



Going Places

Published for CTA Employees

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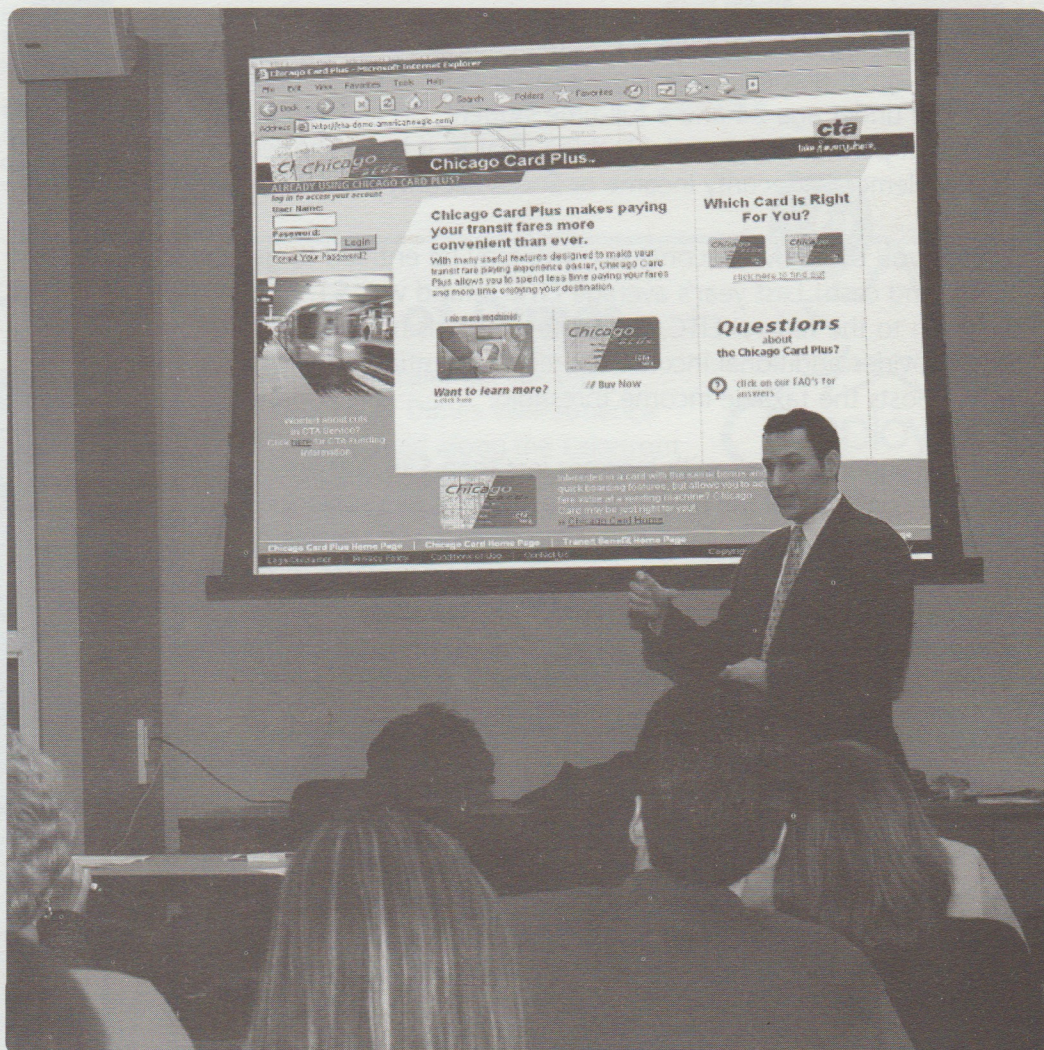
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from Around the CTA

Chicago Card Plus™ Sales Get Year-End Boost

As an incentive to attract additional employers to enroll in the RTA/CTA Transit Benefit Program, CTA is currently running a promotion that waives the \$5 Chicago Card Plus purchase fee for employees of participating companies. The promotion will run through March 31, 2005.



On January 27, prospective companies attended an informational session to learn more about the RTA/CTA Transit Benefit Program and Chicago Card Plus. CTA Transit Programs Representative Mike Loeffler lead the session.

Earned Income Tax Credit

The tax time is fast approaching. You or someone you know could be eligible for a tax refund with the federal Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC). If you are eligible, the EITC can help lower the amount of federal taxes you owe. The EITC can even help eligible families receive a refund based on their federal tax withholdings for the year.

