



Northside Bus Chatter Newsletter

Northside
Transportation
Department

February, 2002

From The Director's Desk

Fall and winter activities are coming to a close. Now everyone is excited and getting ready for spring and the rush of events. There is no doubt that students come first in view of your hard work and diligence. This past Fall Semester's attendance was over and above the excellent mark you set for the first time this past Spring Semester, 2001.



The South Station renovation project is back on track. We hope it will be completed within the next 90 days. Routes are already being programmed for next year using the new "Transfinder" routing system. Next year's building project of the South Station Satellite will enable the facility to handle between 31 and 60 routes starting August, 2002. Continue the fine work and again your attendance record speaks for itself!

NEF Grant Awarded To Transportation

Our Transportation Department and the Special Needs Transportation component was awarded a \$1,000 grant from the Northside Educational Foundation (NEF). This is the fifth similar grant received from NEF to assist with our Departmental training efforts. The latest grant was presented by Board of Trustee Vice-President Representative of District 4 Robert Blount, Jr. to Mr. Tom Brown at the South Station during the January, 2002 Safety Meeting.



Funded are three (3) child size 35 pound Rescue Jennifer manikins in addition to our three (3) adult manikins already funded by NEF. These six (6) manikins will be used in mass evacuation drills on our Lift Buses to train our Driver Teams. The practice evacuations will be more realistic with the manikins and will enhance Driver and Assistant emergency evacuation skills.

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February, 2002

16/18	CPI Classes at North Station
18	Staff Development, President's Day
26	Roll Call for State Foundation Routes March, 2002
1	
2	Early Release for Elementary & Middle Schools
11-15	Spring Break



Perfect Attendance Awards Given To NISD Transportation Employees... An All Time High!



The new Attendance Award system established at the NISD Transportation Department last Fall Semester has resulted in a number of employees receiving the maximum stipend of \$150 for perfect attendance. Others with one or two duty periods missed received a \$100 stipend. The final recipients for the award were those with three to four duty periods missed receiving \$50. Attendance is vitally important in achieving the mission here at Transportation. Being at work really counts in so many ways. Many of the drivers and assistants as well as maintenance staff come through every day with perfect or near-perfect attendance. On behalf of the students who receive NISD Transportation Service we wish to acknowledge everyone who has had a perfect or near-perfect attendance. Nearly

200 staff members listed below received the reward and we say, "Congratulations for their diligence and hard work! We also wish to commend the maintenance technicians for their work in keeping our buses safe and running. Here are the award recipients:

\$150.00 Awards went to: North Station: John Barron, Silvia Contreras, Joseph Cowan, Rose Delgado, Peter Galuppo, Margaret Garcia, Cynthia Gouran, Edith Grimes, Daniel Jameson, Katherine Jameson, Rosalee Luna, Juan Madrid, Delia Martinez, Nieves Martinez, Bobbie McCown, Eugene Mitchell, Ray Ogden, Aurora Pena, Roger Riley, Virginia Rodriguez, Barbara Salazar, Esperanza Salazar, Amalia Silva, Robert Smith, Don Trevino, Carol Wells, Russell Wilson, Sandra Yancy and Hubert Hernandez.

Rhodes Station: Ramon Amador, Larry Blanchard, Harry Brent, Bill Burgess, Betty Cagle, Edward Castillo, Tom Cerha, Ann Curry, Jose Duron, Elsie Eakin, Melvin Evans, Ricardo Fernandez, Pat Fuentes, Ray Garcia, Humberto Guerra, Margarita Gutierrez, Jaime Gutierrez, Darlene Hawkins, RC Hernandez, Esteban Hernandez, Alex Herrera, Michael Hettler, Santos Huantes, William Jackson, Tat James, Jerome Johnson, Dene Johnston, Stuart Kidd, Dan Kruthof, Juan Lopez, Rosie Luna, Jesse Martin, Jesse McPherson, Carlos Monsivais, Ernie Montemayor Janice Montgomery, Charles Morales, Sylvia Morris, David Powerll, Gabrielle Powell, Claudio Queza, John Rekart, Leon Richardson, Yolanda Rodriguez, Johanna Ross, Ursula Schoenborn, Michael Smith, David Sousa, Gordon Tuma, Chester Works and Valentine Zapata.

