

Going Places

NEWS AND VIEWS FROM AROUND THE CTA

SEPTEMBER, 1998 • VOL. 3, NO. 9

CTA's Web Page Gets Updated

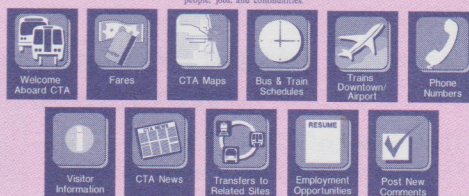
With continual advances being made to the Internet, opportunities exist to enhance the CTA home page and make it more user-friendly. In August, the CTA Transit Board approved a \$108,000 contract which will be used to upgrade the CTA's Internet home page. The competitively-bid contract went to CompuLogic in Skokie, IL, a web-page consulting firm. The updates to the home page are expected to be completed by the end of the year.

The main new feature will be a CTA Point-to-Point map which will allow users to indicate their starting point and destination and then see the instructions on their screens regarding which routes to take. This sophisticated feature requires customized programs to provide detailed maps. Other features include a section that will list documents such as financial statements and budgets that are available for publication or public review, providing easier access. A bidding section, where bid information relating to CTA projects can be posted, and a section listing job vacancies with CTA will also be updated.



Chicago Transit Authority

Our Mission
We deliver quality, affordable transit services that link people, jobs, and communities.



Tom Reynolds, General Manager of Quality Management, said, "The CTA home page was originally proposed and designed by CTA employees because they recognized the potential it has for bringing information to customers. With this upgrade, we can provide more and better information to our customers."

The current home page was originally created in 1996 and provides information about bus and train schedules, visitor information, CTA maps, links to other websites and general information on how to use the transit system. The improved Internet site is one more effort on CTA's part to connect with customers.

Statistics taken during a two-week

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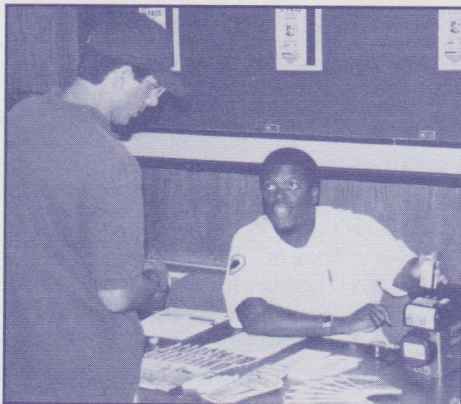


Environmentally Friendly Innovations: Compressed Natural Gas Vans

CTA is taking another step forward toward reducing air pollution in its Chicago service area with the purchase of 15 Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) vans for its maintenance fleet.

The 1998 Ford Econoline Vans (Model E350) are expected to arrive at the end of September and will be assigned to Revenue Equipment, Utility Maintenance and Warehouse Operations. "This purchase gives us a role in limiting the greenhouse emissions that affect global warming, and in reducing the active emissions that affect the ozone layer," said Terrence Reilly, Manager of Utility Services, "Our old vans had to be

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CTA Volunteers Help Launch the U-PASS

CTA volunteers from various departments recently manned tables during registration at schools participating in the U-PASS program to distribute passes to students. Besides obtaining their U-PASS at registration, students were provided with an information packet that contained a CTA system map, U-PASS brochures and fact sheets. Most importantly, they received advice and instruction from the CTA volunteers on how to properly use and take care of their U-PASSes. Pictured is Corey Carr (Badge # 35478), Red Line Combined Rail Operator, showing a Loyola law student how to insert his U-PASS into a farecard machine.

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In a recent letter to the CTA
Ms. Siver wrote:

I am writing to compliment one of your employees. Her name is Deborah Graham, and she was on the Montrose Blue Line platform this morning. I am most appreciative of her help. What happened? My friend was going to O'Hare and I was going to work, downtown. My friend got on the train forgetting that I was carrying one of her bags, the one with her airline tickets in it. Graham radioed ahead to the operator of the train to tell my friend to get off at the next stop and come back to Montrose. It worked and Ms. Graham saved our day.

