

# Matters

METROLINK NEWS & EVENTS • DEC. 08/JAN. 09  
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## Holiday Toy Express Delivering Joy

The Holiday Toy Express® is here! Hauling seasonal cheer and collecting toys for less fortunate children, Metrolink's 12th annual Holiday Toy Express® launched its 47-city tour at the Baldwin Park Station on Saturday, November 22. Bedecked with 50,000 twinkling lights and other seasonal decorations, this 450-ton holiday train has become a tradition in Metrolink communities, offering a live musical performance, appearances by Santa and his holiday pals, and a chance to give back to our neighbors.

At the opening-night festivities on November 22, local families joined Baldwin Park mayor Manuel Lozano, Baldwin Park council members, and Metrolink officials to kick off the 2008 Holiday Toy Express® tour. Metrolink's own Francisco Oaxaca emceed the bilingual event, where neighbors came together to enjoy live music and a holiday play staged on a flatbed railcar. The fun started even earlier, when the city of Baldwin Park offered a snow slide, a kids' craft area, food vendors, and performances by local artists.

Since opening night, the Holiday Toy Express® has been rolling merrily along, bringing free and festive entertainment from community to community throughout the Metrolink region. As always, the special holiday train carries more than mere entertainment. At each stop, local firefighters pick up community members' donations for the "Spark of Love" Toy Drive. The Holiday Toy Express® helps collect more than 100,000 toys a year for underserved children.

When the Holiday Toy Express® pulls up to your local station for all this FREE fun, we hope you'll meet it with a new, unwrapped toy or sports equipment to donate to the "Spark of Love" drive. The Holiday Toy Express® is a much-loved community tradition. We hope to see you when it rolls through your neighborhood!

**Fri., Dec. 12**  
Downtown Burbank...6:15 p.m.  
Glendale.....8:00 p.m.

**Fri., Dec. 19**  
Covina.....7:30 p.m.  
El Monte .....8:30 p.m.

**Sat., Dec. 13**  
Rancho Cucamonga...5:15 p.m.  
Fontana .....6:15 p.m.  
Rialto .....7:45 p.m.  
San Bernardino .....8:45 p.m.

**Sat., Dec. 20**  
Anaheim.....5:15 p.m.  
Orange.....6:00 p.m.  
Santa Ana .....7:00 p.m.  
Fullerton .....8:30 p.m.

**Sun., Dec. 14**  
Montalvo .....5:00 p.m.  
Oxnard .....5:45 p.m.  
Camarillo .....6:30 p.m.  
Moorpark .....7:30 p.m.

**Sun., Dec. 21**  
Lancaster .....5:00 p.m.  
Palmdale.....6:50 p.m.  
Vincent Grade/Acton..7:45 p.m.  
Via Princessa .....9:00 p.m.

Sorry, the Holiday Toy Express® can't roll in the rain.  
Visit [www.metrolinktrains.com](http://www.metrolinktrains.com) for schedule updates.



## Comet Cars Streaking into Stations

Do you secretly play 1980s hair bands on your music player? Do you dig retro fashions? Do you yearn for a simpler time of train travel?

Then grab a seat on one of Metrolink's leased Comet cars and

flash back to the past. These cars from the 1970s and '80s should show up on Metrolink trains this month. They will replace leased passenger cars from Sounder Commuter Rail in the Seattle area that must be returned.

Metrolink leased the Comet cars to

make sure we could accommodate passenger demand despite the departure of the Sounder cars. We leased 10 cars from Utah Transit Authority and 14 cars from New Jersey Transit to fill the gap. The Utah cars have a distinctive red and blue color scheme, while the New Jersey cars are gray.

No more than one Comet car will be used in a train set. They will always be situated behind the locomotive and will only be accessible from the Metrolink passenger car immediately behind the Comet car. The Comet cars are not double-deckers or ADA-accessible, and do not have operating restrooms. They do have luggage racks.

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## Oceanside Serving Hot Java

If you are jonesing for hot java at the Oceanside Transit Center (OTC), the Java Hut Coffee Company is brewing it for you now.

