



MARCH 2004

Metrolink News and Events



Santa Ana Station

Orange County Celebrates 10 Years of Metrolink

On March 29, 1994, 2,000 commuters and pleasure riders took to the Orange County Metrolink rails for the first time. Prior to that Monday morning, Orange County commuters only had one rail option: Amtrak trains designed for cross-country travel and not for the frequent stops and low prices essential to commuter rail. The Orange County Transportation Authority (OCTA) ran limited commuter train service for about a year using Metrolink equipment before service actually started.)

The debut run of three Orange County Metrolink trains in March 1994 represented an expanded, more convenient commuter rail service. And in a region with one of the most congested freeway systems in the nation, that's something to get excited about.

Sarah Catz, a founding member of the SCRRA

board, remembers the day well. She toasted the breakfast train with orange juice. She's since watched with pride as Orange County Metrolink service has grown.

Metrolink's Orange County Line runs from Oceanside to Los Angeles, with stops in San Clemente, San Juan Capistrano, Laguna Niguel/Mission Viejo, Irvine, Tustin, Santa Ana, Orange, Anaheim, Fullerton, Norwalk/Santa Fe Springs and City of Commerce. The northernmost stop is at LA's Union Station, where riders can disembark and walk to downtown LA worksites or ride on to other LA areas via free transfers to LA's Metro subway or bus lines.

The excitement of the March 1994 opening of the Orange County Line came on the heels of some unanticipated excitement of a very different kind. In January of that year, a devastating earthquake with a magnitude of 6.7 struck Southern California. Its epicenter was in Northridge, a San Fernando Valley town in north Los Angeles County that is also part of the Metrolink community. The city was thrown

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Metrolink Joins Other Champions

Metrolink will be announced as a "Champions of Industry" award winner in a segment to be aired on March 11 on the Headline News Network between 3:00 - 3:30 p.m.

The Champions of Industry 300 Award is a coveted honor given to 300 outstanding organizations. The award recognizes the exceptional achievements and contributions made to America by corporations, educational institutions, and government municipalities, focusing on the true meaning of entrepreneurship while maintaining the highest standards. Consideration for the award is by invitation only. This year, we are proud to announce that Metrolink has been named as one of the Champions of Industry.

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Inside



Orange County Celebrates...*(continued from page 1)*

into a state of emergency, and transportation was strained as a result of several collapsed freeways. Metrolink—which had been providing service on the Ventura, Santa Clarita, and San Bernardino lines for two years and the Riverside line for one—provided a much-needed alternative to the destroyed freeways.

When the Orange County line opened in March 1994, it became the longest in the five-county regional Metrolink system, with service covering 87.3 miles between Oceanside and Los Angeles. It offered a compelling commute alternative to thousands of Southern Californians. Today, Orange County's Metrolink lines are among the most popular in the entire regional rail system. Nineteen trips are made each weekday between the three routes, and they carry 9,000 passengers a day and 1.6 million per year. Orange County commuters can get onboard at one of 10 commuter rail stations: San Clemente, San Juan Capistrano, Irvine, Santa Ana, Orange, Anaheim Stadium, Anaheim Canyon, Tustin, Fullerton, and Laguna Niguel/Mission Viejo.

The Orange County Line is overseen by the Orange County Transportation Authority (OCTA), one of the five member agencies of the Southern California Regional Rail Authority (SCRRA), the

public agency that oversees Metrolink. OCTA holds two voting seats on the SCRRA Board of Directors and administers all of Orange County's rail-corridor activities, which are plentiful. Orange County

is served by three routes: The Orange County Line, the Inland Empire-Orange County Line (the nation's first suburb-to-suburb commuter rail line), and the 91 line (Riverside-Fullerton-Los Angeles). OCTA's mission is to "create, coordinate, finance and deliver an easy to use transportation network which keeps Orange County moving and meets the public's needs." The county's primary transportation agency, OCTA focuses on multiple modes of

transportation—freeways, streets, and transit—to keep 2.8 million Orange County folk moving happily along.

Appreciating the value of a good transportation system, Orange County residents voted in 1990 to approve a half-cent sales tax to improve freeways, streets, and transit. This initiative, called Measure M, in combination with funds allocated via propositions 108 and 116, made possible the development of Orange County's commuter rail system. Operation of the commuter rail service is funded by the \$115 million Commuter Rail Endowment Fund (CURE). OCTA's capital budget is funded through a combination of local, state, and federal sources.

