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Metro Basketball League News

Metro Basketball League Playoffs Set for June 6

- Recent Match-Ups Net Varied Results for Agency’s Five Teams

(June 2, 2010) With the Metro round ball season winding down, the most recent match-ups created the basketball equivalent of a revived economic middle class – five teams; one undefeated, one winless and three with identical win-loss records.

When the final buzzer sounded at the end of the final game May 23, the RRC, the Black Magic and the Orange Crush – found themselves with carbon copy 4-4 records, while Div. 3207 took the lead in the league with an 8-0 clean sweep and the Gateway crew, despite some inspired play, now occupies the league cellar with 8 losses.

Recent match-ups pitted the RRC and the Black Magic in a see-saw battle that situated the RRC to lead at the half 18-17. The Black Magic fought back to regain the lead 43-40 with seconds remaining on the clock. Dreams of a shoe-in evaporated as Devin “The Painter” Reed, the RCC’s go-to guy, sank a game-tying 3 pointer and sent the game into overtime.

The Black Magic owned the OT as Vince “The



TOS Richard Wright, West Hollywood Division Instructor, Transportation, is the Metro Basketball League Commissioner.

League Standings	
Div 3207	8-0
Black Magic	4-4
RRC	4-4
Orange Crush	4-4
Gateway	0-8



TEAM: Div. 3207



TEAM: RRC

Instructor" Wilkes took command with several clutch free throws in the stretch to ice the game 53-49. Dayton Hernandez sank a team high 17 points followed by 10 points apiece from Abraham Martin and Wilkes.

The RRC squad's notable effort was led by Reed scoring a game high 24 points and Henry "Cool as Ice" Largaespada sank a respectable 17.

In the second game, the Orange Crush tipped-off against the Gateway crew – an important match for both teams with the OC shooting for a play-off berth and the Gateway squad looking to climb out of the league cellar and glimpse a little daylight with at least one win under their belts.

But, it wasn't meant to be as Gateway remained in the dark and under the stairs dropping their final game of the season to the OC, 55-34.

The Orange Crush kamikaze tidal wave was led by bruise brothers Curtis Shelby and Jayvonte Jackson, who sank 22 and 11, respectively, while the Gateway squad's Jesus "Big Gun" Arrayales battled his way to sink a team high 17 points, Timothy Lindholm scored 6 and Quintin Sumabat became an ace with 5.

With its season in the can, Gateway's one consolation is getting First Pick in the Metro League draft next season with hopes for a decidedly better outcome.

The league scoring leaders for the 8 game schedule are Melvin Ford (Div. 3207) 97 pts; Tim Williams (Div. 3207) 85 pts; Chris Roberson (Orange Crush) 80 pts; Henry Largaespada (RRC) 80 pts; Prince Mitchell (Div. 3207) 78 pts – Div. 3207; Jesus Arrayales (Gateway) 75 pts; Curtis Shelby (Orange Crush) 73 pts; Dayton Hernandez (Black Magic) 64 pts;



TEAM: Black Magic



TEAM: Orange Crush



TEAM: Gateway

and Jason Tims (Div. 3207) 55 pts.

The Metro League playoffs will tip-off on Sunday, June 6 with Div. 3207 meeting the Orange Crush and the Black Magic and the RRC battling it out for the second week in a row at 5 p.m. and 6 p.m., respectively, at the Metro Enormo Dome aka' the Hawthorne High School gym.

The winners of both combats will meet for the championship crown June 13, 2010 at 6 p.m.

-- from Richard Wright

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Metro Orange Line Extension team meets with appreciative neighbor Jan McLeod at the recently completed 8-foot-high privacy fence that separates the Chatsworth Mobile Home Park from the construction of the Lassen Street Bridge. Note how the fence jogs to keep from disturbing the Torrey Pine tree in the background. From left, Sr. Safety Specialist Frederick Smith, Construction Inspector Sal Hernandez, Sr. Construction Manager Scott McConnell, Chatsworth Mobile Home Park Manager Jan McLeod, construction consultants Steve Kramer and Rod Holtman, Communications Assistant Perla Berry. *Photo by Terri Wiggam.*

With construction about to start for Lassen Street Bridge, privacy fence makes for good neighbors along the Orange Line extension

(June 2, 2010) For the most part, residents and businesses adjacent to the construction site of the Metro Orange Line Extension eagerly anticipate the future mass transit opportunities the transitway will bring, said Sr. Community Relations Officer Olga Lopez. However, as visions of work crews wielding heavy machinery equipment begin to invade the scenario, no one is exactly thrilled with the construction itself.

"Mitigation can significantly soften the visual and even audible impacts of nearby construction," said Lopez. A case in point is the new 8-foot-high privacy fence that separates the Chatsworth Mobile Home Park from the construction of the Lassen Street Bridge.

Everybody is happy about it, particularly the residents of the Chatsworth Mobile Home Park, where the mitigation has actually become an improvement over the previous chain link fence as well as a starting point for landscaping within the park.

"It is so much better looking than the (original) chain link fence," said Park Manager Jan McLeod. "Residents appreciate the color, construction and the security the height gives them as they recall the years of transients and drug trafficking going on behind them," she said.

"I am thrilled because many have already been inspired to start landscaping their back yards; making wonderful private areas to sit out in and enjoy the summer months," she said in a "thank you" letter to staff.

The privacy fence was installed as mitigation to the visual impacts that would result from the Metro Orange Line Extension Project's nearby construction and operation, said Lopez.

"The fence is just over a half mile long and provides a privacy screen for 53 of the mobile home lots," said Sr. Construction Manager Scott McConnell. "And, what was important to everybody, was to jog the fence to save the mature Torrey Pine tree that runs along the property line."

GMX Construction, Inc., a local contractor based in Sherman Oaks, started clearing, demolishing and removing the existing chain link fence to make room for the new privacy fence at the Chatsworth Mobile Home Park in January. And, according to the terms of the EIR, the contractor completed the installation of the 8-foot tall, half-mile-long privacy fence and a new sprinkler system in May.

With the privacy fence now in place, Brutoco Engineering & Construction, Inc., can begin construction of the Lassen Street Bridge, said Lopez. "Residents at the Chatsworth Mobile Home Park understand that the installation of the fence will aid in mitigating construction impacts."



The fence was aligned to preserve the longtime resident Torrey Pine.



The Chatsworth Mobile Home residents were so pleased with the installation of the 8-foot-high privacy fence that Park Manager Jan McLeod sent a note of appreciation to the staff. Here are excerpts from her letter to Perla Berry dated May 5, 2010:

The fence Metro built for us is greatly appreciated by everyone throughout the Park...not just for those of us who have it on our spaces.

It is so much better looking than the chain link fence. Residents appreciate the color, construction and the security the height gives them as they recall the years of transients and drug trafficking going on behind them.

I am thrilled because many have already been inspired to start landscaping their back yards; making wonderful private areas to sit out in and enjoy the summer months. The overall common comment is that the noise has been dulled by the fence. Some are sad they have lost their views from windows where the fence had to be placed close to their homes but admit they will get used to it, besides they have the other mountains to look at from their living rooms.

