



Take Our Daughters and Sons to Work Day

Metrolink is proud to once again take part in National Take Our Daughters and Sons to Work Day by allowing parents to bring their children on Metrolink trains free of charge on Thursday, April 26.

National Take Our Daughters and Sons to Work Day was launched in April 2003 to encourage boys and girls to reach their full potential by participating fully in family, work, and community. Parents are encouraged to bring their children to work to expose them to future opportunities in the workplace and to stimulate discussion about the importance of balancing work and family.

Metrolink asks that riders follow these guidelines:

- Passengers with any valid Metrolink ticket may participate.
- Each fare-paying adult may bring up to three children (ages 18 or younger) at no additional charge.
- Transfers are not available for children riding free. If you connect to another mode of public transportation such as a bus or the Metro Red Line subway, please purchase a ticket for each child from the appropriate transit entity.
- This offer is only available on April 26, 2007.

For further information about the fare exemptions on April 26, call Metrolink at (800) 371-LINK (5465). To find out more about National Take Our Daughters and Sons to Work Day, visit www.daughtersandsonstowork.org.



INSIDE

2 Buena Park Station

3 Safety

4 City News

New Horn Rules for Trains

Some passengers have noticed that their train is sounding its horn more frequently than they remember. Metrolink trains now blow their horns when approaching pedestrian crossings, even if they are in stations, such as at the Downtown Burbank or Rancho Cucamonga stations.

This is in response to Assembly Bill 1935 (Bermudez), which requires locomotives (except in quiet zones) to utilize an audible warning device (bell, whistle, siren, or horn) at any public crossing, including pedestrian crossings.

For more information about this or any other safety topic, visit www.metrolinktrains.com or call (800) 371-LINK (5465).



All in a Day's Work

Metrolink is happy to commend Covina station security officer Paul Gignac for keeping an eye on what matters most: rider safety. One morning a few weeks ago, Gignac's keen eye and quick reflexes hastened a Metrolink rider out of harm's way.

At the Covina Station, where Gignac has worked for more than two years, there are times when eastbound and westbound trains converge on the station simultaneously. Too often, Gignac says, passengers try to scramble across the tracks to catch their westbound train without checking for the incoming eastbound train. "Some people are thinking of only one thing: I've gotta make my train to L.A."—never mind the ringing bells and closed gates. "Every day I put myself in a position where I can see anyone who might endanger himself by crossing tracks while the eastbound train is heading in." When he saw that very thing happening recently, he called out to the endangered passenger and got him off the tracks fast. The humble hero, who is employed by security firm Securitas, says he was just doing his job: "I don't think it's such a big deal," he says. "I did what I have to do." Metrolink is proud that someone so attentive and committed to passenger safety is guarding the tracks.

On March 15 Paul Gignac was honored by Metrolink and the City of Covina for his actions. Pictured with Mr. Gignac is John C. King, mayor pro tem of Covina.



Buena Park Station Progress

Progress is visible at the new Buena Park Station, which is slated for completion in late April. The structural-steel over crossing has been placed above the railroad tracks, and stairs have been erected on both sides. The frames and steel siding for the elevator towers are almost finished. On the passenger platforms, canopies have been erected. The concrete foundation and floor slab for the restrooms is in place. Final grading on the 300-space parking lot is complete, and curbs and gutters are being constructed to give shape to the lot. Engineers expect elevators to be in place shortly. Improvements on Lakeknoll Drive began last February.

The new station, which serves the Orange County and 91 lines, is located just off Dale Street, south of Malvern Avenue and north of the existing tracks. The completed station will include two 680-foot passenger platforms, canopied waiting areas, security and station lighting, automated Ticket Vending Machines, restrooms, water and sewer service, a fire-protection system, landscaping, 300 parking spaces, a large gazebo, and a passenger overpass with towers and elevators.

Nurses on the 91

Riders on Metrolink's 91 Line are lucky to have three generous nurses in their midst. Among them, Isabel Bischoff, Miriam De Vera, and Gwen Elliott have more than a half-century's nursing experience—and they're happy to put it to use to benefit fellow riders.

