



Something

AWESOME

is happening!



**EMPLOYEE NEWSLETTER
ISSUE 9
OCTOBER 2019**





PSTA's GUIDING PRINCIPLES

We operate with honest and transparent **communication**.

We invite robust debate and **listen** to each other's ideas.

We take personal responsibility to design **customer-focused** solutions and own the results.

We **innovate** and drive **reliability, quality, and efficiency**.

We actively engage in **professional development** and take initiative.

PSTA'S SPOOKY

HALLOWEEN

COSTUME PARTY

31ST OCTOBER 2019

DRIVERS' LOUNGE | 11AM - 1PM | DONATION \$5
DONATIONS CAN BE MADE IN ADVANCE AT THE HR WINDOW OR AT THE HALLOWEEN PARTY

FUNDRAISER FOR THE
AMERICAN CANCER SOCIETY

COSTUMES SHOULD BE IN GOOD TASTE

DRIVERS, PLEASE NO MASKS OR MAKEUP THAT INTERFERES WITH VISION
FOR SAFETY REASONS, PLEASE NO COSTUMES ON THE MAINTENANCE SHOP
FLOOR OR THE SERVICE LANE

FOR QUESTIONS,
PLEASE SEE MELISSA BLACK AT THE HR WINDOW

OUR AAA REPRESENTATIVE WILL BE HERE ON FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 1ST. SHE'LL BE IN THE DRIVERS' LOUNGE FROM 11AM-2PM.

A special opportunity for

PSTA Employees

Do you know all the benefits AAA members enjoy?

Besides nationwide AAA Emergency Road Service, members get great discounts every day on:

- Dining, hotels and travel
- Rental cars and trucks
- Attraction and movie tickets
- Auto service and parts
- And much, *much* more



**SPECIAL
OFFERS**

**20% off Classic Plan for New Members
Plus an Extra \$10 off w/Autobill**

Free Associate w/ New Classic Membership

A representative from AAA will be on site:

Friday, November 1st

11 am – 2 PM

Location: Driver's Lounge

Ready to Join Today?

Come find out why AAA is 52 million members strong, and how a AAA card can be the most valuable card in your wallet!

Contact: Phyllis Esposito

Email: autoclubsouth.aaa.com/phyllis.esposito

Phone: (727) 480-3253



Submitted by Liz O'Hara, Benefits Manager

HUMAN TRAFFICKING UPCOMING CLASSES

Submitted by Adriana Rodriguez, Risk Management



THE RISK DEPARTMENT, IN COLLABORATION WITH THE SAFETY, SECURITY & TRAINING DEPARTMENT, ARE PROUD TO ANNOUNCE AN EDUCATIONAL CAMPAIGN

Pinellas Suncoast Transit Authority
Against Human Trafficking

WE ARE «THE EYES OF THE CITY»
See Something, Say Something

SIGN UP TODAY!

Human trafficking is something we don't always think about in the context of transportation issues. We may not think that human trafficking is happening around us but it is the truth! It's happening in cities and small communities across America. It is a Global problem.

Our educational campaign has been designed to create Awareness. Knowing what to look for and how to respond is essential with the appropriate employee training. We are a very important part of this fight against crime. Our participation will be an important piece of the transportation industry effort to stop the flow of Human trafficking as well as making sure PSTA continues providing quality of service.

Saturday October 12 th , 2019 10:am-12:00pm	Saturday November 09 th , 2019 10:am-12:00pm	Saturday December 07 th , 2019 10:am-12:00pm
Thursday October 24 th , 2019 3:30pm-4:30pm	Thursday November 21 st , 2019 3:30pm-4:30pm	Thursday December 19 th , 2019 3:30pm-4:30pm

Please see the Safety, Security, & Training (SS&T) Bulletin Board for sign-ups.

"OUR LIVES BEGIN TO END THE DAY WE BECOME SILENT ABOUT THINGS THAT MATTER."
- DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

For more information, contact:
Addy Rodriguez, M.A. B.A., ACA
Risk Coordinator
EXT. 1889 | A.Rodriguez@psta.net



Join us!!!



