance for career and job interview preparation.

During their visit, Coffey and Bell performed skits illustrating an unprepared student who committed several mistakes during an employment interview and a focused student who gave an excellent job interview.

"The students at Belmont High School were extremely receptive," said Bell. "They gave us an enthusiastic welcome and, based on their questions, you could tell that they had learned a great deal from the presentation and our interaction with them."

"We also asked the students to help us keep our buses clean and free of graffiti, and explained to them how our bus service is here to help them and their families get around the city," Coffey said.

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PHOTO BY RICH MORALLO



Metro South Bay General Manager Dana Coffey received a plaque for her involvement with Belmont High School students. From left, Lilian Marks, Robert T. Gilmore Jr., Direction Program coordinator Charles Davis, Carson Division operator Mike Holmes and senior human resources analyst Jeannette Bell.

## **Division 2 Operator Janet Bryant Died Tuesday**

(April 16, 2003) Metro Bus Operator Janet Bryant of Crossroads Depot Division 2 died, Tuesday, following an apparent heart attack.

Bryant, 47, had reached her Line 200 layover zone at Hill Street and Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard about 9 a.m. and notified Bus Operations Control that she was experiencing stomach pains.

Paramedics transported Bryant to Kaiser Permanente West Los Angeles Medical Center where she was pronounced dead. Services are pending.

"Janet was a very good employee and was always available for extra work," says Assistant Transportation Manager Margo Ross.

Bryant joined MTA in July 1997 and had been assigned to Division 2 since 2000. She worked previously at Venice Division 6.

A native of Honolulu who lived in Los Angeles, Bryant is survived by her husband, Gregory, a daughter, Pshyra Richardson, and a granddaughter.



Janet Bryant

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Division 3's maintenance crew stands together to show support for the troops in Iraq. MORE> see [Care Packages](#)



### **Patriotic 'Mule' is Symbol for Division 3 Maintenance**

By LISA HUYNH

(April 23, 2003) North Los Angeles Division's maintenance crew has given a new meaning to the word patriotism – they've painted a tow tractor "mule" red, white, and blue to show support of the American troops in Iraq.

Mechanic David Lee chose to paint the mule with a patriotic theme, using the American flag as the focus. Mario Interiano and Francisco Espinoza helped paint the tractor.

Lee says that, although the war in Iraq had a lot to do with painting the mule, he really wanted to do something different from the other divisions.

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### **Care Packages:**

#### **Division 3 Employees Send 'Thank You' to MTA Marine**

By LISA HUYNH

(April 23, 2003) Metro Bus Operator Randolph Montes, a 10-year MTA veteran, was nervous about leaving his job, his family and his country to go fight in the war in Iraq.

So, North Los Angeles Division 3 operators Teresa Love and Pablo Riveros decided to make care packages for Montes to comfort him during his time away from home.

Montes, 33, is a Marine Corps reservist who was called to active duty in early February.

Division 3 employees raised more than \$150. With this money, they were able to make at least six care packages for Montes.

Metro Bus Operator Randolph Montes was called to duty in early February. Operators Teresa Love and Pablo Riveros, below, send weekly care packages from Montes' co-workers at Division 3.



### **Package a week**

"We're trying to send him a package every week," says Love. "We've already sent two boxes."

The care packages consist of beef jerky, sunflower seeds, candy, a disposable camera, portable shower, shampoo, toothpaste and other items.

Love's main concern is that Montes may not be receiving the packages. The last she heard from him was in mid-March when he was in Kuwait.

Nevertheless, says Love, "The packages are our way of saying 'thank you' and showing support for our friend."

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## Grateful Family Thanks MTA Dispatcher for Help, Reassurance

By BILL HEARD, Editor

(April 24, 2003) A grateful family gathered in Bus Operations Control, Wednesday, to thank an MTA dispatcher whose quick work and reassuring manner helped resolve what might have been a tragedy.

On the receiving end: Transportation

Operations Supervisor Mike Dunn, who worked the phones in a successful effort to reunite a North Hills father and son.



PHOTO BY BILL HEARD

As his seven-year-old son, Jason, looks on, wheelchair patron Leo Corrales types words of appreciation to TOS Mike Dunn, who helped reunite the pair separated at a bus stop.

It all started April 17, when Leo Corrales, 37, a motorized wheelchair patron who cannot speak and must use a keyboard-operated voice transmitter to communicate, became separated from his seven-year-old son, Jason.

