

# Matters



METROLINK NEWS & EVENTS • OCTOBER '09  
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## Weekend Outing: Bluesapalooza and Thunderfest Roar into Covina

*Looking for some affordable, hassle-free weekend fun? Leave the car at home, and take Metrolink. Weekend service is free to Metrolink pass holders, and costs everyone else 25 percent less than weekday travel. With weekend service on the Antelope Valley, San Bernardino, Orange County, and Inland Empire–Orange County lines, you can enjoy events throughout Southern California without worrying about gas costs or traffic.*

The streets of downtown Covina will roar and groove from 1 to 8 p.m. on Saturday, October 10, when Bluesapalooza and Thunderfest fill four blocks of Citrus Avenue with classic cars and the rhythms of the blues.

From the Covina Station on the San Bernardino Line, walk south on Citrus Avenue just a few minutes to San Bernardino Road. You'll see Civic Center Park, a perfect entrée to all the action. Step into the park to listen to live music streaming from an outdoor stage while you explore the offerings of more than 100 vendors at the Business and Craft Expo, and fuel up for the afternoon in the Food Court.

Just across the street, find Kids' Town. From 1 to 7 p.m., this nook just off Citrus will offer an inflatable fun zone and other entertainment for the kids. And right next door is more live music at The Fret House, a local purveyor of fine fretted instruments since the 1960s and a renowned, intimate venue for concerts.

Continue south on Citrus from The Fret House to see street rods staged as part of Thunderfest, a car show featuring over 50 National Hot Rod Association race cars plus 200 vintage and custom street rods. Getting hungry? Keep walking south to Casa Moreno Mexican Grill, a casual yet sophisticated restaurant with an extensive menu and a full bar—including a fine selection of tequilas. Enjoy one of Casa Moreno's

*(continued on page 2)*

## Peer Review Panel Issues High Safety Marks

Last September, the Metrolink Board of Directors and staff moved swiftly to establish a sweeping set of initiatives to enhance our commitment to public safety and continue the agency's history of industry-leading safety innovation.

As part of this effort, the Board of Directors established an independent Commuter Rail Safety Peer Review Panel made up of national commuter-rail-industry experts to provide interim, short-term, and long-term safety recommendations.

When the panel submitted its final recommendations to the Board in January, significant safety enhancements to our train operations were already under way and we had acted on many initiatives the Peer Review Panel supported.

Last month, the panel presented its six-month progress report on our safety-focused actions. It praised Metrolink for advancing many new and enhanced

*(continued on page 2)*



## Weekend Outing... (continued from page 1)

famous margaritas while listening to yet more live blues. And after dinner, just cross the street for more Thunderfest car displays.

Next, those with a wild streak might try Rude Dogs, which calls itself a “sports bar party place with attitude.” They’ve got a full-service bar as well as a food menu, and they’ll be offering yet more live blues from their indoor stage. Finally, at 7:30 p.m., check out the car-show awards at the outdoor Thunder Alley Stage at Citrus and Badillo.

All along the way, you’ll hear live music from outdoor stages. While the indoor venues will focus on blues, the outdoor stages will offer an eclectic array of sounds, from classic rock to swing to Latin—and, of course, more blues.

Metrolink is a sponsor of this free-admission day of fun for the whole family. For event information, call the City of Covina Parks and Recreation Department at (626) 384-5340 or visit [www.bluesapalooza.org](http://www.bluesapalooza.org).

### ANOTHER OCTOBER WEEKEND OUTING IDEA:

A Night in Fullerton, Downtown Fullerton, October 10.

Info: [www.ci.fullerton.ca.us](http://www.ci.fullerton.ca.us).

*Metrolink Weekend tickets must be purchased before boarding, so arrive at the station at least 30 minutes prior to departure. Up to three children ages 5 and under can travel for free with a paying adult. Riders may use Metrolink monthly passes and 10-trip tickets for travel between the stations on your ticket. For more information on weekend service, visit [www.metrolinkweekends.com](http://www.metrolinkweekends.com).*

## Peer Review Panel... (continued from page 1)

measures in support of our unwavering commitment to exceptional public safety and remarked that Metrolink “has made great strides in creating a stronger safety culture.”

