LABS TEST TRI-RAIL

On a recent Sunday morning, a parade of black and yellow Labrador Retriever puppies from the Fort Lauderdale Airport and the West Palm Beach stations, converged on the Deerfield Beach Station, as they travelled for some basic training, socialization and their first ride on Tri-Rail. Much to the delight of passengers, the puppies were participating in an on-going program that has been dubbed "Training on the Train."

The program brings together puppy-raisers from across the tri-county region for an opportunity to acclimate their puppies to the noises, smells and sights that are commonplace when riding the train. All of the puppies are being raised to go into service through training at Southeastern Guide Dogs of Palmetto, FL.

Service animals are a frequent sight on Tri-Rail trains. The ability to use public transportation is essential to maximize freedom of mobility for a person who is visually impaired or who has a disability that makes using a bus or a train difficult, if not impossible.

New puppy-raisers are always needed, especially now when the Palm Beach/Broward County chapter of Southeastern Guide Dogs is expecting an influx of 30 puppies over the next few months. The group has now expanded to cover Miami-Dade, Broward, Palm Beach and Martin counties, all of which were represented on the train.

If you would like more information about becoming a puppy-raiser, please call or e-mail Sandra Mann, area coordinator, at 561-281-0906 or mann6424@bellsouth.net. For more information about Southeastern Guide Dogs, log onto www.guidedogs.org. While there, check out the Puppy Cam. If it doesn't make you smile, nothing will.

RTA SOUTH FLORIDA REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY

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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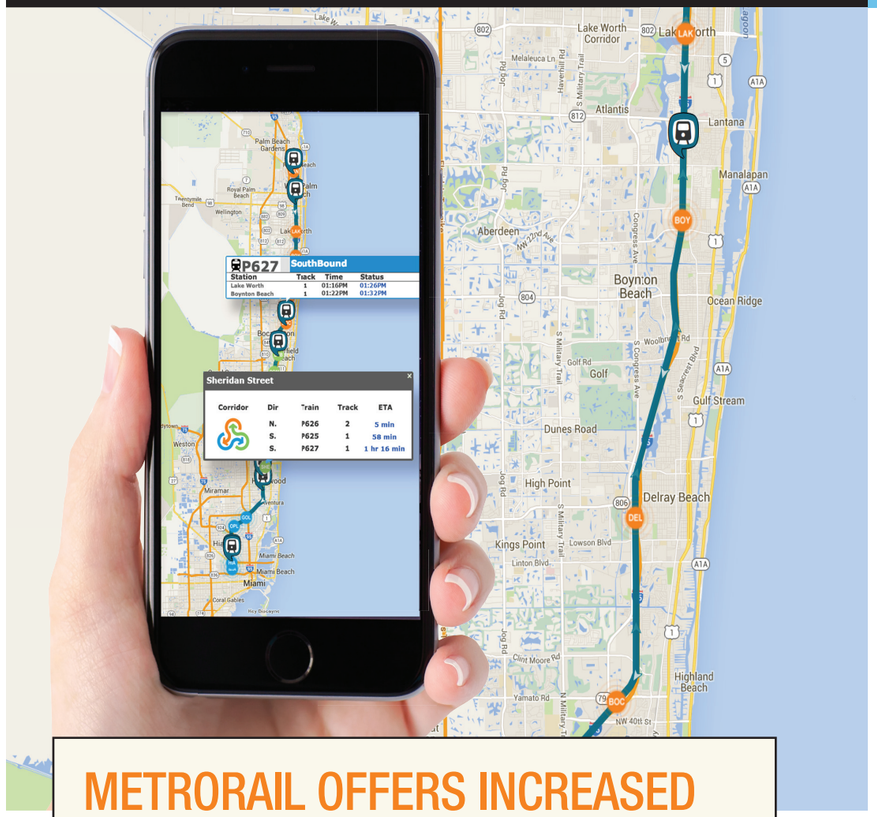

SFRTA LAUNCHES NEW TRAIN TRACKING APP

The South Florida Regional Transportation Authority (SFRTA) has launched a new train tracking app which allows passengers to know precisely where their train is and when it will arrive at their station. Using GPS technology, a map shows exactly where all active Tri-Rail trains are located during all hours of operation.

"The ease and availability of the technology was not available a few years ago. We will continue to monitor and advance customer service to new levels," said C. Mikel Oglesby, SFRTA Deputy Executive Director. "We believe that if we take modern technology and couple it with good old-fashioned face-to-face customer service, we will be providing what the riders have been asking for. They spoke and we listened."

The "Tri-Rail Tracker" displays the trains that will arrive at the next station, their direction north or south, and the track on which they will arrive. Customers can also be alerted regarding activity on the system that could possibly impact their commute. The app is very straightforward and user-friendly. It superimposes the corridor map on top of a Google map, which shows the precise location of the train.

Train tracking information is readily available on the Tri-Rail website, the mobile app and on the developer's app, ETA SPOT. This new innovation will enhance the SFRTA's ability to more effectively communicate with passengers and the general public.

(Continued on next page)

METRORAIL OFFERS INCREASED WEEKEND SERVICE FROM MIA

The Department of Transportation and Public Works (DTPW) increased its weekend Orange Line service to and from the Miami International Airport (MIA) Metrorail Station to better serve residents and visitors using the airport. Orange Line trains now depart from the MIA Station every 15 minutes instead of every 30 minutes.

To plan a trip on Metrorail and/or learn about Metrobus routes serving the MIA Station, visit www.miamidade.gov/transit. The site provides complete schedule information, station maps and more. The DTPW is the newly combined department consisting of the merger between Miami-Dade Transit and Miami-Dade Public Works, which were officially united in January 2016.