As with any project, a key to success is personal inspiration. Founding board members Sarah Catz and Dana Reed were instrumental figures in bringing Metrolink to Orange County. Catz, who'd been in college in Washington, D.C., while the subway system was being built there, had seen firsthand how a good, efficient transit system could change a community's quality of life. She's watched with pride as Metrolink has done just that in Orange County.

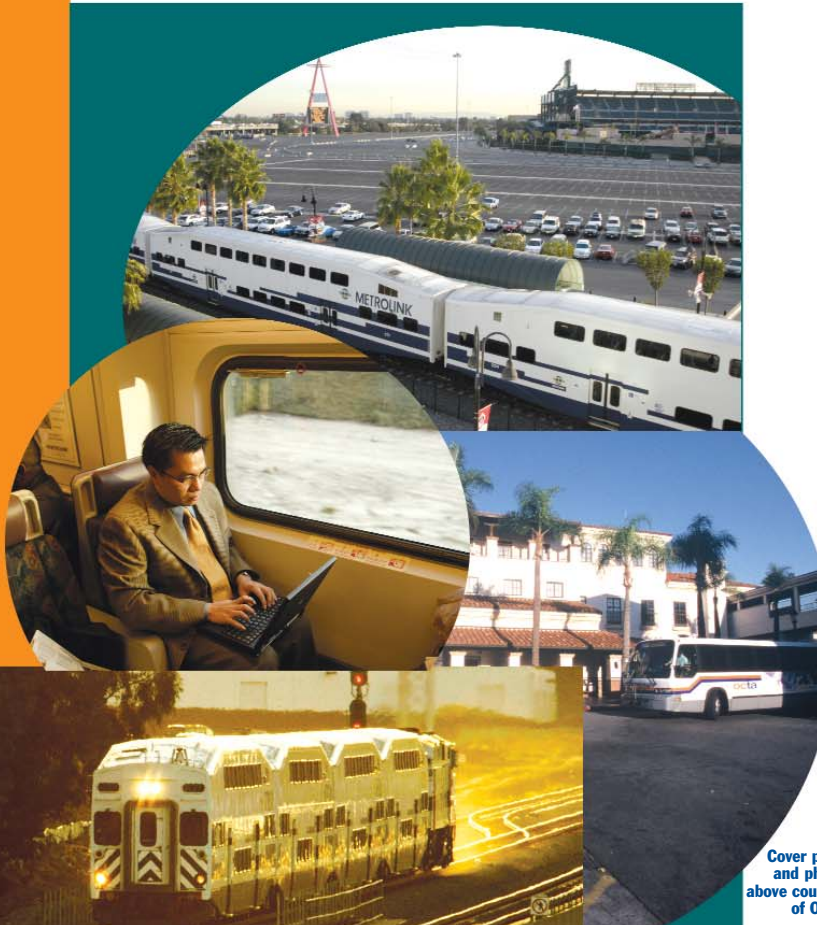
At the five-year anniversary of the service, a privately sponsored survey assessed the effects Metrolink had had to date on commuters' lives. Catz was thrilled to hear riders' stories about being better people when they got home from work without the stress of sitting in traffic, about how Metrolink allowed them to take better-paying jobs in neighboring communities, and more. She knew a good transportation system would change people's lives for the better, and is pleased that there are so many benefits—environmental, quality of life, mobility, productivity—"wrapped up in this one little train."

The 10th anniversary of Metrolink service in Orange County won't pass quietly. OCTA's Manager of Marketing, Stella Lin, says there are at least two special events planned. On Saturday the 27th, from 10:00 a.m. to noon, a Super Saturday event will be held to celebrate 10 years of Metrolink as a community. The public is invited to enjoy free rides from Orange County to LA's Union Station, where riders can transfer to LA's Metro trains and enjoy Los Angeles's many attractions. Metro (the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority) will provide giveaway items and raffle off a Metrolink monthly pass and 2, 10-trip tickets at the Commerce and Norwalk/Santa Fe Springs Stations on Saturday March 27, 2004 to coincide with the 10th Anniversary celebration.

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"This is a great milestone for OCTA because we're proud to run Metrolink service in Orange County. We are pleased to have provided service to 12,000 riders each weekday throughout the last decade and look forward to continuing to serve many more riders for years to come."

—OCTA Board Director Art Brown commenting on the 10 year anniversary of the Orange County Line.



Cover photo and photos above courtesy of OCTA.



In Downtown Burbank, There's a Method to the Madness

The 6th annual Method Fest Independent Film Festival returns to Downtown Burbank April 2-9 at the AMC Theatres. New to this year's program are children's education programs in acting, filmmaking, and screenwriting. Debbie Gates, director of the Shakespeare at Play Theatre in Burbank, will coordinate these youth events.