**In particular, the Peer Review Panel acknowledged a number of Metrolink’s safety initiatives, including:**

- **Strengthened contractor oversight.**
- **Addition of new safety personnel.**
- **An enhanced safety-testing program, which assesses the ongoing performance of train operations and personnel.**
- **The forthcoming arrival of 117 new Crash Energy Management-enabled cars.**
- **Installation of Automatic Train Stop at 43 locations to improve engineer situational awareness.**
- **Installation of forward-facing and inward-facing video cameras.**
- **Ongoing improvement projects through our Sealed Corridor Initiative.**
- **And the accelerated implementation of Positive Train Control by 2012—three years in advance of the federal mandate for national implementation.**

While we have made significant progress on many critical short-term safety initiatives, three areas of panel recommendations still need attention: comprehensive organizational analysis and business-model review; strategic planning; and board governance.

Work in these three areas will ensure that public safety remains the top priority of the Metrolink Board, staff, and contractors.

When it comes to ensuring passenger safety, there always will be new ideas to explore, new innovations to pursue, and new technologies to harness. As commuter-rail safety initiatives evolve across the country, Metrolink, too, will evolve and continue to focus our resources on providing safe passage to all members of our Metrolink family—present and future.

## SAFETY MATTERS: METROLINK M

Metrolink collaborated with the City of Riverside, Operation Lifesaver, Amtrak, BNSF Railway, Union Pacific Railroad, the Riverside County Transportation Commission, the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA), the California Public Utilities Commission, and the Riverside and Alford Unified School Districts to bring important rail-safety messages to Riverside residents during September’s Rail Safety Month. Safety presentations were delivered to students, school- and transit-bus drivers, professional truck drivers, emergency responders, businesses, and various community groups throughout the month.

“Many residents have no idea that walking or playing around train tracks is potentially deadly and always illegal,” said Riverside City Councilmember Chris Mac Arthur. “All too often, young adults are distracted by cell phones, texting, or listening to MP3 players when they are on or

near the tracks, which can lead to deadly results.”

According to FRA statistics, national casualties for rail trespassers rose in 2008, with more than 880 deaths or injuries in railroad-related trespassing incidents. California consistently leads the nation in trespasser fatalities.

Railroad representatives and Operation Lifesaver volunteers constantly strive to increase



## RAILROAD

### JJ BREWSKY’S RESTAURANT

At JJ Brewsky’s, it’s all about local—local food, local beer, local bands, and local community.

Owned by Camarillo residents and located in the oldest commercial building in town—the Lewis and Sons building, which dates back to 1916—JJ Brewsky’s has deep pride of place. It’s close to fertile farmland, so why not support local farmers and ranchers by buying and serving their food? And California boasts some remarkable craft brewers, so JJ Brewsky’s invites you to settle into a classic pub atmosphere to enjoy an extensive beer selection featuring the best of these local small brewers.

The pub-inspired menu is big on burgers, sandwiches, and fish and chips. But there’s also more exotic fare like avocado-mango rolls. As evenings progress, the back of the restaurant becomes a cabaret-style venue where you can sit at a candlelit table and enjoy live rock and roll—by, as you’d expect, local bands. Six TVs, including a 60-inch plasma, offer entertainment for sports lovers.



# MARKS RAIL SAFETY MONTH



public awareness about the dangers around railroad rights-of-way and crossings. These presentations seek to educate drivers and pedestrians on how to make safe decisions at crossings and around railroad tracks.

An array of city, county, state, and railroad law-enforcement officers observed various crossings throughout Riverside and took the opportunity to educate drivers about illegal behaviors. During one such exercise over a four-hour period, 174 violations were observed, resulting in 112 moving violations, two vehicle-code-violation arrests, and one additional arrest. In addition, 10 trespassers were cited and two vehicles were towed. Enforcement activities like these are conducted on a monthly basis throughout the Metrolink system to educate community members and help maintain our high commitment to public safety.