The two had intended to catch an MTA contract bus, operated by Coach USA, at the intersection of Roscoe and Van Nuys boulevards in the San Fernando Valley. Jason hopped aboard the bus, but Corrales was left behind at the bus stop.

### An urgent message

In a panic and suffering an asthma attack, Corrales called his fiancé, Josephine Lozano, via cell phone and typed an urgent message. Lozano notified BOC of the emergency and Dunn immediately went into action.

"I was upset that the child was on the bus and that a wheelchair passenger had been passed up," Dunn said Wednesday.

He coordinated an effort that involved Metro Bus and Coach USA contractor bus operators and road supervisors. They were alerted to look for the boy and to provide assistance to Corrales.

It all ended happily. Some teenaged girls, realizing Jason was stranded, took him to his grandmother's house in North Hollywood. Corrales, with the help of supervisors, was able to board another bus to his destination.

"We came here, today, to thank Mike Dunn for all his help and the quick response he gave," said Lozano, during a visit to BOC. "He reassured me they were going to find Jason. He was very professional and caring."

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**Behind the Scenes at BOC** > A group of about 20 employees' children toured Bus Operations Control, Thursday, as part of MTA's Take Our Daughters and Sons To Work Day activities. Here, TOS Raymond Santee explains the Metro Rapid control station, staffed by TOS Daniel Dryden. Other MTA Headquarters activities included tours of Union Station, the MTA Library and the Security Control Room. In addition, the operating divisions scheduled activities for the children of their employees. Metro.net will post more photos of the events in the next few days.



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The next generation came in droves to MTA on "Take Your Daughters & Sons to Work Day" on April 24. At Arthur Winston Division, Clarence Adams led a Q&A on Safety's First and Jackie Anderson hosted a career discussion. Arthur Winston, himself, gave a history lesson. Venice Division visitors donned the obligatory orange safety vests to tour the division and then jumped ship for a tour of the nearby J. Paul Getty Museum and lunch at Shakey's. One of the events at North Los Angeles Division appears to be a photo op with employees John Fletcher, Rosalia Medina, Christopher Sanots, Tenisha Clark and Nikki Bentley. BOC controllers kept tours moving at Headquarters. Vyana and Alisha Fields, daughters of Jacqueline Fields and Brittany Riley, daughter of Lorna Riley, started a buzz about potential careers. José Miranda brought along José, Jr., it was rumored, for the ice cream.

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## **MTA Emergency Preparedness Fair Scheduled Wednesday**



(April 25, 2003) Know how to get your family ready to cope with an emergency – an earthquake, fire or something worse?

The MTA Emergency Preparedness Fair, scheduled from 11 a.m. until 2 p.m., Wednesday, April 30 will provide all the information you'll need – and more.

A dozen organizations, including the American Red Cross, the Sheriff's Department and Survivor Industries, will be on hand to provide information, demonstrate and sell emergency products for use during an emergency in homes and on the job.

MTA Safety and Security, General Services, Transit Police and the Ham Radio Club also will have booths. Special drawings and giveaways are planned.

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MTA CEO Roger Snoble, Los Angeles County Supervisor and MTA Board Member Gloria Molina, and Los Angeles County CAO David Janssen are the first to ride the new Metro Gold Line train from Union Station to Sierra Madre Villa and back on Monday, April 28.



PHOTO BY LASD LT. MIKE PARKER

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**Army Private 1st Class Jewral McIntyre**, 21, Special Forces, is the son of Joel McIntyre, custodian, MTA Headquarters.



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### Honoring Employees' Relatives in the Armed Forces

(April 29, 2003) During a period when Americans are honoring those who are serving in the Armed Forces, MTA employees are giving special attention to their children and other relatives on active duty.