Starting at 4:30 a.m. on weekdays, Java Hut Coffee Company serves fine coffee and espresso drinks at the OTC from a kiosk located between the Coaster and Sprinter platforms, a few steps from the Metrolink and Amtrak platforms. It stays open into mid-afternoon weekdays and is also open Saturdays from 8 a.m. to early afternoon.

The menu includes organic and fair-trade coffee, mochas, lattes, hot chocolate, fruit smoothies, fresh-baked pastries, and snacks, even hot oatmeal for those chilly mornings. Fine coffees are also available by the pound to take and brew at home or at the office.

Look for owner Sandy Cherman, the busy coffee brewmeister likely serving your coffee. He originated the Java Hut at the Carlsbad Village Coaster Station. Check out his rewards program for frequent coffee drinkers and prepaid cards to keep customers from digging for cash while juggling their train carry-ons.

## What Happened When?

On Tuesday, November 4, trains throughout the Metrolink system experienced delays as we contended with a system-wide signal outage that occurred just before 8 a.m. Delays ranging from 17 to 94 minutes affected passengers on the Antelope Valley, Inland Empire–Orange County, and San Bernardino lines. There were no delays on the 91, Riverside, and Ventura County lines.

The outage occurred when a dedicated line that Metrolink leases from a phone company went down. This leased line sends data between the Metrolink Operations Center and the field. When it went down, dispatchers were unable to send out the control signals that let trains know when and how fast it's safe to move. In the absence of such signals, trains have no safe choice other than to reduce speed.

Movement of Metrolink trains is controlled by a complex information system involving multiple radio networks, telephone data-service providers, and three rail organizations—Metrolink, Union Pacific Railroad, and Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railway. In this case, the system did exactly what it was supposed to do: faced with a problem, it triggered a procedure that ensured safe operation. In all, the system was down about eight hours. We appreciate your understanding that these delays ensured safety for all.

## HOLIDAY SCHEDULES

With Christmas and New Year's right around the corner, Metrolink will adjust schedules to meet holiday demand and offer some attractive ticket discounts.

Regular weekday service will operate on all lines Wednesday, December 24, and Friday, December 26. No trains will run on Christmas (Thursday, December 25). Regular weekday service will be offered on New Year's Eve (Wednesday, December 31) and the day after New Year's (Friday, January 2).

For the New Year's Day holiday on Thursday, January 1, a modified Sunday train schedule on two lines only will help revelers reach the Rose Parade.

- **San Bernardino Line:** A modified Sunday schedule will include seven round trips, with Train 349 departing 1 hour and 15 minutes earlier for the Rose Parade.
- **Antelope Valley Line:** A modified Sunday schedule will include three round trips, with Train 258 departing 30 minutes earlier for the Rose Parade.

Advance one-way and round-trip tickets for travel on New Year's Day are now available at ticket vending machines at a 25 percent discount.

Happy holidays to all!

## METROLINK IS YOUR "MAGIC SLEIGH" TO HOLIDAY ENTERTAINMENT AT L.A. LIVE TOUR

Downtown comes alive at L.A. LIVE, Los Angeles' new destination for sports, music, dining, and living. The 4 million-square-foot sports, residential, and entertainment district, adjacent to STAPLES Center and the Los Angeles Convention Center, will be Southern California's new home for live performances and events of all kinds.

In December, visitors can celebrate the grand opening of L.A. LIVE with a FREE holiday multimedia spectacular, The Light of the

Angels, at NOKIA Plaza. With performances running nightly through December 31 at 7, 8, 9, and 10 p.m., the seven-minute program combines lights, video, and never-before-seen special effects to create a holiday spectacular that will become a new tradition and L.A. LIVE's gift to the city.

A 37,500-pound tree soars 52 feet above NOKIA Plaza covered with 11,000 XL Sphere LED lights (the only 360-degree light and video source in the world). The tree is part of a multidimensional light display combining holiday music and advanced techno-artistry. The show includes 11 giant video screens that envelop the plaza with state-of-the-art sounds and lights.

