

my Metra™

AUTUMN 2022

BEHIND THE SCENES IN A METRA YARD

\$100 SUPER SAVER PASS
Now Extended Throughout 2023

SAFETY FIRST
Bringing The Message To Schools



*A Holiday
Gift*

Commemorative
Toy Train Inside



my message

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The seasons change and Metra must change with them. You'll discover, in this issue of *My Metra*, that plenty of change is coming.

Our kids have returned to school, more and more of us are returning to the office, and Metra continues to adjust to post-pandemic realities with changes in our schedules and fares. The prime example: we've decided to extend our flat-rate \$100 "Super Saver" monthly pass until the end of next year. For details, turn to **page 8**.

We thought many of you might be curious about the current status of our finances, given that ridership has only returned to about half of pre-pandemic levels. You can read details on **Page 9**, but the short answer is that we're slightly ahead of our admittedly conservative ridership projections, which means our federal relief money will last longer.

Metra is excited about the latest addition to our locomotive fleet — the new SD70MACH. These like-new locomotives promise to be more reliable and cleaner than the locomotives they are replacing. We've ordered 15 so far, with options for 27 more, and the first one was painted in RTA colors to mark the 50th anniversary of the RTA. You can read more on **Page 7**.

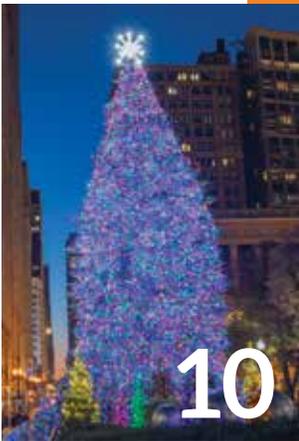
Of course, the holiday season is coming and there are plenty of events to attend and destinations to see. Metra can get you to many of them. In fact, Metra is offering a Holiday Train experience on the Metra Electric Line on three Saturdays in December. For details, go to **Page 5**. For a roundup of other events, go to **Page 10**.

As a holiday gift to you, and to thank you for being a Metra rider, we've included a do-it-yourself papercraft train. We hope you and your children will enjoy building it.

Finally, there is a lot of work that goes on between rush hours in Metra yards, and we're putting the spotlight on one of them. Turn to **Page 4** to see what goes on every weekday in the Rock Island Line's 51st Street Yard.

From all of us at *My Metra*, we wish you a safe and happy holiday season.

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Did you know you can get this magazine delivered electronically every quarter? Just use the QR code to go to our website and give us your name and email address. We'll send you each e-version as soon as it's available.



ADVERTISE WITH US TO REACH THOUSANDS OF DAILY COMMUTERS!

With riders returning in large numbers, *My Metra* Magazine is a great, cost-effective way to connect with Chicago area commuters. Your ad will be seen by riders on all 11 of our rail lines and will appear online in the digital version of *My Metra*. For more information on advertising opportunities, email us at marketing@metrarr.com.

On the cover: Coach Cleaner Hilario Quiroga services a railcar.



Behind the Scenes IN A METRA YARD



Coach Cleaner Reggie Cooper cleans the windshield of a cab car.

Our Rush Hours Come After Yours

Once we've gotten you to work, we go right to work getting ready to bring you home later that day. As you'd probably guess, the busiest part of the day in a Metra yard comes between the morning and evening rush hours.

After trains drop off thousands of passengers at downtown stations in the morning, they head to one of several nearby yards so a long checklist of tasks can be completed—from maintenance to inspections to cleaning to repairs. The work has to be done in time to put the trains back in service for the evening rush.

One yard is the 51st Street Yard, which Rock Island riders can see every day on their trips to and from downtown. If those riders could stop and watch the yard, they'd see a buzz of activity. Operating the Rock Island's 80 scheduled weekday runs requires 13 six- and eight-car trains, or 13 locomotives and 94 cars total. All those locomotives and cars, plus spares, are serviced at 51st.

Trains generally pull into the yard from the north, coming from LaSalle Street Station. The first task is to send the train through a giant train washer. Then the locomotive and cars are separated so

◀ Assistant Conductor Raymond Howard on a switcher locomotive used to move railcars in the yard.



Laborer Carl Davis takes fuel readings from a locomotive.

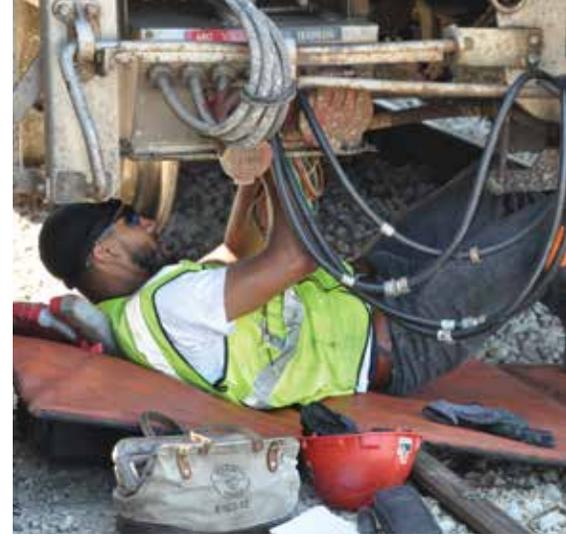
each can be serviced in a different area. Easier said than done; because of the layout of the tracks and the location of switches, it takes a complicated series of moves using a switch engine to make it happen.