Here's a list of employee relatives *metro.net* has been told are currently serving their country:

- **Marine Corporal Antonio Casillas, Jr.**, 22, 11th Marine Expeditionary Unit, brother-in-law of Rudy Chairez, benefits technician, Pension & Benefits.
- **Marine Captain Conan Chang**, 27, Marine Force Recon, Division 1, Baghdad. Nephew of Jim Yang, supervisor, Facilities Maintenance.
- **Army National Guard Specialist Samuel B. Chism**, 30, son of Metro Bus Operator Rose Marie Chism, Gateway Division 10.
- **Marine Corps Corporal Warren R. Griffith**, 21, Aviation Ordnance Technician, 1st Marine Expeditionary Force, son of Alysia Turner, configuration management analyst, Construction.
- **Army Sergeant Dameko Jay Harvey**, 21, Military Intelligence, son of Joyce Harvey and Metro Bus Operator Jay Harvey, Gateway Division 10.
- **Navy Petty Officer 3rd Class Kennedy A. James**, USS Anchorage, Persian Gulf, son of General Services Supervisor Toyin James, Metro Rail.
- **Navy Petty Officer 2nd Class Olufemi A. James**, Sea Operations Command Center, San Diego, son of General Services Supervisor Toyin James, Metro Rail.
- **Air Force Airman 1st Class Jason R. Kennedy**, 20, Crew Chief, son of Patricia L. and George R. Kennedy, rail equipment maintenance manager, Metro Blue Line
- **Army Private 1st Class Jewral McIntyre**, 21, Special Forces,



See  
metro.net report:  
[23 MTA Employees Recalled to Military Duty](#)

son of Joel McIntyre, custodian, MTA Headquarters.

- **Marine Corps Sergeant Nicholas J. Medina**, 22, son of Cristobal Medina, Metro Rail transportation operations supervisor.
- **Army Private Jimmy Mendez**, 3rd Infantry Division, nephew of Ed Velasquez, senior contract administrator, Procurement.
- **Marine Private 1st Class Kristopher R. Ochoa**, 23rd Marine Infantry Division, Baghdad, son of Transportation Operations Supervisor Kenneth Ochoa, Gateway Division 10
- **Army Specialist Brian Paez**, 24, 101st Airborne, helicopter maintenance, son of Lena Morrison, equipment records specialist, San Gabriel Valley Division 9.
- **Army Corporal Jose D. Ramirez**, 19, stationed at Ft. Sill, Okla., Field Artillery School, son of Jose Ramirez, Mechanic "A", Venice Division 6.
- **Navy Hospital Corpsman Terry M. Royster**, 26, deployed in Iraq with the 3rd Battalion, 1st Marines, son of Linda Royster, analyst, Office of the Inspector General.
- **Marine Lance Corporal David M. Salinas**, 21, son of Metro Bus Operator Cynthia Gomez, San Gabriel Valley Division 9.
- **Johnathan M. Salinas**, 19, U.S. Army, son of Metro Bus Operator Cynthia Gomez, San Gabriel Valley Division 9.
- **Marine Private Josh Shepard**, 22, 1st Marine Division, Kuwait, grandson of Joanne Cummings, senior buyer, Purchasing.

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Maintenance specialists Eric Petersen, Ronnie Burt and Juan Ruvalcaba scored the mechanics trophy at the 2002 MTA Rail Rodeo.

## Everyone's Invited!

**Hot Contest Shaping Up for Rail Rodeo, Saturday, May 3**

• [How to get there](#)

(April 29, 2003) A hot contest is shaping up among Metro Rail operators and maintenance specialists, Saturday, May 3, and MTA employees, their families and friends are invited to the big event at Metro Blue Line Division 11.

Twenty-one train operators and 14 rail mechanics will face off in an intense professional competition during the 7th Annual MTA Rail Rodeo. Family activities start at 9 a.m. and will continue through the awards presentation at about 3:30 p.m.

Metro Red Line operators Robert Rodriguez and Tu Phan and maintenance specialists Ronnie Burt and Juan Ruvalcaba will be defending their 2002 MTA Rail Rodeo titles. The four were members of the MTA team at the 2002 APTA International Rail Rodeo in Baltimore.

Rodriguez and Phan won the operators' competition at that event – the first winners MTA has had at the international level.

Family activities at this year's Rail Rodeo will include "jumper houses" for big and little kids and a professional clown who performs balloon tricks and face painting.

### **Country/Western band**

From 12:30 until 2:30 p.m., Janie Steele and the Pacific Electric country/western band will perform. Operation Lifesaver, the Sheriff's Department and the Long Beach Fire Department will have displays.

An IN-N-OUT BURGER Cookout Trailer will provide hot-off-the-grill hamburgers, cheeseburgers, Double-Double burgers, chips and soft drinks from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m.

"Division 11 is off the beaten track and the Rail Rodeo is on Saturday," says Rail Division Transportation Manager Duane Martin, "but, we're hoping three- or four-hundred people will come."

