

my Metra



WELCOMING MORE BIKES ON BOARD

EYE IN THE SKY
Metra Drones in Action

ACTION PLAN
A View of The Future

OUR NEW FARES
Simplifying Travel



my message

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After several years of great change, another year of great change is upon us.

First, we've launched a new bike policy, with new bike racks, that makes it easier than ever to bring your bikes on our trains. Metra and bikes are made for each other. Read more on **Page 4**.

And already Metra has switched to its new fare structure, with fewer zones and different fares and fare products. We've also switched over to our new ticket vending machines, which have been installed in our busiest stations and will continue to be installed until every station has one. A reminder about those changes can be found on **Page 6**.

We're also expecting some legislative action in 2024 to address the operating funding crisis brought about by the pandemic that impacted public transportation and a variety of other industries over the last few years. Springfield's task is to identify a funding source to make up for federal COVID-relief funding that will run out by 2026, using guidance provided by the Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning (CMAP). More details are on **Page 7**.

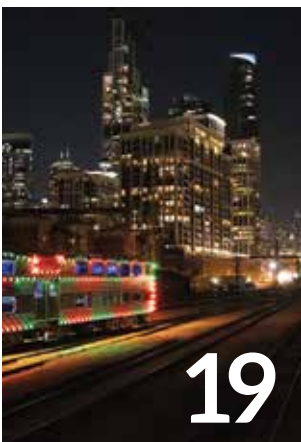
And we've launched a new pilot program that offers our reduced fare rates to low-income riders on all lines. The Access pilot is a partnership between Metra, Cook County and the RTA. Learn more on **Page 8**.

In this issue, you'll also learn how the Metra Police Department uses drones to make its job easier (**Page 10**), how Metra has been working to prevent suicides (**Page 11**) and how we work to make sure switching issues are kept to a minimum (**Page 12**). You'll see we do much more than just operate timely, comfortable, affordable trains.

Our usual list of events and attractions reachable by Metra can be found on **Page 14**. And the latest entry in our "Dine by Your Line" feature can be found on **Page 18**.

We know change can be hard, but our hope is that these changes make Metra a better, more useful service for all of Chicago. Thanks for coming along for the ride.

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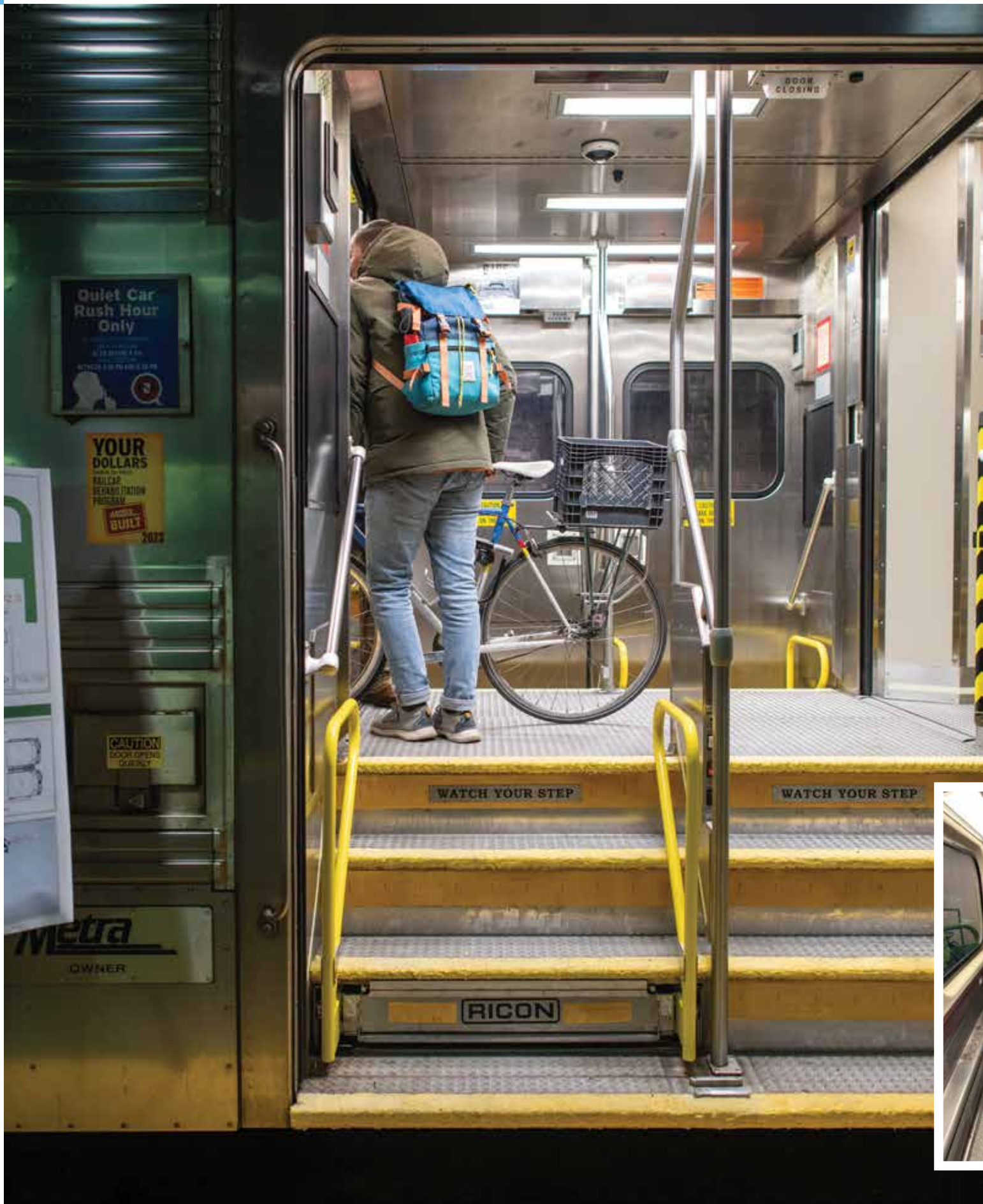