Metro staff on the jobsite and their consultants have shown nothing but care and concern for our community throughout this whole project.

It is human nature for people to fight change and the next couple of years will be tough on our residents, however, if the same care and concern is shown us during this period we will all get the job done and be able to say the inconvenience and noise was worth it.

When the entire project is finished in the summer of 2012, the [Orange Line Extension](#) will extend the bus line four miles northward from Warner Center to its final destination between Devonshire and Lassen streets in Chatsworth. The line averages about 22,000 boardings each weekday now and is expected to reach 45,000 a day by 2030.

[MORE:](#) Orange Line extension project profiled featuring Project Management DEO Hitesh Patel in news pages of Third District website at [zev.lacounty.gov](#). Profile is also republished [myMetro.net](#) with the permission of the office of Los Angeles County Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky Third District website.

—from Gayle Anderson


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Winners Circle: From left, senior equipment maintenance instructor and maintainer team coach Gary Dewater; interim Exec. Director, Transportation, Roman Alarcon, Chief Operating Officer Lonnie Mitchell, APTA Chair Mattie Jones, interim Exec. Officer Rail Vehicle Maintenance George R. Kennedy, champion maintainers Glen Abraham, Ronnie Burt and Eric Czintos, APTA President William Millar and APTA Vice Chair Gary Thomas. *Photo courtesy of APTA.*

Metro emerges victorious at 2010 APTA International Rail Rodeo

Top-scoring Rail Team takes first place in maintainers competition; Metro ranks third in overall standings at Vancouver games

- Combined maintainer and operator scores lands Metro in third place in overall competition.
- Maintainer team scores first place in four hard-won events to nail top score.

(June 8, 2010) In an Olympic-sized arena where mere mortals move tons of steel in a competition that matches operator against train, and mind over pneumatics and dexterity plates, Metro's rail team emerged victorious at the 2010 APTA International Rail Rodeo June 5, scoring first place in the maintainers competition and ranking third in the combined overall standings.

Metro's championship maintainer team of Glen Abraham, Ronnie Burt, and Eric Czintos took first place, racking up first-place points in four of the eight competitor events.

The champion maintainers chalked up a near three-peat victory, nailing first place for the third time since 2007. (The championship team narrowly missed first place in the 2009 maintainers competition but claimed the top crown in the overall scores at that event held in Chicago.)

Green Line operator José Arrias and Gold Line operator Pam Parker-Ehrich teamed up to compete in a field dominated by heavy-hitters from eight major transit properties, including two Canadian teams.

The Regional Transportation District (RTD) of Denver, Colorado won the prestigious *Rail Transit Team Achievement Award*. This top award is given to the system with the highest rail operator and maintainer team combined score.

The winners of the 18th annual American Public Transportation Association (APTA) International Rail Rodeo were announced on June 6 at an awards dinner in Vancouver at the 2010 APTA Rail Conference.

The maintainers competition judges the ability to troubleshoot maintenance problems.

Denver's RTD won second place with the team of Randall Lovegove and George Sweeney. SEPTA's maintainer team of Ed Carruthers, Mike O'Grady, and Jason Rickert won third place.



Best in the land three years straight, champion Metro Rail equipment maintenance specialists team of Ronnie Burt, Eric Czintos, and Glen Abraham teamed up with Green Line Operator José Arrias, above, center, and Gold Line Operator Pam Parker-Ehrich, at right with Rail Division Transportation Manager Tom Jasmin, to carry the Metro banner in the Vancouver competition.



"I'm convinced our maintainer team is the best in the country," said coach Gary Dewater, senior equipment maintenance instructor. "They were sharp. They're just so good at what they do," he said.

Veteran competitors and Blue Line maintainers Ronnie Burt and Eric Czintos have teamed up every year since 2003, when they took first place in the International Competition held in San Jose. The champion maintainers team won first place at the 2007 and 2008 APTA International competitions.

The rail operator team competition measures an operator team's professional customer service and operating skills, including knowledge of safety regulations, train equipment, wayside rules, regulations, and procedures. This time, operators took to the field on fully automated trains manufactured by Bombardier Inc, a Canadian manufacturer of guided-vehicle systems. The trains, which do not require an operator, posed a challenge on board for hands-on control.

First-time competitors José Arrias, a Green Line operator and 10-year veteran of Metro, and Gold Line operator Pam Parker-Ehrich landed in seventh place to edge out Houston in the operators competition. Their good performance, when combined with the points from the top-scoring maintainers, earned the Metro team a respectable third place overall.

Both operators, new to the competition and challenged by different equipment, scored third highest in the "operating course" trial, a feat that was lauded by interim Executive Officer Rail Vehicle Maintenance George R. Kennedy. "Anytime new competitors can score that high in the toughest field is outstanding!" he said. "They did great!"

First place in the operators competition was won by Denver's Regional Transportation District's Robert Dennis. Michael Shepard from Southeastern Pennsylvania Transportation Authority (SEPTA) of Philadelphia, PA came in second place. The team of Lee-Ann Knight and Ven Rao from BC Rapid Transit (SkyTrain) of Burnaby, BC took third place honors.

Nine public transit systems from across North America competed in this international competition, which recognizes the men and women who keep rail systems safe and efficient. Metro was up against top-seeded properties: Southeastern Pennsylvania Transportation Authority (SEPTA), Regional Transportation District (Denver), MTA New York City Transit, Metropolitan Transit Authority of Harris County (Houston), Dallas Area Rapid Transit (DART), Canada Line, BC Rapid Transit (SkyTrain), and Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority (MBTA), which competed in the maintainers competition only.

Metro was the team to beat for the third year in a row. The Los Angeles Metro championship rail team took top honors at the 2009 American Public Transportation Association (APTA) International Rail Rodeo held at the Chicago Transit Authority yard in Skokie, Illinois. The previous year, the Metro team scored the prestigious Rail Transit Team Achievement Award at the 16th annual APTA International Rail Rodeo, held in San Francisco in 2008.

The repeat victory in 2009 made it a solid gold year for Metro, whose championship bus team won top honors in the APTA International Bus Rodeo for the second time in three years.

The APTA International Rail Rodeo Competition was held on June 5 at the VCC/Clark Station in Vancouver, BC.

-- from Gayle Anderson

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Metro Basketball League News

Metro Teams Prepare to Battle it Out for Championship Title on June 13

(June 8, 2010) Metro's unique version of March Madness and the Final 4 has rendered down to these 4 teams meeting to see who will meet on June 13 to claim the Metro Basketball League Championship title.

Last week's first play-off match-up had League-leader Div. 3207 tipping off against the fourth-ranked Orange Crush squad in what turned out to be a replay of Custer's Last Stand.

Leading 28-9 at the half, the Div. 3207 wrecking crew poured it on to hand the fizzle-less OC a 54-30 drubbing. The Div. 3207 squad was led by Peter "Freight Train" Jones, who sank a game high 19 points with Melvin "Mr. Consistency" Ford and Tim "Baller" Williams hooping 14 and 11, respectively.

The Orange Crush's Curtis Shelby dropped 10 points, while Jayvonte Jackson sank 9 to close out the season for the Crush.

