

ON THE BI-LEVEL

Metra®



Metra's Monthly Commuter Newsletter

September 2014

Craig joins Metra Board

Rodney S. Craig is the newest member of the Metra Board of Directors, appointed this summer by the north-west suburban members of the Cook County Board to



Rodney S. Craig

replace Arlene Mulder. Mr. Craig, who is in his third term as president of the Village of Hanover Park, has resided in the village since 1974, following a six-year tour of duty in the United States Navy. Upon leaving the Navy, Mr. Craig worked in systems operations for the Federal Aviation Administration, retiring in 2009. Mr. Craig entered public service in 1995, serving as a trustee of the Hanover Park Fire Protection District and becoming president of the district in 1999. He was appointed village trustee in 2001 and was first elected village president in 2007. He is a graduate of Palatine Township High School, Harper College and Concordia University. A longer biography can be found at www.metrarail.com.



Winners of the Metra Safety Poster and Essay Contest pose with the Board of Directors and Executive Director/CEO Don Orseno.

Area children "Get Smart" to promote train safety

Winners of the 2014 edition of Metra's Safety Poster and Essay Contest were honored at the August meeting of the Metra Board of Directors.

Sixteen students from across the Metra service area who placed first in the poster or essay contest were introduced to the Board at the meeting and presented with plaques and iPads in recognition of their efforts to promote train safety.

The contest is designed to promote and reinforce railroad

safety messages and keep our region's children safe around trains. Thousands of students

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the Drive
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THE MIX
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Chicago's 100.3
More Music, More Variety

from across the region participated in this year's contest, creating artwork or writing essays around the theme "Get Smart,

Look Listen Live."

Each year, Metra's Safety Contest invites students in grades K-12 throughout its six-county service area to submit poster designs and essays highlighting the importance of railroad safety. Tasked with selecting the winners were a panel of 23 judges, including government officials, representatives from safety and education advocacy groups, business and community leaders, media and
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On the Bi-Level

Published by Metra's Media Relations Department. Send letters, questions or feedback to On the Bi-Level, Metra, 547 W. Jackson, Chicago IL, 60661-5717. Or e-mail onthebilevel@metrarr.com.

We can't guarantee all letters will be printed or answered. Please keep letters to less than 200 words and include your first name, hometown and what line you ride. (Names are not required but strongly encouraged.) We reserve the right to edit letter for length and grammar.

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Contest

(Continued from Page 1)
railroad professionals.

"Safety has always been Metra's highest priority, and for the past eight years this contest has been an innovative way for Metra to bring rail safety discussions into classrooms across our region," said Metra Executive Director/CEO Don Orseno.

"The posters and essays created by these talented students help us educate future as well as current riders about how to stay safe around our trains and tracks."

First-, second-, and third-place winners were chosen from each grade level for the Metra Safety Poster Contest. One winner from each grade group – elementary school, middle school and high

school – was chosen for the Safety Essay Contest. First-place poster and essay contest winners receive an iPad, while second- and third-place poster contest winners receive \$250 and \$100 gift cards, respectively.

The People's Choice Award winner is Joshua Andrew Moy. More than 6,100 people voted online and selected his artwork as the favorite. He will receive an additional \$250 prize.

Metra also recognizes the school with the most entries submitted in the poster contest. This year's winner is Chicago's Norman A. Bridge Elementary with more than 500 entries. In honor of this achievement, the school will receive a computer for use in the classroom.

The first-place poster designs will be featured in Metra's 2015 safety calendar, on monthly

tickets and on the Metra website. Winning safety essays will also be featured in the safety calendar, the Metra website and Facebook page. The second and third place posters will also be featured on the contest's Facebook page.

Metra's Safety Contest, which is in its eighth year, would not be possible without the support of its sponsors, whose generous contributions have helped Metra defray the costs of the contest prizes as well as the production of the safety posters. This year's contest sponsor is the Hubbard Radio Group, owners of Chicago radio stations 97.1 FM The Drive, 100.3 Chicago's Rewind and 101.9 The Mix.

