

1ST QUARTER 2025

my Metra



HONORING & HIRING VETERANS

NEW WEBSITE
Go Online On Board

METRA POLICE
Putting Safety First

OUR NEW CHAIR
A First Interview



my message

James M. Derwinski, CEO

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Director
Suburban Cook County

James M. Derwinski
CEO/Executive Director

This issue's cover story is about a project that is near and dear to my heart. As a veteran of the U.S. Navy, I had the honor of serving my country and I know about the hard work and sacrifices that it entails. I also know that there are many veterans among Metra's riders and among its workers. I am proud to work for them and beside them every day.

That's why I am so excited about our new veterans locomotive, which was designed and painted in-house by talented employees. It's our way of saluting those who served and are still serving. You can read all about it on **Page 4**, and I hope you get a chance to see this proud locomotive out on the rails.

We also wanted to give you a chance to get to know our new Board Chair, Joseph H. McMahon of Kane County. Under the Board's bylaws, the chairman's seat rotates between Cook County and the collar counties every four years. You can read about him and his priorities on **Page 6**. Former Chair Romayne C. Brown, to our benefit, remains on the Board.

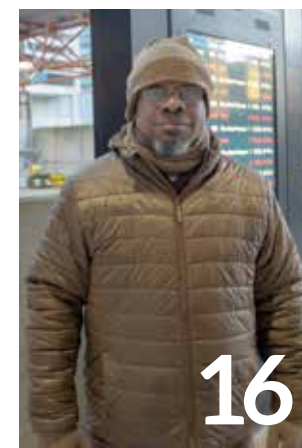
This issue also brings news about several new passenger amenities that are here or on the way. First, we've opened some newly renovated stations on the Metra Electric Line. Read about those on **Page 10**. Second, we're days away from launching a new, easy-to-use website. Read about that on **Page 7**. And we've also started a new program to replace and standardize all Metra signage – and maybe change the names of our lines. That story is on **Page 9**.

Finally, we take a ride with Metra Police to learn what they do to keep our riders safe. Please go to **Page 8** for that story.

Our regular feature about attractions and events that are reachable by Metra can be found on **Page 14**, and the latest entry on our Dine by Your Line series is on **Page 18**.

We hope you are enjoying a happy, healthy and safe 2025 so far.

Correction: On page 11 of our 4th Quarter 2024 issue an incorrect image was shown in a story highlighting new railcars being added to our service. The correct visual can be found in the online version of the magazine.



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HAVE YOU TAKEN OUR ONBOARD SURVEY?



If you haven't, you should. If you took it a while ago, take it again. We keep updating our questions, and we're working to respond to what our riders tell us. Your answers to this brief survey can help shape the service we provide and help create the kind of travel experience you want.

To take the survey, simply scan the QR code. Completing the survey will take just a few, brief moments. We want you to have a voice and a say in the future of public transportation.

Thank you for your help.



METRA HONORS OUR REGION'S VETERANS

Metra has unveiled a salute to veterans and active-duty service members and reservists that we hope will be saluting them for many years to come.

A specially painted veterans locomotive, which debuted for Veterans Day last fall, features a bald eagle on the front end and the American flag and blue camouflage with silhouetted military figures saluting on the sides. Metra has been rotating the engine to various lines so all veterans get a chance to see this new design.

“Metra has strong ties to our nation’s armed forces, with more than 300 veterans and reservists currently at work on our railroad,” said Metra CEO/Executive Director Jim Derwinski, who is himself a veteran of the U.S. Navy. “This eye-catching design is another way to express our gratitude for the service of all veterans and for our employees’ continued service to the people of Northeast Illinois.”

Locomotive 120, which first entered Metra service in 1977, received the new paint scheme during its fourth rehab.

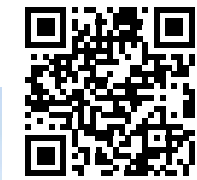
The design was created in-house by Metra graphic designer Falecia Woods and was brought to life by the skilled team at Metra’s Kensington Yard Facility paint shop led by General Foreman Paul Jurlow.