The second game at the "Metro Enormo Dome," the RRC and the Black Magic met in a rematch of the previous week's meeting. The outcome was a different story this



TOS Richard Wright, West Hollywood Division Instructor, Transportation, is the Metro Basketball League Commissioner.

League Standings	
Div 3207	8-0
Black Magic	4-4
RRC	4-4
Orange Crush	4-4
Gateway	0-8



TEAM: Div. 3207



TEAM: RRC

time around as the Black Magic couldn't get their act together, losing to the RRC 42-30.

The RRC held the edge throughout the entire game leading 20-16 at the half, dominating the Black Magic with an exceptional display of board control and a seamless substitution rotation that wore down the opposition. The Black Magic squad was hamstrung by several injuries and the tidal wave of fresh, healthy subs proved too much to handle.

Key to the RRC's dominant "wear 'em down" strategy was the brilliant play of point guard Henry "Ice" Largaespada, who sank 12 points followed by Devin "The Painter" Reed with 9 points and Llyron Young and Sal Buenrostro with 8 and 7, respectively.

So, it's the Div. 3207 "Wrecking Crew" meeting the RRC "Tidal Wave" for the Metro Basketball League Championship, Sunday, June 13 at 6:00pm at the Hawthorne High School gym, while the Black magic and the Orange Crush meet for the Consolation Prize at 5:00pm.

Just a reminder...Metro Basketball League play will begin in September, so interested hoopsters wanting to tap into their inner Kobe Bryant are urged to start forming their teams now. Team fees are \$1000.00 and are due by August 15, 2010.

-- from Richard Wright

Richard Wright
League Commissioner
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TEAM: Black Magic



TEAM: Orange Crush



TEAM: Gateway


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Metro's outstanding managers were officially recognized for years of outstanding service during a recent meeting of the San Fernando Valley Governance Council. Those present included several honorees and Council members and representatives. From left are Div. 9 Transportation Manager Jon Hillmer; Gary Bric; Kymberleigh Richards; Div. 3 Transportation Manager Maria Reynolds; Richard Arvizu; Div. 1 Transportation Manager Gary Spivack; Governance Council Chair Brad Rosenheim; General Manager Richard Hunt; and Board Members Michael Cano, Jesus R. Ochoa and Donald Weissman.

Metro Operations Staff Honored by San Fernando Valley Governance Council

(June 8, 2010) At its June 2 meeting, the San Fernando Valley Governance Council gratefully acknowledged Metro managers Richard Hunt, Gary Spivack and Maria Reynolds for their many years of dedicated service in key Metro San Fernando Valley Operations roles.

Hunt was recognized for his 32 years of service at Metro including his six year stint as the San Fernando Valley Service Sector General Manager, while Spivack was lauded for his 29 year career at Metro, which includes nine years as the San Fernando Valley Manager and six years as the manager of Division 15.

Reynolds was recognized for her 24 years with the agency with more than a decade in the San Fernando Valley, and another 13 years at Division 8.

All three managers are taking on new assignments with the agency. Hunt is overseeing Labor Relations, while Spivack now serves as Division 1 Transportation Manager and Reynolds is the new Division 3 Transportation Manager.

Resolutions from the Governance Council were presented to each of the honorees as each Council member took a few moments to express their gratitude for the trio's service.

Governance Council Chair Brad Rosenheim offered further praise by reading a portion of the resolution which said:

"Your outstanding service and dedication to improving mobility in the San Fernando Valley and throughout Southern California merits our highest regards. We salute you, and wish you the best in your future endeavors."

--from Wilbur Babb
Community Relations Manager

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Photos by Luis Inzunza



Call 511 or visit Go511.com: Transportation officials go511.com on an iPad to deliver the latest in traffic and travel news available 24/7 online or by telephone. From left, OCTA Board Member Peter Buffa, Metro Exec. Director Highway Programs Doug Failing, CHP Asst. Chief Dan Bower, and Caltrans District 7 Deputy Director Frank Quon.

Transportation officials unveil new 511 service to "outsmart traffic" in SoCal 24/7

- Public invited to test drive automated traffic and travel information system. The service debuts Monday, June 14, but will continue in a test mode as it is fine-tuned.
- **511** free phone and web service provides traffic, transit and commuter service information in Southern California.

By José Ubaldo
Media Relations

(June 10, 2010) Transportation officials from Metro, Orange and Ventura counties joined Caltrans and CHP today in introducing a new automated toll-free phone and Internet service that provides 24/7 on demand updates on traffic, trip planning for public transit or connections with car or vanpools throughout Southern California.

The service, which debuts Monday, June 14, also offers extras like bike information, links to area airports and taxi services, even the latest local weather reports. Commuters can simply call 511 or visit Go511.com to get help with their travel in Los Angeles, Orange and Ventura counties. On the Internet, traffic and travel information for these counties as well as neighboring San Bernardino and Riverside counties is available.

"Building new freeways is not the way to beat traffic," said Ara Najarian, chairman of the Metropolitan Transportation Authority of Los Angeles County. "We don't have the money or the land. But thanks to freeway monitoring and other technology, we do have real time information on traffic bottlenecks so we can avoid getting stuck. We also can steer commuters to public transit, carpools and vanpools simply by calling 511 or Go511.com on the Internet."



Board Chairman Ara Najarian to media: "Yes, 511 can help drivers steer away from traffic hot spots but I want to encourage the public to use 511 to connect with a carpool or vanpool or plan their trips on public transit."

OCTA is proud to be a partner in the development of Southern California's 511 service," said OCTA Chairman Jerry Amante. "By dialing 511, commuters can instantly access the latest traffic and transit information anywhere within the region."

The 511 phone and internet service is being fine-tuned and new features such as making it accessible on mobile devices and the ability to handle Spanish voice prompts will be added in coming months. The service will debut in a test mode so that the public can give feedback to further improve 511. Both the phone and the Internet connections have prompts for feedback.

"Caltrans is pleased to be a partner in Southern California 511, providing the system's real-time traffic information," said District 7 Deputy Director of Operations Frank Quon. "An important part of our mission is to optimize mobility and reliability. 511 helps us do that by giving motorists the timely data they need to make informed transportation choices, which translates into safer, more efficient use of our roadways."



OCTA Board Member Peter Buffa takes the podium to announce delivery of 24/7 traffic and travel information system at tri-county news conference held at Union Station June 10.

511 is the three digit number synonymous with travel information. That

number can be called in cities and counties throughout the United States for local traffic and related information. Callers will be given automated voice prompts to access the information they need.

"We are excited to help launch the 511 system, said California Highway Patrol (CHP) Assistant Chief for Southern California Division Dan Bower. "Southern California motorists will benefit tremendously from the cell phone 511 service as well as the 511 website component. The CHP/Caltrans Traffic Management Center will assist in providing first hand traffic information to motorists, assisting them in navigating their way around incidents and planned closures. This will result in a significantly positive impact on traffic flow."

511 traveler information services are provided by the Los Angeles County Service Authority for Freeway Emergencies (LA SAFE), in partnership with Metro, the Orange County Transportation Authority, Ventura County Transportation Commission, the California Highway Patrol (CHP) and Caltrans.