Information about the campaign, along with all of the Safety Contest winners, is available at www.metrarail.com and www.facebook.com/MetraContest.

Winners of the Safety Poster and Essay Contest

1st Place Poster

Kindergarten — Evan Boyle, St. Charles, Lincoln Elementary
1st — Tristan Mehra, Naperville, White Eagle Elementary
2nd — Manya Davis, Naperville, White Eagle Elementary
3rd — Samantha Chen, Green Oaks, Copeland Manor School
4th — Dylan Tran, Lincolnwood, Rutledge Hall
5th — Julia Petrea, Glenview, Glenview School of Arts
6th — Leon Kosciak, Glenview, Glenview School of Arts
7th — Veronica Buchweitz, Lake in the Hills, Westfield Community School
8th — Daniel Garcia, Des Plaines, Algonquin Middle School
9th — Michelle Mo, Downers Grove, Downers Grove South High School
10th — Cameron Chen, Green Oaks, Libertyville High School
11th — Vladan Malinovic, La Grange, Lyons Township High School
12th — Joshua Andrew Moy, Riverwoods, Deerfield High School

2nd Place Poster

Kindergarten — Aditi Prabhu, Naperville, White Eagle Elementary
1st — Sathya Devarajan, Aurora, Reba Steck Elementary School
2nd — Maricela Buckingham, Glenview, Glenview School of Arts
3rd — Yebin Park, Northbrook, Glenview School of Arts
4th — Madelyn Lee, Buffalo Grove, Glenview School of Arts
5th — Akhil Devarajan, Aurora, Reba Steck Elementary School
6th — Lydia Tan, Vernon Hills, Daniel Wright Junior High School
7th — Julie Frederickson, Evergreen Park, Central Junior High School
8th — Erika Goleczka, Hainesville, Grayslake Middle School
9th — Danielle Murwaski, Oak Forest, Oak Forest High School
10th — Sung-Kyung Yoon, Northbrook, Glenbrook North High School
11th — Shelbie Nevilles, Chicago, Frederick Douglass Academy High School
12th — Jennifer Sachs, Deerfield, Deerfield High School

3rd Place Poster

Kindergarten — Cal Leatherman, Naperville, Goddard School
1st — Kyuri Moon, Buffalo Grove, Ivy Hall Elementary School
2nd — Ally Humbert, Libertyville, Copeland Manor School
3rd — Sean Park, Buffalo Grove, Kildeer Countryside Elementary School
4th — Abigail Van Engen, Tinley Park, Helen Keller Elementary
5th — Sonia Gutkowski, Naperville, Scott Elementary School
6th — Olegario Arias, Chicago, Gerald Delgado Kanoon Magnet School
7th — Jasmine Johnson, Chicago, Federico Garcia Lorca Elementary School
8th — Ivan Gachuz, Aurora, Jefferson Middle School
9th — Luis Andrade, Bartlett, Bartlett High School
10th — Maria Guadalupe Garcia Eustaquio, Des Plaines, Maine West High School
11th — Jassiel Serna, Streamwood, Streamwood High School
12th — Janellie Gozzola, Chicago, Chicago Academy High School

Essay

K-4 Division — Sean Forman, Palatine, 2nd Grade, Virginia Lake Elementary School
5-8 Division — Akhil Devarajan, Aurora, 5th Grade, Reba Steck Elementary
9-12 Division — Evelyn Gachuz, Aurora, 12th Grade, West Aurora High School

People's Choice Award Winner

Joshua Andrew Moy — Riverwoods, Deerfield High School

Top Participating School

Norman A. Bridge Elementary, Chicago

SOUND OFF

Annoying breakfast?

This morning, a rider sat next to me and took 10 minutes to eat a peanut butter sandwich. I realize we all have busy schedules, but if you wake up a few minutes earlier you can avoid ruining the day of the rider next to you. The smell made me cough. Since Metra has "Quiet" cars, maybe you can start having cars where eating is not permitted. Thanks from a loyal rider.