Metra has long supported veterans in the workforce and earlier this year signed on to the U.S. Army’s Partnership for Your Success (PaYS) Program, which is designed to help soldiers prepare for a career after their military service by connecting them with employers who understand the skills, discipline, and work ethic that military veterans bring to business roles. The program provides soldiers with an opportunity to interview for jobs with Metra and

gives Metra access to job candidates with valuable skills and leadership qualities they learned serving their country.

Metra was also recently named one of the 839 recipients of the 2024 HIRE Vets Medallion Award during a virtual award ceremony presented by U.S. Department of Labor. Recipients have shown a commitment to hiring veterans and ensuring that they have a long-term career and growth plan that uses the diverse skills they acquired through their military service.

To watch a video about the making of this locomotive, scan this QR code:



MEET THE NEW CHAIR



Joseph H. McMahon was recently elected Chair of the Metra Board of Directors, succeeding Romayne C. Brown, who remains on the Board. Chair McMahon was appointed to the Board in May 2021 by the Chairman of the Kane County Board. An attorney, he is a co-founder of Griffin, Williams, McMahon & Walsh, LLP in Geneva and Chicago. He is an accomplished attorney in both the public and private sector, having served as the state's attorney for Kane County and an appointed special prosecutor in Cook, Kendall, McHenry, and Winnebago counties. He lives with his family in Kane County.

What are your priorities as Chair?

My primary goal is to work with and lead our Board and provide strategic advice to the organization. I want to see ridership increase and I think we can do that by encouraging the public to take advantage of the service we offer across our region, as more and more employers implement return-to-work policies and car traffic gets worse. We must invest in our infrastructure, rolling stock, and our employees so we provide a safe, reliable, and convenient option for people traveling for both work and pleasure across the region.

What are the biggest challenges facing Metra?

In the short term, we must find a solution to the funding challenges we face. I and our Board along with our executive team will work with the members of the General Assembly and Governor Pritzker and other leaders at the county and local level to solve that challenge. I'm confident that everyone involved wants a public transportation system that provides best-in-class service, reliability and safety.