Saturday, Nov. 9, 10am-12pm
Thursday Nov. 21, 3:30-4:30pm
Saturday, Dec. 7, 10am-12pm
Thursday, Dec. 19, 3:30-4:30pm

SEE SS&T BULLETIN BOARD FOR SIGN-UPS!!!

CONGRATULATIONS

LEADERSHIP PSTA CLASS OF 2019
GRADUATES ON FRIDAY, NOV. 1ST!



Angeli Baker

Purchasing Agent II



Bonnie Epstein

Senior Planner



Kessia Harris

Maintenance Data Analyst



Mark Knight

Construction Project Manager



Mia Kabigting

Graphics Coordinator



Terri Evard

Superintendent of Customer Service

EMPLOYEE OF THE QUARTER

*Submitted by Theo Bakomihalis,
SS&T Superintendent*



Please congratulate
Mr. Milan Rakovic,
PSTA's Driver of The
Quarter for July,
August & September
of 2019!



Milan started at PSTA as a Mechanic Helper, September of 1998 at The St. Petersburg Division of PSTA and was later promoted to Mechanic. In May of 2004, Milan transferred to Transportation and became a Bus Operator. He has over 35 years of history in Transportation and loves his job.

Still going strong at the age of 55, Milan is a proud husband and father of two children, a daughter and son. He has served in the military in Serbia and immigrated to the United States in 1997. He stays very active enjoying soccer and tennis.

Mr. Rakovic has always shown professionalism and treats everyone with respect. He maintains a positive attitude throughout his work and enjoys people. He has been a positive role model in all aspects of his career showing patience and expertise in his endeavors. He is very grateful and appreciative for being a part of our PSTA family and is a great asset to The Authority. His competence and dedication go a long way and it is with great honor and pride that we present him with The Driver of The Quarter Award!

EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT

Submitted by Jeff Thompson, Director of Transportation



**Bravo,
Silverio (Sal)
Arruda!**

On September 13, 2019 while operating the northbound route 52 in bus 14108, bus operator, Sal Arruda, noticed a brush fire at the Largo Transit Center near Roosevelt Blvd. and US 19, as smoke was blowing across the bus loading area. Sal jumped into action, taking the fire extinguisher off the bus and used it to put out the fire.

I appreciate that Sal took it upon himself to react to this danger and really did a fine job in making sure this problem did not escalate into a bigger problem.

Sal was recognized at the Quarterly Meeting and we thank Sal for representing PSTA in a fine manner. Way to go!



*Submitted by Theo
Bakomihalis, SS&T
Superintendent*

The Million Miles Club was established to acknowledge our senior drivers who have past the threshold of having driven 1,000,000 miles of revenue service for PSTA. We established a method of averaging miles driven based on hours worked, then took into account the number of years worked to establish total miles driven.

It is an ongoing club and we have other drivers approaching the threshold soon to be added to it. We had a presentation at the quarterly meeting and presented them with a small take home trophy and have created two plaques, one in the lobby and one in the drivers' lounge, where their names are engraved.

A festive graphic featuring colorful stars (red, yellow, green, blue, purple) and swirling streamers (red, yellow, green, blue, pink) scattered across the page. The word "CONGRATULATIONS" is written in a colorful, bubbly font across the center.

CONGRATULATIONS

**•Karen O'Hara
Oaksin O'Hara
Doug Kocher
John Williams
Betty Chappell
Mike Ralston
Kerry Williams**

SAFETY AWARDS

SEPTEMBER 2019

★ GREAT JOB!