Once the cars are parked in the service tracks, they are swarmed by workers. Carmen and electricians walk the interior and exterior, carrying out mandated inspections and tests, making minor repairs or reporting more serious

issues that may require the car to be cut from the train and repaired. Brakes, wheels, lights, doors, lifts, HVAC, signage, handrails, etc. — everything gets checked.

Coach cleaners also move in with an arsenal of tools, from brooms and mops to power washers and steam cleaners. Toilets are emptied and bathrooms are cleaned. If all goes well and no unusual issues arise, the work on each train can be done in about three hours. Sometimes cars must be cut out of the trains for more detailed inspections.

On the other end of the yard, locomotives are greeted by a platoon of workers. Electricians, machinists, carmen, and pipefitters each have their own role and their own checklist of inspection and maintenance tasks — lights, bells, hoses, horns, wheels, brakes, oil and water levels, etc. — overseen by Mechanical Foremen. The locomotives are also refueled. The daily work can be done in less than an hour, but every locomotive also must undergo an increasingly detailed federal inspection every three months, every six months, every year, and every second, third and



Electrician Jeffrey Gardner replaces a cable on a railcar.

fourth year, so there are usually several locomotives in the shop undergoing inspection.

The clean and safe trains can then leave the yard to get you home on time.

To see a time-lapse video of trains being serviced in this yard, scan the QR Code below.



HOP ON OUR HOLIDAY TRAIN!

On Dec. 3, 10 and 17, our special Holiday Train will be running on the Metra Electric Line for all to enjoy! Our decorated train will begin its route at the University Park Station and end at the North Pole (aka Millennium Station) where there will be hot chocolate, raffles, and, of course, Santa. While on the train, riders can also enjoy face painting, balloon art, and Metra goodie bags!

Tickets for the Metra Holiday Train must be purchased in advance, cost \$5, and are available from Metra Electric and Rock Island ticket agents. So, bring the family, hop on board, and get into the holiday spirit with Metra. For more information visit metra.com/HolidayTrain.



Aria Mallu of Naperville won both the 4th Grade Poster Contest and the K-4 Division Essay Contest last year.

KEEPING STUDENTS SAFE

The start of the school year is always a good time to remind students about the importance of safe behavior around trains and tracks, which is why Metra always launches its Safety Poster and Essay Contest in the fall.

“Safety is our highest priority, and this contest is one of the best ways to communicate safety lessons to children in a fun and constructive way,” said Metra CEO/Executive Director Jim Derwinski.

The Safety Poster and Essay Contest, now in its 16th year, asks students to take on an advocacy role and communicate the importance of safety near the tracks. This year’s theme, “Stay Safe, Stay Off Train Tracks,” reminds kids to be aware

of their surroundings and personal safety near railroad tracks. Students are asked to design posters or write essays around that theme, with \$500 gift cards as the top prizes.

Since 2006, Metra has used the contest to bring safety lessons into classrooms across northeast Illinois. Downloadable materials to help integrate information about railroad safety into lesson plans are available at metracontest.com. Over the past decade, tens of thousands of students have had the opportunity to show what they’ve learned about the importance of safety around trains and railroad tracks.

For full details about the contest, visit metracontest.com.

JOIN OUR TOYS FOR TOTS DRIVE DEC. 13

It’s the season of giving and for the 11th year, Metra and the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve Toys for Tots Foundation will spread holiday cheer by hosting a toy drive at all downtown Metra terminals during the morning rush on Tuesday, Dec. 13.

The Toys for Tots program relies upon your generosity, and it is that generosity that brings Santa Claus to the homes of children across Chicagoland whose families may

not be able to afford holiday gifts. To that end, Metra hopes to transform its trains into Santa’s sleighs for one day.

To participate in this annual event and help ensure that Chicagoland children have a joyous holiday, please bring a new, unwrapped toy and drop it off on your way to work at any of our



downtown terminals. Marines and Metra employees will collect toys and cash donations between 6 and 9 a.m. on Tuesday, Dec. 13.



NEWEST METRA LOCOMOTIVE DEBUTS

The latest addition to Metra's locomotive fleet made its debut this fall—a like-new, remanufactured locomotive that promises to increase reliability and efficiency and decrease emissions and operating costs.

The new locomotive, an EMD SD70MAC that was improved and reconfigured for passenger use with refurbished, upgraded, or new components, was painted in heritage Regional Transportation Authority colors to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the formation of the RTA.

"We are excited to introduce this new locomotive for *My Metra* riders," said Metra CEO/Executive Director Jim Derwinski. "This locomotive and others

to follow will replace some of the oldest locomotives in our fleet, and we expect to see a significant increase in reliability and decrease in emissions."

"We expect to see a significant decrease in emissions."

The remanufactured locomotives meet the EPA's Tier 3 emissions standards. Replacing 42 of Metra's current locomotives that are rated Tier 0+ with 42 Tier 3 locomotives will eliminate 61 tons of nitrous oxide emissions annually – the equivalent to taking 6,600 cars off the road.