## AD GRUB:

### ENT AND BAR IN CAMARILLO



The first two weeks of October, enjoy German beer on tap in celebration of Oktoberfest. Later in October, JJ Brewsky's will join the neighborhood in celebrating the birthday of 19th-century Ventura County rancher and philanthropist Adolfo Camarillo on October 29.

JJ Brewsky's is open from 11 a.m. to midnight Mondays through Thursdays, 11 a.m. to 1 a.m. Fridays and Saturdays, and 9:30 a.m. to 9 p.m. Sundays. From 3 to 7 every evening, a commuter-friendly happy hour features discounts on beer,

mixed drinks, and appetizers. On Tuesdays, the Kobe burger (the proprietors say it's Camarillo's best) is \$7 all day. Weekdays, enjoy the economically priced "Soup Kitchen" lunch—soup and salad for just \$4.95.

JJ Brewsky's is located at 2433 Ventura Boulevard. From the Camarillo Station, walk through the parking lot to Ventura Boulevard and turn right. For more information, visit [www.jjbrewskys.com](http://www.jjbrewskys.com).

## A CLOSER LOOK: THE QUICK-TICKET OPTION

As a frequent rider, do you want to purchase your Metrolink ticket by pushing fewer buttons? Do you have concerns about the security of your credit-card data? The Metrolink quick-ticket option has been upgraded to include additional safeguards for your credit-card information while you quickly complete your transactions.

Metrolink does not store entire credit-card numbers in the database as a protection against fraud for our customers and the agency. Our database stores only enough digits of each credit-card number to allow Metrolink to identify the credit card used for each transaction. The eliminated digits are replaced with X's. A two-digit code added to the stored credit-card digits makes each credit-card number unique and allows the quick-ticket software to accurately select the correct previous purchases and trip information. All numbers previously stored in the system also receive this protection.

The updated quick-ticket system only works with purchases that have been made since the security change was implemented in July 2009. Regular credit-card users should get accurate results using the quick-ticket option, as the system calls up the last three purchases. Occasional credit-card users may encounter some incorrect trip information until three purchases have been made using the same credit card under the upgraded software.

And if you've never used the quick-ticket option, here's how it works:

- You must have made at least one previous purchase using your credit or debit card.
- For your next trip, start your purchase at a Metrolink ticket vending machine by inserting the same credit or debit card you normally use to purchase your Metrolink ticket. Do not press any buttons.
- Once the previously purchased tickets are displayed, choose the ticket type you wish to purchase (for example, monthly pass).
  - The ticket vending machine will automatically charge your current ticket choice to your credit card. For debit-card purchases, an additional prompt will ask you to enter your PIN number.
  - The new ticket and receipt will then drop into the ticket tray, and you will be on your way!



A similar process can be used to obtain tickets purchased through Amtrak's national reservation system. Start the transaction with the same credit card used to reserve an Amtrak ticket and follow the on-screen prompts to receive your ticket.



## METROLINK SHINES SPOTLIGHT ON SAFETY AT SUMMIT

Last month, Metrolink participated in Mobility 21, the eighth annual Southern California Transportation Summit. We were an underwriting sponsor of the summit, which attracted more than 700 business, civic, and transportation leaders from Southern California, Sacramento, and Washington, D.C. We also convened a panel discussion, "Raising Transportation Infrastructure Safety as a National Priority," focusing on the challenges facing Southern California's transportation infrastructure and the need for increased investment to make safety—across all modes of transportation—a national priority.

Metrolink Board Chairman Keith Millhouse spoke about our critical focus on commuter-rail safety and industry-leading safety initiatives. He was joined by an impressive group of participants, including Assembly Member Mike Eng, chairman of the California State Assembly Transportation Committee; Jacob Nelson, director of Traffic Safety Policy and Research for the American Automobile Association; Doug Failing, District 7 director of the California Department of Transportation; and Bill Davis, executive vice president of the Southern California Contractors Association.

The panel outlined a number of critical steps to advance the transportation-safety agenda, including:

- Highlighting the responsibilities of individuals and society for safer transportation—a shift in our culture that will benefit policy, business, and the public.