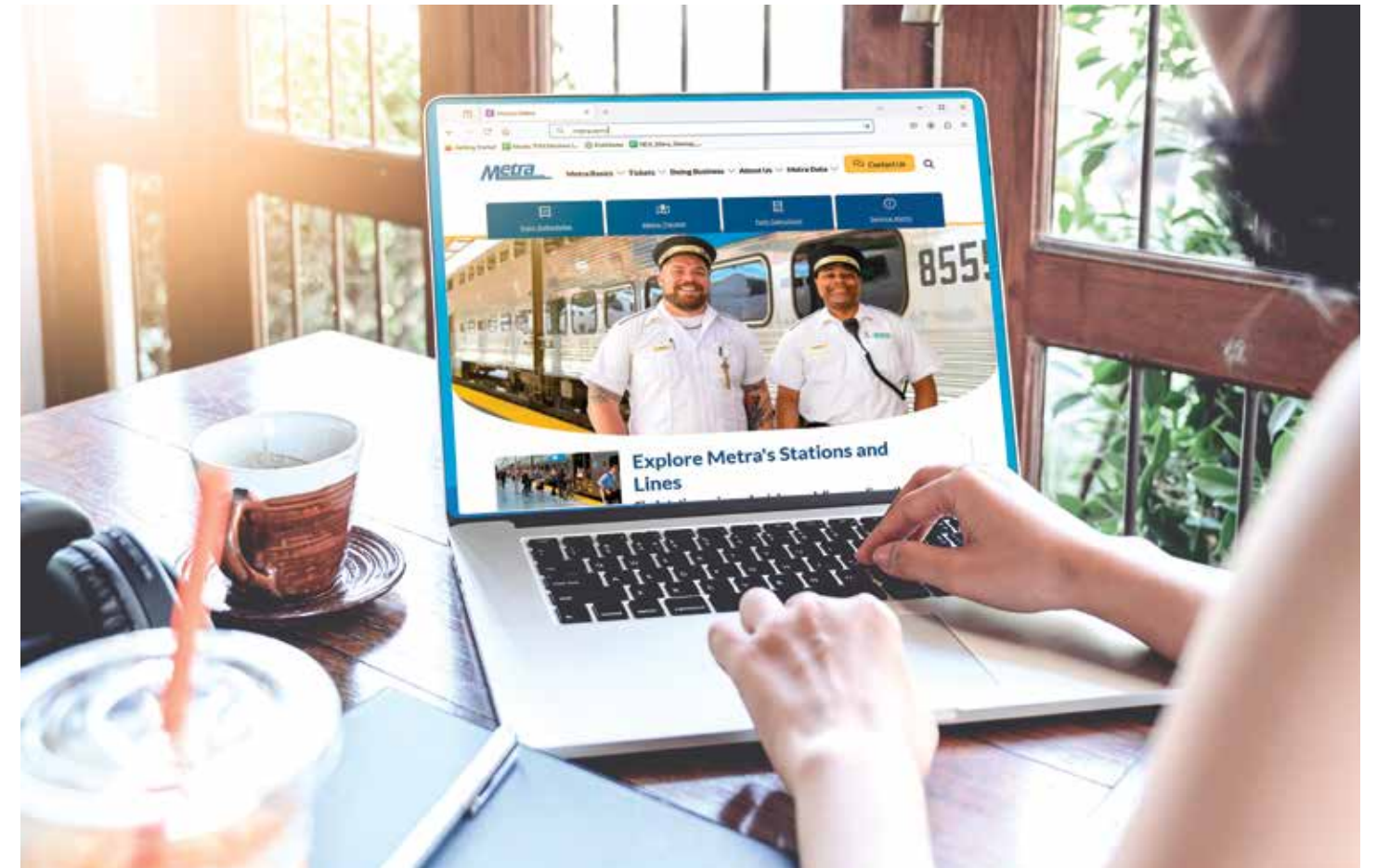
What are you looking forward to in the next few years?

I'm looking forward to seeing an increase in the investments we make in our infrastructure so riders 10, 20 and even 30 years from now will have access to a public transportation system that provides safe and reliable transportation. I want a system that helps attract employers to the region and I think there are opportunities to invest in our stations across the suburbs and the City of Chicago, which will spur transit-centered housing and development and lead to job growth.

How important is Metra to Kane County?

Metra is critical to the region, including Kane County. I see more and more riders getting on and off the trains in Elgin, Geneva, Aurora, and Elburn on a regular basis. Over the last several months I have met with community leaders in several suburbs and one constant is that they would like to see an increase in the frequency of service and an improvement in the rider experience.

GET READY FOR THE NEW *METRA.COM*



Metra is about to launch a new website that makes it easier than ever to find schedule and fare information, track your train, learn about the latest news and happenings, and look up other important information about the Metra system.

The update will be the first to *metra.com* since 2021. As with prior updates, this one is designed to maximize the user experience for mobile viewers, who make up most visitors to the site. The redesign will remain accessible for those of our visitors with visual disabilities.

"Our goal with this redesign is to provide clear and accessible information that will enhance the perception of Metra as a reliable and customer-oriented choice," said Metra Executive

Director/CEO Jim Derwinski. "We want to encourage customers to prefer Metra over other transportation options."

As part of the effort, Metra's train-tracking website, *metratracker.com*, will be more fully integrated into the *metra.com* site to create a seamless transition for customers. And we aim to make the navigation more intuitive and the text more readable.

In addition, we're creating spaces on our new homepage to promote Metra initiatives—such as our annual safety competition—and to promote using Metra to travel to the Chicago region's many events and attractions.

We hope you will enjoy visiting our new site.