In Los Angeles County, Metro will also keep the 1 (800) COMMUTE phone number where the public can speak to a live operator weekdays from 6:30 a.m. to 7 p.m. and weekends from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Operators speak English and Spanish.

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Annual Spring Green Expo Showcases L.A.'s Quest for Environmental Quality of Life

(June 10, 2010) Energy-wise applications and new ways to create a greener environment were the focus of the annual Spring Green Expo held June 10 on the grounds of the Metropolitan Water District.

Metro employees and volunteers staffed an information booth to continue to spread the news about the vital role transit has played in the quality of urban life.

Los Angeles Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa spoke at the morning session, setting the tone for a showcase of environmental companies exhibiting "green" products and services.

A number of interested attendees visited the Metro tables to learn about Metro's ridesharing program, the Freeway Service Patrol, and the "Go 511" service.

The new 511 free phone and web service provides traffic, transit and commuter service information in Southern California. Users can dial 511 on their cell phone or log in to go511.com for updates on traffic, trip planning, public transit, or connections with carpools or vanpools. The service debuts Monday, June 14.

--from Laura Kloth



Metro's Fe Alcid-Little asks a couple of visitors at the Metro table a quick question: "How do you get around?" And she's happy to hear that many already use transit and ride bikes.



MWD Engineer Frankie Lakoski takes a spin of the Metro wheel and learns more about the agency's transit programs.



Citizens Advisory Council Member Anthony Banash says getting out to tell people about Metro is one of his most important duties as a Council member. "If you don't get out into the community, how do you really know what's going on?" he says.



Estella Valenzuela and Priscilla Del Rio of SAFE (Service Authority for Freeway Emergencies) provide information on 511 and the Freeway Service Patrol.

Photos by Laura Kloth



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[Rideshare Report] *from Corporate ETC Terree Holman*

Fare Increases and Changes to Fare Media Go into effect July 1

- Corporate ETC Terree Holman recaps fare hikes, changes for Metro commuters**

Go to:

[Metrolink Commuters](#) [Foothill Commuters](#) [EZ Pass Commuters](#)

(June 10, 2010) Employees in Metro’s Employee Rideshare Program that receive Metrolink, Foothill and/or Metro EZ Passes to commute to work will experience some changes that go into effect on July 1, 2010.

What does this mean for you?

- Metrolink Commuters**

Full Price Adult Monthly and 10-Trip Tickets – There is a 6% fare increase that will go into effect on July 1, 2010.

Senior/Disabled Monthly and 10-Trip Tickets – The discount will decrease by 25% on July 1, 2010. Therefore, the price of a monthly pass and/or 10-trip tickets will be 25% off Metrolink’s new full priced adult fares.

You may experience a higher monthly deduction towards the purchase of your monthly July Metrolink fare media on your June 18th paycheck. This payroll increase will be automatic for those that already contribute to the monthly cost of their fare media. Employees that will now be required to contribute towards the cost of their fare media were notified individually.

Important Information for Metrolink 10-Trip Participants - Your fare increase will not go into effect until August 2010. Also, Metrolink 10-Trip Tickets will now only be good for 45 days from their date of purchase. Since your August fare media is purchased in July, you will not experience an increase in your payroll deduction until your July 16th paycheck.

- Foothill Commuters**

This fare increase is effective on July 1, 2010. The new fares are as follows:

Monthly Pass	Current Fare	New Fare July 1 st	New Payroll Deduction
Adult Local Monthly Pass	\$66	\$70	\$0
SilverStreak Monthly Pass	\$96	\$105	\$0

Commuter Express Monthly Pass	\$155	\$170	\$50
--	-------	-------	------

- **Note** – The payroll deduction will be increased automatically for those who already contribute towards the monthly cost of their fare media and it will take effect on the paycheck issued June 18.
- **EZ Pass Commuters**

This fare increase is effective July 1, 2010. Note, only the Adult Full Priced Fares will be increasing. The Senior/Disabled fares will remain the same.

Monthly Pass	Current Fare	New Fare – July 1 st	New Payroll Deduction
Base EZ Pass	\$70	\$84	\$0
EZ Pass Zone 1	\$88	\$106	\$0
EZ Pass Zone 2	\$106	\$128	\$8
EZ Pass Zone 3	\$124	\$150	\$30
EZ Pass Zone 4	\$142	\$172	\$52
EZ Pass Zone 5	\$160	\$194	\$74

- **Note** – The payroll deduction will be increased automatically for those who already contribute toward the monthly cost of their fare media and will take effect on the paycheck issued June 18. Employees who will now be required to contribute towards the cost of their fare media were notified individually.

Give ridesharing a try, says Corporate ETC Terree Holman. To get in on the benefits, contact Holman or the ETC coordinator at your site.

For more information, contact [Terree Holman](#), at (213) 922-4863.





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Employment Office will remain open this Saturday to renew dependent/retiree badges

- TAP-empowered chip will expire at the end of June**

(June 10, 2010) Holders of red-bordered dependent badges about to expire are reminded to renew their badges or run the risk of losing fare privileges in July. The Employment Office will be open this Saturday for the convenience of those unable to attend during weekday hours.

The Employment Office began issuing new cards in March. Designed with gray borders, the new cards contain chips that are valid until December 2015.

All dependent children with red-bordered dependent badges are required to come in for an updated photo in order to receive a new badge.

During the renewal period, all retirees and domestic partners or spouses with red-bordered badges have the option to either keep the existing photo or come in to update their photo at no charge.

Retirees, domestic partners and/or spouses who do not wish to update their photos may contact Janet Chu-Hooker at 213.922.3688 to make arrangements for a new badge.

Those applying for badges for the first time are required to submit appropriate proof of Metro status.

Spouses need to provide a marriage certificate. Domestic partners need to provide proof of domestic partnership.

Parents of dependent children must provide a birth certificate (and a marriage certificate if the dependent is a stepchild.) If the dependent is between the ages of 19 to 23, proof of full-time student status must be provided.

Those needing a new badge can go directly to the Human Resources' Employment Office, located on the Patsaouras Plaza at Metro Headquarters, Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to noon and from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. through July 9.

Information: Janet Chu-Hooker 213.922.3688.

How it Works: Go directly to the Human Resources' Employment Office, located on the Patsaouras Plaza at Metro Headquarters, to get same-time processing of a new dependent/retiree badge and photo. No appointment is necessary; badges are processed on a first-come, first-served basis.

- Now through July 9:** Monday through Friday, from 8 a.m. to noon and from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m.
- Saturday, June 12,** from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.



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Metro Basketball League News



The undefeated and top-ranked Div. 3207 team takes the Championship in a 61-43 win over the third-seeded RRC squad.

Div. 3207 Metro Basketball Team Ends Season with Championship Trophy

(June 15, 2010) The final buzzer has sounded on the latest Metro Basketball season with the undefeated and top ranked Div. 3207 team taking the Championship in a 61-43 win over the third-seeded RRC squad.



TOS Richard Wright, West Hollywood Division Instructor, Transportation, is the Metro Basketball League Commissioner.

