

The Greater Community of the Chicago Avenue Garage

Since 1994, CTA's Chicago Avenue Garage has engaged in an exceptional partnership with its community, most particularly the students of Wright Wright Elementary School.

Employees at the garage have sponsored Boy Scout troops, camping trips, and sporting events. In a letter from Wright School to Chicago Avenue Garage, Assistant Principal Merle Dubnow and Principal Robert Gutter said, "You have all embraced our young people and offered them valuable experiences as their window to the world opens . . . Thank you for the service you and your staff are providing to the Wright School."

The most recent product of this pairing is *Cooking Wright: African-American Heritage Recipes*. The students, parents, and teachers of Wright School with the help of The Greater North-Pulaski Development Corporation and the Chicago Avenue Garage have compiled this fundraising cookbook.

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Intensive Training Helps Schedules Department Meet Staffing Needs

The Schedules Department at 120 North Racine plays an integral role in keeping trains and buses operating at appropriate intervals throughout the CTA system. An experienced staff has been working for years to ensure that CTA service will indeed be on-time.

Experience has brought with it seniority, which in turn has led to almost the entire Schedules Department staff retiring by the end of this year. To provide an orderly transition that will allow schedule-making to continue at a highly professional level, CTA has established an apprentice program to train new Schedule Makers.

The apprentice position openings were posted last October, and more than 100 CTA employees applied. A combination of testing, interviews and seniority went into the selection process. The eight apprentices chosen were: Richard Allen, Rhonda Harris, Ella Hinton, Bruce Hughes, Michael Johnson, Marcia Jones, Daniel Joseph and Meg Spitalli.

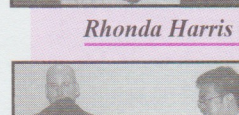
Owing to the unique skills required for schedule-making in the computer age, the training includes a scheduling and run-cutting program developed and conducted by members of the Canadian Urban Transit Association (CUTA). The Canadian team was brought in because it offers the only such program in North America, and it allowed employees to be trained here. The training included familiarization with a new computer software program called HASTUS 5, which provides a new level of detail in scheduling that will be needed when the Bus Service Maintenance System (BSMS) is fully on line. Even though schedules will continue to list time points, the software program is capable of offering bus stop-specific information.

The new schedules instruction involved three weeks of formal training

Senior V.P. of Planning Marcel Acosta presents the new apprentices with certificates of achievement for completing the training program. Pictured with Marcel (r.) are:



Richard Allen (l.) and Scott Rudnick, CUTA (m.)



Rhonda Harris



Ella Hinton



Bruce Hughes



Michael Johnson



Marcia Jones



Daniel Joseph



Meg Spitalli



spread out over two months. It included eight days of classes conducted at the Holiday Inn Mart Plaza, and additional time at the Schedules Department offices at 120 North Racine.

While the training is in progress, scheduling data from CTA's current

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Excerpt from a letter sent recently to Mayor Richard M. Daley by John C. of Los Angeles:

I am writing to commend the exemplary attitude and service which Eddie Silva, a CTA employee, recently rendered me and another lawyer from Los Angeles while we were in your good city for depositions. After several days of enjoying the hospitality of Chicago, we decided to take the Blue Line Subway from the Loop to O'Hare Airport, rather than braving the Friday afternoon rush-hour traffic. Despite objections from some of the "locals," who advised that "exact change" was needed and that it was "a real hassle" and a headache, we elected to experience your transportation system to O'Hare.

What a joy! Upon arriving at the downtown station, we proceeded to the vending machines to get our Transit Cards. As if he dropped from heaven itself, Mr. Silva appeared and instructed us through the procedures, led us to the gate where we entered and even went so far as to take us to the elevator to go downstairs, rather than allow us to make a mistake and go up the stairway to other trains which were not destined for O'Hare. Mr. Silva did everything but push the elevator button.

With ambassadors like Eddie Silva, I know you are doing an exemplary job and that Chicago is truly a city that does, indeed, work!