ALONG FOR THE RIDE



Officer Montenegro and Conductor Terrain Walker

To bolster public safety and foster a sense of community, members of Metra's Police Department regularly ride our trains alongside commuters. The aim is to deter crime and provide reassurance to riders during their daily commute.

A primary advantage of having transit police on board is the immediate deterrence of crime. Potential offenders are less likely to engage in illicit activities, knowing they are being monitored. This heightened security presence fosters a sense of safety among commuters.

"Sometimes it makes commuters a little nervous (to see us on the train); they'll be like, 'Can I get on the train? Is there anything happening?' I'm like, no, I'm just riding with you today," said Officer Visnevac, who is no stranger to riding Metra. "I ride trains every day. My partner and I pick a line, and we ride. We'll do a few back and forths, make stops at our hot spots and make sure everything and everyone is OK."

In addition to crime prevention, officers are trained to identify signs of distress or conflict. Officers are actively looking for signs of suspicious behavior, passengers who are upset or in distress, and potential safety concerns.

"We look for anything out of the ordinary. For example, if there is someone wearing flops and shorts on a cold

day, that would be a red flag," said Officer Montenegro, "You could do whatever you want, you can wear flips-flops in the winter if you want, but we would make contact and make sure they are OK and not in need of any services."

Officers also monitor the environment for any signs of vandalism, unattended bags or damage to train facilities, as well as ensuring that emergency exits and equipment are accessible and functioning properly.

By maintaining a visible presence and being approachable, police officers aim to create an environment where riders feel secure, supported and empowered to communicate their concerns. Ultimately, their proactive approach is intended to deter crime and promote a safe and positive experience for everyone involved.

"It's about our commuters," said Officer Visnevac. "The commuters know we're out here and they can call us if they're having any issues on the train."

With Metra Police officers riding the rails, commuters can expect not only heightened safety measures but also a renewed sense of community on the journey. Metra's Police officers stand ready to protect and serve, making public transit a safer place for all.

FINDING OUR WAY



Metra has launched a major effort to upgrade the signs that help customers find our stations and use our system — an effort that could also include changing the names of our lines to make them more understandable for first-time customers.

Our new systemwide signage effort, still in its early stages, seeks to replace the variety of wayfinding, identification, and informational signs that have been installed across the entire six-county region and across many decades. The goal is to install redesigned signs that have a common appearance and use common language.

The effort will be in the design stage this year into 2026, transitioning to the manufacture/installation phase later in 2026. We hope to complete the rollout of the new signs by early 2029.

The pending transition of the three UP lines to Metra control is presenting us with an opportunity to rethink the names of those lines — it won't make sense to refer to them as UP lines if Union Pacific no longer operates them. What should they be named now?

And would changing the names of other lines make sense? Maybe. For example, Metra has two lines that contain the name "Milwaukee" (because they were once part of the Milwaukee Road railroad), but neither of them goes to Milwaukee, and that can be confusing for users. Metra must determine whether changing the line names would create more issues than it would solve.



METRA ELECTRIC STATIONS UPDATE

Metra's multiyear, multimillion-dollar effort to upgrade and modernize stations on the Metra Electric Line is starting to show results, with rehabs of three stations recently debuting.

The stations are seeing a host of improvements and enhancements, including new entrances, waiting areas, elevators, platforms with full-length canopies, benches, lighting, digital displays with train-tracking information, on-demand heat, and more. One particular goal is to make them accessible to persons with disabilities.

Recently completed stations include:

- 147th St./Sibley Blvd. in Harvey reopened last fall after a two-year rehab. With funding from the RTA, Metra held a special "Metra Harvest Fest" for the

Harvey community in the station's parking lot to thank Harvey residents for their patience during the station closure and encourage them to come out to see all the improvements and be excited to use the new facility.

- Homewood Station reopened its east entrance in December after a full rehab of the station that also included the Amtrak portion.
- 79th St./Chatham Station also reopened in December after being closed for about a year.