Submitted by Eddie Kester, SS&T Supervisor

OPERATOR NAME	DATE EARNED	# OF YEARS AWARDED	TYPE OF AWARD
JANE BUCKLEY	9/19/2019	20	Pin, Certificate, Shoulder Patch
THOMAS SKUKALEK	9/3/2019	19	Pin
ROBERT GIESELMAN	9/27/2019	19	Pin
DONNELL WILSON	9/16/2019	17	Pin
WILMIN HOLMES	9/28/2019	17	Pin
ABDERRAHIM BENTARGHI	9/22/2019	16	Pin
GEORGE LENTINI	9/19/2019	16	Pin
HOSEA WISDOM	9/4/2019	14	Pin
ERNIE B MALONE	9/25/2019	14	Pin
STIVEL WRIGHT	9/18/2019	13	Pin
JEFFREY S LANGE	9/10/2019	12	Pin
ERIC T BUNCH	9/7/2019	11	Pin
ROBERT STEPHENS	9/7/2019	11	Pin
RAYMOND CASPERSON	9/10/2019	10	Pin, Certificate, Shoulder Patch
JAMES K MURRAY	9/10/2019	10	Pin, Certificate, Shoulder Patch
DANIEL DUMOND	9/7/2019	9	Pin
ELISEO F ROMAN	9/12/2019	8	Pin
RAMON PEREZ	9/8/2019	6	Pin
THOMAS TITO	9/8/2019	6	Pin
DARLENE BROWN	9/8/2019	6	Pin
VALERIE A GRAIN	9/28/2019	4	Pin
MIKE J PENO	9/15/2019	3	Pin, Certificate, Shoulder Patch
JAMES L JOSSELYN	9/15/2019	3	Pin, Certificate, Shoulder Patch
KIMBERLY GROOMS	9/28/2019	3	Pin, Certificate, Shoulder Patch
MOHAMMED HAQUE	9/27/2019	2	Pin
CHERESE O DEMMONS	9/15/2019	2	Pin
ELBERT M CRAIG	9/20/2019	2	Pin
MARK A FIELDS	9/25/2019	2	Pin
JUSTIN WILLIAMS	9/25/2019	1	— Pin, Certificate
DAVE PHILLIPS	9/10/2019	1	Pin, Certificate

YOU ARE AWESOME

COMMENDATIONS FOR THE MONTH OF OCTOBER

BUS OPERATORS

ANGELA BAKER

HANNAH BOURQUE

QUEEN BOYD

JONATHAN FRIAS

MOHAMMED HAQUE

IRISH HENDERSON

CYNTHIA HOLSTON

JOHNNY HUGGINS

TATASHA LINDSAY

DOBIE MCCASKILL

ENCI MUSTALI

MAXIMO NUNEZ

CHRISTOPHER OKON

RIZALDO PANGANIBAN

RUTH ROBINSON

VIVIAN RODRIGUEZ

DARLENE SEAY

ELSA VELEZ

WALLACE WEBB

MICHAEL WORLEY

NATALIE WRIGHT





Join us for . . .

The Great American Teach-In

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 13th!

Members of the community are invited into Pinellas County schools for an hour, a few class periods or an entire school day to share information with students about their career or hobby, to organize an activity, to read a story or to teach a class.

Teach-In participants will be able to see Pinellas County public schools and interact with students firsthand. For alumni of Pinellas County Schools, the annual event is an excellent opportunity to return to old classrooms in elementary, middle or high schools, and visit favorite teachers or staff members.

In addition to elementary, middle and high schools, there also are dropout-prevention programs, exceptional education schools, and alternative schools that are seeking speakers.

**If you'd like to volunteer, please contact
Nicole Dufva, Public Engagement Planner,
at 540-1804 or ndufva@psta.net**

PSTA School Supplies Drive

NEW YEAR NEW SUPPLIES

Let's make an **AWESOME** impact on Pinellas County teachers and their classrooms to help our community's children succeed!