Take Metrolink to Union Station, transfer FREE to any Metro Red Line or Purple Line subway, and travel three stops to 7th Street/ Metro Center. Transfer to the Metro Blue Line light rail (upstairs) and detrain at the first stop, Pico/Chick Hearn Station, to arrive at the STAPLES Center.

For more information, go to [www.lalive.com](http://www.lalive.com). For Metrolink schedules, fares, or trip-planning help, visit [www.metrolinktrains.com](http://www.metrolinktrains.com) or call (800) 371-LINK (5465).

Enter to win an exclusive sweepstakes at [www.lalive.com/win](http://www.lalive.com/win).





## A Closer Look: Track Maintenance

Track maintenance is a 24/7/365 process crucial to the smooth, safe operation of trains. Metrolink's ongoing, multi-step process includes frequent inspection to identify track defects or conditions, preventative maintenance, and making repairs when necessary. Track maintenance personnel respond to track-related issues day or night under sometimes-difficult conditions.

Metrolink tracks are maintained to prevent defects and conditions in accordance with federal regulations. A track defect is an irregularity in any part of the track structure requiring repair or other action, such as a reduction in speed. A track condition is an irregularity in any part of the track structure not requiring immediate repair or other corrective action. We also monitor ride quality to ensure that passengers travel to their destinations in comfort.

Track maintenance begins with scheduled track inspections. Regular visual examinations are performed by qualified inspectors to determine whether repair or replacement is necessary. Track inspectors look for items such as rail defects, wide gauge (the distance between the rails), deviations in surface and alignment, improperly operating switches, or defective ties.

Metrolink inspects its track three times a week, with one calendar day between inspections, and performs special inspections when required by extraordinary conditions such as heavy rains, high winds, or fires. Metrolink performs more weekly inspections

than the Federal Railroad Administration requires.

In addition to undergoing regular visual inspections, tracks are mechanically tested for any deviation in track geometry three times per year and for internal rail defects twice per year. Electromechanical sensors automatically detect and record track geometry over long distances. Ultrasonic sensors are used to detect and record internal flaws in the rails that cannot be spotted visually. Metrolink contracts with outside vendors to provide track geometry and rail-flaw inspections.

Metrolink track maintenance is contracted to companies that specialize in track inspection, maintenance, and repair. Track maintenance personnel are highly trained in inspection, track geometry, or welding and use a variety of tools and mechanical equipment—from small hand tools to specialized on-track equipment—to perform their jobs. Currently, Metrolink has a track maintenance contract with Herzog Construction Corporation.



## SAFETY MATTERS: KNOW WHAT TO DO IN AN EMERGENCY

You are relaxing on your regular Metrolink commute, daydreaming in your seat, when an emergency jolts you back into reality. Do you know what to do?

When an unexpected emergency occurs, it is crucial that passengers are aware of recommended emergency procedures. Familiarize yourself with Metrolink's emergency procedures by occasionally picking up and reviewing one of the orange brochures located in the racks near the doors of every passenger car, or by reviewing the posters located in every passenger car.

In the event of an on-board emergency, listen for the conductor's instructions over the public-address system. The conductor will make announcements as information becomes available. If evacuation is necessary, please assist fellow passengers in need of help. Leave bicycles, wheelchairs, and other bulky items behind.

The primary evacuation route is through the end doors to an adjacent car. If an adjacent car is not accessible or you are

instructed to do so, evacuate the train through the doors or through emergency windows. Use caution when exiting the train in any emergency. The step onto the gravel ballast will be steep and the ballast may be uneven.

Exit through the regular train doors by breaking the plastic covering and pulling the red ring down. Grip rubber between the doors and separate them to open.