The 103rd St./Rosemoor Station rehab is expected to be complete this spring, and the 87th St./Woodruff Station was recently closed for rehab. Work should start this year on the 95th St./Chicago State University Station and the South Water entrance to Millennium Station.

AVOIDING THE FISCAL CLIFF

This year will be a critical year for the future of transportation in the Chicago area.

Metra, the CTA and Pace will be facing major budget deficits starting in 2026 as federal COVID-relief funds are projected to be expended. Those funds were sent by Washington to shore up the budgets of mass transit agencies around the country after the pandemic caused ridership and therefore fare revenue to plummet.

The Illinois Legislature is aware of the looming shortfall and is working on a solution. But the clock is ticking.

It takes time and certainty to craft budgets, and if Illinois does not act by this spring, Metra, the CTA, and Pace will be forced to prepare for drastic service cuts and fare increases to balance revenues and expenses. We know that would be a death spiral, as higher fares and less service would drive even more riders away.

Lawmakers may tie additional funding to changes in the way public transportation in northeast Illinois is governed. That could include giving the RTA more powers in such areas as service coordination and fare integration, as the RTA recently proposed, or it could mean combining all the region's transit providers into a single agency.

To help you understand this complex issue, we've created a Q&A at metra.com/fiscalcliff. We encourage you to read up on the issue and urge your state representatives and senators to act.



STUDENT PASS POPULAR AT UIC



More than 4,100 University of Illinois Chicago students signed up last semester and 3,700 signed up this semester to receive the new U-Pass + Metra, a pass that gives them unlimited rides on Metra and the CTA for a reduced fare price under a one-year pilot program.

UIC students have long been able to sign up for the CTA's U-Pass program. Now, under a one-year pilot program that started in August, UIC students can also choose a combined CTA-Metra U-Pass + Metra pass for the semester. This is the first time Metra has joined the CTA's U-Pass program for college students.

Students who chose the CTA-only pass, which is placed on the student's U-Pass Ventra card,

pay \$163 for the fall 2024 and spring 2025 semesters and \$125 for the summer 2025 semester.

Students who chose the combined pass pay \$349 for the fall 2024 and spring 2025 semesters and \$275 for the summer 2025 semester; they use their U-Pass Ventra card for the CTA and a mobile pass in the Ventra app for Metra trips.

During the pilot, Metra is tracking participation in the program as well as the actual use of the reduced fare student passes, including the times of use and frequency. The pilot will help determine the cost of extending the pilot to additional schools and whether it would be financially sustainable.



OLD BRIDGES IN THE SPOTLIGHT

You're going to hear us talking a lot about bridges in the coming years, and yes, we know it's not very exciting. But we're judging that you'd rather travel over a nice, new bridge than suffer delays because our aging bridges could not be replaced.

And, unfortunately, we have a lot of those. Metra trains travel over 926 bridges across our system every day. Nearly half of those are owned by Metra, with the rest owned by the freight railroads whose tracks we use. And of those 446 bridges owned by us, 233 are more than 100 years old.

While every bridge is in safe working condition, these aging bridges are past due for life-extending rehabilitation or full replacement. We need to step up our work on this critical issue.

We currently have 20 bridges in some stage of design, and two in construction. And we're in the early stages of an ambitious 20-year plan to rebuild five bridges and rehab five more each year.

That's why Metra is planning to set aside \$60 million in operating revenue starting in 2026 to help fund this extensive bridge improvement program. We are also exploring taking the rare step of financing to supplement our capital budget and tackle this pressing need.



THE CURE FOR CABIN FEVER

Let Metra transport you to a winter wonderland

It may still be winter, but the days are getting longer, and spring will soon be here. So, why just sit at home? There's so much to see and do throughout our region right now. And you can get there without the headaches, hassles, cost, and congestion of driving. Just hop on board Metra.

Remember, Metra is more than just a great way to commute, we can also take you to our area's best attractions and events.