Mitch

What would the symbol for "No PBJs Allowed" look like?

Annoying bikes?

Just read the letter on seat hogs. I think that those persons bringing a bike on the train should also pay for the seats. ADA seats were not meant for people with a bike. If you want to bike, ride the bike there. Taking a bike on the train is stupid.

Mark

We know what cyclists would say to this: "Them's fightin' words!" Look, our policy essentially allows people to bring bikes on trains when there is room to do so, which is why it is limited to non-rush hour trains. Even on those trains, bikes can be barred if the train fills up. And bikes can never take precedence over ADA passengers. We think there are plenty of good reasons to bring a bike on the train, and we try to be as accommodating as our capacity and our need for safety allows.

Annoying policy?

Why are monthly tickets marked male or female? Why can't I share my ticket with my husband if we aren't riding at the same time? We could share a 10-ride, but not a monthly.

Jules

Monthly passes are intended to provide an unlimited number of rides for one person – no sharing allowed. We mark them male and female because that is an easy way to prevent sharing at least between men and women. A 10-ride ticket, by contrast, provides a limited number of rides, so it doesn't matter if they are used by more than one person.

Annoying cameras?

Okay, so the other day on the Antioch train this guy sits next to me, takes some tinfoil out of his backpack and proceeds to put it on his head. Naturally I ask him what's up and he whispers, "Spy cameras. Above EVERY seat!" I look up and sure enough, there's this spy-eye looking down on us. The guy then raved about how his tinfoil hat shielded him, etc. I finally went to another car for some peace and quiet. Whew! But could you please clear up, seriously, what are these things?

Sign me,

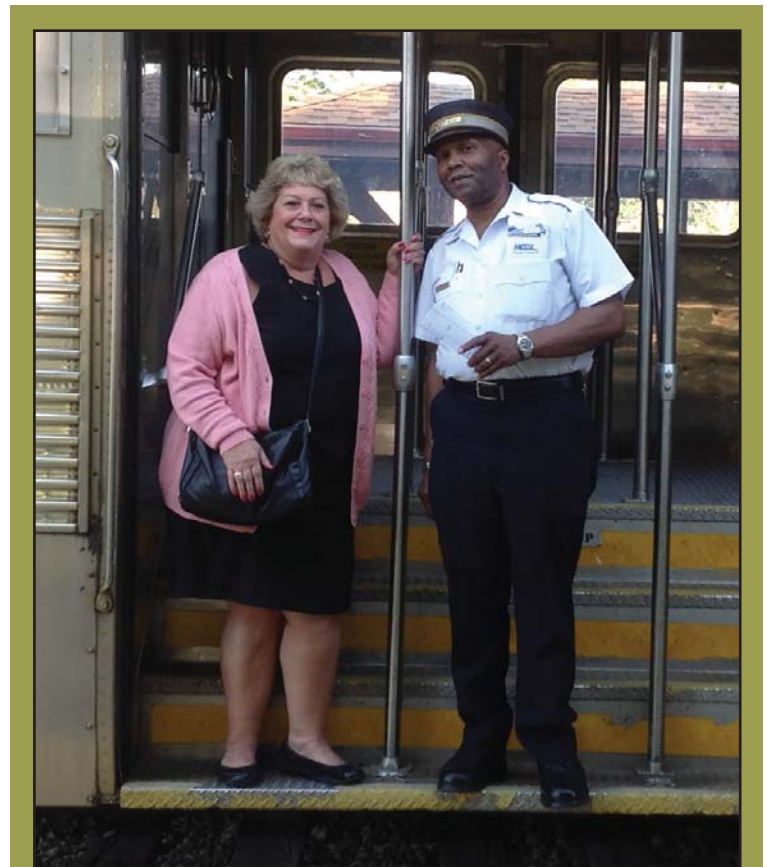
No Tinfoil Hat (Yet)

We'd tell you, but then we'd have to....oh never mind, they're lights, of course. We have them on the 176 Amerail cars that we are renovating in-house, and they do function when the cars come out of our work facility.