TAKE OUR READER SURVEY

My Metra is your magazine. So, of course, we want to know what you think of it. Do you like the content? Do you find it informative? What would you like to see in future issues? We want to hear from you.

The survey will take just a few moments. And with your help, we can create a magazine that is even more informative, engaging, enlightening, and fun.

Thanks for your help!



NEW POLICY WELCOMES MORE BIKES ON BOARD

Metra has implemented a new bike policy that makes taking your bike on our trains even more convenient.

The new policy allows bikes on any train. The bikes can be stored in the priority seating areas of ADA railcars — which is where they have been allowed historically — or in new bike racks being installed on a growing number of railcars. Those cars are identified with a bike logo on the outside.

Bike spaces are allocated on a first-come, first-served basis, but customers with disabilities have priority in the ADA spaces. Crews have the right to refuse bikes if all spaces are filled or if the ADA seating area is needed for customers with disabilities. Scooters are also allowed in the same spaces under the same terms.

Before COVID, bikes and scooters were allowed only on non-peak trains. The policy was relaxed as ridership dropped during the pandemic and there was more room on peak trains. This policy continues but adds spaces for bikes and scooters to account for increasing ridership on the peak trains.

Cyclists should visit metra.com/bikes to review the complete bicycle policy, including requirements for storing the bike.



Take the Rail to the Trail

When it comes to biking (or hiking) trails in the Chicago area, there are a lot to choose from. According to the Rails-to-Trails Conservancy, there are more than 119 trails covering some 4,825 miles in and around Chicago. To put that into perspective, the United States is only 2,892 miles wide at its widest point.

While area communities have created dedicated bike lanes on select streets, nothing beats hitting the trail on your bike. It's a great way to get back to nature, and there are trails ideal for both casual and serious cyclists in our area.

To learn more, check out the Rails-to-Trails website at traillink.com, where you can search by city, ZIP, or trail name. In addition, each of the counties Metra serves has bike trail guides you can access online.





FARE CHANGE REMINDER

The most extensive revision of Metra's fare structure in our 40-year history started Feb. 1. The goal was to make our system easier to use and easier to understand for returning riders as well as those who are new to Metra.

We've reduced the number of fare zones to 4 from 10, with all downtown stations in the new Zone 1 and the remaining stations assigned to Zones 2 through 4.