The Method Fest Actor Competition, initiated last year, will be held for the second time. This year's contest will be judged by celebrities and other top entertainment-industry personalities. The first VIP event of the year was held on February 4 at Arnie Morton's Steakhouse. An expanded Method Fest Film Lineup Announcement Party will be held at the Colony Theatre on March 3.

Named after the famous "method" school of acting, which has influenced many generations of actors, the Method Fest is truly a festival of discovery, showcasing the quality acting of hot new actors in character-driven films by talented new filmmakers. After four years in Pasadena, the Method Fest moved to Downtown Burbank last year.

The Method Fest Independent Film Festival is presented by the City of Burbank. Charter Communications is a presenting media sponsor. Other leading sponsors include Media City Center, Crown Reality, and, of course, Metrolink.

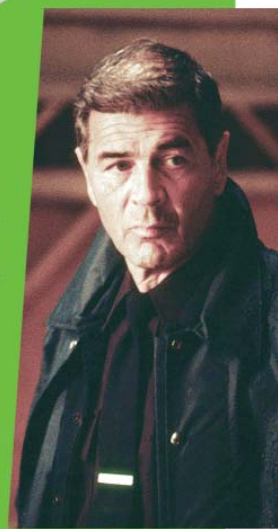
Check the festival Web site for the latest updates on events at www.methodfest.com.

While you are enjoying the Method Fest you can also enjoy the many changes in Downtown Burbank. There are many new retailers and restaurants. At the other end of the district, soon to make their appearance in the old police block, are two mixed-use developments that break ground this spring, both for a 2005 opening. The first is Burbank Village Walk, boasting 140 for-sale urban loft apartments and 14,000 square feet of prime restaurant and retail space at the corner of San Fernando Boulevard and Angeleno; the second is a four-story office tower facing city hall on Olive and 3rd Street. This project, called Burbank Civic Plaza, offers 76,000 square feet of office space and 12,000 square feet of street-level retail and restaurant use.

Downtown has come a long way since the days when Johnny Carson used to make fun of it daily on the Tonight Show. If you



the Method Fest
Breakout Independent Film Festival



From upper right hand corner actors Jennifer Tilly and James Earl Jones, a television host and director Jeff Probst, actor Robert Forster and actors Ed Begley, Jr. and Peter Falk have all been part of Burbank's Method Fest.

haven't been there lately, you're missing out on a whole new "happening" Burbank.

Win one of three sets of all-access VIP passes to Method Fest by e-mailing Metrolink Matters at metrolinkmatters@scrra.net with your name and phone number by March 24. Please state "Method Fest" in the subject line. All winners will be contacted by phone.

My Love

**Give me the kiss that I ask For
I beseech you Please
Now that I feel Lost
In a world devoid of Love
Give me the warm Hug
And you will help me Feel
The happiest man in the World
That has ever Lived.**

**Give me what I ask For
And I ask you for this Always
Even to cause me to Cry
No matter where I am**

—By Jose Rene Mongalo Fallas
This is the translation of the poem published in last month's Matters entitled "Mi Amor".



RTA Rolls Out CommuterLink

The Riverside Transit Agency (RTA) has introduced four convenient, direct, limited-stop commuter bus routes with service to Riverside, San Diego, and San Bernardino counties. This means you can leave your car at home and enjoy a stress-free ride in cushioned, reclining seats. You can even flip down the tray table, plug in your laptop, and get some work done. And connections are easy, since RTA's CommuterLink buses end up at Metrolink stations or transit centers.

RTA purchased ten new buses for CommuterLink, all of which were designed with commuters in mind. The interiors offer cushioned, high-back reclining seats, pull-down tray tables, and outlets for plugging in laptop computers or cell phones. Measuring 32 feet in length, the buses offer a swift and comfortable ride to and from work.

All of the CommuterLink routes operate on weekdays, during peak morning and evening commute hours.

CommuterLink service began in September after months of preparation. RTA officials said they realized there was a need for a different type of bus service for commuters. With the help of \$3.1 million in federal funds, the agency purchased ten buses for four different routes designed to cater to those commuting long distances to area transportation hubs.

Three of the routes—Riverside to Montclair, Temecula to Riverside, and Temecula to Corona—have drawn more than 10,000 customers combined since service began. These routes link up with other transit services such as Metrolink and Omnitrans, and these agencies partially subsidize the service, allowing RTA to charge only \$1 per ride.

For schedule information, contact RTA at (800) 800-7821 or www.RiversideTransit.com.