South Station: Margarito Alba, Pasetta Alexander, John Caldwell, Susan Cheever, Warren Deshields, Patricia Everman, Michael Garza, James Godley, Anna Tate, William Tate, Karl Hardtke, Gladys Davis, Eugene Hopkins, Rosalie Johnson, Dan McLean, Barbara Moore, Martha O'Campo, Harry Oliver, Sylvia Pastrano, Maria Pompa, Alfonso Puente, Antonio Ramirez, George Smith, Elroy Washington, Elizabeth Roque, Ernest Smith, Esiquio Hernandez, Richard Diaz, Purita Alipio, Mario Bernal, Lawrence Pearson, Eddie Wortes and Richard Reyes.



Technicians: Jessie Fuentes, Gaylord Malone and Stan Smith from Rhodes. Arnold Knowles, Howard Purvis and Eliseo Rodriguez from North Station.



Perfect Attendance Awards Given To NISD Transportation Employees...



\$100 Awards went to: North Station: James, allen, Johna Anderson, Martin Araujo, Jacalyn Barron, Howard Bow, Steve Durocher, Ernesto Garcia, Sylvia Garza, Arturo Gonzales, Penny Halpenny, Virginia Hernandez, David Kienbaum, Elizabeth Kienbaum, Patsy Lazo, Annie Mayweather, Ann McCormick, Carmen Ramiera, Augustine Rodriguez, Mary Rodriguez, Ben Schaper, Wayne Speaker, Norman Taylor, Anthony Uthoff, Jose Vega, Lou Villarreal Robbin Washington, and Irene Zamora.

Rhodes Station: Ron Ackles, Diana Agold, Hadi Al-Bahdy, Mary Allison, Eduardo Alvarado, Robert Artz, Laura Aycock, Rhea Bergauer, Matthew Birdsey, Ramiro De La Fuente, Robert Derflinger, Frances Espinoza, Rowena Falco, George Fleury, Irma Garcia, Celeste Garcia, Ronald Gonzalez, Vincent Grimm, Gilbert Guajardo, Rebecca Guarnero, Dennis Guerrero, Pauline Hammond, Jake Hernandez, Fred Hicks, Emery Hutzler, Paul Jolet, Tom Kelner, Raul Maldonado, Danny McElligott, Virgil Meier, Gilbert Mendez, Jackie Meyer, Mary Muriel, Joe Orosco, Joe Ramirez, Robert Rapolla, Julio Rebello, David Rodriguez, Jose Rodriguez, Lorenzo Rodriguez, Donald Ross, Anthony Sanchez, Victor Santiago, Delbert Satterlee, Sidney Smith, Sandra St. Onge, James Stone, Antohny Swiger, Dolores Tamez, Joan Thompson, Daniel Torres, Ivan Towell, Tony Vasquez, Juan Vasquez, Amelia Vega, Yolanda Velasquez and Oscar Warren.

South Station: Blanca Batiz, Bruce Bengel, Shawn Brown, Timoteo Canelo, Rafael Carrasco, Angelita Hernandez, Mary Flores, Kenneth Flye, Domingo Garcia Mary Garcia, Valerie Gonzalez, Reynaldo Jasso, Doris Johns, Mayo Johnston, James Jones, Erma Jordan, Olga Juarez, James Keator, Guadalupe Lozano, Juan Martinez, Arthur Mooring, Erlinda Olivarez, Olivarez, Delia Bena, Marilyn Polk, Jean Richey, Maria Scarberry, Robert Schwarz, Victor Trujillo, Sebron Tyler, Stephanie Johnson, Penny Truman, Clyde Raymond and Rosemarie Trevino.

Technicians: Anthony Bito, Mike Butler, David Kuttner, Israel Martinez, Bob Sieber, and Charlie Webster from Rhodes. Steve Dickinson, Bill Fisher, Robert Hamilton, and Raul Valdez from South Station. George Wooten at North.

\$50 Awards went to: North Station: Thomas Allison, Algie Carter, Jesus Cervantes, Cheryl Compton, Maria Ernsberger, Sandra Escalante, Alfredo Herrera, Nick Maggio, Evelyn Martinez, Sarah Potter, Daniel Starr, Steven Syring, David Trevino, Francisco Villalobos, Billie Wilson, and Lisa Wormsley **Rhodes Station:** Leonard Arzola, Shirley Baity, Sidney Booth, Yolanda Fernandez, Henry Flores, Irene Flores, Alfonso Garcia, Andrea Gray, Crystobal Gutierrez, Monica Hernandez, Craven Morgan, Raymond Muniz, Gerald Ozanich, Rebecca Pompa, Linda Quiroga, Nancy Ritchie, Vivian Ruiz, Richard Santos, Vicki Sieber, Ramon Silva, George Smith, Richard Stevenson, Robert Taylor, Delton Tease, Martin Terry, Feliz Vela and Maria Wise. **South Station:** David Algarin, Esperanza Alvarado, Benjamin Alvarez, Ben Arcia, Mary Casanova, Doris Clay, Gilbert Flores, Esperanza Garcia, Beatrice Hernandez, Alfred Luster, June Morgan, Aurilio Perez, Michael Rodriguez, Geraldine Stafford, Gracie Villapando, Stephanie Villarreal. **Techicians awarded were: South's** James Lappin, and Allen Stoeltje, Danny Acosta at North.