League Standings	
Div 3207	8-0
Black Magic	4-4
RRC	4-4
Orange Crush	4-4
Gateway	0-8

Like it had the entire season, the Div. 3207 crew led the pack right out of the gate with a 29-10 lead at halftime. The RRC team would have had to pool its pocket change to buy a basket during the second half as Div. 3207 led by at

least 20 points or more twice during the second half.

The closest the RRC came to catching up was scratching and clawing its way to within 12 points of the victor early in the 4th quarter, but the more experienced Div. 3207 moved the ball with crisp passing and ball handling that built the lead back up to 18 points. And there it stayed.

Div. 3207 was led by Peter Jones with a game-high 18 points followed by 12 and 10 points, respectively, from Tim Williams and Jason Tims and Eddie "The Mad Bomber" Corbin's 9. despite the loss, the RRC has to be given credit for holding Metro League MVP and Scoring Champion Melvin Ford to a mere 3 points - by far his worst game performance of the season.

Henry "Ice" Larguespada led the RRC with a team-high 16 points with Devin "The Painter" Reed and Llyron Young sinking 7 apiece and Sal Buenrostro adding 6.

On a personal note: I would like to thank all the players who participated in the Metro Basketball League this year, as well as the fans that came out week after week to support the program and cheer for their favorite teams.

A special shout-out goes to Michelle and Tina Gilles and Sonia Arrayaler for their undying support



TEAM: Div. 3207



TEAM: RRC



TEAM: Black Magic



TEAM: Orange Crush

and to Coach Allen of Hawthorne High School and Harlon Caldwell for supplying the referees and introducing me to Coach Allen and thanks to Laura Kloth, Michael D. White and the editorial staff at Mymetro.net for making my game reports look so good every week.

So, sincere thanks to everyone involved for the "one shining moment" and I'll see you in September when league play will resume.



TEAM: Gateway

-- from Richard Wright

Richard Wright
Director/Commissioner
(323) 449-3604 – cell
(310) 854-3142 – work
Email: rwmentor@att.net / wrightr@metro.net



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Employees Now Have New Way to Request Vehicle

(June 17, 2010) A new and “more automated” request form is now online for employees who want to request a vehicle from the Gateway Vehicle Pool.

The new procedure is expected to improve documentation of vehicle requests to help Metro improve its recordkeeping procedures, said Kathryn Jackson, Senior Programmer Analyst.

The new method is easy to use and even has a “Quick Reference Card” that provides an employee with easy steps to follow.

Employees can make their vehicle request by going to the “forms online” tab on the myMetro home page, and clicking on the vehicle pool request form under General Services.

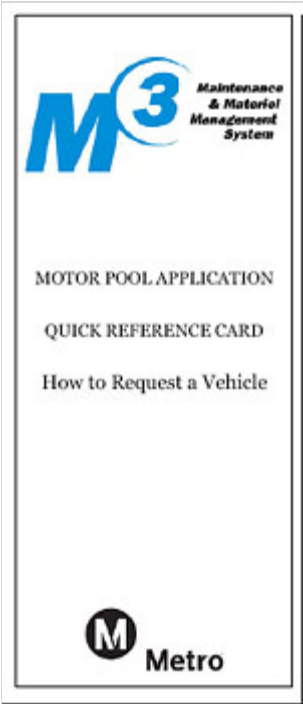
They will be asked to login with their employee user ID, and use the word “metro” as their initial password. Employees will then be asked to create a new password. Please note: If you currently have an M3 or Motor Pool account your password has not changed.

Once logged in, an employee can fill out the request form, print it out, and get the necessary signature(s).

Currently, employees still need to take their form to the P-3 offices. In coming months, the form will be routed directly to a supervisor by email, and then on to the Motor Pool office.

The new procedure is currently available only for Gateway Building employees, but it’s expected to be implemented throughout Metro’s six other vehicle pool sites in coming months.

How-to manuals (PDFs)



- 1) [Just](#) the FAQs
- 2) [How to](#) request a vehicle
- 3) [How to change](#) your password and update account information

-- from Laura Kloth



Dump the Pump!, so says public officials

BY STEVE HYMON ON JUNE 17, 2010



Metro planner James Rojas explains a transportation model of Los Angeles at the Dump the Pump event at Union Station. Photo by Juan Ocampo.

If you haven't Dumped the Pump yet there's still time — the day is only half done. Metro and several public officials held a news conference at Union Station this morning to encourage residents of the area to take mass transit and/or to carpool and vanpool.

Here's the Metro press release:

MAYOR, METRO OFFICIALS ENCOURAGE RIDESHARING ON DUMP THE PUMP DAY

Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa and Metro officials today marked national Dump the Pump day with a twist. They encouraged motorists to park their cars and trucks and take public transit or join a carpool or vanpool. But they also used the occasion to share how Los Angeles is being transformed from the car capital of the world to the transit capital.

"On Dump the Pump day, I encourage everyone to try using one of our bus and rail lines to reduce dependence on foreign oil and improve our air," said Mayor Villaraigosa. "We can and will transform Los Angeles from the car capital of the world into the transit capital thanks to Measure R and the 12 transit projects it will build over 30 years. With support building for our

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30/10 initiative, we can accelerate to a 10 year schedule and ‘dump the pump’ that much faster.”

“In the midst of the Great Recession when so many people are struggling to make ends meet, it pays to park your car and take Metro at least once a week or join a carpool or vanpool,” said Pam O’Connor, Santa Monica Mayor Pro Tem and Council member and a Metro director. “You can save \$10,000 a year through ridesharing compared to driving solo, and Metro continues to offer new options like the Line 733 Metro Rapid on Venice Boulevard that debuts Sunday, June 27. The future looks even brighter,” O’Connor noted.

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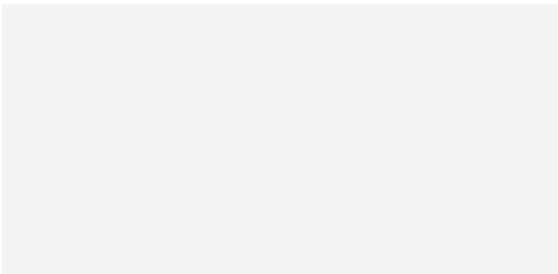
James Rojas shows L.A. Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa around the town. Photo by Juan Ocampo.



Mayor Villaraigosa gives the boot to the pump. Joining him were two other members of the Metro Board of Directors -- Pam O'Connor and Mark Ridley-Thomas. Photo by Juan Ocampo.

She noted the dozen major new transportation projects funded by Measure R that are under construction or planned will, literally, change the urban landscape in Los Angeles County.

Metro Rail will mark its 20th anniversary in July. It is already among the 10 largest rail systems in the United States carrying more than 300,000 weekday boarding passengers on 79 miles of track. It will almost double in size as light rail lines are extended through the San Gabriel Valley and Crenshaw corridor, through the South Bay, Eastside and Westside. There also will be a downtown regional connector linking the Metro Blue, Gold and Expo lines, an extension of the Metro Purple



Line subway to Westwood, plus a rapid transit option that will connect the San Fernando Valley and Westside through the Sepulveda Pass along the I-405 freeway corridor, an extension of the Metro Orange Line busway to Chatsworth, Metrolink and bus service improvements. (go to www.metro.net/projects/measurer/ for details.) Plans for high speed rail also are in the works.



