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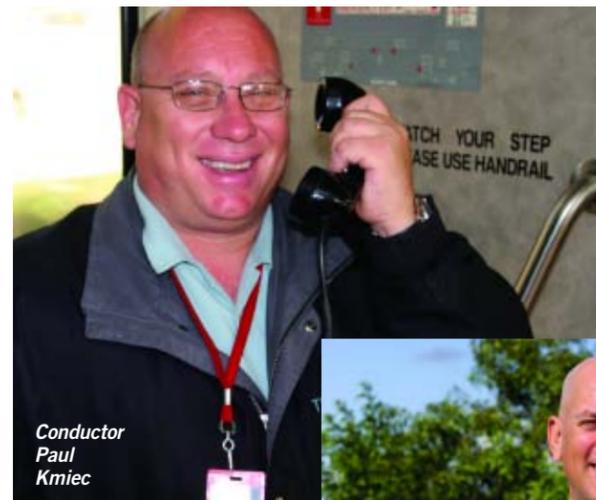
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Engineer
Sonny
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TRI-RAIL CREW SPOTLIGHT

The South Florida Regional Transportation Authority/Tri-Rail and Veolia Transportation commend Tri-Rail Engineer Sonny Romano and Tri-Rail Conductors Paul Kmiec and Geno Mehalik for providing exemplary customer service. Each of these crew members has received special praise from several passengers, noted within letters and e-mails. Kudos to these crew members and a big thank you to all of our passengers who take the time to share their feedback!



Conductor
Paul
Kmiec



Conductor
Geno
Mehalik

MARCH 2009

onboard



The latest news from the South Florida Regional Transportation Authority - a partnership between Broward, Miami-Dade & Palm Beach counties.



Geraldine "Gerry" Renbaum of Boca Raton lost her life, as did her adopted Greyhound, when her car collided with an Amtrak train in January of 2008. Her husband donated the vehicle to promote train safety awareness.

SAVE YOUR LIFE... SAVE YOUR MONEY

The Operation Lifesaver South Florida Chapter and the South Florida Regional Transportation Authority/Tri-Rail will once again team up with partnering agencies, tri-county law-enforcement agencies and emergency response teams for Train Safety Awareness Week April 19 - 25.

TSAW is coordinated by Operation Lifesaver, a national organization dedicated to educating the public about the laws and hazards of being on, or near, railroad tracks, particularly at road crossings. OL's motto is "Look, Listen and Live," as well as "Stay Off, Stay Away, Stay Alive."

During TSAW, local law-enforcement personnel will enforce zero tolerance and will be issuing citations and traffic tickets to motorists, pedestrians and bicyclists violating state statutes at railroad crossings throughout South Florida, with fines ranging anywhere from \$190 to \$1,000.

At any time throughout the year, Operation Lifesaver presenters are available to schedule community appearances to educate people about train safety. To schedule a presentation, please contact Florida's Operation Lifesaver Coordinator Annette Lapkowski at 850-414-4541 or www.floridaol.org.

PUSH FOR DEDICATED FUNDING BEGINS AGAIN IN TALLAHASSEE

The 2009 Legislative Session began in Tallahassee the first week of March. Representatives from the South Florida Regional Transportation Authority have resurrected their push for dedicated funding for the financially challenged agency. This year, they will join forces with representatives from the Tampa Bay, Orlando and Jacksonville areas to secure a state-wide funding mechanism for any regional transportation authority.

Due in great part to a very successful grassroots campaign dubbed "Save My Train," last year's bill to create dedicated funding for the SFRTA through an existing \$2-a-day rental car surcharge passed the House of Representatives with a vote of 114 to 0. Unfortunately, our supporters in the Senate were not successful in convincing their colleagues of the necessity of our legislation.



The impact on a family who rented a car for one week while visiting Florida would be less than the cost of lunch for three people at McDonald's®.

The goal for this year's session is to increase the current daily rental car surcharge fee an additional \$2 per-day. This fee would not be imposed on Florida residents who require a rental car due to auto servicing, and would only be charged a maximum of 30 days. It would generate approximately \$50 million, which would ensure that the SFRTA could maintain the current level of Tri-Rail and connecting services. Without dedicated funding, Tri-Rail will face major budget cuts and service cutbacks.

As we approach this year's challenges we are confident that our passengers will take action when called upon and will be as amazingly responsive as they were last year.

