



**South Florida Regional Transportation Authority**

800 NW 33rd Street  
Pompano Beach, Florida 33064  
954-942-RAIL (7245)  
1-888-GO-SFRTA (467-3782)  
www.sfrta.fl.gov

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www.tri-rail.com

# Tri-Rail Announces its Senior Idol Finalists

Tickets are now on sale for Tri-Rail's "Senior Idol," featuring talented singers, 65 years of age and older, who will compete for a \$500 grand prize and a pass to ride Tri-Rail for a year, on Sunday, May 18 at 2 p.m. at Parker Playhouse in Fort Lauderdale. The following 12 finalists have been selected after an audition at Festival Flea Market Mall, which gathered nearly 150 seniors to compete:

- Diane Cestari, Boca Raton
- Roman DeSilvio, Ft. Lauderdale
- Deanne Friedberg, Boca Raton
- Lucile Graveline, Deerfield Beach
- Frank Mancuso, Coral Springs
- Penny Mandel, Boca Raton
- Ron Silver, Boynton Beach
- Beverly Sisisky, Boynton Beach
- Nanci Suzanne, Boynton Beach
- Lou Villano, Palm Beach Gardens
- Joanie Waters, Boynton Beach
- Y'Shua Yisrael, Plantation

Tickets for Tri-Rail's Senior Idol are \$12 per person, plus service fees, and are available for purchase by visiting [www.parkerplayhouse.com](http://www.parkerplayhouse.com) or calling 954-462-0222. A portion of ticket sales



Tony Mazza, Tri-Rail 2013 Senior Idol Winner

will benefit Broward Meals on Wheels, an organization dedicated to improving health, reducing isolation and promoting independent living for seniors in our community.

Special shuttle bus service will be available from the Fort Lauderdale Station and Parker Playhouse on the day of the event between 1 p.m. and 5 p.m. As an added bonus, those who present their Senior Idol ticket at any of these popular Las Olas Boulevard restaurants on May 18, will receive special dining discounts: Tuscan Grill, Voodka, Mangos, Caffé Europa, Chima Brazilian Steakhouse and Grille 401.

Tri-Rail's Senior Idol is sponsored in part by Baptist Health South Florida, Boomer Times, Festival Flea Market Mall, Humana and John Knox Village.



## Rail Love Affair Received Silver Addy Award

Tri-Rail's Rail Love Affair advertising campaign, which featured testimonials from riders promoting the reasons they love to ride Tri-Rail, was recently recognized by the American Advertising Federation with

the coveted Silver ADDY Award. Rail Love Affair was among several entries in the Newspaper Print Campaign category, which featured print advertisements from various businesses and organizations throughout South Florida. The ADDY Awards (henceforth to be known as the American Advertising Awards) is the largest competition in the advertising industry, recognizing creative excellence worldwide.



THE LATEST NEWS FROM THE SOUTH FLORIDA REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY - A PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN BROWARD, MIAMI-DADE & PALM BEACH COUNTIES

## SFRTA Honors Transit Heroes With First-Ever "Distinguished Service Award"

To a rousing standing ovation, the SFRTA presented the first-ever "Distinguished Service Awards" to G4S Custom Protection Officers (CPO) James Errante and Lester Anderson, as well as Conductor Thomas Baker, at the March meeting of the Authority's Governing Board. The award was inspired by the actions of the three transit heroes, who went above and beyond the call of duty to protect and aid Tri-Rail passengers.

In presenting the awards, SFRTA Chair, Commissioner Steven L. Abrams praised the men, saying, "These three heroes are indicative of the quality and caliber of the men and women who serve our Tri-Rail passengers every day. We are honored to have them as part of the SFRTA team."

On February 6, CPO Errante was working at the Golden Glades Station when he met a northbound train in response to a witness' report of a suspicious male with a possible firearm. Upon arrival, he and CPO Lester Anderson removed the suspect from the train. In the ensuing struggle, CPO Errante received 2 gunshot wounds.

During his attempt to assist CPO Errante, CPO Anderson was severely bitten by the suspect, almost severing his thumb. In spite of this, CPO Anderson was able to shoot the suspect when he turned and pointed a gun at him while attempting to flee. CPO Anderson's actions enabled the police to capture the suspect. CPO Anderson has been with G4S for a little more than three years, and was assigned to Tri-Rail because of his law



SFRTA Transit Heroes and their family members accepting their award from Commissioner Abrams.

enforcement background. Both CPOs were severely injured, but their quick actions prevented any harm or loss of life to any passengers.