A closer look at James Rojas' model of Los Angeles that shows various rail lines. Photo by Fred Camino.

O'Connor noted this huge investment in transportation infrastructure will give developers a powerful incentive to concentrate new housing and commercial development around the rail and Metro Orange Line stations.

In November 2008 voters approved Measure R, a half cent sales tax in Los Angeles County, that will pay for these transportation projects over 30 years. However, Metro is urging the Obama Administration and Congress to approve a 30/10 plan and let Metro leverage Measure R monies with advance federal low interest loans or loan guarantees to complete a dozen Measure R projects within a decade.

Mayor Villaraigosa noted this acceleration would boost the region's construction industry by generating 160,000 new jobs while eliminating \$3.4 billion in project construction costs over the long term. Together the 12 projects will reduce vehicle pollution emissions by 568,000 pounds annually, save 10.3 million gallons of gasoline per year and reduce traffic congestion by eliminating 208 million vehicle miles from roadways.

U.S. Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood has pledged support for Measure 30/10 and Senator Barbara Boxer and other legislators are mobilizing Congressional support for 30/10, which also is supported by the U.S. Conference of Mayors. Go to <http://www.metro.net/projects/30-10/> for more information.

On a parallel track, Metro also is developing a strategy to expedite the construction of Measure R highway projects, focusing on public-private partnerships.

For information about Metro Bus and Metro Rail service, check out the trip planner at metro.net or call 1-800 COMMUTE. Call 511 or Go511.com for public transit, carpool, vanpool information and real time traffic updates in Southern California 24/7.

National Dump the Pump Day is sponsored by the American Public Transportation Association (APTA), a non-profit association of more than 1,600 member organizations, including almost 400 public transit agencies.

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Today is Dump the Pump Day -- the perfect time to try

Metro celebrates Dump the Pump Day tomorrow
In "Inside Metro"



On Dump-Pump Day, Metro says divorce your car
In "Go Metro"

☐ CATEGORIES: Metro Lifestyle

public transit or share the ride
Metro and transit agencies across the country are celebrating Dump the Pump Day to encourage all of us to leave our cars at home and try out transit and ride sharing to save money, improve mobility and help our environment. Here's the release from Metro: This year to celebrate National...
In "Transportation News"

☒ Transportation headlines, Thursday, June 17

Bus and rail service impacted by Lakers game ☒



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[Watch report on myFoxla.com](#): Sheriff's deputies believe members of the OCP - Out Causing Panic - gang caused thousands of dollars in damage to a Blue Line train and a Metro bus following the 2009 Lakers Championship game.

- [No re-peat please](#): myMetro.net report from June 16, 2009 - Metro sustained an estimated \$58,000 in damages to eight buses with broken windows and graffiti, the burnt-out Vehicle Operations unit, and the Metro Blue Line car at the Pico Station pelted by objects large enough to break the train windows.

Sheriff's Officials Arrest 2009 Lakers Vandals on the Eve of Game 7

(June 17, 2010) Los Angeles County Sheriff's officials Wednesday arrested 15 people suspected of vandalizing a Metro bus and a Blue Line train last year during the riot that followed last year's Lakers National Basketball Championship win.

Assisted by law enforcement officials in L.A. and Riverside counties, sheriff's deputies arrested 14 adults and one juvenile believed to be members of the OCP - Out Causing Panic - tagging gang, said LASD Transit Bureau Lt. Erik Ruble.

Altogether, 36 arrest warrants were issued in San Diego, San Bernardino, Riverside and Los Angeles counties.

The gang members taken into custody were charged with felony vandalism and criminal conspiracy for causing thousands of dollars in damage to the Metro bus and train.

During the melee, local news cameras showed live shots of vandals throwing a trash can through the window of the Line 33 bus, which was being driven near the Staples Center by Div. 10 Bus Operator Jose Recinos.

Recinos was later commended by Metro management for "keeping the passengers and himself safe until police arrived, then driving the bus out of the danger zone and into the Division 10 yard."

-- from Laura Kloth

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Job Well Done

- **Metro's Juanita "Maggie" Cook Educates Disabled About Wheelchair Marking and Safety Strap Program**

By Laura Kloth
Staff Writer

(June 22, 2010) Juanita "Maggie" Cook now says it was almost "serendipitous" that she was named to head Metro's Wheelchair Marking and Safety Strap Program in February.

A wheelchair user herself, Cook, who typically works as a Metro Customer Information Agent, was tapped for the position by ADA Compliance Administrator Chip Hazen to help Metro promote the program.

Launched in 2009, the program was created to promote the use of safety straps on wheelchairs to keep their users safe while riding buses. It was initiated after a battery of simulated crash tests showed that wheelchair users can sustain serious injuries with their chairs seriously damaged or even destroyed if not properly secured.

The program includes an educational component to provide extensive public outreach to wheelchair users who ride buses as well as training for bus operators who must properly secure the chairs.

Cook can empathize with disabled patrons because she suffers from Lupus and uses a wheelchair herself.

Lupus is an auto-immune disease that weakens the muscles and has forced Cook to use a wheelchair or crutches to get around. "I know what they're going through; I've been on the bus," she said.

A 36-year employee at Metro, Cook says she has enjoyed her job as a Metro Customer Information Agent. Cook has fielded calls from disabled patrons who complain about feeling unsafe on a bus when it stops or turns corners and being passed up when a bus is full.

So when Cook heard that Metro needed some assistance in promoting the safety strap program, she told Hazen, "Why not give me a try?"

On loan from her regular duties in Customer Relations, where she works as a Centrex Operator under the direction of Communications Manager Tom Horne, Cook's current duties have consisted primarily of educating wheelchair users at senior homes and rehabilitation facilities, visiting



Juanita "Maggie" Cook was tapped to promote Metro's Wheelchair Marking and Safety Strap Program.

agencies that assist the disabled, and setting up assessments for patrons who need their wheelchairs fitted with a safety strap.

Her role, she said, has allowed her not only to promote the program, but also to help “smooth over” complaints from patrons.

On a recent visit to a senior center in Long Beach, Cook was assisted by a trained technician to assess and fit 21 wheelchairs with safety straps or markings.

According to Hazen, who oversees the program, the markings consist of a ½-inch yellow electrical tape installed on the wheelchair to indicate to the bus operator that this is the best location to put the bus securement hook. A safety strap is used when there is no easy location on the wheelchair to attach the hook.

“Bus Operators are taught to look for either the yellow tape or the safety strap when securing a wheelchair on a Metro bus,” Hazen said.

Training for the technicians consists of approximately 10 hours on how to safely secure a wheelchair on a Metro bus plus hands-on training provided by Cook and Metro’s wheelchair securement consultant Doug Cross, from Doug Cross Transportation Consulting.

Hazen says Cook has fulfilled her duties extremely well.