In addition, on Feb. 1, tickets were no longer available from ticket agents. Customers can purchase tickets from new vending machines or on the Ventra app.

Here is what you need to know:

- The 10-Ride Ticket has been replaced with a **Day Pass 5-Pack**: Five Day Passes that can be used for unlimited rides on any five days within 90 days of purchase. The Day Pass 5-Pack is available only in the Ventra app. All 10-Ride Tickets purchased prior to Feb. 1 are valid for travel for 90 days from the date of purchase.
- **Monthly Passes** cost \$75 from Zone 2 to Zone 1, \$110 from Zone 3 to Zone 1 and \$135 from Zone 4 to Zone 1. Monthly Passes covering trips that do not begin or end downtown (Zone 1) cost \$75.
- **One-Way Tickets** to Zone 1 cost \$3.75 from Zone 2, \$5.50 from Zone 3 and \$6.75 from Zone 4. One-Way Tickets covering trips that do not begin or end downtown (Zone 1) will cost \$3.75.
- The weekday **Day Pass** is priced at twice the cost of a One-Way Ticket and will be valid for unlimited rides for a single day within the zones selected.
- **Incremental fares** — a surcharge to travel beyond the zones indicated on the ticket — are discontinued. Riders must buy a ticket valid for the trip they are taking.

STEPPING BACK FROM THE CLIFF



When it comes to finding a solution to the region's public transportation's funding crisis, the ball is now in the Legislature's court.

Springfield is expected to take up the critical funding issue this spring, after the Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning (CMAP) and its regional partners delivered its Plan of Action for Regional Transit (PART) to legislative leaders. The plan outlines options for system improvements, funding, governance, and other proposed reforms to address the \$730 million fiscal cliff facing our transit system in 2026 and strengthen service across northeastern Illinois. The deficit is being caused by the slow recovery from the COVID-related drop in ridership and the end of federal COVID-relief funding.

The report emphasizes the value of transit to our region's success, benefiting riders and non-riders alike, providing access to jobs, education, healthcare, community, and much more. Proposed solutions support a transit system that is safe, secure, and clean; that promotes better air quality and climate; and addresses accessibility and equity. The report outlines potential revenue sources including regionally coordinated fares, fare increases tied to inflation, a tax on services, and others.

Illinois State Senator Ram Villivalam (D-Chicago) and Illinois State Representative Eva-Dina Delgado (D-Chicago) will spearhead the Legislative action on the plan. Metra will be working with lawmakers to craft the best possible solution.

Read about CMAP's efforts at www.cmap.illinois.gov.



GET ACCESS!

NEW REDUCED FARE PROGRAM STARTS FOR LOW-INCOME RIDERS

In partnership with Cook County and the RTA, Metra introduced a new program on Feb. 1 that allows low-income people to ride trains at the reduced fare rate.

The new Access program is open to anyone in the six-county region who is enrolled in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP). SNAP recipients need to apply for an Access permit by calling the RTA at 312-913-3110 or by going to getaccess.org.

The program, which will run as a pilot for 18 months, is a continuation and evolution of the just-concluded Fair

Transit South Cook program, which sought to help residents of the economically disadvantaged and transit-dependent south Cook County region. That program, sponsored by Cook County, allowed riders on the Metra Electric and Rock Island lines to ride at the reduced fare rate.

The new program is not limited to low-income riders of those two lines. Instead, low-income riders on all 11 lines are eligible, as long as they obtain the Access permit. The permit will not be accepted on the CTA or Pace.



HAVE YOU TRIED THE NEW METRA TRACKER?



The new Metra train tracker, which can be found at metra.com or metratracker.com, is the fast and easy way to see when your train is arriving, view schedules, and even plan a trip. The tracker now covers all 11 Metra lines.

Here's all that you'll find:

Station Times—Check for train departure times from your station to your destination. You'll see all trains scheduled to make that trip in the next two hours, with the train numbers and predicted or scheduled departure times.

Real-Time Map—This interactive map lets you see the location of trains along your line, so you know exactly where your train is and how soon it will reach your station.

You can click on stations or trains on the map to see real-time information about trains and schedules.