You may qualify, if you:

Possible Refund

■ have two or more children* and earn up to \$35,458.	\$4,300
■ have one child* and earn up to \$31,338.	\$2,604
■ are between the ages 25 and 64, have no children and earn up to \$12,490.	\$390

* A qualifying child includes a natural, adopted, stepchild, grand child, great-grandchild or eligible foster child, children under age 19 or under age 24 and a full-time student, or; children at any age, if permanently/totally disabled (that is, if he or she receives Supplemental Security Income or Social Security Disability)

Even if you don't owe income tax, you may be entitled to get the credit and cash! Last year's average EITC refund was \$1,920. In addition to the federal EITC, the State of Illinois has a state EITC that provides additional income tax relief. Essentially, the Illinois EITC boosts the taxable income threshold.

Families and individuals with incomes less than \$36,000 are eligible for free confidential tax preparation assistance by professionally trained volunteers. The Tax Counseling Project and the Tax Assistance Program, both Chicago-area non-profit programs, offer the assistance at 31 sites in Chicago and 21 sites outside the city. Residents should bring all current W2 and 1099 forms, Social Security cards for all household members, a copy of the filers 2003 tax return, and photo identification.

To find a site near you in Chicago, please call 311 (Chicago's non-emergency information line) or visit the City of Chicago web site at www.cityofchicago.org/CTAC/. Outside Chicago, please call 312-409-1555 or 312-409-6511. In other areas of Illinois, call the IRS at 1-800-829-1040 or visit www.irs.gov.

Check It Out

For your convenience, special showings of CTA's monthly Connections TV program will be held in Conference Room C (10th Floor) at 567 W. Lake on the following dates:

- Tuesday, February 22, 2005 at 11 a.m. and 1 p.m.
- Tuesday, March 15, 2005 at 11 a.m. and 1 p.m.
- Tuesday, April 12, 2005 at 11 a.m. and 1 p.m.

General Managers at most field locations have copies of Connections episodes which are often made available for viewing in garage and terminal train (break) rooms. Check with your general manager for more information.

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Send comments or article submissions to: Edeana Rollins c/o CTA Communications and Marketing, 567 W. Lake, 10th Floor, PO Box 7563, Chicago, IL 60680-7563 Phone (312) 681-4132, or email comments to: erollins@transitchicago.com.



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take it everywhere.

February 2005 Rolling through the Years

Please join us in congratulating the following CTA employees who are celebrating special anniversaries.

38 Years

Lee Richardson
February 10
Red Line,
Rapid Transit Operator

37 Years

Sterling Martin
February 29
Bus Service
Management,
Transportation
Manager

Willie Stewart
February 22
Bus Instruction,
Bus Instructor II

36 Years

Willie Goggins
February 6
Chicago Ave. Garage,
Bus Operator

William Martin
February 13
Bus Service
Management,
Bus Service
Supervisor II

Warren Tyson

February 13
South Section Rail
Customer Facilities
Maintenance,
Rapid Transit Janitor

35 Years

James Anderson
February 27
Blue Line,
Rail Service
Supervisor II

Leslie Seitman
February 11
Rail Revenue
Equipment
Maintenance,
Revenue Equipment
Lineman

Darnell Smith
February 26
Bus Service
Management,
Bus Service
Supervisor II

Charles Williams
February 6
Green Line,
Switchman

30 Years

Kenneth Brown
February 24
Track Maintenance,
Track Lubricator
Maintainer

Carol Dorsey
February 17
Schedules & Traffic,
Transit Analyst

Leon Hubbard
February 5
Blue Line,
Customer Assistant

Calvin Taylor
February 7
Green Line,
Switchman

Bramonde Williams
February 7
Archer Garage,
Buildings & Grounds
Janitor

25 Years

Marie Baptiste
February 25
Payroll Accounting,
Control Clerk III

Gustavo Bran
February 7
Forest Glen Garage,
Bus Operator

Edward Cortes
February 5
Blue Line,
Switchman

Fred Gandy
February 7
Bus Service
Management,
Bus Service
Supervisor II

Jimmy Greenhill
February 28
Kedzie Garage,
Bus Operator

Deborah Griffin
February 5
Green Line,
Transportation
Manager II

Kyung Han
February 7
Forest Glen Garage,
Bus Operator

Alexander Larkin
February 7
Employee/Customer
Maintenance,
Buildings & Grounds
Janitor