On February 15, Conductor Thomas Baker was working at the Metrorail Transfer Station when he saw a 65-year-old woman collapse on the east platform. When he reached her, he found she had no pulse and was not breathing. He revived her by performing CPR until EMS arrived. He truly saved her life. Conductor

Baker joined Veolia Transportation in 2010 as an Operations Supervisor and was promoted to Conductor two years later.

### LA SFRTA HONRA A HÉROES DEL TRÁNSITO CON SU PRIMER "PREMIO AL SERVICIO DESTACADO"

La SFRTA (Autoridad Regional de Transporte del Sur de la Florida) presentó ante una conmovedora ovación de

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"THESE THREE HEROES ARE INDICATIVE OF THE QUALITY AND CALIBER OF THE MEN AND WOMEN WHO SERVE OUR TRI-RAIL PASSENGERS EVERY DAY. WE ARE HONORED TO HAVE THEM AS PART OF THE SFRTA TEAM."  
- Commissioner Steven L. Abrams  
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pie el primer "Premio al Servicio Destacado" entregado a los oficiales de seguridad de G4S, CPO James Errante y CPO Lester Anderson, así como al Conductor Thomas Baker, en la reunión de marzo del Consejo Directivo de la Autoridad. El premio se inspiró por las acciones de los tres héroes de tránsito, que excedieron los alcances de sus deberes para proteger y ayudar a los pasajeros de Tri-Rail.

En la presentación de los premios, el Comisionado Steven

L. Abrams, presidente de la SFRTA elogió a los hombres diciendo: "Estos tres héroes son un indicador de la calidad y el calibre de hombres y mujeres que atienden a nuestros pasajeros de Tri-Rail todos los días. Nos honra tenerlos dentro del equipo de la SFRTA".

El 6 de febrero, CPO Errante estaba trabajando en la estación Golden Glades cuando se subió a un tren con rumbo norte en respuesta a una denuncia de un testigo sobre un sospechoso con una posible

arma de fuego. Al llegar, él y el CPO Lester Anderson retiraron al sospechoso del tren. En el forcejeo resultante, el CPO Errante sufrió 2 heridas de disparo de arma de fuego.

Durante su intento de asistir al CPO Errante, el CPO Anderson fue gravemente mordido por el sospechoso, que casi le arrancó un pulgar. A pesar de ello, el CPO Anderson pudo dispararle al sospechoso cuando aquel se dio vuelta y lo apuntó con un arma mientras intentaba escapar.

El proceder del CPO Anderson le permitió a la policía capturar al sospechoso. El CPO Anderson trabaja en G4S desde hace poco más de 3 años y fue asignado a Tri-Rail debido a sus antecedentes en el cumplimiento de la ley. Ambos oficiales resultaron gravemente heridos, pero su proceder rápido evitó daños y pérdidas de vidas a pasajeros.

El 15 de febrero, el Conductor Thomas Baker estaba trabajando en la estación Metrorail Transfer cuando vio a una mujer de 65 años colapsar en la plataforma Este. Cuando llegó hasta ella, descubrió que no tenía pulso y que no estaba respirando. La revivió realizándole RCP hasta que llegó el servicio médico de emergencia. Realmente le salvó la vida. El Conductor Baker se incorporó a Veolia Transportation en 2010 como Supervisor de Operaciones y fue ascendido a conductor dos años después.

#### SFRTA AP SELEBRE EWO TRANSIT YO GRASA PREMIE PRI NAN LISTWA "PRI SÈVIS EKSELAN"

Devan aplodisman piblik la, SFRTA te prezante premie pri nan listwa li "Pri Sèvis Ekselan" bay Ofisye Pwoteksyon Dwann G4S, (CPO) James Errante ak Lester Anderson, ansanm ak Chofè Thomas Baker, pandan reynyon nan mwa mas Konsèy Administrasyon Otorite a. Yo te kreye pri a poutèt aksyon

two ewo tranzit, ki te fè plis pase sa responsabilite yo te mande yo fè pou pwoteje pasaje Tri-Rail yo.

Pandan li t ap remèt pri yo, Prezidan Komisè SFRTA Steven L. Abrams te felisite nèg yo, epi li te di: "Twa ewo sa yo revele kalite ak fòs karaktè fanm ak gason ki sèvis pasaje Tri-Rail yo toulejou. Se yon onè pou nou deske yo fè pati de ekip SFRTA an."

