

Would you believe that as we went to publication, the record for biggest pumpkin was already broken? Despite this splendid news, we're sticking to the 2004 record weight of 1,446 pounds. A hearty gobble gobble to Brian Sisk of San Dimas whose pumpkin knowledge won him a 31-Day pass. This month's category is GOLF. Good luck!

Remember that all correct answers received by the last Friday of the month will be placed in a drawing for a free Foothill Transit 31-day pass! As always, employees of Foothill Transit contractors and their families are not eligible.

Please limit entries to ONE per customer.

ONE. Only ONE. Not two. Not five. ONE. We dig your enthusiasm. But let's play fair, ok?

Who finished second in three straight major championships in the year 2000?

- A. Ernie Els
- B. Vijay Singh
- C. Tiger Woods
- D. Hector Fuentes
- E. Rahul Kumar

Send your answers to Footnotes, c/o Foothill Transit, 100 N. Barranca Ave., Suite 100, West Covina, CA, 91791. Please include your personal information, so we can let you know if you've won.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City & Zip: _____

1 ride Line #: _____

Daytime phone: _____

Evening phone: _____

Published for the customers, board members, friends, and staff of Foothill Transit. Articles may be submitted to Felicia Friesema, editor.

Foothill Transit Executive Board

- Paula Lantz, President
- Wil Briesemeister, Vice President
- Lola Storing, Treasurer
- John Fasana
- Peggy Delach

Doran J. Barnes
Executive Director

Foothill Transit contracts with Connex ATC for management and administrative services, and with First Transit for operations.

The Police and Fire Expo and Family Security Show

Saturday, November 12, 2005
10:00AM - 3:00PM
Los Angeles County Fairplex
1101 West McKinley Avenue, Pomona
Take Line 190

Covina Christmas Parade

Saturday, December 3, 2005
6:30PM
Badillo Avenue, between 2nd and Hollenbeck
Take Lines 280, 281

Monrovia Holiday Parade

Thursday, December 8, 2005
7:00PM
Myrtle Ave. in Monrovia
Take Lines 184, 187

COMMUNITY

EVENTS



Happy Thanksgiving

Volume 15 No. 10

Best in the West

California Assemblyman Bob Huff Gets It Done, Wins Award

Assemblyman Bob Huff, who represents District 60 (Chino Hills, Diamond Bar, Anaheim, La Mirada, Orange, La Habra, Yorba Linda, Walnut, Whittier, Villa Park, La Habra Heights, San Dimas, and Industry) up in Sacramento has received the Local Distinguished Service Award from the American Transportation Association (ATA).

But what, you ask, does this have to do with Foothill Transit? On the surface, we're simply happy that Bob is receiving much deserved accolades from a national organization. He's certainly earned it. Memories make it magic though, since Bob is a former Executive Board member and two term president for Foothill Transit. We know first hand what happens when Bob is at the helm of local transit issues. He's overseen, spearheaded, or negotiated on behalf of several key transit oriented agencies:



Bob (on the right) receives APTA's Local Distinguished Service Award from Jim Srygley, CEO of S&A Systems

the Alameda Corridor East Project, the Four Corners Transportation Policy Group, Foothill Transit (of course), and prior to being elected to the California State Assembly, he was a city council member for the City of Diamond Bar, one

of Foothill Transit's member cities and home of the Diamond Bar Park and Ride.

So on September 27th, during APTA's annual meeting in Dallas, we were thrilled to watch Bob

stand up among the nation's transit leaders and be honored for, well, what he does every day. He turns the steering wheel of transit, aiming for the big picture while keeping the details in focus.

And for that he gets not only our applause, but a nice trophy and the knowledge that his transit work is in the spotlight. Congratulations, Bob!

November 2005

Holidays... Already?



Be prepared. Here's the upcoming holiday schedule...

The following lines will operate Sunday schedules on the days listed below:

178, 185, 178, 185, 187, 190, 191, 193, 195, 269, 272, 274, 280, 281, 283, 284, 285, 289, 291, 292, 480, 482, 486, 488, 492.

- Thanksgiving Day - November 24, 2005**
- Christmas Eve - December 24, 2005**
- Christmas Day Observed - December 26, 2005**
- New Year's Eve - December 31, 2005**
- New Year's Day Observed - January 2, 2006**

Some important Store information:

All Foothill Transit Stores will be closed on Thanksgiving Day.

El Monte Station will be open on Friday, November 25th from 7AM to Noon. Puente Hills Mall will be open on Friday, November 25th from 10AM to 9PM. All other Stores will be closed.

Visit foothilltransit.org for details.

// Foothill News

Johnny Be Good! One of our own goes to the Gulf Coast to help

As a Stops and Zones Technician for Foothill Transit, Johnny Villalobos is responsible for making sure bus stops within the agency's 327-square mile service area are clean and tidy. His speed and attention to detail, as well as his friendly nature make him an important and reliable member of the Foothill Transit family.

Johnny is very active in our community. He volunteers as a clown for the local children's hospital. In addition, he participates in the Covina Chamber of Commerce's Reading Buddies program representing Foothill Transit.

In August of last year, Johnny trained as a FEMA Community Emergency Response Team member for the City of Fontana. His skills now include light search and rescue, triage, fire suppression, disaster

psychology and counseling, and disaster awareness and response. So when the Red Cross asked Fontana for help, they asked Johnny if he could go.

"First responders, like local fire and police departments, carry a huge weight when a whole region becomes subject to a disaster of any kind," said Johnny. "You need to have more people out there to pick up the extra weight. And after a disaster like this, local manpower is going to be in short supply. You have to get help from other areas."