1999 Spring Blood Drives

Blood drives are scheduled at the following CTA locations:

- May 5** Merchandise Mart (Board Room)
9 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Skokie Shops (LifeSource Coach)
8 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.
- May 6** South Shops (LifeSource Coach)
8 a.m. to 3 p.m.
- May 21** 901 W. Div. (Shipping Lunch Rm)
9 a.m. to 3 p.m.
West Shops (LifeSource Coach)
5:45 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.
- May 28** 120 N. Racine (Conference Rm)
9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

News & Views

On a recent visit to the CTA, Mr. Xie Zhenhua (far left), Chinese EPA Minister, was escorted by Frank Kruesi on a Brown Line 'L' ride. The Chinese EPA was interested in learning about alternative fuel technology used by the CTA as well as how public transit works in Chicago.



Yippee-Yi-Yay! The Rodeo Rides Again

Starting May 2, applications are being accepted for the Annual Bus Operators and Maintenance Rodeo.

The Bus Operators Competition requires the successful completion of an eleven-step, timed obstacle course as well as the demonstration of expertise in the areas of ADA knowledge, appearance, and safety procedures.

Preliminary competition is scheduled for the weekend of June 26-27 at Comiskey

Park. Finals are slated for July 31. The first place winners will represent the CTA at the 24th Annual International Competition, October 7-10. This year's competition is being held at the Walt Disney World Speedway in Orlando, Florida.

Please see your garage manager for details on applying for the Rodeo. Information on the 1999 Rail Round-Up will be included in the June 1999 issue of "Going Places."

Poetry In Motion

The third phase of Poetry in Motion Chicago is underway as the first of 24 poetic messages appear on car cards posted on CTA buses and trains. Two new poems will be posted monthly over a two-year period. This phase of the program includes works from Edna St. Vincent Millay, Mark Strand,

Langston Hughes and Robert Frost. Poetry in Motion Chicago was begun by the Poetry Society of America in February 1996 to raise the public's understanding of poetry, and to encourage more people to read, listen to and write poetry. CTA participates by providing car card space for the poems.

Transit Card AVM Installed at Northwestern Hospital

CTA installed a new automated farecard vending machine at Northwestern Memorial Hospital on April 24, 1999. The new machine will be located on the second floor of the Feinberg Pavilion, located at 251 E. Huron. The automated vending machine (AVM), which allows riders to

purchase, add, or check the value of Transit Cards, is accessible to Northwestern Memorial Hospital employees, patients, and other guests. The new machine is especially convenient for riders who do not visit rail stations where AVM's are currently located.

Time Running Out on Tokens

Memorial Day will mark the demise of one of Chicago's oldest transit institutions, but the change will help CTA serve its customers more efficiently in the century ahead. After May 31, tokens will no longer be accepted for payment of fares, ending a practice that dates back to when the first horsecars began operating on State Street 140 years ago.

Since CTA's conversion to an automated fare system in 1997, tokens have been superseded as a fare medium by Transit

Cards, which offer much greater flexibility and economy of use. The final phase of CTA's switch to farecards began January 1 with the sale of Transit Card packs in place of tokens for both full-fare and reduced-fare riders. Token sales were then discontinued, and it was announced that tokens would be accepted for payment of fare through May 31.

Until then, customers with full-fare tokens can either use up their tokens to pay

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Take Our Daughters To Work Day

When CTA employees were encouraged to bring their daughters to work on April 22, the response was tremendous. Over 429 girls, ranging in ages from 6 to 20, converged on CTA's Merchandise Mart offices for the opportunity to see firsthand the important roles their parent(s) play in the operation of the nation's second largest transit agency. The "National Take Our Daughters To Work Day" seeks to inspire and encourage young women to consider challenging careers as they grow into

adulthood by exposing them to various career options.

Dressed in t-shirts that were specially designed for the occasion, the young women were welcomed by Chairman Valerie B. Jarrett and President Frank Kruesi at an early morning kick-off

TAKE OUR DAUGHTERS TO WORK DAY

breakfast. The day's activities continued with a video on CTA's history and then a tour of two CTA facilities that included: 901 W. Division (Warehouse Facility and Revenue Equipment Department) and 120 N. Racine (Customer Service Department and the Control Center).

The logistics of such a project required great organization by the DBE/EEO Programs/Contract Compliance Department, which coordinated the day's events, and the assistance of nearly fifty CTA employee chaperones from various departments. This day was a success thanks to the teamwork and cooperation of numerous departments throughout the CTA.