Suggested supplies:

Paper: lined paper, construction paper, spiral notebooks, composition books, index cards

Pencils & Pens: blue or black pens, #2 pencils, colored pencils, erasers, pencil sharpeners, pencil cases, markers, crayons, highlighters

General Supplies: 3-ring 2" binders, pocket folders, report covers

Classroom Supplies: rulers, glue sticks, scissors, tape

Miscellaneous Items: backpacks, tissues, sanitizing wipes, hand sanitizer

Please support this effort by **donating school supplies** for students and teachers at the **Great American Teach-In**



Donation boxes will be in all of the PSTA break rooms. **Due Friday November 8, 2019.**

**SS&T SUPERVISOR, AJ ORTIZ, RECENTLY
ATTENDED CAREER DAY AT
HOLY FAMILY EARLY CHILDHOOD
CENTER & INTRODUCED PUBLIC TRANSIT
TO THE KIDS!**



fun!





Welcome

LEADERSHIP PSTA WELCOMES THE INCOMING CLASS OF 2020!



Emma DeJesus

Mobility Supervisor



Julie Cagliostro

Director of IT



Larkesha Burr

Customer Service Lead Supervisor



Michael Hanson

Director of Finance



Michael Hetrick

Assistant Project Manager



Thomas Heyob

Transportation Supervisor

THE NEW BLOOD PRESSURE MACHINE IS NOW OPEN, IN THE BLUE CUBICLE BY THE DISPATCH WINDOW.

CHECK YOUR BP ANYTIME YOU WANT, JUST BE SURE TO HIT THE RED BUTTON WHEN DONE, AND NO ONE BUT YOU SEES OR KNOWS YOUR NUMBERS!

*Submitted by
Liz O'Hara,
Benefits Manager*



TRAINING

Photos Submitted by AJ Ortiz, SS&T Supervisor



Photo 1: Training the Looper route



Photo 2: Training ADA wheelchair securement



Photo 3: Class 1905

WELCOME TO OUR NEW STAFF!



The following operator trainees were promoted to full-time, effective October 13, 2019:

- Joel Quiles
- Luis Quinones
- Barbara Miller
- Tony Rosado
- Youssry Tawadros
- Cathy Lavine
- Ron Jenkins
- Thaddeus Jah
- Iffat Mizan
- Vinny Almeida



WHAT'S

NEW

ON-ROUTE BATHROOM SPOTS

Operators – you can find a list of bathrooms on every PSTA route on our employee website

Just go to <https://www.psta.net/employee-site/> and click on **Bus Operators Area** under Quick Links



Then click on **Restroom Relief Locations**



THANK YOU

David Mercado
(Scheduling),
Jacob Labutka
(Planning), and
Tom Heyob
(Dispatch) for
creating this!

*Submitted by
Trish Collins,
Director of HR*



Here is the updated list of bus schedule effective dates. If you have any bus schedules or maps, please check them against this chart to be sure you have the most up-to-date info.

It's also located on the bottom of the Route Changes page (psta.net/servicechange)

Submitted by Mia Kabigting, Graphics Coordinator



**Passenger Schedule Effective Dates
Effective October 20, 2019**

If you have schedules with effective dates prior to those listed below, please throw them away.
Only currently dated passenger schedules provide up-to-date information.

Route Number	Effective Date	Route Number	Effective Date
4	6-2-19	67	6-4-17
5	6-2-19, Revised 5-31-19	68	6-2-19
7	6-17-18, Revised 8-21-18	73	10-20-19
9	10-20-19	74	2-18-18
11	6-2-19	75	10-11-15
14	10-20-19	76	6-2-19
15	6-17-18 Revised 8-21-18	78	6-2-19
16	10-7-18	79	6-2-19
18	10-20-19	90	10-4-09
19	2-3-19	812	10-20-19
20	10-20-19	813	10-20-19
22	2-14-16	814	10-20-19
23	10-7-18	100X	6-17-18, Revised 8-21-18
32	2-14-16	300X	10-20-19
34	6-4-17	East Lake Shuttle	10-11-15, Revised 7-21-17
38	2-18-18	Suncoast Beach Trolley SM	2-3-19
52/52LX	10-20-19	Central Avenue Trolley	10-20-19
58	2-18-18	Downtown Looper/ eLooper (711)	6-2-19, Revised 5-31-19
59	10-20-19	Jolley Trolley North Beach	2-18-18
60	10-7-18	Jolley Trolley South Beach	2-18-18
61	6-2-19	Jolley Trolley Coastal	2-18-18
62	10-20-19	System Map	10-20-19
65	6-2-19		
66L	10-7-18		