The Metra Board of Directors approved a \$70.9 million contract to purchase 15 of the remanufactured locomotives in January 2019. The remaining locomotives will be delivered approximately one per month starting in November. The contract with Progress Rail includes options to buy up to 27 additional locomotives.

Metra bought remanufactured locomotives instead of new ones primarily because it can buy more of them and replace a greater number of older models. One big improvement will be in the traction motors, which deliver the power generated by the diesel engine to the wheels. The remanufactured units have AC traction motors, which are far more durable and reliable than the DC traction motors in our older locomotives.

"SUPER SAVER" PASS EXTENDED

Save All Through 2023.
Any Line. Any Zone. Any Time.



With rush hour traffic building and gas prices still high, Metra has extended its "Super Saver" monthly pass, meaning riders will be able to take unlimited rides on Metra for \$100 a month at least until the end of 2023.

The special flat-rate pass, introduced in July, offers a significant discount from usual Monthly Pass prices. Our goal is to help you save money as you return to work—particularly important during this time of high prices.

Full fare "Super Saver" passes cost \$100, while reduced fare passes for eligible seniors, K-12 students and children cost \$70. All riders on the Metra Electric and Rock Island lines also pay the reduced fare rate, thanks to the Fair Transit South Cook Pilot, with the same stipulation that those passes are valid only on those two lines.

To make that deal even better, Monthly Pass buyers can pay just \$30 for a Regional Connect Pass, good for unlimited monthly rides on CTA and Pace.

SHH!

DON'T FORGET ABOUT QUIET CARS

Now that Metra trains are filling up or full again, we thought it would be worth a reminder about our Quiet Car rules.

We created these cars to give passengers some peace and quiet during their rush-hour commute. Quiet Cars are in effect on all in-bound trains arriving downtown at or before 9 a.m. and all outbound trains leaving downtown between 3:30 p.m. and 6:30 p.m.

The rules are simple: No calls. Conversations are discouraged. All electronic devices must be muted, and headphones should not be loud enough for anyone else to hear.

On most lines, the Quiet Cars are the second car from the locomotive

and the second car from the end of the train on rush-hour trains with six or more cars. If there are five cars or fewer, only the second car from the engine is a Quiet Car. On the Metra Electric Line, only the third car from the end of the train is a Quiet Car. There are no Quiet Cars on two-car trains.

All Quiet Cars are identified with decals on the outside of the car and signage inside the car. Keep in mind that while our goal is to keep cars as quiet as possible, passengers should not expect the car to be completely silent.

Please remember to treat fellow passengers with courtesy and respect, no matter where they are sitting.



HOW ARE METRA'S FINANCES FARING?

While Ridership Is Up, We're Working To Keep Fares Down.

It's no secret that Metra's ridership—and therefore its fare revenue—plummeted during the COVID-19 pandemic and still hasn't fully recovered. As of this writing, ridership was about 45 percent of pre-COVID levels.

What does this mean for Metra's finances? Well, the 2022 budget was based on ridership finishing the year at 35 percent, which we've already surpassed. Meanwhile, sales taxes, another source of operating funds, are running about 10 percent higher than budgeted.

That means a third source of funds, our federal COVID relief allocation, will last longer as we get back on our feet.

And it helps us keep fares low, a critical component to building back ridership. No fare increases are planned next year.

Eventually, the relief money will run out, probably in 2025. If ridership does not fully recover before the money runs out, we as a society will have to decide how we value public transit and what we are going to do to keep it.



FALL COLORS, FALL TROUBLES

Slip and Slide is a fun game for kids, but not so much for trains. While autumn's fall colors are a sight to behold, when those colorful leaves stick to railroad tracks they can create an ugly nuisance known as slippery rail.

What is slippery rail?

Slippery rail occurs when wet leaves on the tracks are crushed by the trains, leaving a slick, oily residue behind that causes a train's wheels to spin and slip. Trains have trouble gaining or maintaining speed, particularly on hills or in rainy, snowy or icy conditions, which can result in delays.

During the fall, Metra uses trains equipped with steel brushes to clear leaves from the tracks to prevent the buildup of residue.

Metra is hopeful our mitigation actions will keep the number of trains delayed by this seasonal nuisance to a minimum.

LET US BE YOUR GUIDE TO

Holiday Festivals & Fun



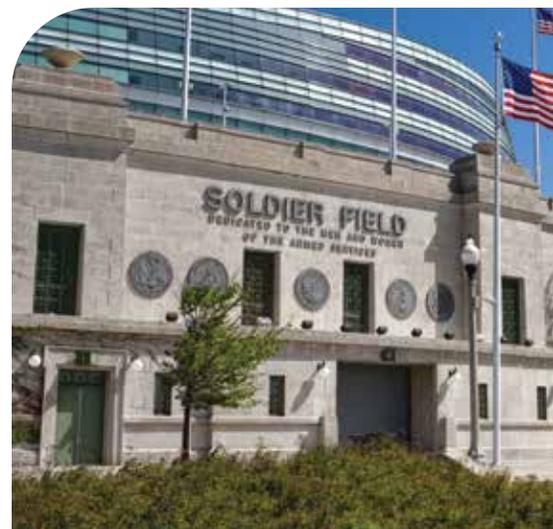
Our region comes alive during the holidays. There are bright lights, music, parades, festivals, food, shows, and shopping. It's a time of celebrations and merry-making. And Metra can help you experience it all.