"The first time someone asked for medical personnel on the train," Isabel Bischoff remembers, "my friend and I just looked at each other. Our other friends said, 'Well?'"

And so Bischoff and De Vera went to help. Another passenger was having a seizure. "I assessed him," Bischoff told *Metrolink Matters*, "kept him calm, and gave a report when the paramedics came. I had to go through three cars [to get back to my seat]. I went through saying, 'He's fine, he's fine,' and people were clapping."



Not long after, a fellow rider had an asthma attack. De Vera, Bischoff, and Elliott calmed him down until he was breathing more easily and arranged for his family to meet him at a nearby station. "After that," said Bischoff, "all three of us just started working together. Now every time they call us, we go . . . We call ourselves The Three RNs."

Bischoff, who has been a nurse for 42 years and a Metrolink rider for almost 10, commutes from her home in Riverside to work as a gastroenterology nurse at Kaiser Permanente in Downey. De Vera is a pediatric nurse at Kaiser, and Elliott works triage at another hospital.



New Passenger-Information System on the Way

Metrolink is hard at work on a new electronic passenger-information system that will provide you with better, faster updates about delays. The current system, which is about fifteen years old, is incapable of providing the kind of real-time, up-to-the-minute information riders expect. With the new Internet-based system, users will be able to check for delays on the Web and/or subscribe to receive e-mail announcements about any delays affecting their train. Metrolink looks forward to providing riders with up-to-the-minute train information in a new, dynamic format.



Safety Matters

In Case of Emergency ...

You are stuck in a vehicle that has stalled on the railroad tracks. You've tried to get your car off, but it just won't budge and you know that trains travel these tracks frequently. This real-life situation was chronicled in the March 2007 *Reader's Digest* magazine article "Trapped on the Tracks" by Cathy Free. While returning from a camping trip, Cheryl Debord found herself stuck on the tracks at San Fernando Road in a pickup truck with a 21-foot-long trailer.

What would you do? What should you do?

Don't panic, get out of the car and away from the tracks, and alert the railroad immediately. How?

All highway-rail grade crossings have a unique Department of Transportation (DOT) crossing identification number and crossing location (e.g., De Soto Ave. or Temple St.), and are required to have an emergency phone number posted nearby. The DOT identification number consists of six digits followed by a letter (e.g., DOT 178809S), and will tell the railroad exactly where you are. This number can be found on the signal house, which is a small metal equipment shed near every crossing, on a signal post, or on fencing adjacent to the crossing.

As soon as you and your passengers are out of the vehicle and positioned at a safe distance from the crossing, call the emergency number. No problem is too small. Be sure to give the DOT number or crossing location. If you cannot locate the emergency telephone number, call 911 or a local law-enforcement agency.

To learn more, visit www.metrolinktrains.com or call (800) 371-LINK (5465).



City News

Newhall—The Canyon Theatre Guild, located across the street from the Jan Heidt Metrolink Station in Newhall, proudly presents **Bye Bye Birdie**, one of the most captivating musicals of our time. The teenagers of Sweet Apple, Ohio, are about to meet their rock-and-roll idol before he goes into the Army. It's a lively musical, offering great entertainment for the whole family. **Bye Bye Birdie** opened March 23 and plays through April 29, with performances every Friday and Saturday evening at 8:00 p.m. There will be Saturday matinees at 1:00 p.m. on April 7, 14, 21, and 28; Sunday matinees at 1:00 p.m. on March 25 and April 1, 15, 22, and 29. There will be Sunday twilight performances at 6:30 p.m. on April 22 and 29, and one Thursday-evening performance at 7:00 p.m. on April 26. There will be no performances on Sunday, April 8. Tickets are \$11, \$14, and \$17 and are available through the box office at (661) 799-2702. The Canyon Theatre is located at 24242 San Fernando Road, Newhall.

Upland—Don't miss the Upland Lemon Festival, Friday, April 27, to Sunday, April 29. Visit over 200 vendor, craft, and food booths in historic downtown Upland, and enjoy carnival rides, games, and entertainment on three stages. Discount pre-sale ride tickets are on sale at the Upland City Hall, Chamber of Commerce, and Main Street offices. For more information, visit www.historicdowntownupland.com or call (909) 949-4499.