Chatsworth Completes Station Improvements

The City of Los Angeles Department of Transportation (LADOT) announced completion of several improvements to the city-owned Metrolink station at Chatsworth. The improvements allow for greater parking capacity as well as accommodation of more passenger trains.

"The City of Los Angeles is always looking for ways to make getting around Los Angeles by public transportation easier. Expanding the capacity at the Chatsworth Station allows both Metrolink and Amtrak to increase the number of trains that can serve the station. It gives our residents more options to travel around LA and beyond," said Greig Smith, councilman for the 12th District.

Specific improvements include the addition of 140 parking spots via development of 1.7 acres (from Lassen Street to the existing parking area). Extending the sidewalks to Lassen Street provides better pedestrian access. In addition, the Lassen Street entrance to the parking area was widened to ease bus movements and improve vehicular safety.

Other improvements include a new concrete bus pad for the Simi Valley Transit bus boarding area and the installation of an interactive transit-information kiosk in the depot lobby. The new kiosk allows users to access information for all of the various public transportation providers in the Los Angeles area.

LADOT General Manager Wayne Tanda explained how the development was planned with special attention to the environment. "Not only is the development landscaped with drought-tolerant plants, but it is equipped with a solar-powered irrigation controller. And we have found an innovative manner for handling the parking lot runoff by using a bio-filter that consists of four different grasses to clean the runoff water and slow the rate of flow," he said.

LADOT also obtained land on the west side of the tracks to allow Metrolink to build a new platform. The new platform allows more passenger trains to stop at the Chatsworth Station, which is served by both Metrolink and Amtrak.

Replacement of the existing bus shelters with two new shelters and installation of a sculpture commissioned by the Chatsworth Historical Transportation and Movie Museum are planned for 2004 at LADOT's Chatsworth Metrolink station.

The transit facility supports Metrolink and Amtrak rail services as well as MTA, Amtrak Connection, Simi Valley Transit bus operations, and parking for the Depot businesses and childcare facility. LADOT provides a Park and Ride site for Hollywood Bowl buses during the Bowl's summer season.



Cal State LA Transit Center Begins Construction

The Cal State LA Transit Center will be rebuilt to provide 4 bus bays and space for 2 shuttle stops. Pedestrian improvements will create safer access through the transit center and to the campus. The improvements will be functional as well as aesthetic, including stamped concrete walkways, security lighting in bus shelters, and landscaping. Construction is scheduled to begin in late February or early March and to last for approximately eight months.

Campus pedestrian access during construction will be altered; buses and shuttles that serve the transit center will be relocated along Campus Road. Although the area is still accessible, be warned that, during construction, it will require a longer walk than in the past.

The Cal State Los Angeles Transit Center is one of three projects that were funded in 1998 by the Metropolitan Transportation Authority with matching funds provided by the City of Los Angeles Department of Transportation. Two of the projects were transit hubs built in El Sereno and in Highland Park, both of which opened in 2001. The Cal State LA Transit Center project was designed and will be built by LADOT's Bureau of Engineering and its consultants.



Better Routes, Better Service...to Metrolink

Omnitrans kicked off the new year by restructuring nearly all of its bus routes to enhance service. Among the changes are the addition of four new routes and increased service to Metrolink stations, including new service to the Rancho Cucamonga Metrolink station.

Omnitrans's Route 60 now serves the Rancho Cucamonga station hourly, seven days a week. The new Route 140, covering Rancho Cucamonga and Fontana, provides additional service to the Fontana

Metrolink station twice daily on its way to Chaffey College.

Several Omnitrans routes serve the Fontana Metrolink station, as well as the San Bernardino, Rialto, Upland, Montclair, Riverside, East Ontario, and Pomona Metrolink stations.

For details on Omnitrans service, or to plan a trip, please call (800) 9-OMNIBUS (800-966-6428) or visit www.omnitrans.org.



SAFETY MATTERS

Watch for a Second Train

Along most of Metrolink's rail lines and at many of our stations, there are at least two sets of tracks. When approaching a pedestrian crossing, be aware of trains approaching on either track. Never cross if the warning lights and bells are ringing and flashing. Even after you see the last car of a passing train, do not cross until the crossing warning devices are no longer active and you are sure that there is no train approaching from the opposite direction. Be aware that freight trains and maintenance vehicles can run on the same tracks on which Metrolink trains run, and that they do not run on a set schedule and do not stop at train stations.

When you approach a crossing, always expect a train—on any track, at any time, from either direction.