A full schedule of Rodeo events will be taking place, beginning at 7 a.m. Operators will participate in a uniform inspection, written test of rules and procedures and a pre-trip inspection of a rail car. They'll also be required to drive a designated course with precision stops and other exercises.

Meanwhile, the maintenance specialists will work their way through 10 events, including a written test, electrical and mechanical problems and a safety exercise.

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### **How to Get to the MTA Rail Rodeo**

To reach Metro Blue Line Division 11 from the Long Beach Freeway, I-710, take the Del Amo Boulevard exit and watch for MTA Rail Rodeo directional signs.

Drive west on Del Amo and turn left onto Santa Fe Avenue and left again onto 208th Street.

Enter the Division 11 access road at the end of 208th Street for the Metro Blue Line yard. Continue  $\frac{3}{4}$ ths of a mile, stopping at the Union Pacific rail crossing, before proceeding to the public parking area.

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Service Attendant Marilyn Dear announces the Bingo number. Inset: Dear draws a Bingo number. Photos by Jennifer Yeh



PHOTOS: JENNIFER YEH

## West Hollywood Division 7 Spells Safety: B-I-N-G-O

By JENNIFER YEH

(April 30, 2003) West Hollywood Division 7 reminds employees about the importance of safety with a good ol' game of Bingo.

The division gives a Bingo game card to every employee. Every injury-free day a number – B-7, I-5, and so on – is pulled from the Bingo pot.

The pot starts with \$20. Each day there are no injury claims an additional dollar is added to the pot. If an injury claim is filed, the pot goes back to \$20.

So far, no one has won a Bingo game since it's first drawing on March 31.

A member of the safety committee, Service Attendant Marilyn Dear, thought it would be a good idea to bring back the game, which had existed at the division a few years ago.

"This is a great way to promote and remind people of the Safety's First program," she says.

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## Safety Information Effort Reaches Crowds at LA's Home Show

By RICH MORALLO

(April 30, 2003) Thirty MTA and Operation Lifesaver members banded together to promote transit ridership and safety messages among 25,000 people who attended the 27th Annual Home Remodeling and Decorating Show, April 4 – 6, at the LA Convention Center.

"We wanted to talk about transportation alternatives and how to keep safe around buses and trains," said Bill Mergard of Operation Lifesaver (OL), a national non-profit rail safety organization.

Helping Mergard staff an information booth at the Convention Center were several other OL members and employees from MTA Community Relations, Metro Art, Construction, Communications, Diversity and Economic Opportunity, Library, Customer Service, Information Systems, Equipment Maintenance, the Los Angeles Sheriff's Department, and the San Gabriel Valley and South Bay service sectors.

"Our booth visitors talked about their experiences riding the trains and the Rapid Bus, and about the assistance provided to them by our operators," said Joe Vicente, assistant director of Information Services.

"Many visitors wanted detailed information about the Metro Gold Line, since they wanted to use the system themselves or pass the information to others," said Senior Account Executive Valerie Rader, Employer Programs.

### Promoting the Metro System

The booth was supplied with informational material geared to help promote Metro System ridership, educate the public on Metro services and enhance safety awareness.

"Some visitors who never used Metro were pleasantly surprised, said

PHOTOS: RICH MORALLO



Metro Rapid Bus pop-up cards attract the younger crowd.



Library Assistant Jim Walker with a visitor to the MTA booth, pictured below.



Library Assistant Jim Walker. "They walked away with a good memory of the agency."

Visitors picked up bus and train schedules and were able to ask specific questions on bus lines from operators Chris Santos, Francis Mauliola, and Rosalia Medina – members of the San Gabriel sector Division Advisory Council. Maintenance employees Armando Smalling and Rayetta McNeese also helped field questions on the condition of the fleet.

"Interaction with the community was good," said Patricia Clark of Information and Technical Services. "Many wanted information about bus schedules and maps and were already familiar with our transportation network."

Other Metro and OL volunteers were Wajeha Bilal, John Kirk, Olga Lopez, Marty Buford, Howard and Lee Fink, Jeannette Bell, Yolanda Rosales, Ken Matsuno, Donna Silvestre, Irene Patriotis, Suzanne Gottlieb, Myrine and Damian White, Alice Arnold, Kelly Irving, Yvette Moore, Dennis King, Bob Filter, Margaret Morallo, Frank Aguilar, and Albert Ramirez.

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