Trip Planner—Plan a trip using Metra and other modes of travel between addresses or locations that you select. You can request the “Best Route,” “Fewer Transfers,” or “Less Walking” and choose “Leave Now” or enter their preferred departure or arrival time.

The new \$26.7 million train tracking system from Clever Devices of Woodbury, N.Y., required the installation of new GPS tracking devices and other network equipment on more than 1,000 railcars and in 238 stations.



METRA'S NEWEST AND GREENEST LOCOMOTIVE

On Nov. 29, Metra's most environmentally friendly locomotives officially went into service on the Milwaukee District North Line. Locomotive 507, an SD70-MACH, took the lead on Train 2135 to Fox Lake for the evening commute. Metra has ordered 15 of these remanufactured locomotives from Progress Rail. Following testing, they are being placed in service on the Milwaukee District North and West lines and the North Central Service. The SD70-MACH meets the Environmental Protection Agency's Tier 3 emissions standards.

METRA EMBRACES DRONE TECHNOLOGY



TO HELP KEEP RIDERS SAFE

Sgt. Kevin Stuehler is a seven-year veteran and member of the Metra Police Department's drone unit.

From surveillance to situational awareness and service disruptions, drones have revolutionized how the Metra Police Department approaches its duties.

Drones have proven to be highly effective for the department, which is responsible for the safety and security of the Metra system. Officers like that drones provide a bird's eye view of crime scenes and allow them to gather crucial and time-sensitive information without putting officers in harm's way.

"One of the primary uses of the drone for Metra PD is the processing of train-related accident scenes," said

Patrick Gengler, Acting Chief of Police & Security, "As you can imagine our scenes are pretty big, and having the drone is invaluable when it comes to professionally processing these scenes in a safe and efficient manner."

Sgt. Kevin Stuehler, a seven-year veteran and member of Metra's drone unit, explained how these devices have transformed their operations by collecting data, saving time, and providing a live-stream when necessary.

"We'll use drones as a tool when collecting evidence or mapping a crime scene," Stuehler said. "Before drones, we were using a wheel

counter to take measurements, and that takes a long time to do. With the drones, we can throw them up, take a series of overlapping photographs and guided diagrams, label certain objects and pieces of evidence, and then submit the information with a list of measurements."

Drones also have proven to be helpful with crowd control. During large public events, drones provide Metra's PD with real-time intelligence, enabling them to monitor and manage crowds safely and effectively. They also help identify potential issues and respond promptly to prevent escalations and possible crimes.

METRA WORKS TO PREVENT SUICIDES



Suicide is one of the leading causes of death in the U.S. according to the Centers for Disease Control, and the country's suicide rate is currently at levels not seen since World War II. For anyone impacted by the suicide, one death is simply one too many. With this mindset, Metra has been proactively working to prevent suicides along our tracks and encourage people in crisis to seek help.

Metra provides QPR suicide awareness training to all frontline employees, including train crews, police officers and right-of-way workers. QPR stands for “question, persuade, refer” and the training teaches employees how to identify and reach out to those who may be experiencing a mental health crisis. We are the first railroad in the United States to provide our employees with this type of training.

Between 2019 and 2022, Metra employees averaged 5.4 interventions each month. Numbers sharply increased in 2023, averaging 9.5 interventions a month.

In addition to our QPR training, Metra has placed mental health awareness signs at its 242 stations. The signs include the national suicide prevention lifeline number, 988, as



Metra Police Officers David Harris, Paige Visnevac, Geovanni Acevedo, and Brandon Henley were honored by the Metra Board for saving the life of a suicidal man last fall in Blue Island.

well as a text option to connect the person in crisis with a licensed therapist.

Metra is also working with the Cook County Department of Mental Health and Harvard's McClean Hospital on a mental health print and billboard campaign and will begin hosting mental health awareness blitzes with the Crisscross Foundation at our stations.

MEET THE WORKERS WHO RESOLVE SWITCH AND SIGNAL PROBLEMS



When switches and signals fail, it's the job of Metra's signal maintainers to get to the scene, determine the source of the problem and fix it.