Johnny left for Louisiana on October 3rd and is already back after serving two weeks helping move much needed supplies in and around New Orleans. Since his disaster work for the Red Cross is as a volunteer, Johnny continued to receive his paycheck from Connex ATC, Foothill Transit's administrative contractor. This arrangement allowed him to go to Louisiana without creating an undue burden on his family.

"With a disaster of this magnitude, everyone is affected," said Doran Barnes, Executive Director of Foothill

Transit. "Johnny's work is an extension of our desire to help our community. In this case, help was needed a little father from home."

While he was based in Jefferson Parish, Johnny worked side by side with volunteers from as far away as South Africa and Australia. They all shared the same awe and sadness at seeing first hand the extent of the damage left behind by both Hurricanes Katrina and Rita.

"The really hard part is knowing that, as much as you help, there will always be more to do. Always," said Johnny. "You can't walk away from this without feeling like you could have done more."



Johnny (center) in Baton Rouge, LA with his fellow volunteers (from the left) Carol (SC), Courtney (MA), Anastasia (SC), and Steve (VA).

There really isn't enough room here to tell the whole Serena's Song story and do it justice. When Gary Waldman, the creator of Serena's Song, starts to fire up the jets that get the balloon floating, you can feel the excitement build. It's a feeling he looks for with every flight.

Foothill Transit has sponsored the world's first wheelchair accessible hot-air balloon for five years now, hosting it at a variety of locations throughout the San Gabriel Valley. We've come to know a few familiar faces who return every year for this unique experience. We've also been happy to welcome new budding balloonists and their caretakers. The one thing that everyone agrees on is that it's always an exciting experience. Our flights held on October 28th and 29th proved it in spades, sending a total of 22 participants up to greet the sky.

Since pictures tell the story better, we've included a few here.

Serena's Song 2005



// Your Ride

Moving More Mass Welcoming, and helping, our newest customers

Usually, holiday weight gain comes from that extra helping of stuffing. In our case, the extra poundage is coming from our newest converts to mass transit (Hello, new people!)

Remember when gas prices were a dollar and change? Yeah, we've forgotten too. High gas prices have been the norm for a while now, and everyone is starting to feel the pinch, especially with holiday present buying just around the corner. As a result, we're seeing more and more new faces, especially on the express rides into downtown Los Angeles.

New customers mean new friends. While we work to accommodate the increased passenger load on some of our lines, we hope you'll take the time to help our new customers feel welcome.

Foothill Transit regulars are some of the most knowledgeable (and helpful) transit customers in the region. If a fellow customer is look-

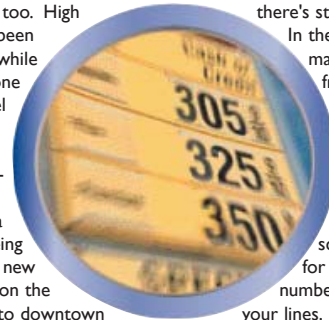
ing at a bus schedule and looking confused, take a moment to show them how to read a schedule. There's a helpful guide in the Bus Book, but sometimes a little explanation from a friendly face can go a long way.

Please be patient when there's standing room only.

In the process you may make an unexpected friend or business contact.

We're working diligently to review which lines need some alterations in the schedule to allow for the increasing number of people on your lines.

We're doing everything we can to make your ride more comfortable. Each one of you, our regulars and our new customers, are important to us. And we really want all of you to arrive at work and home as happy transit folk. As always, if you have any questions, give us a ring at 1-800-RIDE-INFO or visit us at our spiffy new website at foothilltransit.org. Save time and buy your pass online!



At the October Executive Board Meeting, Mary Griffith, a local transit advocate and Foothill Transit customer, presented a check for \$37,952.95 to Hector Martel of the East Valley Chapter of the American Red Cross. This donation was made possible by Foothill Transit's "Farebox as a Carebox" event held on September 9th for Hurricane Katrina Relief. Thank you to everyone who made a donation!

REYNO REPORT: LEGISLATIVE ISSUES IN TRANSIT

BY DAVID REYNO

David Reyno is the Director of Government Relations for Foothill Transit. He'll be bringing us all the latest transit news from Washington and Sacramento every quarter.

Usually after nine months, an expectant mother can expect one, maybe two children for her efforts. When the mother is the State of California Legislature, the babies (actually called bills) after nine months can number in the thousands.

This year's session resulted in over 3,000 bills making it through the legislative process. Now it's up to the Governor to decide what bills will become law with the swipe of his pen.

Our agency routinely reviews and recommends action on bills that directly affect how public transit is administered in the State of California. In 2005, we took positions on nine bills. Eight of them have been made two-year bills, meaning action must be taken on them in early 2006 or they will die in committee.

One example of a bill we supported that has already been made into law was AB 691. AB 691, introduced by Assembly Member Loni Hancock of Berkeley, authorizes a city or county to declare a previously approved development plan a transit village plan. This new law will make it possible for Foothill Transit to partner with its member cities to build more park and ride facilities for the benefit of you, our customers.

Foothill Transit's state representatives (Assembly Members Ron Calderon, Ed Chavez, Judy Chu, Bob Huff, Carol Liu, Dennis Mountjoy and Gloria Negrete-McLeod and Senators Bob Margett, Gloria Romero, Jack Scott and Nell Soto) will now spend the remainder of the year in their local district offices to tend to matters and issues important to their constituents. The Legislature will reconvene in January, so now is the best time for you to visit your State Assembly Member or Senator. Make an appointment today!

To find out who your legislative representatives are, visit <http://www.leginfo.ca.gov/>.