Rolling through the Years

A very special congratulations to Carmella Petrella, Control Clerk III (Accounting Operations) who celebrated her 55th year of service with the CTA on April 14. This tremendous occasion was mistakenly omitted in the April 1999 issue of Going Places. We apologize for the error. Carmella began her career in transit in April of 1944 with the Chicago Rapid Transit Company, which combined with the Chicago Surface Lines in 1947 to form the CTA.

30 Years

Jimmy Clemons	May 28
74 th & Wood Garage, Manager, Trans.-Bus	
Lenzie Coaster	May 2
Green Line, Rapid Transit Operator	
Willie Davis	May 19
Rail Station Appear., Janitor (Rapid Trans.)	
Willie Fowler	May 9
Blue Line, Rapid Transit Operator	
Eugene Jendrach	May 28
Forest Glen Garage, Manager Adm.-Bus	
Marvin McNeal	May 16
Red/Yellow/Purple Line, Rail Serv. Sup. II	
John Nickel	May 12
Blue Line, Car Servicer	
Donald Reynolds	May 12
77 th Street Garage, Bus Operator	
Phillip Ross	May 23
Red/Yellow/Purple Line, Switchman	
Carl Smith	May 15
North Park Garage, Bus Operator	
Jerry Turner	May 10
Chicago Avenue Garage, Bus Operator	
Homer Wilkerson	May 15
103 rd Street Garage, Bus Operator	
John Williams	May 16
Red/Yel./Pur. Line, Rap. Trans. Operator	

25 Years

Willie Alexander	May 20
Kedzie Garage, Bus Operator	
Curley Brown	May 30
74 th & Wood Garage, Bus Operator	

25 Years

John Brugess	May 15
Kedzie Garage, Bus Operator	
Robert Bruno	May 8
Rail Station Appear., Janitor (Rapid Trans.)	
Philip Cahill	May 8
Serv. Deliv. Adm., Sr. Safety Analyst	
Anthony Coleman	May 30
74 th & Wood Garage, Bus Operator	
Angel Cruz	May 20
North Park Garage, Bus Operator	
Efrain Davila	May 8
Rail Station Appear., Janitor Coordinator	
Carolyn Davis	May 15
Orange Line, Rail Clerk II	
Luis DeJesus	May 29
Brown Line, Ticket Agent	
John Garner, Jr.	May 29
Bus Heavy Maint., Bus & Truck Mechanic	
Miguel Hernandez	May 9
Archer Garage, Bus Operator	
John Hopkins	May 9
77 th Street Garage, Bus Operator	
Jerry Jenkins	May 20
Archer Garage, Bus Operator	
Isaac Jones	May 2
Kedzie Garage, Bus Operator	
Thomas Kilcommons	May 8
Power & Way Maint., Signal Maintainer	
Robert Lee	May 17
Blue Line, Rapid Transit Operator	

25 Years

Joan Lomax	May 20
Warehouse Op., Office Support Coord.	
Stephen Martin	May 28
Engineering, General Manager, Eng.	
Joseph Milke	May 29
Blue Line, Car Repairer "A"	
Manharlal Mody	May 2
Forest Glen Garage, Bus Operator	
Betty Morris	May 1
Training & Instruction, Agent Instr. II	
Harvey Netterville	May 31
Rail Station Appear., Janitor Coordinator	
Karen Neubling	May 15
Training & Instruction, Agent Instr. II	
Celestine Offett	May 20
Chicago Transit Board, First Assistant Sec.	
Darlene Parker	May 15
Green Line, Ticket Agent	
Christine Peebles	May 15
Blue Line, Ticket Agent	
Juan Rodriguez	May 1
Rail Station Appear., Janitor (Rapid Trans.)	
Debra Rowry	May 1
Green Line, Ticket Agent	
Edwardo Sanchez	May 15
Chicago Avenue Garage, Bus Servicer	
Jeffery Sapinski	May 21
Serv. Deliv. Adm., Sr. Safety Analyst	
Scott Stone	May 29
Facilities Maintenance, Carpenter	
Ronald Vanparys	May 16
Eng./Tech. Serv. Rail, Mech. Engineer II	
Thomas Warchol	May 29
Blue Line, Car Repairer "A"	
David Wilson	May 29
Construction, General Manager	

Greater Community

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Proceeds benefit the school directly.