Why deal with the stress of driving and high cost of parking? Metra offers an array of money-saving fares to help you experience the best of the season. There are \$7 Saturday and Sunday Day Passes. Our \$10 Weekend Pass gives you unlimited rides on both weekend days. And our \$10 Day Pass gives you unlimited rides on weekdays. Children under 11 can even ride for free.

Check out any of the events listed here and be sure to visit metra.com for schedules and complete fare details.

EVENT / ATTRACTION	DATE(S)	LOCATION
Dining at the Walnut Room	Nov. 18-Jan. 1	Macy's, State Street
Lightscape	Nov. 11-Jan. 8	Chicago Botanic Garden
Harry Potter Magic at Play	Nov. 11-May 14	Water Tower Place
Christmas Around the World and Holiday of Lights	Nov. 16-Jan. 4	Museum of Science and Industry
The Lion King	Nov. 17-Jan. 14	Cadillac Theatre
Christkindlmarket	Nov. 18-Dec. 24	Daley Plaza
		RiverEdge Park (Aurora)
	Nov. 18-Dec. 31	Wrigley Field
Ice Skating	Nov. 18-Mar. 5	Millennium Park
		Maggie Daley Park
Annual Tree Lighting	Nov. 18-Jan. 8	Millennium Park
ZooLights	Nov. 19-Jan. 1	Lincoln Park Zoo
Illumination: Tree Lights	Nov. 19-Jan. 7	Morton Arboretum
Art on theMART Holiday Program	Nov. 19-Dec. 30	Merchandise Mart
A Christmas Carol	Nov. 19-Dec. 31	The Goodman Theatre
Magnificent Mile Lights Festival	Nov. 19	North Michigan Avenue
Chicago Thanksgiving Parade	Nov. 24	State Street, from Ida B. Wells Drive to Randolph
Holiday Sing-Along	Fridays Nov. 25-Dec. 16	Millennium Park
Holiday Magic	Nov. 25-Dec. 31	Brookfield Zoo
Joffrey Ballet - The Nutcracker	Dec. 3-Dec. 27	Lyric Opera House
Chicagoland Toys for Tots Motorcycle Parade	Dec. 4	Western Avenue
A Magical Cirque Christmas	Dec. 6-Dec. 11	CIBC Theatre
TBOX Twelve Bars of Christmas Bar Crawl	Dec. 10	Wrigleyville
Adults Night Out: Holidaze	Dec. 15	Lincoln Park Zoo
Chicago Symphony Orchestra Merry, Merry Chicago!	Dec. 16-Dec. 23	Symphony Center
Zoo Year's Eve	Dec. 31	Lincoln Park Zoo
The Art of The Brick	Through Jan. 16	Museum of Science and Industry



SCORE BIG WITH METRA

Pro and college sports are now in full swing. And Metra can make sure you don't miss a single kickoff, tip-off, or face-off.

Getting to Soldier Field is easy. If you're coming from the south, take the Metra Electric Line and exit at 18th Street. Fans coming downtown can catch the No. 128 Soldier Field Express bus at either Ogilvie Transportation Center or Union Station. The bus starts two hours before the game and runs for an hour afterward.

Bulls and Blackhawks fans can catch the No. 19 United Center Express Bus that connects with Millennium, Ogilvie, and Union Stations. Bus service begins 90 minutes before game time and runs up to an hour after the game.

Big Ten fans can take the UP North Line to Northwestern's Ryan Field and Welsh-Ryan Arena, both just a short walk from the Central Street Station.

And DePaul Blue Demon fans can get to Wintrust Stadium via our Electric Line, which has a station right at McCormick Place.



Cornelius T. Sugarplum

Cornelius T. Sugarplum is a lifelong Metra rider and first assistant to Kris Kringle himself. He and all the other Chicagoland elves love taking Metra, especially when the sleigh is in the shop.

How long have you been riding Metra?

Oh, I've been taking Metra since Rudolph was just a baby reindeer! I wish it went all the way up to the North Pole.

What is it about Metra that made you choose it for your commute?

With reindeer feed prices skyrocketing and Donner and Blitzen eating enough to feed the rest of the crew, it's cheaper and easier to take the train. Plus, the traffic on the Reindeer Route has been getting crazy!

You're an elf - can't you just use magic to travel around?

Pssh! That's just in the movies. Elves take the train just like you. Whether we're going to the Striped Stocking Convention, or a whittling class, the only magic we're using to get around is the magic of Metra.

What do you like the most about taking the train?