Ernest Leaks
February 28
Bus Service
Management,
Bus Service
Supervisor II

Deborah Majors
February 5
Red Line,
Switchman

Alvis Martin
February 7
Blue Line,
Customer Assistance
Supervisor

Sylvester Neal
February 21
77th Street Garage,
Cash Box Puller

Michael Ollins
February 7
Chicago Ave. Garage,
Bus Operator

Alex Rodriguez
February 4
Machinists
Building Machinist

Allen Smith, III
February 7
Rail Operations Capital
Project Oversight,
Transportation
Manager II

Daisy Valdes
February 19
Administration Support
General Counsel,
Project Specialist II

Additional Holiday Cheer

For the sixth year in a row, various CTA departments, including Accounting Operations, Budget, Capital Investment, DBE, Finance Review, Grant Accounting, Law, Payroll Accounting, Property Accounting, Rail Operations, Reprographics, Treasury and System Safety came together to spread holiday cheer to hundreds of underprivileged children. Collectively, the departments donated toys to four organizations—Mother's House, Leland House, Delano Elementary and Hope Shelter.

March of Dimes

Mark your calendar for the March of Dimes WalkAmerica 2005 to be held along the Lakefront on April 24, 2005. All CTA employees are invited to be a part of CTA's "WalkAmerica 2005" team. The purpose of the walk is to raise funds and awareness for the March of Dimes whose mission is to prevent birth defects and infant mortality through medical research, community services, advocacy and education.

The theme of this year's walk is Walk for Someone You Love. CTA's goal is to have a minimum of 100 walkers sign up and to surpass the amount of pledges and donations raised last year. In 2004, CTA had 120 walkers who raised \$18,000.

If you are interested in signing up to be a walker, please contact your floor captain and/or team captain. To identify your captain, please contact Rita Richardson at 312-681-2244 (ext. 12244).

cta

Employees Count



Changing Gears

CTA Bus Routes to Become 100 Percent Accessible

The Chicago Transit Board recently approved the purchase of 13 accessible buses that will enable the CTA to make 100 percent of its 150 bus routes fully accessible to people with disabilities. The buses will be used on CTA bus routes #170, #171, #172 and #173 that serve the University of Chicago campus in Hyde Park. These are the only CTA routes currently not accessible.

Historic Wilson Station Rehabilitation Moves Forward

A contract has been approved for the design of the Red Line's Wilson station and station house. The project is expected to introduce modern amenities while preserving the station's historic architectural features. The station was originally constructed in 1900 and is listed as a contributing structure in the Uptown Square Historic District on the National Register of Historic Places. Design work is expected to be completed by the end of 2006.

CTA Bus & Rail Map Updated

An updated version of the CTA Bus and Rail Map has been printed.

To obtain a free map, customers can visit CTA's Sales Center at 547 W. Lake or the RTA Customer Service Center at 175 W. Jackson. Map requests can also be made by calling CTA Customer Service at 1-888-YOUR-CTA or the RTA Travel Information Center at 836-7000 from any local area code.



Bus Route Changes

With the restoration of weekend service on the newly renovated 54th/Cermak branch of the Blue Line in January, the Chicago Transit Board approved the following changes to the #X21 Cermak Express & and the #21 Cermak & bus routes.

#X21 Cermak Express &—effective January 30, 2005

CTA created the limited stop route in December 1998 to provide weekend transit service in lieu of Blue Line rail service. Since the addition of weekend rail service on the 54th/Cermak branch of the Blue Line on January 1, the Board approved the elimination of the duplicate service provided by the X21.

#21 Cermak &—effective January 30, 2005

The board also approved a 180-day experiment on the #21 Cermak & bus route which incorporates trips to North Riverside Park Mall—one of the most popular aspects of the former #X21 Cermak & bus route. Under the experiment, the #21 Cermak & bus route extends its run and terminates at the North Riverside Park Mall instead of the rail terminal at 54th/Cermak. Buses operate to the mall approximately every 20 minutes from 8 a.m. until 10:30 p.m. on Saturdays and from 9 a.m. until 8 p.m. on Sundays and holidays. Eastbound trips continue to terminate at McCormick Place.