In addition to the hundreds of recipes, the book is sprinkled with pictures and cooking tips from the children: Second grader Belton recommends spaghetti for dinner "because it has a lot of meat and sauce and I like to eat it with a fork." And young Marcus proposes chicken and water as the integral ingredients for a "nice pot of soup." More traditional offerings include: President Clinton's "Chicken Enchiladas," Chicago Avenue Garage General Manager Bill Platt's "Breakfast Ham, Eggs, and Potatoes" and a mouth-watering "Old-fashioned Apple Crisp" recipe from a Wright teacher.

Kudos to the Chicago Avenue Garage team for setting a wonderful example of reaching out to the community. If your department or location participates in any local community activities or events, "Going Places" wants to know. Contact Edeana Rollins in the Communications Department with current or upcoming information via phone (ext. 3585), fax (312-664-8936), e-mail (erolli) or interdepartmental mail (Room 730, Merchandise Mart).

If you are interested in purchasing a copy of the *Cooking Wright* cookbook, call (773) 265-0454, ext. 305. The cost is \$13.75 per book and includes shipping and handling.

Intensive Training

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computer-based system is being converted into the HASTUS 5 scheduling software. The new system will speed up the production of timetables and make them easier to work with. It will also provide Customer Service staff with a direct connection to bus stop-specific data when answering questions from customers.

Going Places

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Changing Gears

Downtown Sightseeing Guide Revised

A new edition of CTA's popular Downtown Sightseeing Guide has been published. This simple guide to downtown transit is updated every 6

months. It's available in mid-May at rail stations, Visitor Centers, hotels, airports, Metra downtown terminals, or by calling RTA at 836-7000.

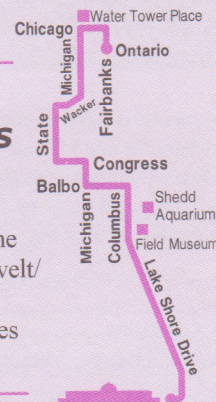
Take Me Out To the Night Game

For Cubs fans attending night games, the #154 Wrigley Field Express bus is once again providing direct, non-stop service. The route begins at the parking lots of Lane Tech High School and the DeVry Institute near Addison and Western, about 2 miles west of the ballpark. Service starts about 2 ½ hours before the game, running every few minutes.

After the game, buses wait on Clark Street outside Wrigley. The unique fare is a great deal – just \$5 for parking and round-trip transit for a whole carload of fans. Because parking is limited near Wrigley Field, this service is a real winner.

Daily Summer Service for #10 Museum of Science and Industry Bus

The #10 bus will resume daily service starting Memorial Day (May 31) through Labor Day (September 6). The route runs from North Michigan Avenue and State Street downtown to the Museum. Before leaving downtown, the route stops at Roosevelt/Columbus for the Field Museum and the Shedd Aquarium. Service is every 30 minutes on weekdays and every 20 minutes on weekends and holidays from about 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.



Michigan Avenue Construction Bus Detours

Ten bus lines will be detoured off Michigan Avenue downtown starting Sunday, May 2, when Grant Park garage and roadway improvements reduce traffic from three lanes to two in both directions between Randolph and Monroe.

Affected lines will use State Street for much of the distance they normally operate on Michigan. They are: #1 Indiana/Hyde Park, #4 Cottage Grove, #14 South Lake Shore Express, #19 Stadium Express, #20 Madison, #56

Milwaukee, #60 Blue Island/26th, #127 Northwestern/Madison, #151 Sheridan and #157 Streeter/erville. The #3 King Drive, #6 Jeffery Express, #145 Wilson/Michigan and #147 Outer Drive Express routes will remain on Michigan, but will not make stops in the construction zone. Southbound bus stops to be bypassed are at Washington and between Madison and Monroe. The only stop that will be missed northbound is between Madison and Washington.

Tokens

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fares, insert them into vending machines to purchase new Transit Cards, or add value to the cards they may already possess. RTA-certified reduced-fare riders can use reduced-fare tokens to pay fares or add value to the green Transit Cards they purchased in packs or to their magnetic RTA reduced-fare permits. The CTA will not

exchange unused tokens for cash or farecards.

With a single Transit Card now able to offer value of up to \$100 in discounted fares, the savings and convenience once provided by tokens are no longer worth the cost of collecting, counting and repackaging them. For those who yearn to hold on to a piece of transit history.