To exit through the emergency windows, pull the red handles toward you. Remove the window by pulling it toward you using both

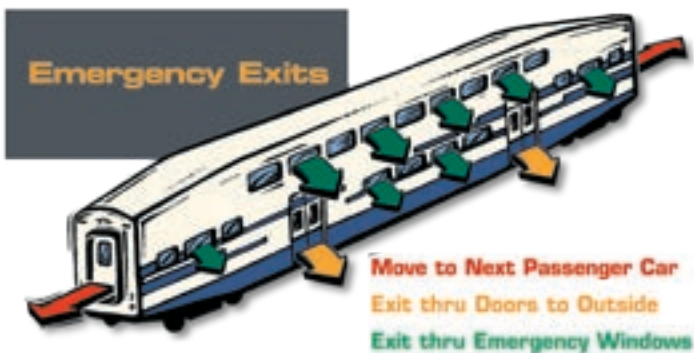
hands and place it inside the train. Never push the window outside as it may injure someone below. Remove with caution; each window weighs 72 pounds.

Once you have exited the train safely, check in

with an authority figure—conductor, firefighter, or police officer—and let him or her know whether you are injured.

They will direct you to the appropriate area to wait for assistance. Stay in the area to which you have been directed; do not leave without permission. If you are well and able, you may offer your assistance in case it is needed.

For more information about Metrolink's safety programs, visit [www.metrolinktrains.com/safety](http://www.metrolinktrains.com/safety).





## Disney's High School Musical: The Ice Tour

### \$5 savings offer for Metrolink riders!

(Save \$5 on select shows. Offer applies to \$25, \$20, and \$16 tickets.)

Get ready to rock the ice at **Disney's High School Musical: The Ice Tour!** The one and only live celebration of High School Musical and High School Musical 2 features the songs and dances from both smash-hit movies and a cast of world-class skaters. The ultimate *High School Musical* mega-mix is here: *High School Musical: The Ice Tour!*

#### Appearing:

STAPLES Center: Thursday, December 18–Sunday, December 21, 2008

Honda Center of Anaheim: Tuesday, December 23–Sunday, December 28, 2008

Long Beach Arena: Friday, January 2–Sunday, January 4, 2009

Ticket Prices: \$16, \$20, \$25, \$40 (VIP), and \$65 (front row)

#### There are three easy ways to purchase tickets:

- 1. PRESENT** Metro/Metrolink/Amtrak pass at the box office.
- 2. VISIT** [www.ticketmaster.com/train](http://www.ticketmaster.com/train).
- 3. CALL** Ticketmaster at (213) 480-3232 or (714) 740-2000 and mention the promotional code TRAIN.

Savings offer does not apply to front-row or VIP seats. Limit is six tickets.

No double discounts. Tickets based on availability. Service charges and handling fees may apply.

Enter for a chance to WIN one of two family four-packs of tickets to *Disney High School Musical: The Ice Tour* at noon on Sunday, December 28, at the Honda Center. Visit [www.metrolinkchancetowin.com](http://www.metrolinkchancetowin.com) or return the entry form below by December 22, 2008. Mail to *Metrolink Matters, Disney High School Musical: The Ice Tour*, 700 S. Flower Street, Suite 2600, Los Angeles, CA 90017. No purchase necessary to enter or win.

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
 E-mail \_\_\_\_\_  
☐ No, I do not want to receive future e-mails  
 Daytime phone (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_  
 Birth date \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

One entry per person. All winners will be contacted by phone. The Walt Disney Co. is neither a sponsor nor an endorser of this contest. Must be 18 years or older to enter. Void where prohibited. For full contest rules, visit [www.metrolinktrains.com](http://www.metrolinktrains.com) and click on the Disney's High School Musical: The Ice Tour banner.

### TRAIN Savings Show Dates and Times

#### STAPLES Center

Friday, December 19, 11 a.m. and 7:30 p.m.

Saturday, December 20, 12 p.m. and 3:30 p.m.

#### Honda Center of Anaheim

Wednesday, December 24, 6 p.m.

Thursday, December 25, 6 p.m.

Friday, December 26, 10:30 a.m. and 7:30 p.m.