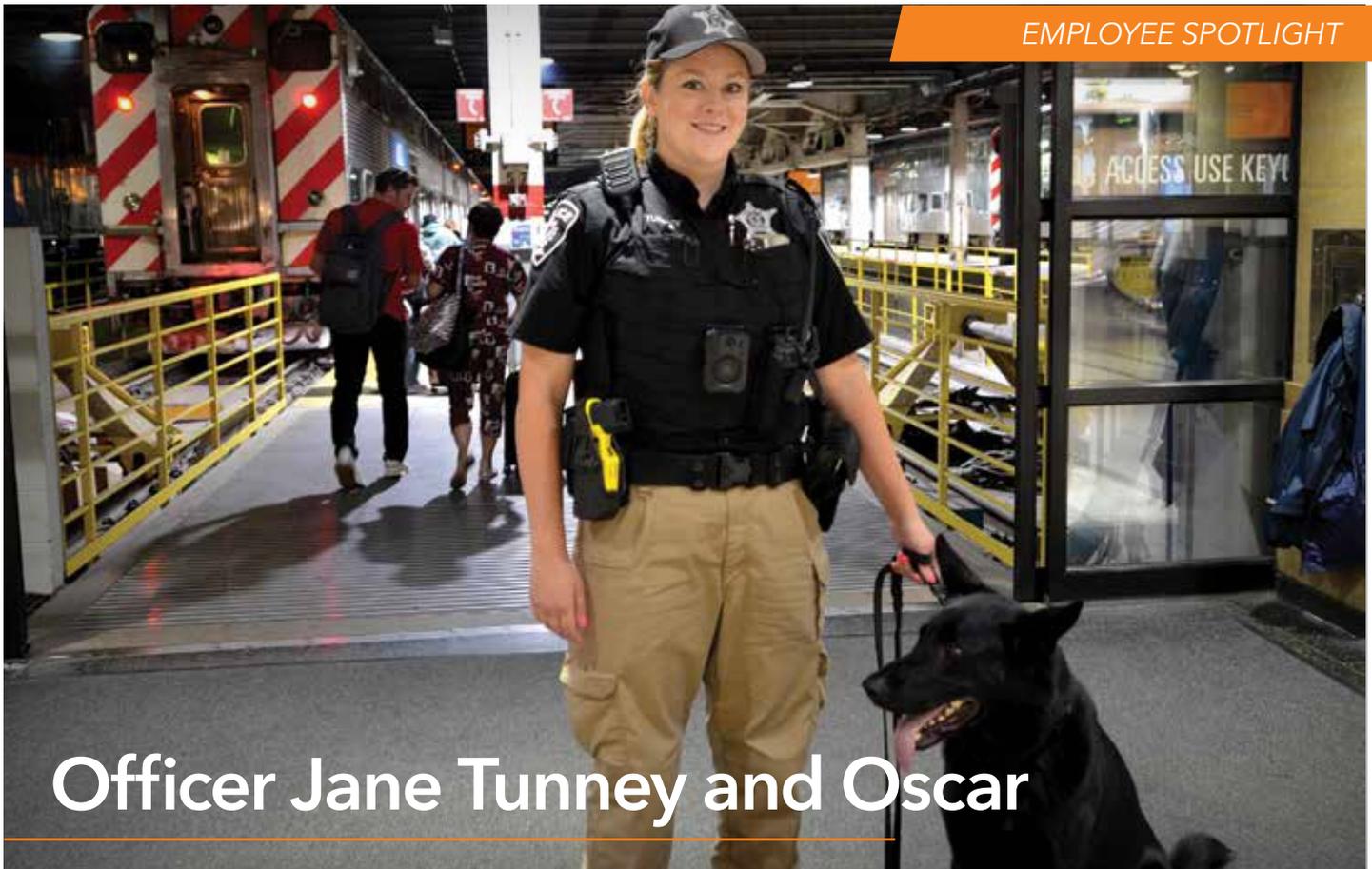
Well, after a long day's work of cobbling, tinkering, and being jolly in general, it's nice to kick my tiny, pointed toes up and relax on Metra.

So, it's hard work being an elf?

Very! Making toys all year round can get exhausting—not to mention the blisters I get from screwing together all those fidget spinners! Commuters can always help us elves by donating to the Toys for Tots program. (See page 6.)

What would you say to someone who is considering taking the train but is still unsure?

Don't be a Krampus! Metra is fast, friendly, and—most importantly—fun!



Officer Jane Tunney and Oscar

How did you become interested in law enforcement?

Originally, I wanted to become an addictions counselor. While studying psychology at Western Michigan University, in my addiction classes, I started to question the laws behind substances and substance abuse. I wanted to help people, but I also wanted to hold them accountable for their actions. This is when I picked up my minor in Criminal Justice.

What kind of training did you receive?

I attended the Cook County Sheriff's Police Academy for three months, then I became a Certified Police Officer in Illinois. I worked as a Police Officer for Metra after this and then went down to San Antonio, TX, to become a certified K9 Handler. Which is where I was paired up with my partner, Oscar.

How did you become a canine handler?

I submitted a letter of interest explaining my background in psychology and having dogs my whole life, which I believe gave me an advantage with my training.

What do you like the most about your job?

Working with my best friend! Oscar and I work together every single day. Oscar loves working, so he encourages me to get up and go every morning.

What do you want our customers to know about your work?