CTA's Web Page

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period in July revealed the high usage of the home page (www.transitchicago.com). During that period, the home page was accessed 20,637 times receiving 453,170 hits. (Each time a person logs on to the home page is counted as one user session. A hit is the number of times a person logs on to a section of the page. Multiple hits can occur within one user session.) Statistics also show that the CTA's home page was accessed not only by users of different states, but also from countries around the globe. International users included the Netherlands, Australia, Germany, Spain and the U.K. The home page was most used to gain information about the CTA Transit Map, the schedules and routes.

Going Places

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News & Views

ATU Locals 241 and 308 Welcome International Union to Chicago for 52nd Convention

Amalgamated Transit Union (ATU) Locals 241 and 308 will host their union's 52nd International Convention in Chicago September 28 through October 2, 1998. Over 1,200 delegates and guests from all over the United States and Canada are expected to attend the triennial event which will be held at the Chicago Hilton & Towers.

The theme of the Convention - ATU Pride: Our Heritage, Our Future - will help focus on the International Union's accomplishments of the past

to help chart its course into the next millennium.

Local 241 President Isiah Thomas and Local 308 President Jerry W. Williams will welcome International President Jim La Sala to Chicago to preside over the gathering of the International Union which was founded on September 15, 1892. All of us at CTA will be working to make this event a success. CTA President Frank Kruesi is scheduled to address the Convention on Monday, September 28.

1998 Rodeo and Round-Up Winners Announced

The finalists of CTA's 1998 CTA Service Delivery Bus Rodeo and Rail Round-Up Performance Competitions were joined by their families and fellow CTA employees at a banquet on August 24. An event which is only paralleled by the Academy Awards®

in the level of anticipation and excitement, the banquet marked the announcement of the 1998 grand prize winners in each competition. The champions listed below will be profiled in upcoming issues of *Going Places*.

And The Winners Are!

Bus Operator Champion:
John Durnell (Archer Garage)

Rail Operator Champion:
Juan Ramirez (Orange Line Midway Terminal)

Bus Maintenance Team Champions:
Bryan Hedstrom, Jeffrey Braswell
and Richard Dolan (North Park Garage)

Rail Maintenance Team Champions:
Eugene Jolliss, Daniel Keller and
Joseph Kolek (Rosemont Shop)

Rail Cleanliness Champion:
Jose Medina (54th Shop)

Customer Assistant Champion:
Sharon Lewis (Blue Line O'Hare Station)

AFC Technician Champion:
Geoffrey Zommer (901 W. Division)

Who Ya Gonna Call?

An important component to serving our communities is being knowledgeable about general CTA information that we can use to help our customers learn how to get where they want to go using CTA's services.

Whether you work in the field or in an office, we can all help customers get answers to common questions such as "Which bus route can I take to get from the North Side to Downtown?" or "How can I buy Visitor Passes in advance for 80 people visiting Chicago next month?" by remembering the following telephone numbers.

CTA Customer Service • 1-888-YOUR-CTA
Customers can call this number weekdays

7 a.m. to 8 p.m. to request bulk orders for CTA Transit Maps or brochures, information on Visitor Pass group sales and general customer assistance in making inquiries, suggestions and commendations. Customers can also call this number to report a peddler, graffiti, or dirty buses/rail cars and rails stations.

RTA Travel Information Center • 836-7000 (from Chicago or suburbs)

Agents are on call from 5 a.m. to 1 a.m. to answer customers' questions on routes, fares and schedules for CTA, Metra and Pace. Customers can also call this number to request maps, brochures and timetables for all three agencies.

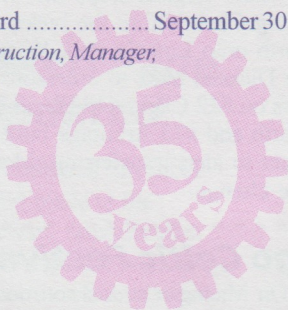
Rolling through the Years

Please join us in congratulating CTA employees who are celebrating special anniversaries this month.