Signal problems can have a number of causes, including mechanical failures, electrical malfunctions, regular wear and tear due to frequent use, and extreme weather conditions. Switches, which have movable parts that allow trains to switch between tracks, are often the culprit.

When problems occur, specialized maintenance crews are dispatched to inspect and repair the equipment. This typically involves realigning the tracks, replacing damaged components, and conducting a thorough system test. It can also be a problem with circuits inside a signal bungalow, which houses the electrical circuitry used to control switches and signals.

Adam Gutierrez, a 24-year veteran signal maintainer and switch expert, explains what he looks for during a disruption.

"I'm looking for anything—loose bolts, anything that might be missing, a buildup of ice or leaves, or any kind of defect on the rail, really," he said.

In the winter, fluctuating temperatures can cause metal components of the switches to expand and contract, leading to misalignments and even broken rails. Metra uses switch heaters to minimize failures caused by winter, including ice or frost buildup, but they can't prevent every issue. It also stations maintainers at key switch locations during the worst of winter to fix problems quickly if they arise.

"Cold weather affects everything. It affects you, it affects me, it affects our cars, it affects the railroad. Steel is temperamental to heat and cold just like everything else," said Gutierrez.



A CASE FOR PUBLIC TRANSIT

If you're reading this on one of our trains, you are probably aware of the advantages of public transit. There are many reasons people commute via Metra—safety, convenience, eliminating stress, and our on-time reliability. As you look out the window and see cars sitting in traffic, you also understand that a lot more people could be riding.

In a study published by Statista Consumer Insights that evaluated the percentage of people who use public transit to commute to work or school in various countries, South Korea ranked number one, with a 41% share. The U.S.? Just 10th, with 13% of people commuting via public transit.

With that in mind, it's worth reviewing the importance and benefits of public transit.

In 2022, U.S. public transit authorities reported that the number of passenger trips reached almost 6.19 billion. Pre-pandemic, the number was closer to 10 billion. Our hope is to approach that number once again. To understand why that's important, consider these facts from the American Public Transportation Association:

- Traveling by public transit is 10 times safer per mile than driving
- Public transportation helps save the U.S. some 6 billion gallons of gasoline annually
- Communities that invest in public transit reduce U.S. carbon emissions by 63 million metric tons every year
- Every \$1 invested in public transit generates \$5 in economic returns
- Every \$1 billion invested in public transit creates approximately 50,000 jobs
- Home values were up to 24% higher near public transportation than other areas

Of course, Metra is doing its part. Our new simplified fares, new vending machines, new engines, coming service to Rockford, and new railcars on order are all part of our plan to not only bring people to work and home on time, but to bring more people on board as we create a more sustainable, prosperous community.

GET ON BOARD TO BEAT THE WINTER BLUES

Check Out Metra's Winter Go Guide

When it comes to fun, Chicagoland is, indeed, a winter wonderland. With a wide range of both indoor and outdoor activities, you'll find a cure for cabin fever just about anywhere you want to go. Best of all, you can avoid traffic and the challenges of winter driving when you hop on board Metra. Whether you're heading downtown or out to the 'burbs, Metra can get you there quickly, safely, economically, and comfortably.

With our new simplified fare structure, traveling on Metra is easier than ever. See page 6 for details on our new fares. And Metra offers \$7 Saturday or Sunday Day Passes and a \$10 Weekend Pass that can save your family the high cost of driving and parking.

So, check out just some of the events listed here, then let us be your sleigh to the best that our area offers. Drive Less and Do More with Metra.