We are here to help. A lot of people are frightened by Oscar, but we are here to help and deter crime within our stations. We are here to protect the customers, employees, and property of Metra.

Metra Police Officer Jane Tunney has been at Metra about three years, but she was paired with her K9 friend, Oscar, a German Shepherd, about a year ago. They are now an incredibly close team keeping Metra and its riders safe.

What does My Metra mean to you?

My Metra means a second family. Oscar and I have been welcomed by Metra employees and customers. Oscar particularly receives lots of love at Millennium Station, which is his favorite place to go on duty. Shoutout to Oscar's friends down there at Starbucks, Jay at the info desk, and Cindy and Vic in the offices!



WHAT DO U KNOW ABOUT UNION STATION?

- It was opened in May 1925 after 10 years of construction
- It was built by a “Union” of four railroads—hence, its name
- It was originally envisioned by architect Daniel Burnham
- Its exteriors are made of limestone (quarried in Indiana)
- It cost \$75 million to construct (\$1 billion in today’s dollars)
- It has 10 tracks coming in from the north and 14 from the south
- The Great Hall has a 110-foot-high atrium with 24,000 square feet of space
- The two statues in the Great Hall are called *Night* and *Day* and were created by Henry Hering
- It’s owned by Amtrak and is the nation’s 3rd busiest rail station
- The station was at its busiest during World War II, handling as many as 300 trains and 100,000 passengers daily
- It’s starred in several movies including *The Sting*, *Silver Streak*, *The Untouchables*, *My Best Friend’s Wedding*, and *Flags of Our Fathers*

UPGRADING UNION STATION

Metra is one of several partners behind Amtrak’s application for a federal Mega grant to make a variety of improvements at Chicago Union Station.

Amtrak applied for \$251.1 million in Mega funding. That money would be combined with \$167.4 million from other sources (including \$7.5 million from Metra) to cover \$418.5 million in improvements.

For Metra riders, the biggest benefits would be:

- **Improved platforms**—widened and elongated with new egress stairs and ADA-compliant elevators. The platforms would also have new architectural finishes and improved lighting. This

will result in better, safer, and faster passenger flow, and improved operational flexibility and reliability.

- **Improved concourses**—reducing congestion, providing better way finding, and creating better pedestrian paths and sightlines. It would be easier to get in and out of the station and easier to find your way once inside.

- **Better ventilation**—a coordinated mechanical ventilation system would be installed that will better ventilate the building and platforms.

The project also seeks to improve Amtrak’s route into Union Station from the south and east and the tracks it uses in the state of Michigan.



DINE NEAR YOUR LINE

In this issue, we take you to the 99th St. Station on the Beverly Branch of the Rock Island Line to visit Afro Joe's, a family-owned café serving up hot coffee, delicious sandwiches, and a whole lot of culture. Opening in the middle of the pandemic in 2020, married owners Kendall and Aisha Griffin kept their business alive by tapping into what they value most — community and family.

"We started Afro Joe's because of my husband Kendall's love of specialty coffee and him not being able to really get any in our neighborhood," said Aisha Griffin. "I think what makes Afro Joe's so special is our sense of community."

Looking at the menu, Kendall Griffin's love for specialty coffee is apparent. Whether you're looking for a classic Cortado or want to get adventurous with a Sweet Potato Pie Latte, the coffee at Afro Joe's will leave you wanting more. Luckily for you, that's where Aisha comes in.

"I told Kendall the only way I'd come on is if we could offer some fun foods because I enjoy cooking," noted Aisha. The food menu at Afro Joe's expertly combines classic café fare with soul

food, resulting in salads and decadent sandwiches you don't want to miss. Like the South Side Short Rib Grilled Cheese with Coca-Cola-braised short ribs, cheddar cheese, sourdough bread and pickled onions.

THE THING TO TRY:

AUBURN GRES-HAM PANINI
Prosciutto, spring mix, tomato, and provolone on sourdough bread - grilled to perfection or served cold.

As if their extensive menu isn't enough, Aisha and Kendall Griffin don't stop there. With events ranging from open mic nights to bourbon and cigar tastings, Afro Joe's has truly positioned itself as a place where family and friends can try new things, eat delicious food, and celebrate their community.

If you're in the neighborhood, stop into Afro Joe's for coffee, sandwiches, and some good old-fashioned Chicago hospitality.

Afro Joe's is at 1818 W. 99th St. in Chicago. For more information, visit them online at Afrojoes.com.



If you have a favorite restaurant near a Metra station, let us know by emailing marketing@metrarr.com, and it could be featured in our next issue!