Not annoying agent

I must thank an Ogilvie ticket agent who literally ran the extra mile for a forgetful passenger. I bought a one-way ticket to Elmhurst. As I headed to my track, I saw a young woman running toward the train. I realized she was gesturing to me. It was the ticket agent.

She ran up, smiled and said "You left this," and handed me my ticket. I was barely able to say a surprised "thank you" as



A rider for 44 years says farewell

We don't know if Maureen Shannon is the most faithful Metra rider ever, but she has to rank way up there. Ms. Shannon retired last month, and she got to work on her last day the same way she got there on her first day in 1970, on the Rock Island Line from the 111th St./Morgan Park Station. Here she poses with Rock Island Conductor Frank Combest as she boarded during her last week of work. Ms. Shannon has our congratulations, and our thanks. She's welcome back anytime.

she turned quickly and ran back to her post at the ticket booth.

She had other customers to attend to, yet she realized I was probably using that ticket immediately, identified where my train might be, and raced to the end of the track on the off-chance that she would find me. It really was remarkable commitment. I was both grateful and amazed. I think she deserves recognition and I am only sorry I did not catch her name.

Dave

Thanks for the great note. We're happy to pass on your thanks to the right person.

Not annoying rider

I would like to thank one of the passengers who saw me drop some cash, caught up to me and returned it. I will forever be grateful. Rock Island riders ROCK!!!

A Rider

They do rock (but so do riders on other lines!).

Fall Travel Notes

Metra Safety Director honored

Metra's Safety Director Hilary Konczal was recently honored by the DuPage Railroad Safety Council for his strong commitment to railroad safety. The council presented Konczal with the Lauren Elizabeth Wilson Award, which recognizes individuals in the public sector who make a difference in improving railroad safety through education, engineering and enforcement activities. Through outreach programs such as Operation Lifesaver and crossing enforcement blitzes, Metra's Safety Department works daily to educate the public about the importance of safety. In coordination with Metra Police, local police agencies and freight railroads across the region, the department also conducts periodic grade crossing enforcement blitzes to ensure pedestrians and motorists do not violate the grade crossing warning devices.

Join the fight against heart disease and strokes

The American Heart Association wants people to experience more of life's precious moments. It's why the organization has made better heart and brain health its mission. Grab your family, friends and co-workers and join the fight at their Metro Chicago Heart Walk events. The Heart Walk is the American Heart Association's premiere event for raising funds to save lives from this country's No. 1 and No. 4 killers: heart disease and strokes. The funds you raise in



Members of Metra's Mechanical Department in Fox Lake hold a sign celebrating 15 years of injury-free work. Their amazing accomplishment reflects Metra's overriding commitment to operating safely in everything we do.

the Heart Walk will support a variety of projects. Make a difference and sign up today for one of the Heart Walks. They will be held in: Palos Hills - Sept. 20; Chicago - Sept. 26; Oak Brook - Sept. 27; and Lake Forest - Sept. 28. You can find more information at www.metrochicagoheartwalk.org.

*The 16th Annual World Music Festival Chicago will take place from **Thursday, Sept. 11 to Sunday, Sept. 21, 2014** and is presented by the City of Chicago and produced by the Chicago Department of Cultural Affairs and Special Events.*

The festival will feature 62 attractions from 33 countries at 20 locales around the Chicago area. This will include a four-night series in the Pritzker Pavilion in Millennium Park;

an overnight marathon of Indian classical music at the Chicago Cultural Center; and a grand finale "One World Under One Roof" open house at the Chicago Cultural Center from 2:30 pm to 9 pm on Sept. 21.

For more information on this free event, visit worldmusicfestivalchicago.org.