Nan dat 6 fevriye, CPO Errante t ap travay nan Estasyon Golden Glades lè li te ale enspekte yon tren ki t ap deplase nan direksyon Nò pou reponn yon rapò yon temwen ki te di li te wè yon nèg sispèk ki te petèt genyen yon zam sou li. Lè li te rive, limenm ak CPO Lester Anderson te fè sispèk la desann de tren an. Yo te kòmanse goumen, epi CPO Errante te resevwa 2 bal.

Pandan li t ap eseye ede CPO Errante, sispèk la te mòde CPO Anderson trè fò, sitèlman fò li te prèske rache pous li. Malgre sa, CPO Anderson te kapab tire sispèk la lè li te vire epi li te pwente yon zam sou li pandan li t ap eseye chape. Aksyon CPO Anderson te pèmèt lapolis pran sispèk la. CPO Anderson ap travay depi enpe plis pase 3 zan nan G4S, epi yo te plase li nan Tri-Rail poutèt li te gen eksperyans travay ak lapolis. Toulede CPO te blese gravman, men poutèt yo te aji rapidman, yo te anpeche pasaje yo sibi ditò oswa pèdi lavi yo.

Jou 15 fevriye, Chofè Thomas Baker t ap travay nan Estasyon Transfè Metrorail lè li te wè yon fanm 65kan ki te pèdi konesans sou platfòm Lès la. Lè li te rive bò kote li, li te konstate li pa t gen okenn pou epi li pa t ap respire. Li te resisite li grasa CPR jiskase EMS te rive souplas. Li te vremen sove lavi li. Chofè Baker te kòmanse travay pou Veolia Transportation nan lane 2010 antan Sipèvizè Operasyon epi yo te bay li yon pwomosyon kòm chofè 2 lane apre sa.

## Public Transportation Records Highest Ridership in 57 Years



In 2013, Americans took 10.7 billion trips on public transportation, making it the highest ridership since 1956, according to the American Public Transportation Association (APTA). This was the eighth year in a row that ridership exceeded 10 billion annual trips.

"There is a fundamental shift going on in the way we move about our communities. People in record numbers are demanding more public transit services and communities are benefitting with strong economic growth," said APTA President and CEO Michael Melaniphy.

Last year was a banner year for ridership on Tri-Rail, as well. More people took Tri-Rail in 2013 than at any other time in the commuter rail system's 25-year history, with a record 4,350, 691 trips. This number even surpasses the passenger count when gas prices were at their highest in 2008. The high ridership from last year is attributable to a recovering South Florida economy and the enhancement of the weekend service to hourly headways.



#### UPCOMING DAY GAMES

DATE	START TIME	OPPONENT
Sunday, May 4	1:10 p.m.	Los Angeles Dodgers
Wednesday, May 7	12:40 p.m.	New York Mets
Thursday, May 22	12:40 p.m.	Philadelphia Phillies
Saturday, May 24	4:10 p.m.	Milwaukee Brewers
Sunday, May 25	1:10 p.m.	Milwaukee Brewers

## Baseball is Back!

The Miami Marlins have put together an exciting team for a new season of baseball. Don't miss the fun and take Tri-Rail to any day games for the 2014 season, where you can enjoy "America's Pastime" in any weather at Marlins Park. Marlins home games with a 12:40 p.m., 1:10 p.m. or 4:10 p.m. start time are all easily accessible with the existing Tri-Rail train schedule.

**How to get there:** Ride Tri-Rail to the Metrorail Transfer Station and take the southbound Metrorail to the Culmer Station and board the Marlins Express Shuttle to Marlins Park (regular MDT fares apply). The Marlins Express Shuttle Bus operates 90 minutes before game start times and 60 minutes after the end of the game.

Service to Marlins Park can also be accessed via the Metrorail Civic Center Station by connecting to the free City of Miami Trolley service.

Please remember to allow 40-70 minutes for all necessary system transfers. Be sure to return on the Metrorail Green Line to access Tri-Rail. For more information on pre-purchasing your transfer fares and more helpful tips to plan your trip, call 1-800-TRI-RAIL or visit [www.tri-rail.com/marlins](http://www.tri-rail.com/marlins).



↑42%

Families want to live near public transportation because it brings them closer to the things they want and need. In fact, home values perform 42 percent better on average near public transit.

WHERE PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION GOES  
**COMMUNITY GROWS**