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

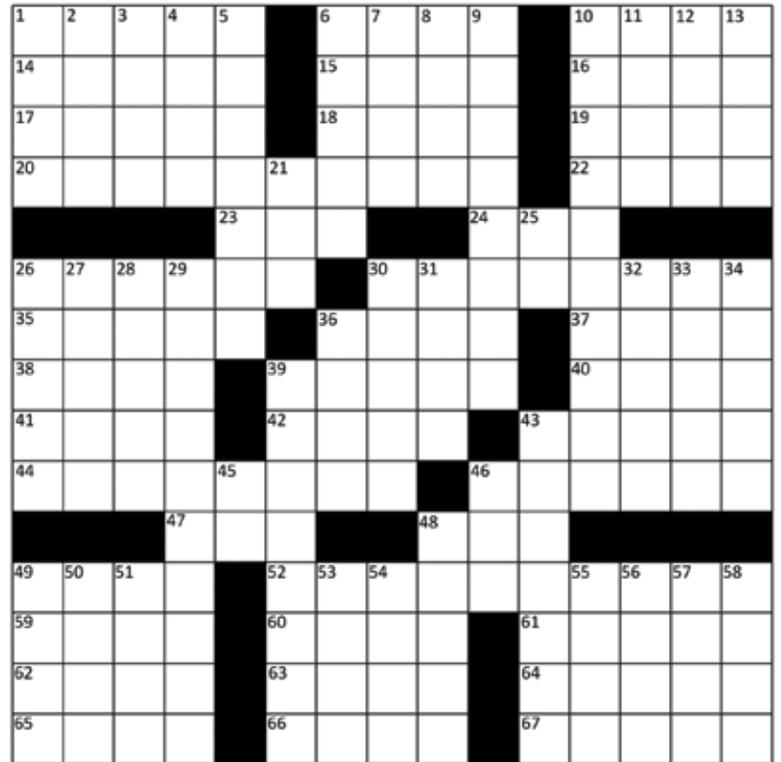
ACROSS

1. Unimpaired
6. Go away!
10. One of
14. Riyadh resident
15. Type of map
16. Fragrant tree
17. Singer Goulding
18. Anyone can enter
19. Poker starter
20. All the anger, or very popular
22. Glowing color
23. Wonder
24. Pops
26. Want badly
30. Bland location, or uncertain situation, in England
35. Change
36. Dodger shortstop Turner
37. Honey makers
38. They call the shots
39. Wander out of bounds, or get mad
40. Rowing tools
41. Software test
42. He's part of the group, or one _____
43. Naked photo
44. On one's feet outdoors, or very good player
46. Upper class
47. Finished
48. Call for help
49. Too
52. Pail inventory, or things to do before you die
59. Significant other

60. Safety org.
61. Top scout
62. Remaining
63. Leave out
64. Goes with pain
65. Gets by
66. Blackhawks great Patrick
67. Clothes

DOWN

1. Adrift
2. Soiree
3. Calm time
4. Change
5. No easy expiration, or fanatically determined
6. Shop
7. Spanish cup
8. One pin
9. Can't hear it, or clueless
10. This way and that, or no longer in bed
11. After eight
12. Interested in
13. Young adult
21. Young lamb
25. Machine Gun Kelly song
26. Coat or smear
27. Lego hero Brickowski
28. Philadelphia transit org.
29. Entries and exits, or the details
30. Tile holder
31. They call the shots
32. Peruses
33. Weird
34. Valuable thing
36. Soy product



Crossword solution can be found online at metra.com/crosswordsolution.

39. Summer beach novel, or the Bible
43. Unhatched bird, or life savings
45. Double preface
46. Coffee
48. Get by
49. Can do
50. Stalky vegetable
51. Umpire call
53. West Point abbreviation
54. Face bottom
55. Tomb Raider
56. Mad scientist assistant
57. Chunk
58. A bunch of Hamiltons



STATION BREAK

Deerfield Station

Deerfield Station was designed by architect Jay W. Nettenstrom in the Craftsman/Prairie style and built in 1903, the same year the new community was incorporated. It was rebuilt and enlarged after a 1918 fire and renovated in the 1970s and again in 1998, when it was added to the National Register of Historic Places. The station was in the international spotlight in 1979 when village officials created and installed the first "No Kissing Zone" signs to keep the drop-off lane clear of kissing commuters.

HOW TO REACH METRA

The best way to contact Metra is by using our email webform, which can be found via the "Contact Us" button at metra.com (or you can go directly to metra.com/contact-us).

Metra Passenger Services 312-322-6777
(M-F, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.)

RTA Travel Information 312-836-7000
(M-Sat, 6 a.m. to 7 p.m.)

Metra Police 312-322-2800
(or via the Metra COPS app)

Lost and Found Offices:

Union Station trains 312-322-4269

Union Pacific trains (Ogilvie) 312-496-4751

Rock Island Line 312-322-6509

Metra Electric Line 312-322-7819



METRA BY THE NUMBERS

- An average mile of track in the United States has **3,249 ties**.
- For the Metra system, which runs on **1,155.1 miles** of track, that works out to **3,752,919 ties**.
- Metra owns **399.4 miles** of that track, or about **1,297,650 ties** (freight railroads own the rest).
- Metra replaces **30,000 to 50,000 ties** a year.