(Continued from cover)

SFRTA LANZA SU NUEVA APLICACIÓN (APP) PARA EL RASTREO DE TRENES

La Autoridad de Transporte Regional del Sur de Florida (SFRTA) lanzó su nueva aplicación de rastreo de trenes que permitirá a los pasajeros saber con certeza dónde se encuentra su tren y cuándo llegará a la estación. Usando tecnología de GPS, un mapa muestra exactamente dónde se localizan todos los trenes activos del Tri-Rail durante todo el horario de operación.

"La facilidad y accesibilidad de esta tecnología no estaban disponibles hace unos años. Continuaremos supervisando e impulsando el servicio al cliente a nuevos niveles", afirmó C. Mikel Oglesby, director ejecutivo adjunto de SFRTA. "Creemos que si tomamos la tecnología moderna y la combinamos con un servicio al cliente cara a cara de antaño, daremos a nuestros usuarios lo que siempre han pedido. Ellos hablaron y nosotros escuchamos".

El "Tri-Rail Tracker" muestra una lista de los trenes que llegarán a la siguiente estación, su dirección norte o sur y la vía por la que llegarán. Los clientes también pueden obtener alertas en cuanto a la actividad en el sistema que podría afectar sus viajes. El sistema es sencillo y de fácil manejo para los usuarios. Sobrepone el mapa del corredor sobre un mapa de Google, que muestra la ubicación precisa del tren.

La información de rastreo de trenes está disponible fácilmente en el sitio web de Tri-Rail, la aplicación móvil del Tri-Rail y en la aplicación del desarrollador, ETA SPOT. Esta nueva innovación mejorará la capacidad de SFRTA de comunicarse más eficazmente con los pasajeros y el público en general.

SFRTA AP LANSE YON NOUVO APP POU SIVEYANS TREN YO

Ajans Transpò Rejyonal nan Sid Eta Florid (SFRTA) fèk lanse yon nou app pou siveyans tren yo ki pral pèmèt pasaje yo konnen avèk presizyon ki kote tren yo ye ak kilè li pral rive nan estasyon yo. Gras teknoloji GPS lan, yon kat ki montre egzakteman ki kote tout tren aktif Tri-Rail yo sitye pandan tout tan y ap fonksyone.

C. Mikel Oglesby, Direktè Egzekitif-Adjwen SFRTA, deklare: "Teknoloji ki sitèlman fasil ak pratik pa t disponib kèk ane anvan sa. Nou pral kontinye siveye ak avanse sèvis kliyan pou li atenn nouvo nivo ekselans. Nou panse, si nou pran teknoloji modèn epi nou kouple li avèk sèvis kliyan konvansyonèl, nou pral asire sa pasaje yo te toujou mande. Yo pale epi nou te tande yo."

"Tri-Rail Tracker" lan liste tren k ap rive nan pwochen estasyon an, si yo deplase nan direksyon Nò oswa Sid, epi sou ki vwa yo pral vini. Epitou kliyan yo ap resevwa alèrt konsènan aktivite sou sistèm la ki ta ka enpakte wout yo. Sitèm la trè dirèk epi li fasil pou itilize. Li sirenpoze kat koridò an anlè yon kat Google, ki montre anplasman presi tren an.

Enfòmasyon pou swiv tren an disponib touswit sou wèbsayt Tri-Rail lan, app Tri-Rail lan ak sou app devlopè a, ETA SPOT. Nouvo inovasyon sa a pral amelyore kapasite SFRTA pou kominike pibyen toujou ak pasaje epi piblik la anjeneral.

Tickets are now on sale for Tri-Rail's annual "Senior Stars," featuring talented singers 65 years of age and older. On Sunday, May 22 at 2 p.m. at Parker Playhouse in Fort Lauderdale, twelve finalists will sing their way to the top for a $500 grand prize and a pass to ride Tri-Rail free for one year. The contestants were selected for their vocal talents, style and stage presence during an audition of more than 80 seniors. The twelve singing stars who will compete are:

- Lawrence Branchetti, Miami Shores
- Jamie Danger, Pembroke Pines
- Angelo DiRusso, Pompano Beach
- Dr. Valarie K. Fields, Hollywood
- Felice Fontana, Fort Lauderdale
- DeAnne Friedberg, Boca Raton
- Ann Hallett, Fort Lauderdale
- Cathy LaBella, Coconut Creek
- Judy Lanier, Tamarac
- Max Linkin, Delray Beach
- Lesley Miller, Coconut Creek
- Sam Sugar, Hollywood

Tickets to the event, which is sponsored by Baptist Eye Surgery Center, John Knox Village, Boomer Times and Symphony at the Waterways, are $12 per person, plus service fees, and are available at www.parkerplayhouse.com or by calling 954-462-0222.

A special shuttle bus service will be running between Tri-Rail's Fort Lauderdale Station and Parker Playhouse on the day of the event between 1 p.m. and 5 p.m. Attendees are encouraged to access train schedule information in advance at 1-800-TRI-RAIL or www.tri-rail.com.

TRI RAIL™ RIDE & PLAY

Tri-Rail presented its "Ride & Play" leisure day on Saturday, April 23. As part of this one-day promotion, Tri-Rail invited riders to come aboard for a day of family fun and onboard entertainment, including balloon artists, magicians and costumed characters from South Florida Parenting Magazine, plus giveaways and exclusive deals from popular South Florida attractions. Passengers met some of their favorite radio personalities from HOT 105, Y100, Amor 107.5 and WiLD 95.5. Riders who showed their validated train tickets were also honored with special admission prices and offers from Bayside Marketplace, CityPlace, Museum of Discovery and Science, Perez Art Museum Miami and Vizcaya Museum and Gardens. With $5 all-day weekend fares and children under five riding free, Tri-Rail is the best way to explore the best of South Florida!