EVENT / ATTRACTION	DATE(S)	LOCATION
Africa	Ongoing	Field Museum
Chicago's Night Sky	Ongoing	Adler Planetarium
Wild Reef	Ongoing	Shedd Aquarium
Ice Rink	Through March 3	Millennium Park
Ice Skating Ribbon	Through March 10	Maggie Daley Park
Picasso: Drawing from Life	Through April 8	Art Institute
Chicago Bulls Basketball	Through April 9	United Center
Chicago Blackhawks Hockey	Through April 14	United Center
Black Creativity Art Exhibition	Through April 21	Museum of Science & Industry
Pretty Woman: The Musical	Feb. 28-March 3	CIBC Theatre
Chicago Fire Home Opener	March 2	Soldier Field
Aida	March 9-April 7	Lyric Opera House
Mrs. Doubtfire	Through March 10	Nederlander Theatre
Purpose	March 14-April 21	Steppenwolf Theatre
Orchid Show of Wonders	Through March 24	Chicago Botanic Garden
St. Patrick's Day Parade	March 16	Downtown Chicago
Bunny Hop	March 23	Brookfield Zoo
White Sox Home Opener	March 28	Guaranteed Rate Field
Cubs Home Opener	April 1	Wrigley Field
Earth Day	April 22	Lincoln Park Zoo
Midsummer Night's Dream	April 25-May 5	Joffrey Ballet
Judgment Day	April 23-May 26	Chicago Shakespeare Theatre
Polish Constitution Day Parade	May 6	Columbus Dr. to Monroe St.





Sandra Martin

For more than 15 years, Sandra Martin, a sales assistant at a brokerage house in Chicago, has been a familiar face on the morning train from Galewood to Chicago, making the daily commute with unwavering dedication. Each workday, snow, rain, or shine, she is waiting to catch the 7:26 a.m. Milwaukee District West Line inbound train to work.

Is Metra really part of your daily commute?

Yes. My normal route is the Milwaukee District West line. I work in the Ogilvie Transportation Center. The UP-West Line that I'm riding today would actually be a better train for me to take normally, but the Milwaukee West is easier because it's only four or five blocks from my house. But I had a doctor's appointment in Oak Park today and it's nice to be able to ride this line too.

Do you like riding Metra?

Oh yeah, Metra is wonderful! The conductors are respectful and pleasant, and they always say, "Good morning" and "How are you doing?" It's quiet and everybody is respectful. I've never had any problems.

Is taking Metra better than driving?

Yes, because it's fast. I mean, I

know how it is to get in a car, it's just miserable. The traffic: it takes a long time you know. On the train, it's pleasant and quiet, and you're at your destination quicker. It just makes more sense than being stuck in traffic and risking an accident. If I have to go downtown, I take Metra.

Do you use Metra for both personal and work trips?

I usually don't go downtown on the weekends, but once or twice I took Metra towards Big Timber, to the casino in Elgin. That was wonderful because the casino is right there, so for someone who just wants to go and have a good time and go to the casino - go, you don't want to drive, it's a long haul.

What's your advice to anyone not riding Metra yet?

Look into it, just check it out, it will save them a lot of trouble. Really, check it out, it's nice!



Kathy Wright-Bulgin

How long have you been with Metra and how many positions have you had?

I've been with Metra going on 24 years. I was a tower operator, ticket agent, janitor and was on call 24/7. I started noticing the conductors and thought to myself, that is so cool. I loved the uniforms, and I was like, "You know what? I think I'm going to do that." I applied, and I became a conductor on the Rock Island Line a year later.

Did you like being a conductor?

I enjoyed talking to the passengers every day, because I got to know them and they became family. I had my personal family, my Metra family and my family made up of passengers.

How do you keep your connection with the passengers in your current position?

My duties now are at a desk, monitoring trains. I must be aware

of the location of every single train; is the train moving as scheduled, is it stopping, is it expressing? My perspective remains the same. Every single one of those trains needs to arrive safe.

You once worked in construction. How do you apply that to railroading?

As a bricklayer I was pretty much the only female. I had to watch what I was doing very carefully and make sure the job was done correctly and timely. I took those priorities and brought them with me.

You've done so much already, what can we expect in the future?

I love to cook. You can find two of my original recipes, the lollypop lambchops and the buffalo hot wings, in the special menu at Pacino's in the South Loop and soon, at the Jerk Yard restaurant in Hyde Park.

As a Technical Communications Specialist, Kathy Wright-Bulgin's responsibilities involve assisting passengers by providing information on schedules and fares, announcing platform changes, and ensuring passengers arrive safely at their destinations, especially during service disruptions. It's the perfect job for the natural communicator with a genuine love for helping others.



PALERMO'S 95TH

4849 95TH ST. OAK LAWN, IL

In this issue, we take you to the Oak Lawn Patriot Station on the SouthWest Service Line to visit one of the best pizza joints in the Chicagoland area—Palermo's 95th.