DBE

DISADVANTAGED BUSINESS
ENTERPRISE PROGRAM

Submitted by Angeli Baker, Purchasing




Al Burns, Abhishek Dayal, Magarita Soto, Edith Randle, Michael Hetrick, BJ Gavin, and Angeli Baker participated in the Pinellas County Reverse Trade show held at SPC Seminole Campus on Friday, Oct. 18th to encourage vendors to bid on PSTA's upcoming solicitations, including the BRT.

The team talked to over 40 vendors and contractors and guided some through the registration process for becoming a DBE Vendor with PSTA.

We're encouraged that this will greatly boost our competition and DBE participation!



DID YOU KNOW?



PSTA FACTS & FIGURES

- Transit Vehicles: 210
- Routes: 42, including 2 express routes to Hillsborough County
- Bus Stops: 4,699 – **4,602** as of 10-14-19
- Shelters: 529 – **537** as of 10-14-19
- Customer Service Centers: 4
- Annual Calls Received by InfoLine: 437,364
- Total Ridership (all modes): 12 million annually; 38,443 average weekday
- Bikes on Buses Trips: 388,360
- Demand Response Service (DART) Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Trips: 367,422; 1,215 average weekday
- Annual Service Mileage: 8.8 million
- Annual Service Hours: 647,873
- Annual Total Operating and Capital Budget: \$133 million
- Number of Employees: 619 (budgeted)
- Funding: Federal and State grants (20%), Passenger fares (13%), advertising and miscellaneous revenues (5%), and Ad Valorem taxes (62%)
- Millage Rate: 0.75 (cap 0.75)

Submitted by Kerry Dudley,
Accountant



RECIPE OF THE MONTH



KETO LEMON BARS

INGREDIENTS

FOR THE CRUST

- Cooking spray
- 2 c. almond flour
- 1/4 c. Swerve confectioners' sugar sweetener
- 1/4 tsp. kosher salt
- 1/2 c. (1 stick) melted butter

FOR THE FILLING

- 4 large eggs
- 1/3 c. sour cream
- 1/2 c. lemon juice
- 2 tsp. lemon zest
- 1 tsp. pure vanilla extract
- 1/2 c. almond flour
- 1/2 c. Swerve confectioners' sugar sweetener, plus more for topping

DIRECTIONS

- 1** | Make crust: Preheat oven to 350° and line a 9"-x-9" baking pan with parchment paper and grease with cooking spray. In a large bowl, whisk together almond flour, Swerve, and salt. Add melted butter and stir to combine.
- 2** | Press mixture into prepared pan in an even layer and bake until lightly golden, 15 minutes.
- 3** | Make filling: In a another large bowl, combine eggs, sour cream, lemon juice, zest, and vanilla. Add almond flour and Swerve, and whisk to incorporate.
- 4** | Pour filling over crust and bake until filling is just set, 15 minutes. Let cool to room temp, then refrigerate until set, about 2 hours.
- 5** | When ready to serve, cut into squares and dust with Swerve, if desired.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

to all of our October babies!!!



OCTOBER FACTS

October is the 10th month of the year and has 31 days.

Season: Autumn

Holidays:

- Yom Kippur
- Columbus Day
- Halloween
- National Hispanic Heritage Month (Sep 15 through Oct 15)
- Italian American Heritage Month
- Polish American Heritage Month
- National Breast Cancer Month
- National Pizza Month
- National Dessert Month
- Country Music Month

Symbols:

- Birthstone: Opal and pink tourmaline
- Flower: Calendula
- Zodiac signs: Libra and Scorpio

Call for Newsletter Submissions...



Please send us your stories!!!

- Cool ideas for the newsletter? Please contact Tamika White, 540-1850 or twhite@psta.net.
- Newsletter Committee members include: Juan Luvian, Nicole Dufva, and Shelbie Harris.