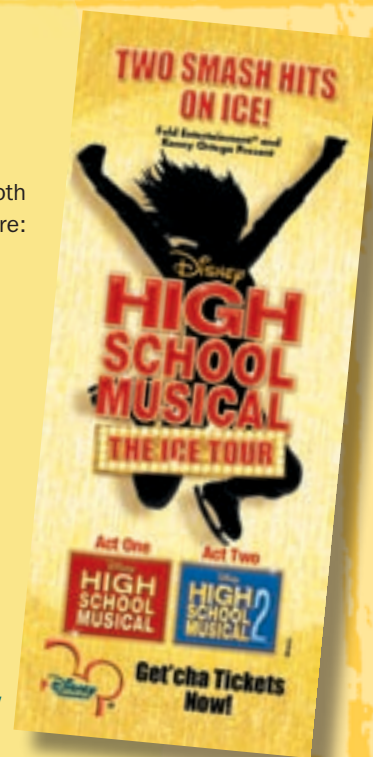
Saturday, December 27, 12 p.m. and 3:30 p.m.

#### Long Beach Arena

Saturday, January 3, 12 p.m. and 3:30 p.m.

Check your Metrolink schedule for the added family fun of a quick and easy train ride to the show. Or click on the banner for *Disney's High School Musical: The Ice Tour* at [www.metrolinktrains.com](http://www.metrolinktrains.com).

[www.highschoolmusicaltheicetour.com](http://www.highschoolmusicaltheicetour.com)



## First Responders



At the October 24 meeting of the Metrolink Board of Directors, the board and Metrolink staff recognized the heroic efforts of first responders who performed valiantly in the wake of the tragic September 12 collision of Metrolink Train 111. Those recognized included fire, police, sheriff, coroner, and Red Cross personnel. "Every day, these brave men and women serve our friends and neighbors and carry out their duties with pride and conviction," Metrolink CEO David Solow said. "We thank 11 agencies for their service in response to the Chatsworth collision—a testament to the magnitude of the coordinated response. We acknowledge all of your critical efforts, both on-the-scene and in the community, providing vital food, shelter, communications support, and comforting assistance to families when they needed it most."

## Comet Cars...

(continued from page 1)

The good news is that these flashback cars will help us flash forward into the future. They will be replaced by the most advanced Crash Energy Management (CEM) passenger cars available in the U.S. The first of Metrolink's 117 CEM cars is expected to arrive in mid-2009. Comet cars will be removed from service as the cutting-edge cars—equipped with new features that distribute the forces of collisions more effectively—begin carrying passengers.







## Save \$\$ on L.A. Kings and L.A. Clippers Tickets

Remember, Metrolink passengers can save on select L.A. Clippers and L.A. Kings games by ordering online or by simply showing your pass at the box office. It's a great way to spend time with friends and family while supporting the home teams!

### L.A. Clippers

Save 50 percent on \$35 and \$85 tickets for the following games in December and January:

<b>Monday, December 8, 2008</b> 7:30 p.m.	<b>Los Angeles Clippers vs. Orlando Magic</b> STAPLES Center, Los Angeles
<b>Monday, December 22, 2008</b> 7:30 p.m.	<b>Los Angeles Clippers vs. Toronto Raptors</b> STAPLES Center, Los Angeles
<b>Wednesday, January 14, 2009</b> 7:30 p.m.	<b>Los Angeles Clippers vs. Atlanta Hawks</b> STAPLES Center, Los Angeles
<b>Monday, January 19, 2009</b> 12:30 p.m.	<b>Los Angeles Clippers vs. Minnesota Timberwolves</b> STAPLES Center, Los Angeles

For more information, go to [www.clippers.com](http://www.clippers.com).

### L.A. Kings

Metrolink passengers can save up to \$26 by purchasing a "Hockey Night Out" ticket package, starting at \$53 for two tickets, two nachos, and two drinks. To order, go to [www.lakings.com/ticketdeals](http://www.lakings.com/ticketdeals) or call 888-KINGS-LA and ask for the "Hockey Night Out" promotion.