(Translations continued on next page)

EMPUJE PARA FONDOS COMIENZA NUEVAMENTE EN TALLAHASSEE

La Sesión Legislativa comenzó en Tallahassee en la primer semana de Marzo. Representantes de la Autoridad Regional de Transporte del Sur de la Florida (SFRTA) han resucitado su empuje para que se adjudiquen fondos a esta agencia deficiente financieramente. Este año, van a unirse con representantes de las áreas de Tampa Bay, Orlando y Jacksonville para obtener un mecanismo de fondos a nivel estatal para cualquier autoridad regional de transporte.

Debido en gran parte a una exitosa campaña a nivel local titulada "Salva Mi Tren", el proyecto de ley del año pasado para crear fondos para la SFRTA a través de un cargo ya existente de \$2 al día por el alquiler de un auto, pasó la Cámara de Representantes con un voto de 114 a 0. Lamentablemente, nunca fue escuchado en un comité del Senado.

El gol de la sesión de este año es aumentar el recargo actual diario por el

alquiler de un auto \$2 más por día. Esta tarifa no sería impuesta a los residentes de la Florida que necesiten alquilar un auto debido a un servicio mecánico, y solo se cobraría por un máximo de 30 días. Esto generaría aproximadamente \$50 millones, lo cual aseguraría que la SFRTA pudiera mantener el nivel actual del Tri-Rail y sus servicios de conexión. Sin estos fondos, Tri-Rail enfrentaría recortes presupuestales y reducción de sus servicios.

Al aproximarnos a los desafíos de este año, estamos confiados que cuando se requiera, nuestros pasajeros procederán y serán tan increíblemente receptivos como lo fueron el año pasado.

DEMACH POU AKÒDE FINANSMAN KÒMANSE ANKÒ NAN TALLAHASSEE

Sesyon Lejislatif 2009 la kòmanse nan Tallahassee premye semèn mwa Mas la. Reprezantan Ajans Transpò Rejyonal nan Sid Eta Florid yo re-lanse zefò pou akòde finansman pou ajans

ki gen plis pwoblèm yo. Ane sa a, yo pral mete ansanm ak reprezantan Tampa Bay, Orlando ak Jacksonville pou yo asire yon mekanis finansman atravè tout leta a pou nenpò otorite transpò rejyonal.

Gras, an pati, a yon kanpay ki te gen anpil siksè ki te rele « Sove Tren Mwen an » (Save My Train), lalwa lane pase ki te kreye finansman pou SFRTA, grasa yon chaj ki te deja ekziste, de \$2-pa-jou sichaj pou lokasyon oto ke Chanm Reprezantan an te vote 114 a 0. Malerezman, yo pat janm tandè pale de li nan komite Sena a.

Objektif sesyon ane sa a se ogmante chaj aktyèl pou yon lokasyon pa jou avèk yon frè si-chaj de \$2 an plis pa jou. Frè sa a p ap chaje sou rezidan Florid ki beswen lwe yon oto akòz oto pa yo ap repare, e yap chaje yo sèlman yon maksimòm de 30 jou. Sa ta jenere apeprè \$50 million, ki ta asire ke SFRTA ta kapab mentni nivo aktyèl Tri-Rail la ansanm ak sèvis ki an rapò avèk li yo. San alokasyon finansman an, Tri-Rail pral fè fas a de gwo koupi nan bidjè li avèk diminyasyon nan sèvis yo.

Pandan n ap konfwonte defi ane sa-a, nou sèten ke pasajè nou yo pral pran aksyon lè nou mande yo e yo pral banou repons ekstwodinè tankou yo te fè lane pase.

2009 TRANSPORTATION SUMMIT A GREAT SUCCESS!

More than 350 participants, including elected officials, transportation-industry professionals, local-government administrators, community activists and members of the general public, turned out for the South Florida Regional Transportation Authority's 2009 Transportation Summit on Saturday, February 21 at the Broward County Convention Center.

The summit focused on discussions about public transportation's role in creating jobs, battling climate change, improving the region's global competitiveness and enhancing our quality of life. Speakers included Yvette Taylor, regional administrator of the Federal Transit Administration Region IV; Mortimer L. Downey, chair of President Obama's Transportation Transition Team and Gordon Price, former city councilor of Vancouver, British Columbia. James F. Murley, director of Florida Atlantic University's Center for Urban & Environmental Solutions, served as moderator of the event.