Station City News

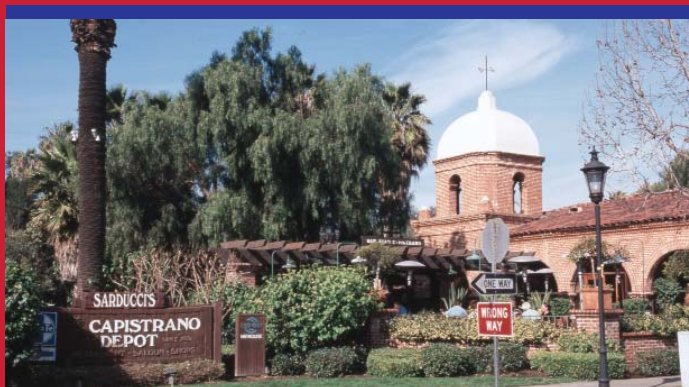
Pomona—Downtown Pomona will host its 2nd Saturday ArtWalk on Saturday, March 13. Enjoy a wonderful day of browsing art stores in the Historic Pomona Arts Colony.

Saturday, March 27, Downtown Pomona enjoys its monthly free concerts from 6–9 p.m. Performing jazz at the Cal Poly Pomona Downtown Center Stage will be the Uno Jazz Quartet. The Cal Poly Stage is located on the corner of Second and Main Streets. Performing Blues at the Thomas Plaza Stage is Bottle-a-Blooze. The Thomas Plaza Stage is located at Second Street and Thomas in the Downtown Arts Colony off of Garey Avenue. For more information or a map of Downtown Pomona with a listing of all galleries, antique shops, and unique stores and restaurants, please call (909) 629-3592.

Claremont—Each year the Claremont Community Foundation hosts a series of parties called “Party Parade.” This year there are 25 parties with various themes. For the fourth year, there is a party that involves Metrolink. This is the third year that Metrolink has provided complimentary round-trip tickets for participants. There are dozens of events during every weekend in March and through Saturday, April 17. For a complete list of the parties, visit www.claremontfoundation.org.

Palmdale—The Palmdale-based group Boulevard Knights will rock the Palmdale Playhouse on Wednesday, March 31, at 7:30 p.m. in a concert honoring Cesar Chavez Day. Boulevard Knights—one of the hottest bands playing R&B, Latin rock, and oldies in Southern California—has performed with the likes of The Silhouettes, Richie Valens, The Spiral Staircase, Poncho Sanchez, Bobby Caldwell, and Mary Welles.

This Cesar Chavez Day event is co-sponsored by the Antelope Valley Hispanic Chamber of Commerce. The chamber will host a pre-performance reception at 6:30 p.m. for those interested in learning about the life of Chavez. Light refreshments will be



San Juan Capistrano

The Los Rios Historic District in San Juan Capistrano comprises one of the oldest continuing neighborhoods in Orange County.

served. The reception is free with a paid admission to see Boulevard Knights.

For tickets, call the Playhouse box office at (661) 267-5685 or order online at www.cityofpalmdale.org.

Oceanside—Oceanside hosts an amateur surfing contest on March 6, 6:00 a.m.–5:30 p.m., sponsored by the non-profit National Scholastic Surfing Association (NSSA). For more information, contact NSSA at the Harbor South Jetty or call (714) 960-9107.

San Bernardino—The historic Santa Fe Depot known as “the Queen of the West” public grand opening date has been scheduled for June 13, 11:30 a.m.–2:00 p.m. This is a free public opening for this restored, historic depot. Santa Fe Railroad engine 3751, one of the nation’s oldest working steam locomotives, will be on display. Tours and food will be available.

The mayor of San Bernardino’s pre-opening Reception for the Arts with Congressman Jerry Lewis will be held on April 16 at 6:00 p.m. This reception benefits the San Bernardino Symphony. For ticket prices or other information, please call (909) 384-5133.

Orange County Celebrates...

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The Anaheim Station will feature free food, drinks, prize giveaways, and family entertainment, so riders can start celebrating even before they embark on their free rides to Los Angeles. Then, on Monday, March 29, OCTA and Metrolink will show their appreciation to their customers by offering free water and donuts at various Orange County stations between 5:00 and 9:00 a.m.

Orange County has come a long way in the last 10 years. Eighty percent of current Metrolink riders were former solo car commuters. Thanks to Metrolink, they’re out of the traffic pit and enjoying a low-stress, environmentally friendly commute alternative.

Metrolink Joins Other Champs

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Each year’s recipients are recognized at an annual reception hosted by Mr. Pat Summerall. Each recipient is honored in a two-minute Champions of Industry 300 Award announcement that airs on the Headline News Network.

As one of the winners, Metrolink will also receive a 5-minute celebrity marketing video that spotlights our organization as an industry leader.

METROLINK MATTERS

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