35 Years

Thomas Torrey September 10
Rail Station Appearance, Escalator Serviceman

Arthur Hubbard September 30
*Training & Instruction, Manager,
 Rail Instruction*



30 Years

Joseph Mackin September 5
North Park Garage, Bus Operator

Alphonzo Fleming September 13
Communications/Power Control, Manager

Louis Buban September 18
System Maintenance, Lineman

James Brown September 19
103rd Street Garage, Bus Operator

John Granahan September 24
Personnel Services, Photo Identification Clerk

David Washington September 30
North Park Garage, Bus Operator

25 Years

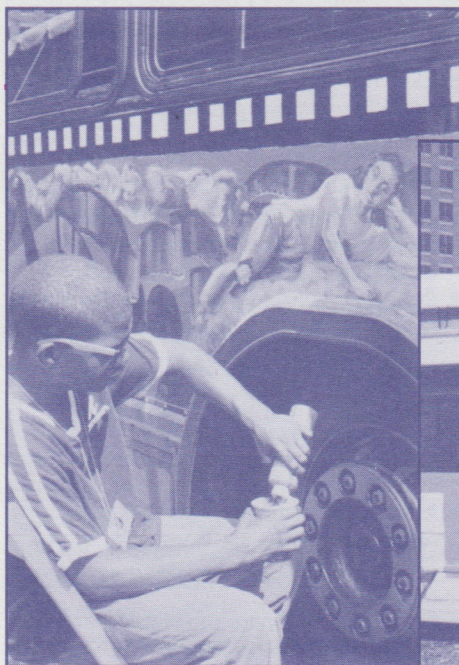
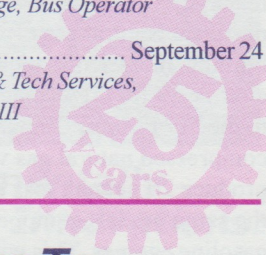
Darnell Williams September 4
North Park Garage, Bus Operator

John Isaac September 5
North Park Garage, Bus Operator

Buford Bryson September 10
Forest Glen Garage, Bus Operator

Monroe Dunlap September 10
Forest Glen Garage, Bus Operator

Ray Garner September 24
*Bus Engineering & Tech Services,
 Product Engineer III*



The bus representing the International Film Festival has an image of an audience and scenes from movies on both sides.



Images of American art cover the bus for the Terra Museum of American Art.

Art On The Move

This summer, the CTA brought art in a unique form to the city's neighborhoods. In partnership with Gallery 37, the City of Chicago's youth job training program in the arts, the CTA offered a different kind of canvas for the participating artists. Some buses were taken over by the colorful strokes of many Chicago apprentice artists.

With the cooperation of the City of Chicago's Department of Cultural Affairs, three CTA buses were painted in themes relating to the following city festival and institutions: the Chicago Botanic Garden, the Chicago International Film Festival and the Terra Museum of American Art.

Goodbye To A Good Friend

In remembrance of Mike Bruen, Employee Services Officer, who passed away suddenly on Thursday, August 20, this poem has been submitted.

"Remember Me" (Author Unknown)

*To the living, I am gone.
 To the sorrowful, I will never return.
 To the angry, I was cheated.*

*I cannot speak; but I can listen.
 I cannot be seen, but I can be heard.
 So as you stand upon a shore, gazing at
 a beautiful sea, Remember me.*

*As you look upon a flower and admire
 its simplicity, Remember me.*

*Remember me in your heart, your thoughts
 and your memories.*

*Of the time we loved, the times we cried,
 the times we fought, the times we laughed.*

*For if you always think of me,
 I will never have gone.*

Michael touched the lives of many people through nearly thirty years of service with the City of Chicago and the Chicago Transit Authority.

Environmentally Friendly Innovations: Compressed Natural Gas Vans

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replaced, and by using this new technology, we're able to serve our needs and protect the environment as well."

Air pollution is a growing national concern, with vehicle exhaust emissions identified as a major contributor of pollutants such as carbon monoxide, reactive hydrocarbons and oxides in nitrogen. Natural gas offers a cleaner burning, more economical and safer fuel alternative for CTA vehicles. According to the Ford Motor Company, CTA's new compressed natural gas vans will produce 20 percent less emissions than the same models equipped with standard gasoline engines. This will qualify CTA for a significant refund on the purchase price from the State of Illinois, which is offering incentives to reduce pollution throughout the state.