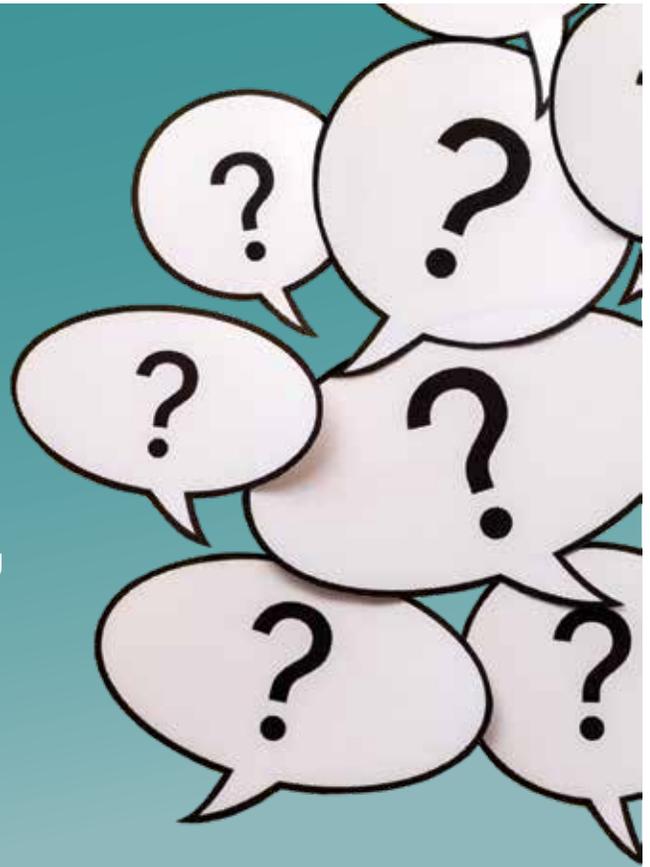
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ASK US ANYTHING

Here's an opportunity for you to ask us anything about Metra. If you have something to ask us, email your question to mymetra@metrarr.com.



When it comes to Metra cars, what's the term for the area where the doors open? Is it "vestibule?" And does the "vestibule" connect the two "galleries" with each other? That is, what is the term for the areas where riders can sit in a Metra car?

— *Chris*

You are correct that the area where the doors open is the "vestibule." But we don't really have a frequently used term for the two halves of the car. We don't really refer to them as galleries, though that is as good a term as any. Most passengers probably refer to them as seating areas, or halves. Internally, we refer to them as the "A End" and the "B End."

How do Metra's crossing gates and flashing signals work? I assume it uses an electric current in the rail.

— *Edward*

Grade crossing warning devices are activated by electrical current in the rails. The system sends alternating current through the rails to a permanent shunt located at a predetermined distance from the crossing. When a train is present, the wheels complete the circuit, bypassing the permanent shunt. As the train moves toward the crossing, the circuit becomes shorter. The system senses the movement and speed and activates the lights bells and gates a predetermined time before the train arrives at the crossing.

On March 25, a group of F40PH locomotives were sent to the Antioch Coach Yard for storage. What's gonna happen to them?

— *Ace*

Some of those units might be used for our plan to replace diesel power with battery power, but the rest of them will be enjoying their retirement.



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Joffrey Company Artist Yumi Kanazawa. Photo by Todd Rosenberg.



DISCOVER CHICAGO'S

ONE-OF-A-KIND NEIGHBORHOODS

One of the things that makes Chicago so unique is our rich tapestry of welcoming neighborhoods. Each neighborhoods offers its own distinct history and character, providing endless opportunities for exploration and fun.

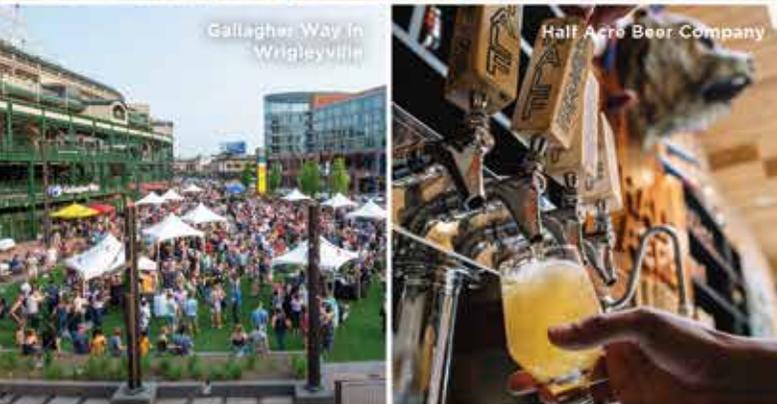
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- Explore the lush indoor gardens at **Garfield Park's** stunning conservatory.
- Step back in time in the historic **Pullman** neighborhood, an 1880s planned factory town and Chicago's first National Monument.
- Visit the Osaka Garden, an authentic Japanese oasis tucked away in **Hyde Park**.
- Take a lap around the sprawling gardens and lagoon in historic **Humboldt Park**.
- Stroll past ornate mansions and some of the oldest homes in the city in the **South Loop's** Prairie Avenue District.
- Take a taco tour of family-owned taquerias in **Little Village**, a hub for Mexican-American culture.



- Eat dim sum, traditional pastries, and so much more in **Chinatown**.
- Enjoy festivals, concerts and, of course, baseball games in **Wrigleyville**, home to the second oldest ballpark in the country.
- Sip your way through some of the city's best craft breweries in **Ravenswood's** Malt Row district.
- Catch some live jazz at the legendary Green Mill in **Uptown**.



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