<b>Friday, December 5, 2008</b>	Edmonton Oilers	<b>7:30 p.m.</b>
<b>Thursday, December 11, 2008</b>	St. Louis Blues	<b>7:30 p.m.</b>
<b>Saturday, January 3, 2009</b>	Philadelphia Flyers	<b>7:30 p.m.</b>
<b>Saturday, January 10, 2009</b>	New Jersey Devils	<b>7:30 p.m.</b>

Metrolink passengers also can show their ticket or pass at the box office and save \$10 on tickets for all games, subject to availability, except these blackout dates: December 17 and 26, 2008; January 3, 8, and 15, 2009.

For more details, go to [www.metroinktrains.com](http://www.metroinktrains.com) and click on "Special Events."



### Anaheim Ducks

Try a tasty Track Pack for great hockey and more. The Track Pack offers Metrolink passengers \$5 off on a ticket, along with a hot dog and soda for weekday Anaheim Ducks games. The Track Pack works at any ticket level or price code for tickets purchased online, by phone, or at the Honda Center Box Office.

You can pre-purchase tickets—up to eight per household—at [www.anaheimducks.com/tickets](http://www.anaheimducks.com/tickets) or at the Honda Center's box office. Ask for or click on the Track Pack. For information, call 877-WILD-WING. Track Pack is not available for Saturday or Sunday games and blackout dates (January 6, February 16, and April 10, 2009).

Upcoming games eligible for the Track Pack are on December 16 and 31; January 2, 9, 14, and 28; February 2 and 11; and March 6, 11, 18, and 27.

Take the train to the game! Check [www.metroinktrains.com/ducks](http://www.metroinktrains.com/ducks) for information on getting to Anaheim Station.



## HIGH TREK ADVENTURE—LOS ANGELES

Want to explore L.A. in a high-energy adventure? Come out Saturday, January 24, and participate in Los Angeles' first High Trek Adventure! This urban scavenger hunt, brought to you by Metrolink and our public-transportation partners, will test your wits, knowledge, and street savvy as you take to some of Los Angeles' coolest spots such as Universal City, Hollywood, and downtown L.A.

Team up with a friend or coworker and solve clues to find the unmarked TREKpoints. Race through the city on foot, by bus, or by rail, and pick up cool prizes worth up to \$500. The clues include trivia, riddles, and even crossword puzzles. The most resourceful teams will have the best advantage. The race begins at noon on January 24. (Check-in will be from 11 to 11:45 a.m.) Don't miss out! Register for this amazing race today and join in on the excitement! Go to [www.HighTrekAdventure.com](http://www.HighTrekAdventure.com) to learn more and register today.



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AT LENNAR COMMUNITIES THROUGHOUT VALENCIA

**DRAMATICALLY REDUCED PRICES**  
ALL INVENTORY HOMES ARE PRICED TO GO NOW!



## RIVERVILLE COMMUNITIES SPOTLIGHT

RiverVillage is designed to look and feel like a traditional small town with Americana-themed architecture and landscaping. Its unique look and feel complements the tranquil natural setting. Over half of the 700-acre village remains untouched, including the Santa Clara River, which runs through the land. Brookville and Heirloom at RiverVillage offer spacious single-family homes from 2,756 sq. ft. – 3,512 sq. ft. and begin from the upper \$500s. Brookville and Heirloom offer feature-rich homes that include our chef's kitchens and spa bathrooms, planned recreation facilities, parks and paseos.

All Lennar Communities in Valencia including those in RiverVillage are close to the Santa Clarita Metrolink Station, as well as shopping, dining and award-winning schools.

**800-496-3871**

9 Lennar Communities throughout Valencia from the \$300s

**LENNAR.COM**

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Prices subject to change without notice. See a Lennar New Home Consultant for further information. Stated square footages are approximate and should not be used as representation of the home's precise or actual size. Copyright © 2008 Lennar Corporation. Lennar and the Lennar logo are registered service marks of Lennar Corporation and/or its subsidiaries. Lennar Homes of California, Inc. - License No. 728102. Lennar Sales Corp. - Broker. 11/08.



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