There are 11 different Metra lines serving 243 stations. If you're traveling on the weekend, Metra also offers Saturday, Sunday, Holiday and Weekend passes with unlimited rides, reduced fares for seniors and kids, and with our family fares, up to three kids aged 11 and under ride for free with fare-paying adults.

So, check out just some of the events going on now and starting soon, and let Metra help you beat the winter blues.



EVENT / ATTRACTION	DATE(S)	LOCATION
Villa Olivia Skiing & Tubing	Through March 2	Bartlett
Ice Skating Ribbon	Through March 9	Maggie Daley Park
Fool for Love	Through March 16	Steppenwolf Theatre
Project a Black Planet	Through March 30	Art Institute of Chicago
Chicago Bulls Basketball	Through April 11	United Center
Chicago Blackhawks Hockey	Through April 12	United Center
Cats: Predators to Pets	Through April 27	Field Museum
Betrayal	Feb. 8 - March 16	The Goodman Theatre
The Orchid Show: India Blooms	Feb. 8 - March 23	Chicago Botanic Garden
Clue: Live On Stage!	Feb. 18 - March 2	CIBC Theatre
Joffrey Ballet: Golden Hour	Feb. 20 - March 2	Lyric Opera House
Chicago Fire Home Opener	March 1	Soldier Field
Beetlejuice The Musical	March 11-16	Cadillac Palace
St. Patrick's Day Parade	March 15	Downtown Chicago
La Bohème	March 15 - April 12	Lyric Opera
South Side Irish Parade	March 16	103rd & Western
Chicago Stars Home Opener	March 23	SeatGeek Stadium
Bunny Hop	March 23	Brookfield Zoo
Chicago White Sox Home Opener	March 27	Rate Field
Moulin Rouge!	April 2-20	Cadillac Palace
Chicago Cubs Home Opener	April 4	Wrigley Field
Polish Constitution Day Parade	May 3	Columbus Dr. to Monroe St.
Chicago Sky Home Opener	May 22	Wintrust Arena



Vinram S. Wade Bey

For Army veteran Vinram S. Wade Bey, navigating the busy streets of Chicago hasn't been a problem in decades. Metra's efficient network offers him not only a reliable means of transportation, but also a sense of connection to the city he loves.

Chicago is your home, but where did your military life take you?

Yes, I am originally from Markham and served in the U.S. Army. I was an administrative clerk. I was stationed in Orlando in a military intelligence unit. When I wasn't there, I ran track for the U.S. Army at the Presidio in San Francisco. I got out as an E-4 and moved back home to Illinois.

How long have you been riding Metra?

I have been riding Metra for 17 years. Prior to COVID, I would take it every day to work and now I commute downtown once a week or as needed.

Which Metra line do you ride?

I take the Rock Island. Midlothian has been my home station the past 13 years. Before that I would commute from Riverdale and Harvey.

Why do you like Metra

The commute. I love my 23-minute commute—it's so much better than driving.

Would you recommend Metra to someone who doesn't use it and why?

Yes, I enjoy taking my friends and their kids on Metra and showing them how easy it is to use. I like that when you ride the train it gives you time to walk to your destination and discover new places.



Steven Moore

Making the jump from banking to railroading - what was that like?

It was scary, but to some degree expected. My father was an engineer for the CTA and since he was in transportation for so long, I had an idea of what to expect and I knew there would be great benefits of coming over to the transportation industry.

How long have you been with Metra?

With Metra six years, but I was at Union Pacific as a ticket agent for four years. I just say 10 years—10 years in the railroad industry.

What's a typical day like for you as a Communications Customer Service Supervisor?

Typically, it varies. For example, during the winter months we can experience delays that impact commuters and that may be due to

various reasons like switch problems, signal issues, PTC or Positive Train Control (a railroad safety system), and that makes the job more challenging and exciting.

Do you like working at Metra?