The new vans, which cost an average of \$24,500, are the latest example of CTA's efforts to act with corporate responsibility in the performance of its operations. Among other environmentally friendly changes adopted by CTA are the installations of newspaper recycling bins at 'L' stations, paper and aluminum recycling bins at a number of CTA facilities, and the recycling of nickel-cadmium batteries to reduce hazardous waste.

The federal Clean Air Act Amendments of 1990 created the Clean Fuel Fleet Program. This program requires fleet owners/operators in certain areas (including Chicago) to purchase a percentage of their vehicles from a list of USEPA-certified low emissions vehicles. The requirement becomes effective with the start of the 1999 model year, when 30 percent of vehicles and 50 percent of trucks will be required to be purchased from the certified list of vehicles. The purchase of fifteen 1998 CNG vans demonstrates CTA's continuing efforts to curb environmental pollution before the Clean Air Act Amendments take effect.

Changing Gears

Road Work Closes Part of Northbound Stockton Drive

Beginning Thursday, September 8, roadway reconstruction is scheduled to close the northbound lanes of Stockton Drive from LaSalle to Dickens for about two months. Service on the #151 Sheridan and the #156 LaSalle bus routes will be affected every day of operation. Late evening trips and Sunday service on the #146 Marine Michigan route and Sunday service on the #145 Wilson Michigan route will also be detoured. Southbound service

will not be affected.

The northbound detour for #151 buses will be via LaSalle Drive to Clark, and for #156 buses via LaSalle Street to Clark. Regular stops will be made along Clark before the buses turn north onto Lincoln Park West and east on Dickens back to Stockton. Operators on #22 Clark, #36 Broadway, #72 North and #73 Armitage buses might want to alert transferring riders about the change.

Service To The Chicago Celtic Festival

The Chicago Celtic Festival will take place at Grant Park Saturday and Sunday, September 19-20, 1998. Festival hours will be 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. daily. For the trip home, extra buses for the following routes will await riders starting at 8 p.m.:

- On Michigan at Jackson northbound—#56 Milwaukee, #146 Marine-Michigan and #151 Sheridan
- On Michigan at Jackson southbound—#6 Jeffery Express and #62 Archer

Way To Go For Bears Fans

While what happens on the field may not be predictable, the surest way for football fans to reach Soldier Field for Chicago Bears games is by riding CTA.

Service To The Games:

- Two hours before game time at least 20 #146 Marine-Michigan buses will operate as shuttles south on State to Roosevelt and then heading east to Columbus and McFetridge (north end of Soldier Field).
- Starting about 90 minutes before game time, the #128 Soldier Field Express route will operate from NorthWestern Station westbound on Madison, turn south on Clinton and go east on Jackson to Union Station. From there

all #128 buses go east to Clark and south to Roosevelt, then east to Columbus and McFetridge.

- Red Line trains stop at the Roosevelt Station in the State Street Subway, while Green and Orange Line trains stop at the Roosevelt 'L' Station west of Wabash. From there, it's an easy walk east to Soldier Field.

Service After The Games:

- #146 Marine-Michigan shuttles will return downtown via Roosevelt, State, Congress and Dearborn to Jackson.
- #128 buses will return to NorthWestern and Union Stations via Roosevelt, Clark, Harrison and Canal.

Cool Service for Chicago Fire Games

To accommodate Chicago Fire fans from the Southwest Side, CTA is providing extra service on the #60 Blue Island/26th bus route directly to Soldier Field for the remaining home games of the 1998 soccer season. The last game is scheduled for Wednesday, September 23. Chicago Fire games are already served by #12 Roosevelt and #146 Marine-Michigan buses, which operate to the lakefront museum campus. Extra #146 buses await riders at the end of every game.

Starting two hours before each

remaining game, extra #60 buses will leave the west terminal at 24th Place and Cicero every 15 minutes until just before game time, using the destination sign "Soldier Field." These buses will operate over the regular #60 route until they reach Blue Island and Racine. Instead of turning north onto Racine, they will continue northeast on Blue Island and go east on Roosevelt directly to Soldier Field. After each game, extra #60 buses will make the same trips in reverse, providing added convenience for Southwest Siders.