“We were looking for somebody who is a wheelchair user, because the riders could relate better to her. Once they saw her, they changed their opinion about Metro,” he said, adding that, at times, some patrons became teary-eyed when they expressed their appreciation for Cook’s involvement and for the program.

When her task as a supervisor ends, Cook plans to return to her Customer Information position with Metro but her passion to help people with disabilities will continue, she said.

In the past, Cook has attended rallies in Sacramento and Washington D.C. seeking additional funding for programs that serve the disabled.

Cook, named after her strong-willed grandmother, says she’s grateful she was able to assist with the program.

“It was such a positive experience and I always went home feeling that I accomplished something in helping others with disabilities,” she said.

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En route to the Annual Call Center Exhibition in New Orleans, a group of business leaders from South Korea tour Metro's Call Center.
Photos by Gayle Anderson

South Korean Business Leaders Tour Metro Call Center

(June 22, 2010) In a program designed to inform as well as welcome visitors intent upon discovery of Call Center practices world-wide, Gail M. Harvey, Director, Customer Relations, and Alonzo Williams, Communications Manager, played host, June 14, to 21 visitors from Korean Call Center Management (KCCM). En route to the Annual Call Center Exhibition in New Orleans, the group visited Metro's Call Center and four other call centers in Los Angeles.

The presentation opened with a greeting from Lynda Bybee, DEO, Community Relations and Warren Morse, DEO, Customer Communications. Chief Operating Officer Lonnie Mitchell welcomed the group and told of his time in South Korea while stationed there as a Naval Officer.



COO Lonnie Mitchell welcomes visitors.

Other Metro staff who greeted the group included Grace Hong, who spoke to them in Korean, Isaac Lim, and Media Relations Manager Rick Jager.

Harvey was impressed with the group's interpreter, who translated the reports and discussions in real-

time directly into the head-sets worn by the visitors, who did not speak English. "He was really good," said Harvey. He was amazing."

The visitors were from a diverse group of banks, telecommunication, insurance, security and several other companies and represented various positions from team leaders to company presidents. "They were all very interested in how we do our Transit Call Center business since most of them are in revenue generating operations," said Harvey.

The KCCM group, led by Baeky Rhee, Professor/PhD., has made a practice of visiting different cities to learn about various call center operations in the United States before attending the International Customer Management Institution (ICMI) annual conference.

Both Harvey and Williams are members of the ICMI, which is hosting this year's conference in New Orleans.



Discussions were interpreted in real-time for visitors wearing head sets.



The tour included up-close view of ergonomic workstations.



Visitors from the Korean Call Center Management enjoy welcome and staff presentations, above, before touring the call center, below.



"After the presentation, they were very interested and had many questions regarding various aspects of our operation such as workforce management, training and technology components," said Williams.

"I think they most enjoyed listening to the calls, seeing the Call Center Management System we use and then actually walking around the Call Center to see the features and equipment we provide agents. They were very impressed with the design and layout of the call center and the ergonomic workstations."

-- from Gail Harvey
Director, Customer Relations



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OBITUARIES

Harry William Brame, Retired Bus Operator

- Visitation hours are Monday, June 28, from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m., at the Harrison Ross Mortuary, 1839 Firestone Blvd., Los Angeles, 90001. Information: 323.584.1200.
- Services are Tuesday, June 29, at 11 a.m. at the Baptist Church of the New Covenant, located at 10843 Kenney Street, Norwalk, CA 90650.
- Interment will be conducted Wednesday, June 30, 11:30 a.m. at Riverside National Cemetery, 22495 Van Buren Boulevard, Riverside, CA 92518 [Directions](#)

(June 23, 2010) Services are planned for retired Bus Operator Harry William Brame, who died Tuesday, June 15, of a heart attack. He was 62 years old. He was born February 11, 1948, in Rock Hill, Missouri. He was sixth of seven children.

After an honorable discharge from the U.S. Navy, he began his employment with RTD/LACMTA (Metro) as a Bus Operator from 1971 to 1994. Mr. Brame retired and then reinstated with Metro from 1998-2005. He spent the majority of his career at Divisions 9 and 10 and also worked out of Divisions 1 and 6. He was assigned to Division 5 at the time of his retirement in 2005.

A resident of Los Angeles, he is survived by his four sons, Kiyan, Jay, Alexander, JaRaard and one daughter, Tiffani, whom he loved dearly and always talked about. He is also survived by four brothers, one sister and one aunt, all of St. Louis, Missouri, and a host of nieces, nephews, cousins and friends.



Harry William Brame





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OBITUARIES

Division 15 Operators pay tribute to friend and co-worker Mary Rede



Mary Rede
1944 - 2010

Mary Rede was a beautiful person and beloved fellow operator. Mary will be remembered for many things, but foremost her sunny disposition and beautiful smile. Her willingness to give a kind hug, along with her well-known "It's gonna be all right!" assurance to any and all fellow operators, will be greatly missed. Never truly knowing all the love that she radiated, she truly touched and impacted the lives of her fellow co-workers. Never was this more evident than on Saturday, May 8, 2010, when Division 15 held a barbeque and softball game in Mary's honor. It was attended by a many of her Division 15 family members. Mary, we all love you. Amen.

-- Lovingly submitted by Division 15 Operators

- A memorial service will be held on Saturday July 10, 2010, at 9:30 a.m., at Forest Lawn-Hollywood Hills. Operators are asked to wear their uniforms in tribute to Mary Rede, a Division 15 bus operator for 10 years. [Directions](#)

(June 29, 2010) A memorial service is planned for Bus Operator Mary Rede, a 10-year Metro employee at Division 15. Mary succumbed to pancreatic cancer on June 20, 2010.

Mary Rede was born in Albuquerque, New Mexico, on June 8, 1944. She resided in Arcadia at the time of her passing.

Mary joined Metro as a bus operator on May 15, 2000, and was promoted to full-time bus operator on May 5, 2002. She spent her entire career at Division 15.

Mary is survived by her three children, Gina, Jonathan and Erica, and seven grandchildren.

The memorial service will be held on Saturday July 10, 2010, at 9:30 a.m. at Forest Lawn-Hollywood Hills. Operators are asked to wear their uniforms in tribute to their friend and fellow operator.

*--from Diane Frazier
Div. 15 Transportation Manager*

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Mechanic Matthew Johnson (center) visits with his lifesaving crew: From left Mechanic Chris Kane, Haidook "Duke" Arakelian, Mechanic Leader Dave Sweany, Mechanics Bill Heiller and Dawn Diggs, Service Attendant Alfredo Tardencilla, and Equipment Maintenance Supervisor Jagath Wijegunawardena. *Photos by Laura Kloth*

Div. 8 Mechanic Matt Johnson Thanks Co-workers for Saving his Life

- Johnson is second employee in recent weeks to suffer a heart attack while at work.

By Laura Kloth

Staff Writer

(June 29, 2010) Just after arriving for a routine day of work on May 19, Div. 8 Mechanic Matt Johnson went into full cardiac arrest.

He survived thanks in no small part to a quick-thinking crew of fellow mechanics and supervisors who worked together to revive and care for him keeping him alive before paramedics arrived.