I like it, it's nice. I like the people. I like my coworkers, because I get to interact with different departments. It's that openness, that collaboration within our departments that works, and I appreciate that.

Where do you see yourself in 5 years?

At Metra. I am interested in learning more about Positive Train Control. It piqued my interest when I was at UP. I also like cybersecurity. We'll see.

In a bold career shift, former banker Steven Moore traded in his office cubicle for the open tracks, taking on the role of a Communications Customer Service Supervisor at Metra. Moore's decision to pivot from banking to the railroad was driven by a desire for a more impactful career.



RENATE'S GERMAN RESTAURANT

7213 OLDE SALEM CIR.
HANOVER PARK, IL 60133

For this issue of Dine by Your Line, we're taking you to Hanover Park Station on the Milwaukee District West Line for some traditional German food, with unbeatable ambience and service. Take a ride to Renate's German Restaurant and enjoy some schnitzel, pretzels, and everything else Bavarian!

"Our bakery is the foundation of this place—that's how we started. We make everything from scratch here," said Owner Renate Smith.

Serving recipes from her heritage, this family-owned restaurant is one of the best, most authentic German eateries in the state. Renate's started as a bakery and still serves fresh baked goods to this day. You can dine in and enjoy the Bee Sting Cake (Bienenstich) or take some homemade cookies or pretzels to go!

"When we first started in 2012, I rented the kitchen to make baked goods, and we sold them on the weekends at farmer's markets. People told me we should open a restaurant, and we did

when the opportunity came along," said Renata.

As for dinner, you can expect all the German classics executed to perfection. Tuck into their currywurst poutine, complete with homemade cheese sauce, bratwurst, and their homemade curry sauce. If you're looking for something even cheesier grab the cheesy spaetzle with bacon. Their spaetzle noodles are homemade and won the title of "Best Noodles" by Chicago's Best.

"Making spaetzle is hard work. Your arms get tired," noted Renate, who you can often find in the kitchen making the noodles herself.

Renate's is THE place for comfort food. You walk in and immediately feel like family, and because these recipes have been passed down for generations, you're eating like family too.

So, if you're looking for some hearty, warm comfort food to get you through these cold winter months, head into Renate's German Restaurant.



THE THING TO TRY:
SCHNITZEL DINNER PLATTER
Breaded pork or chicken with roasted potatoes and beet salad

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!

METRA by the NUMBERS

Thanks to everyone who contributed to our Toys for Tots drive this year. Thanks to you, we were able to brighten the holidays for many children.



HERE'S YOUR CHANCE TO PLAY EDITOR

What kind of stories would you like to see in *My Metra*? Do you like the current content? What else could we be covering? What would really spark your interest? You can help us choose the content of our magazine. Simply scan the QR code and let us know your thoughts.

We invite you to take our very brief survey and help shape our future content. We really do want you to think of it as your magazine. That's why we call it *My Metra*.

Thanks for your help!



STATION BREAK: MORTON GROVE

The Morton Grove Station is currently being rebuilt as part of a \$4 million project led by the village. The new 1,280-square-foot station, designed in the Craftsman style, will replace the current building, which was built in 1976. It includes retail space, covered outdoor waiting areas, a heated waiting area that will be open after-hours, a unisex restroom, and accommodations for ticket vending machines. The new station is expected to be open this summer.



Photo taken by @sai_santosh_arsada



FAN PHOTO

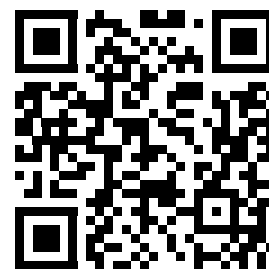
We're always excited to see photos of our trains taken by Metra riders—often featuring beautiful sunsets and the colors of the changing seasons. If you have a photo you'd like to share, send it to us at social@metrarr.com. Each week, our social media accounts post a rider-supplied photo for #MetraFanPhotoFriday.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

Metra is HIRING

We have a variety of exciting opportunities for career-minded individuals. Positions include:

- Apprenticeships
- Audit
- Budget & Finance
- Customer Service
- Engineering
- Human Relations
- Labor Relations
- Law
- Marketing
- Police
- Procurement
- Safety
- Skilled Trades
- Transportation

Enjoy outstanding benefits: paid holidays, vacations, personal time off, health insurance, tuition reimbursement, and more.