- Implementing better technology and data-collection systems so that safety-related decisions can be informed by the best available research.
- Allocating resources to maintain our aging system of roads, bridges, and tunnels, as well as rail lines, to keep pace with current and future demand.
- Continuing to make progress on the accelerated implementation of Positive Train Control on the nation's rail systems.
- Encouraging our regional leaders and community residents to speak out to their representatives and make transportation safety a national priority.
- Using multiple activities to keep safety at the forefront, including better engineering, stricter enforcement of laws and regulations, ongoing public education, and increased long-term funding.

At the summit, Mobility 21 also unveiled its list of Southern California's top priorities to receive new federal funding. Metrolink's Positive Train Control program is at the top of the region's list of critical safety improvements.

To learn more about Mobility 21 and view highlights from the summit, visit [www.mobility21coalition.com](http://www.mobility21coalition.com).



## 2009 Metrolink Annual Pin Arrives at Stations!

In celebration of Metrolink's 17th anniversary, we will distribute our system-wide annual pin later this month to show our passengers our appreciation. We know that many of you have accumulated a variety of pins, so look forward to adding this year's Metrolink pin to your collection.

The 2009 pin recognizes the introduction of the next generation of cab and passenger rail cars that will join our fleet over the next year. Our 117 new cars incorporate the latest in Crash Energy Management technology, including redesigned seats and work tables, and advanced energy-absorbing technology at each end of the cars. As they come into service, you will be the first commuter-rail passengers in the United States to experience these new, state-of-the-art safety features. To find the pin distribution date at your station, visit [www.metrolinktrains.com](http://www.metrolinktrains.com).

## SAVE \$5 ON ADMISSION TO MADAME TUSSAUDS HOLLYWOOD!



Madame Tussauds Hollywood is the biggest, newest attraction in L.A.! This is your chance to experience the real glamour and elegance of Hollywood as you immerse yourself in an interactive wax attraction where you can get up close and take pictures with Hollywood stars. Adjacent to the historic Grauman's Chinese Theatre on Hollywood Boulevard, Madame Tussauds Hollywood has the perfect starring role for you! Your \$5 discount is valid for up to six total admissions and cannot be combined with any other offer. For more information, go to [www.madametussauds.com](http://www.madametussauds.com).

## SAVE 20 PERCENT ON AUGUST: OSAGE COUNTY

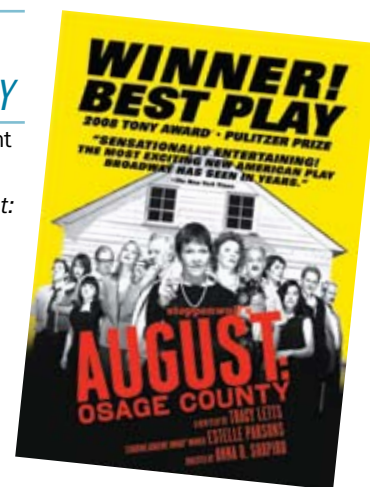
Metrolink passengers save 20 percent on tickets for Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday evening performances of *August: Osage County*, playing at the Ahmanson Theatre through October 18.\*

*August: Osage County* is a grand, gripping new play that tells the story of the Westons, a large extended clan that comes together at their rural Oklahoma homestead when their alcoholic patriarch disappears. Forced to confront unspoken truths and astonishing secrets, the family must also contend with Violet, a pill-popping, deeply unsettled grandmother at the center of this storm. *August: Osage County* is a rare theatrical event—a large-scale work filled with unforgettable characters, a powerful tale told with unflinching honesty.

To get your discount to *August: Osage County*, show your valid Metrolink ticket or pass at the Ahmanson Theatre Box Office, or buy tickets by phone at (213) 628-2772, or online at [www.centertheatregroup.org](http://www.centertheatregroup.org) (use the promotional code METROLINK).

To reach the Ahmanson Theatre from Union Station, take the Metro Rail Red or Purple line to the Civic Center Station. Exit the station and walk to Temple Street; continue west on Temple to the Music Center and Ahmanson Theatre, approximately two blocks. The Ahmanson Theatre is at 135 N. Grand Avenue, at Temple Street.

\* Subject to availability. Offer excludes front-orchestra seating and previously purchased tickets.



### METROLINK MATTERS

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