PCI Community Helper: NISD Driver Model for Educational Game Board

Juan G. Lopez, a special needs driver at the Rhodes Station, was recently selected to be a school bus driver model for a game board that will be published by PCI Educational Publishing Company of San Antonio. This past fall, Lisa Zambrano, the PCI project manager and former employee of the District, contacted the Transportation Department requesting a male driver to participate as a model for the game board project. Meeting certain selection criteria from PCI, Juan came out on top. He has been with the District for nearly 14 years and has had a perfect attendance from the start of this school year until the date of selection. Mr. Lopez is now a PCI "Community Helper" in the game. Ms. Zambrano presented Juan with a certificate of payment for \$50.00 in recognition of his participation. Congratulations Juan. We can't wait 'until the game goes on sale.



Rhodes Center's Dennis Guerrero, Trainer Technician

Dennis Guerrero is at Rhodes Center the Training Technician fulfilling a new authorized Transportation Department Supervisory position. He is a twenty (20) year retired United States Air Force Non-Commissioned Officer in Security Forces. His duties included managing a fleet of 35 buses and other vehicles on foreign soil. That service included being stationed in Germany, the United Kingdom, Saudi Arabia (in Desert Storm), Qatar (in Desert Fox), Albania and in San Antonio. Married 18 years with three children (23, 20 and 15 years old) he helps his wife Jo Ann take care of their family and their Gordon Setter "Chubbs." An outdoorsman Dennis likes to hike, fish and camp.

Dennis Guerrero's mission at the Rhodes Center Station is to support trainers who provide quick and effective training to new drivers and assistants. He joins the supervisory staff at Rhodes Center under Mr. Rentschler. He will monitor refresher courses taught to assure that all Rhodes Transportation employees are current in their training requirements. We welcome Dennis Guerrero's arrival at Rhodes Center and into our Transportation Family.





South Station's Ken Avendano, Trainer Technician



Kenneth Avendano has been selected to be the South Station Training Technician. He has been married for 16 years with two children: a son 10 and a daughter 8 years old. His previous experience includes seventeen (17) years at USAA here in San Antonio where for the last two years he was in Training Methods and Procedures. There he trained new employees in orientation and safety procedures. Kenneth also has VIA bus driving experience on AM and PM contract San Antonio ISD school routes. His hobbies are coaching his son's basketball and baseball teams. Their family is properly managed by a female Terrier dog named "Minni." Mr. Avendano's duties at South under Station Manager Tom Brown include supervision of Trainers and course content. New employees are given priority access to courses through the Steps. Refresher courses are for experienced employees needing new information and updated skills. Kenneth will monitor the overall training process at South Station. Kenneth joins the supervisory staff at South welcome Mr. Avendano to the Transportation Department and to our Transportation Family.



North Station's Ann McCormick, Trainer Technician



Virginia Ann McCormick (Ann) has been selected as the new Trainer Technician supervisory position at North Station. She was born in the Shenandoah Valley of Virginia and moved with her family to Tennessee, Kentucky, Alabama, Georgia and onto to her present long-term home in San Antonio. Her background includes 16 years with Northside ISD. Her first four (4) years was as a substitute driver. She (4) years was as a substitute driver. She was one of the first drivers for the School Age Parenting Program (SAPP) during its first two (2) years of the program. Ann became an invalift driver in 1992 for several years before she moved to Holmgreen Junior/Senior High School as one of the senior drivers there for the past seven (7) years.