The 2009 Transportation Summit could not have happened without our sponsors. A big thanks goes out to Bitner Goodman, Bombardier

Transportation, Booz Allen Hamilton, Gannett Fleming Inc., Greenberg & Traurig, P.A., HDR Engineering, Jacobs, Kimley-Horn and Associates, Inc., LTK Engineering Services, Parsons Transportation Group, PB America Inc., Hyundai Rotem USA Corporation, The Corradino Group, Inc., Tindale-Oliver & Associates, Veolia Transportation and The Wackenhut Corporation.

The SFRTA hosted the summit in partnership with the South East Florida Transportation Council, South Florida Regional Planning Council and Treasure Coast Regional Planning Council.



(Top) Commissioner Josephus Eggleton, chair of the South Florida Regional Transportation Authority Governing Board, spearheaded the effort to mount the 2009 Transportation Summit.

(Left) Regional Administrator Yvette Taylor, Federal Transit Administration Region IV, underscored the need for regional transportation planning to secure the federal funds necessary to support transportation projects.



TRI-RAIL LAUNCHES NEW PROMOTION WITH POLLO TROPICAL

Tri-Rail has launched a "Wish You Were Here" promotional program in partnership with Pollo Tropical®. This awareness campaign emphasizes the cost savings available to those who ride Tri-Rail to work, or wherever life takes them throughout South Florida.

This effort fosters a great partnership with Pollo Tropical®, which will provide in-store promotional support throughout 63 of their South Florida restaurants. The campaign includes the chance to win an all-inclusive, week-long trip for two to Jamaica, compliments of promotional partners Air Jamaica and Rose Hall Resort & Spa.

"We support public transportation and Tri-Rail is a proven good partner," said Kim Miller, senior marketing director, Pollo Tropical®.

To further convey the great savings of riding Tri-Rail, Pollo Tropical® is providing a downloadable coupon valid for \$3 off the price of a family meal with completed registration and complete rules at www.tri-rail.com.

People can also register at participating Pollo Tropical® restaurants until March 23. The promotional offer ends April 30, 2009.



SPELL YOUR WAY TO THE TOP!

Ever wish you could travel back in time and show those kids who is now victor of the vowels? Now, you can by registering for "The Big People Spelling Bee," presented by The Galleria at Fort Lauderdale and Tri-Rail, at 11 a.m. on April 25 at The Galleria to benefit Reach Out and Read-Broward (www.reachoutandread.org).

With Tri-Rail's participation, this year's "Bee" has a fun, new twist. Contestants will be asked to spell a series of words that relate to protecting our planet, in addition to many other words selected at random.

"This event is a great way for us to promote literacy," said Kimara Bedassie, regional coordinator of Reach Out and Read-Broward. "We applaud The Galleria for creating this innovative program and Tri-Rail for adding the importance of a greener environment."

Last year's winner was Trip Payne, 39, of Boca Raton. The winner receives a \$1,000 cash prize.

Registration forms can be found online at www.tri-rail.com or obtained at The Galleria's Guest Services. Registration fee is \$25 made payable to Reach Out and Read-Broward. For more information, please call 954-564-1036.

2008 Senior Idol winner, Janet Anguilli



WHO WILL BE THE NEXT SENIOR IDOL?

Once again, Tri-Rail is proud to participate in Holy Cross Hospital's Senior Idol. Auditions are Thursday, April 2 at Holy Cross Hospital in Fort Lauderdale.

The competition will crown one talented singer, 65 years or older, from Broward, Miami-Dade or Palm Beach County. The grand prize is \$1,000 cash and a pass to ride Tri-Rail for one year.

"We are proud to host Senior Idol again, showcasing our commitment to the senior community and recognizing the phenomenal talent here in South Florida," said Sr. Rita Levasseur, vice president of Sponsorship and Mission Effectiveness for Holy Cross Hospital.

Over the past three years, more than 350 seniors have auditioned. Each year, only 12 singers are chosen to compete in the final competition, which this year will be May 12 at Parker Playhouse in Fort Lauderdale. Past winners include Don Ladd, Tamarac; Sonny Allegro, Hollywood and Janet Anguilli, Fort Lauderdale.

Joining Tri-Rail in support of Holy Cross Hospital's Senior Idol are AvMed, Boomer Times, Seminole Casino Coconut Creek and Winn-Dixie.

To register for an audition, please call 954-351-7804 by March 31.