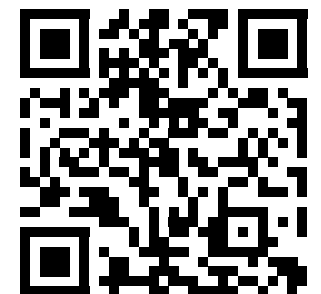
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Metra is an equal opportunity employer. All qualified applicants will receive consideration for employment without regard to race, color, religion, sex, national origin, sexual preference, veteran or disability status.

SUDOKU

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Scan the QR code to find the solutions to this issue's puzzle.

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 reside in Pontiac, Illinois and I ride the Rock Island line from Joliet to commute to the Loop. Amtrak, although comfortable with great food, rarely runs on time. It is an unreliable commuter option. I can set my clock with you guys. How feasible is it to extend your service to Bloomington/Normal, home to ISU?

– Lawrence

Thanks for the question, and the compliment. Your question is not easy to answer. In general, we don't have enough capital funding to maintain the system we already have, let alone fund expansions, so it is not something we are contemplating. In addition, our operations are partly funded by the six counties of the Chicago area, and we can't spend the money we collect there outside the region. But the State of Illinois recently agreed to fund Metra service to Rockford, so who knows? Maybe if that goes well, the state will look at additional service

beyond our six-county area. We will have to see.

When did Metra start allowing bikes on express trains? I don't know when, but I am now seeing them on trains around 4 or 5 in the evening when the train cars are full enough. I saw a disabled person move because some guy wanted the seats (because he was taking up three) for his bike. I have seen people with electric scooters blocking the walkway. There are trains with those cars with bike racks, but I never see them anymore.

– Nicole

We opened all trains to bikes last February. This was partly due to feedback we received from the cycling community and the relatively small number of complaints we have heard from non-cyclists. To handle the influx, we've installed new bike racks on many cars. Cyclists can also still use the ADA area, but ADA

passengers always have priority in that area so the person you saw move should not have had to. Likewise, bikes and scooters should not be blocking any walkways. The bike cars you reference are still in use, but those were very old cars and they are being phased out.

When will the SouthWest Service be double tracked from 75th Street/Rock Island Line to Ashburn?

– Nelly

The SWS double tracking from the Rock Island to Ashburn is part of the CREATE 75th St. CIP, but it is currently slated in the last phase of that large, complex project. The CREATE Partners recently secured funding for an earlier phase of this project, but it may be several years until the final phase, including the SWS double-tracking, is funded and constructed.



SPREADING HOLIDAY CHEER



Dozens of Metra employees and family members gave up their free time this holiday season to spread holiday cheer and share our commitment to the riders and communities we serve.

Metra kicked off the holiday season by marching down Michigan Avenue in the 33rd Annual Magnificent Mile Light Festival parade. It was Metra's first time entering a float in the parade, but our employees agree that it's a tradition we hope to continue for many years to come.

The holiday magic continued as Metra hosted nine special holiday train rides on six rail lines in November and December. Metra employees dressed as Santa, Mrs. Claus, and other holiday characters handing out treats, playing games and singing carols as families enjoyed a special trip to the city. Metra Electric Line riders also arrived at Millennium Station to find a special winter wonderland with games, face-painting, snacks, and a chance for children to visit with the jolly old elf himself to share their Christmas wishes.

"These trains and the special events are just a small token of appreciation from Metra to our riders," said Metra CEO/Executive Director Jim Derwinski. "Our goal is to spread cheer and make riding Metra a holiday season tradition for families across Chicagoland."





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