Open since 1961, this family-owned staple dishes out the best pies around, along with other classic Italian fare like antipasti, pasta, and chicken cacciatore.

Often seen on locals' top pizza lists, Palermo's tavern-style pies are absolutely to die for. The sweet tomato sauce, decadent cheese, and fresh toppings really put them over the edge. The lively atmosphere of the restaurant and rustic décor only add to the charm of this local hub. You can pick up a quick meal at their takeout window or have a seat with family in their full dining room.

The menu at Palermo's doesn't just stop at pizza. Looking for a fun start to your meal? Dig into Nina's stuffed artichoke—a full artichoke baked to perfection. Have a taste for pasta instead of pizza? Try their radiatore (radiator shaped!) pasta with vodka sauce or their delicious fettucine alfredo. For dessert, you MUST try Nina's cake—layers of Italian cake filled

with custard pudding and topped off with fresh toasted almond pieces.

"Palermo's is truly special. They have something for everybody. We'll be ordering at least half the menu for our family's upcoming Super Bowl party," stated lifelong Southsider Joe Labuda.

A favorite among locals and families, Palermo's 95th really encapsulates what dining out is all about: great service, fun ambiance, and, most importantly, amazing food. Combining classic family recipes with the old-world ambiance of their dining room, Palermo's is built on the warm glow of tradition. Each and every Palermo's recipe has been brought from the old country and given a memorable Palermo's signature, so you'll never leave disappointed. If you're in the neighborhood, make sure to stop by Palermo's for a truly amazing classic Italian meal.

For more information visit them online at palermos95th.com.



THE THING TO TRY:

PALERMO'S SPECIAL PIZZA

A thin crust, tavern-style pizza with sausage, green pepper, onion, and mushrooms.

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!



LOOKING BACK ON THE HOLIDAY TRAINS

Metra expanded its Holiday Train offerings in December and the trains were as popular as ever, selling out in minutes. We operated two Holiday Trains on the Metra Electric Line, taking riders to a winter wonderland “North Pole” at Millennium Station. Trips on decorated trains staffed with Santa and other holiday characters also operated on the Rock Island, BNSF, Milwaukee District West, UP North and UP Northwest lines, and the decorated trains were also used in regular service. Stay tuned—our trains will return in December 2024!





BY THE NUMBERS

Thank you!
This was our best year ever!



100
VOLUNTEERS

Employees took part in the event or conducted toy drives at their work locations



\$10,720.60
Cash donations



2,883

Toys, books and stocking stuffers donated



STATION BREAK: RIVERSIDE

The landmark Riverside Station was designed by company architects of the Chicago, Burlington and Quincy Railroad and built in 1902, replacing an 1871 station that was designed by famous architect William Le Baron Jenney. It is representative of early 20th Century railroad depot architecture, with strong horizontal lines of recessed bricks; a hipped roof with broad, flaring eaves and coffered soffits and copper gutters; large, double-hung windows; and large brick pavers for walking surfaces. The station has been carefully restored by the village.



FAN PHOTO

We're always excited to see photos of our trains taken by Metra riders—often featuring beautiful sunsets and the colors of the changing seasons. If you have a photo you'd like to share, send it to us at social@metrarr.com. Each week, our social media accounts post a rider-supplied photo for **#MetraFanPhotoFriday**. Then, each month, we choose one entry to win a FREE round-trip ticket. So enter today.

Photo taken by
@jajich_photography



Be sure to follow us on social!