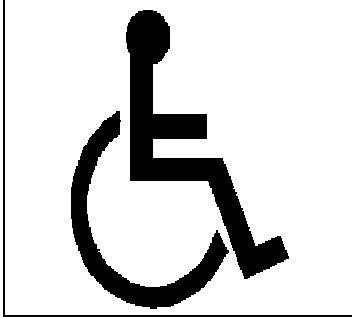


During her NISD career she was one of the first Lead Drivers (now called Trainers) assigned to the Department in 1993. Her eight 8 years as a Trainer was an excellent foundation for her to become the first Training Technician for

North Station. As a supervisor her duties include supporting trainers and the training process and other duties as assigned by Mr. Esquivel, Station Manager. Welcome to a new role in the Transportation Dept. family.



Special Needs Transportation



Dr. Turner, our NISD Special Education Transportation Coordinator reports that there are several new developments in special needs on which to report. First of all, THANK YOU BUS ASSISTANTS for being such an important part of the Special Needs Driver Team. Thanks for getting off the bus and greeting our special needs students and their parents every day with every student. THANK YOU DRIVERS for operating the lift equipment so carefully with students using wheelchairs. And thanks for using the wheel chocks every time you open the lift bus door for wheelchair service or in the parking lots back at your station. THANKS DRIVER TEAMS for being so alert at the school loading zone for

safety. Where you move in the loading zone and how fast you move there are all essential components of real student safety. You are all doing great in loading zone safety. At the Reddix Center thanks for entering from Sid Katz street into the parking lot and behind to the school loading ramps at the rear of the building complex. The island in the loading zone will be shortened by about 25 feet to making bus turning easier there soon—possibly by Spring Break. New signs will be installed behind the Center to support your bus movements in a safer manner. The new signs will also help those substitute drivers or occasional drivers who are not familiar with Reddix Center school loading zone operation. Thanks to all for a job well done!

The Trainer's Corner



Bruce Warner (678-2194) now has three capable Station Trainer Technicians to assist each Station Manager in the daunting task of maintaining one of the State of Texas's best training systems for Drivers and Assistants. Training Technicians Dennis Guerrero at Rhodes Center (695-3812); Ann McCormick at North Station (561-5085); and Kenneth Avendano at South Station (678-2908) will assist you with your training needs.

Your Team Leader is the first "direct contact" person you should go to for training classes, questions and job skill concerns. Team Leaders are backed up by the three Trainer Technicians. Bruce Warner and the Station Managers are the primary support system for training at Northside for the hands-on, stand-up trainers at each station.

We at NISD Transportation have the right to pat ourselves on the back for the effort that has been put forth in the Safety and Training Program. We are ahead of the curve. We have been asked by many Transportation Departments throughout Texas to send our training materials to help them get started. Each year since our training program was introduced preventable accidents have declined. There is always room for improvement even though our drivers, assistants and the staff are very safety conscious. All I can say is well done people! You deserve the praise and recognition



Northside Routing Office Update



The Routing Office has seen many changes in the past year and the staff continues to learn and grow. We welcomed a new member to our staff, Debbie Childress, who has proven to be a great addition to the department.

We recently purchased and installed the Transfinder software program. This program will be used in the development of route sheets and student rosters. Transfinder can also produce a wide variety of map information and reports that will benefit the Transportation Department. The Routing Office is excited about Transfinder and its potential. We are looking forward to utilizing all of its functions. A very special “THANK YOU” to all the staff involved with the master roster counts this year. We really do appreciate the time and effort taken to complete this project. Way to go!

The Reddix Center Gets New Signs Because of A Special Needs Bus Assistant's Great Idea



Transportation supervisors very much appreciate a good idea from anyone who wants to promote safer bus procedures. “Safety is our highest priority” is not an empty slogan but a living, continuous awareness by every employee about students, the driving public, their fellow employees and themselves.

A great idea was suggested by Marie Gonzales, the Bus Assistant on Bus 420--a special needs lift bus serving Reddix Center--had suggested to Dr. Turner the need for informational signs at the Reddix Center school loading zone. Ms. Gonzales even drew the signs and designed their shape and wording. NVTP and NHP administrators enthusiastically agreed. Now we have signs that make the approach for lift buses loading/unloading wheelchairs a safer place. Thanks Marie for your idea and your thoughtful safety suggestion!





Forum Representatives

Please contact your NEW forum representative at:

Rhodes Center—Irene Flores; Primo Soto; Lorenzo Rodriguez; Eleanor Delgado; Richard Fernandez; Raul Maldonado and Daniel Torres.

North Station—Edie Grimes; Don Proulx; Bob Smith; Debra DeWinne.

South Station—Rosalie Johnson; Warren Deshields; Mike Rodriguez; Ethel Jones; Velma Cruz and Donel Arnic.

Mechanic At Large--Robert "Ham" Hamilton.



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