Lancaster—On April 21 and 22, the City of Lancaster's 16th annual California Poppy Festival bursts into bloom at Lancaster City Park with a host of new performers, pavilions, events, and exotic exhibits. In addition to a bountiful crop of California's state flower, the goldenrod poppy, the California Poppy Festival plays host to birds of all kinds. You won't want to miss the **avian exhibits**, where you can learn about the amazing talents of hawks, owls, and falcons.

A host of favorite festival activities will be back, including more than 220 arts-and-crafts vendors; plane, train, and automobile exhibits; a children's carnival; a flower and farmers' market; and the always-popular wildflower information center. Celtic, Middle Eastern, Latin, modern, and ballroom dance will be demonstrated throughout the two-day event. Offering a delicious variety of treats, from traditional funnel cakes and kebabs to fruit smoothies and crepes, more than 25 food vendors will blanket Lancaster City Park to tempt your taste buds.

The California Poppy Festival is open from 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. at the Lancaster City Park. For more information, including the activity schedule and ticket prices, visit www.poppyfestival.com



Metrolink On Display

The Los Angeles Railroad Heritage Foundation (LARHF) has just unveiled a new exhibit at Philippe the Original, the famous French-dip sandwich restaurant near L.A. Union Station. Representing both historical and contemporary uses of the rights-of-way on which Metrolink trains ride, "Metrolink: The Crown Jewels—Rights-of-Way" is a 16-foot exhibit featuring photos and miniature model trains. Contemporary color photographs of Metrolink trains by Mark Borja and historical photographs of regional rail lines from LARHF's Donald Duke Collection share space in the latest in a series of LARHF exhibits at the popular sandwich stop. "The Crown Jewels" also features O-scale models of Metrolink trains, Amtrak trains, and historical locomotives that ran on the various tracks now used by Metrolink. The Metrolink models are especially exciting, as they were manufactured for the first time within the past year. The exhibit also contains rare, hand-built models of Pacific Electric streetcars that once ran along these rights-of-way. The exhibit was launched on March 6 with a special ceremony featuring Mike McGinley, Metrolink's retired former director of engineering and construction.

LARHF, a volunteer-staffed nonprofit organization, exists to educate Southern California residents about local railroad history. They function as a "virtual museum," says president Josef Lesser, with satellite museums in restaurants throughout the region. In addition to the show at Philippe the Original, exhibits are currently on view in three different Old Spaghetti Factory locations—Newport Beach, Fullerton, and Riverside. Each satellite exhibit focuses on railroad history in the area in which it is located, and features both contemporary photographs and black-and-white archival photographs from LARHF's extensive collections. "Metrolink: The Crown Jewels—Rights-of-Way" will be on view at Philippe the Original for six months. For more information, visit www.larhf.org or call (626) 458-4449.

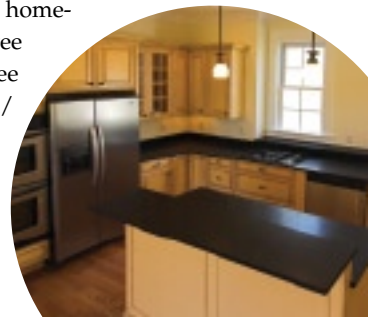


31st Annual Home Remodeling and Decorating Show

April 21–22, L.A. Convention Center

Save 50 percent on admission when you show your Metrolink ticket or pass at the box office. See the latest home-improvement products and services for your home or garden at the Home Show. There will be seminars and how-to classes, prize drawings for free home-improvement products, and hundreds of free giveaways. From Union Station, transfer free to the Metro Red Line and get off at the 7th/Metro Station. Walk upstairs and board the Metro Blue Line (Long Beach) to the Chick Hearn/Pico Station. The Convention Center is across the street.

For more information, visit www.thehomeshow.com or call (818) 557-2950.



METROLINK MATTERS

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