SUDOKU

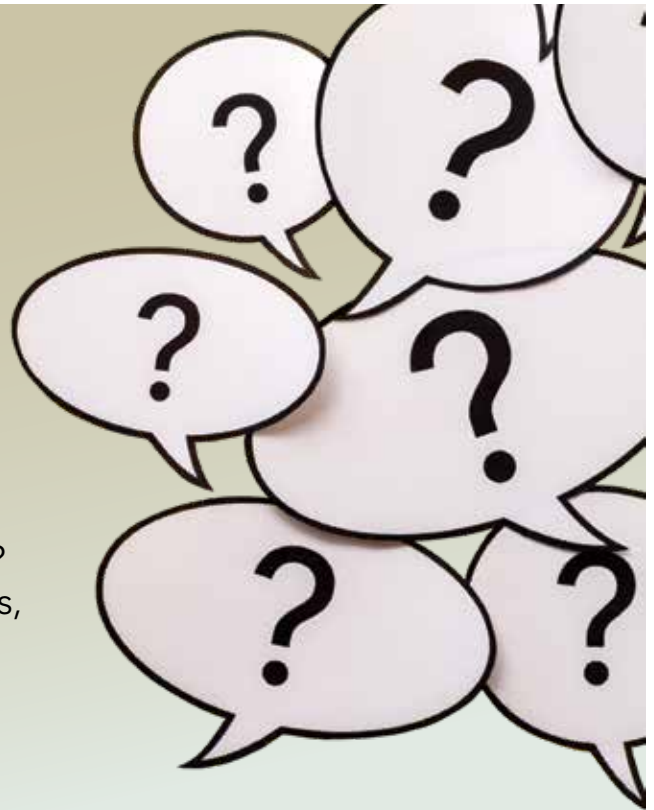


Scan the QR code to find the solution to this month's puzzle or go to metra.com/sudokusolution.

	8	1			3	7		
4		3		2	6	1	9	
2								4
				1		3		
7	1					4		
		7			9		1	
	3				2	6	8	
				6				2

ASK US ANYTHING

Do you have something you'd like to ask us? It could be about our service, trains, stations, any question you have. Just submit your question to mymetra@metrarr.com



I usually take the same UP-North train every day to and from Ogilvie Transportation Center for work, but I have noticed that each day the trains may arrive or leave from various different tracks. I was wondering if there is any rhyme or reason to which track is used for any given train, whether it be line or time of day? Also, does some central control choose the track or does the train engineer?

– William

What drives that pattern on the UP lines is the fact that UP must rotate its equipment due to limited yard space. Some days a train might go straight to the yard after completing its run downtown, but the next day it might be used for another run on the same line or a different line to make way for another train to go

to the yard. In addition, UP tries to route trains so they go through the fewest number of switches in its giant switching complex near Lake Street. The length of platform versus the length of train is also a factor. It's all arranged by dispatchers; the engineer never picks the track.

When are the new rail cars expected to arrive?

– Evan

We're expecting the first car to be delivered in late 2025.

How many wheels (on average) are on a Metra train?

– Ella

A locomotive has eight wheels (except our newest ones, which have 12), and all cars have eight wheels. The average Metra train consists of a

locomotive and 6-7 cars, so that means the average train (with an eight-wheel locomotive) has 56 wheels (six-car train) or 64 wheels (seven-car train).

I was hoping you could provide some information on the new Peterson/Ridge Station. It was scheduled to open in 2023. We can't wait to have access to Metra at the new stop!

– Brian

Thanks for your patience. We expect that station to open any day this spring.

a warm thanks **TO COLD-WEATHER RIDERS**

With spring on the horizon, Metra would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to all of you for sticking with us through the cold winter months.

Winter comes every year, of course, and every year the temperature plummets—sometimes to brutally cold levels, as it did this year. Although we try our best to limit the impact of the winter weather on our operations, delays still occur, because steel tracks, switches and mechanical components don't like the cold any more than we do. We're sincerely sorry to those who were inconvenienced.

As our team battles the weather to keep trains running and address issues as soon as possible, we never forget that we're doing it for you, our customers, so that you arrive at your destinations safely, promptly, and warmly. So, thank you for riding. Thank you for your faith in us. Thank you for choosing Metra in the face of winter's worst.

And thank you for letting us demonstrate the spirit of *My Metra*.



THE 17th ANNUAL METRA SAFETY COMPETITION

Win up to
\$500
in prizes!

BECOME A SAFETY INFLUENCER

It's time for Metra's annual Safety Competition and this year we're opening up submissions to include posters, videos, and social media posts! So, any children ages K-12 should start sharpening those pencils, snapping those photos, or creating their videos to show us what being a safety influencer means to them.



**SUBMISSIONS OPEN
LATE FEBRUARY**





GET YOUR GREEN ON

JOIN US RACE WEEKEND
MARCH 22-24, 2024
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