The day started as any other with Johnson taking his daily four mile bike ride to work. Greeted by co-worker Mechanic Haidook "Duke" Arakelian, he remembered greeting Arakelian and suddenly, "I just fell over flat on my back just like that."

A little more than four weeks later, Johnson was happy to pay a visit, thanking his rescuers at the busy division in Chatsworth, and recalling the life-altering event.

"If you made a list of people who might have a heart condition, I don't think I was very high on the list. So it surprised a lot of people that I had a heart attack," Johnson said, indicating that he doesn't smoke, rides his

bike as often as he can and never had any health-related warning signs before the incident.

Ironically, Arakelian, who became the first responder, had not been expected to begin his shift until 6:30 a.m., but that day he happened to arrive a half hour early, recalled Equipment Maintenance Supervisor Jagath Wijegunawardena.

Realizing what was happening; Arakelian began yelling for help and quickly began CPR on Johnson.

By this time, Mechanic Dawn Diggs happened to be walking by and noticed the commotion. She ran "full tilt" toward the shop yelling, "Someone please call 911 immediately, Matt is not breathing."

"I heard Dawn from the shop office so I ran over there right away and checked Matt out... He wasn't breathing and had no heartbeat," said "Mechanic Leader Dave Sweany.

After a cell phone failed to connect, Arakelian turned over applying chest compressions to Master Mechanic Leader Bill Heiller while Wijegunawardena grabbed the office landline to call 911. He was turning purple not getting better, Sweany remembered.



Div. 8 Mechanic Leader Dave Sweany used the lifesaving defibrillator (AED) to help revive friend and coworker Matt Johnson.

Sweany said he had a quick flashback to a first-aid class where he learned how to operate Automated External Defibrillator (AED). Running back Grabbing the device from the shop office, Sweany and Mechanic Chris Kane, a former EMT, prepped Johnson for the shock.

"This was the very first time that I opened this up," said Sweany, remembering that he quickly scanned through the instructions and step-by-step pictures before pushing the button on the AED.

"The machine analyzed there was no heartbeat. It charged up and he jumped," Sweany said. "He just jolted."

Diggs remembers jumping into a utility truck to meet the responding fire trucks. "I drove down to the front of the division. I stood in the middle of the street waving my vest to guide them," Diggs said.

Kane said Johnson seemed to be responding before paramedics arrived to transport him to the hospital.

Johnson remembered regaining consciousness at the hospital.

"It was terror and panic when I woke up. I didn't know what happened. I didn't know if there was an earthquake. I got hit in the head or what. I was disoriented," he said.

Johnson was taken immediately into surgery where surgeons inserted a stent into his heart after discovering that his left marginal artery was 95 percent blocked.

Later, Kane said no one was more surprised by the incident than he was.

"I know Matt. We go camping. We go riding together. He's an athlete. The guy rides hundreds of miles a week. He'd be the last person you would think to have a heart attack," said Kane.

Johnson spent four days in the hospital and said he expects to return to work in about a month, joking that he had plenty of vacation time available but never expected to use it this way.

His coworkers laughed and talked about how happy they were to see him up riding his bike again and recovering so "amazingly" well.

"It was like clockwork. Everything just happened in the right amount of time," Diggs said.

Matt Johnson is the second Metro employee to suffer a heart attack on the job this year.

In April, Div. 1 [Bus Operator William Bonney](#) suffered a major attack and his coworkers were commended for their rescue efforts as Maintenance Manager John McBryan praised the teamwork and shared the lesson learned from the experience.

"This is a good message that Mr. Bonney has given us: Start taking care of yourself."


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The first Rail Operations graduation class of 2010 gets on board June 25 at graduation ceremonies held at Rail Division 20 on June 25. Pictured, from left, Instructor Luis Canal, Operators Narvolean Jackson, Alejandro Alers, Myra Jackson and Lavell Layton; Instructors Josie Robles, Arnold 'A.J.' Johnson, and Instruction Manager Linda Leone. *Photos by Ricardo Perez.*

Rail Operations Graduates Four New Train Operators

(June 29, 2010) The June 2010 graduating class of Rail Operations added four train operators to the ranks of some 230 train operators who pilot the Metro Rail system throughout Los Angeles County, transporting an average of 300,000 customers a day.

"You have acquired and achieved the expertise that will contribute a great deal to the quality of service we provide our customers," Roman Alarcon, Executive Director of Transportation, told the group of graduates.

The training consists of an overview of the rail system and concentrated instruction on rules and procedures followed by hands-on yard operation, mainline operation and procedures specific to operation of each rail line, said Linda Leone, rail instruction manager.

In making the transition from bus



Rail Instructor A.J. Johnson welcomes new train operator Alejandro Alers aboard at graduation ceremonies. Below, with graduate Myra Jackson.

to train, the new train operators will be responsible for handling vehicles with more weight, with much faster speeds and many times more passengers.

The instructors encouraged the students to work as a team, helping each other learn standard operating procedures, rail safety, mainline and yard operation and vehicle troubleshooting.



Directed by Rail Instruction Manager Linda Leone, the class was conducted by rail training instructors Luis Canal, Arnold 'A.J.' Johnson, Josie Robles, and Freddie Marlow.

New train operators Narvolean Jackson from Division 10, Myra Jackson from Division 3 and Lavell Layton from Division 1 will join the Blue Line. Alejandro Alers from Division 8 will join the Gold Line crew.

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Officials break ground June 26 for Metro Gold Line Foothill Extension at community celebration in Arcadia. *Photo by Gary Leonard*

• Community Welcomes Gold Line Foothill Extension at Groundbreaking

By Laura Kloth
Staff Writer

(June 30, 2010) Some 200 people flocked to the Metro Gold Line Foothill Extension at Newcastle Park in Arcadia to hear community leaders tout the first Measure R rail project which will extend the Metro Gold Line 11 miles from Pasadena west to Azusa with another link planned to Montclair.

Visitors heard some 90 minutes of speeches, were entertained by the Monrovia High School Band, and had the opportunity to examine mini-models of future train stations in Arcadia, Monrovia, Duarte, Irwindale and Azusa.

Video by Vince Ybarra for Metro: Not hooked up to YouTube at work? Watch at home at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nM7Z0nYfOXw>. NOTE: This YouTube link is being sent to you for the purpose of viewing the Metro video only. Metro employees are subject to the Employee Code of Conduct that generally restricts the use of company time/equipment to conducting Metro business. Please click on icon above to view the video.

The leaders who spoke pointed to the ongoing efforts by Duarte Councilman and Metro Director John Fasana for keeping the project alive, while outgoing Metro Board Chair Ara Najarian talked up the 30/10 initiative saying, if approved, the funding “would help build several other transit projects to benefit the region.”

A dozen other major transit projects are in the works and will be completed sooner than anticipated if the 30/10 initiative is approved.

Metro Community Relations Manager Barbara Burns and Community Relations Coordinator Jackie Martinez were on hand to teach children about safety with Metro’s own talking robot, while several other Metro volunteers and staff provided attendees with general information about the agency’s varied transit programs.