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Rideshare Trivia Corner
(answers in the next newsletter)

How much air pollution does one car emit into the air each year?

a. 1 ton
b. 3 tons
c. 5 tons

What is the most common reason for not carpooling?

a. Not enough time
b. Too expensive
c. Don’t know anyone

How many pounds does the average bicyclist lose during their first year of bike commuting?

Annual Transportation Survey!

The OC Rideshare Office has launched the All Employees Annual Transportation Survey. A special email with a link to the on-line survey was distributed in September to County of Orange and Superior Court employees. All employees are required to complete the short survey. When they do, they will be eligible to win a $200 gift card.

The results of the annual transportation survey are used to compare commuting trends from year-to-year and to add features to the OC Rideshare Program. Some of the information collected allows us to reach out to employees throughout the year as new transit lines open, or if there is potential for forming a carpool or vanpool from your area.

In addition, through the survey process, you can request to be added to the 2015 Carpool/Vanpool Classifieds, a new list of County of Orange and Superior Court employees interested in carpooling or vanpooling. Employees can then contact co-workers to discuss sharing the ride.

Check Out OCTA’s New Website

The Orange County Transit Authority (OCTA) has launched a new website that makes it easier than ever to connect with OCTA and find the transportation information you need. You’ll also find accessing the site via smartphone and tablet easier and faster. Try it today!

The new site was designed with many different users in mind. Each month, Orange County residents, businesses and government officials interact with the OCTA website at a rate of nearly two million times. That number will continue to grow as more people rely on digitally-delivered information. OCTA’s new site is designed to respond to that growth. Stop by the new octa.net and take it for a test drive.
Tips to Lower Your Fuel Costs

- **Drive less by sharing the ride.** Regularly carpooling with just one other person can cut your fuel costs in half. Check the Carpool/Vanpool Classifieds for a list of co-workers that share your interest in saving money, time and the environment. Another good resource is the regional online ride-matching service, www.Ridematch.info, a database of thousands of employees of surrounding area employers also interested in finding a ride match.

- **Shop fuel prices online.** Fuel price comparison sites and applications, like those offered by Auto Club of America at www.aaa-calif.com, show the stations near your route that offer the lowest prices.

- **Keep your vehicle properly maintained.** If you postpone tune-ups and regular maintenance, including checking tire pressure, it could cost you more at the pumps because vehicles that are not properly maintained run less efficiently.

Rideshare Week 2015

Mark your calendars so you don’t forget to participate in Rideshare Week October 5 – 9 by pledging to bike, vanpool, carpool, take the bus or train to work to help reduce CO₂ emissions. Based on where you live, you’ll be eligible to win great prizes, tickets and more! Check the links below during Rideshare Week to participate in the contests:

- **Los Angeles County** – Go to ridematch.info and “register” for the Commute Calendar—then log in every day you rideshare during Rideshare Week. Any day you don’t drive alone is a chance to win.
- **Orange County** – First-time OCTA bus riders can win a 1-day pass and current riders can win a 30-day pass. Enter at www.octa.net.
- **Inland Empire** – Pledge to rideshare at least one day during Rideshare Week for a chance to nab any of dozens of prizes. Find out more at www.iecommuter.org.
**Commuter Spotlight – Adam Herrera**

Adam Herrera, Sheriff-Coroner, jumped into the carpool lane one year ago and found some extra benefits besides saving on gasoline, time and getting to know one of his co-workers, Steve Walton. Over the past year, Adam and Steve commuted 16-miles to their job site in Irvine, taking turns driving each week. Then Steve got Adam interested in bike riding and that made him a two-wheeler fan.

Soon Adam bought a good road bike and began pedaling, often with Steve, those 16-miles from Orange to Irvine several times a month. Besides the enjoyment of commuting in the open air, he lost 25 lbs. over the year. “I now eat healthier and enjoy riding for pleasure on the weekends too,” said Adam.

**OCTA's Vanpool Program Success**

The OCTA has been successful in helping 70 vanpools get on the road during 2015. This is a 9% increase since 2010 and includes several of the County's vanpools!

OCTA began assisting nearby employers and individuals with vanpool formation in 2007. OCTA's in-service number of vanpools reached an all-time high of 500 for the first time in August of this year. These 500 vanpools take roughly 2,500 cars off the road daily. In addition, each vanpool eliminates 12,500 pounds of CO₂ per month, or roughly 75.8 billion pounds per year. OCTA helps both employers and individual commuters with their vanpool plans and also provides an incentive of $400 per month for each van.

OC Rideshare partners with OCTA Vanpool to host a vanpool information meeting each February. Employees learn the details of forming a vanpool and how to qualify for the incentives offered by OCTA and OC Rideshare.

**What is a Vanpool?** It is a group of people with similar origin, destination and schedule, who share the cost of commuting and ride in a leased vehicle with 7 or more seats. The group shares the cost of the monthly rental, gas, insurance and other costs. Click [here](#) for vanpool basics.
“Caption This” Contest Winner - Margaret Collins, OC Public Works

We recently asked Club Rideshare members to enter our “Caption This” contest for a chance to win a $25 e-Card by coming up with a clever caption for our “frustrated drive.” Here is Margaret’s winning caption:

“Oh my, why do I keep doing this to myself...I could be riding the train and relaxing all the way home.”

Join Club Rideshare — If you rideshare to work at least 20 times, you may be eligible for a $40 incentive when you enroll and $15 annually. Members are eligible for monthly drawings, merchant discounts and other contests plus a monthly e-Bulletin that highlights additional discounts, alerts and fun things for rideshare participants. It’s easy to enroll using the All-in-One form.

OCEA Health Fair September 2015

The Orange County Employee Association's annual Health Fair took place Tuesday, September 22.

Representatives from County agencies and various health organizations educated attendees on health issues and treatments, and provided screenings for glucose levels, grip strength, blood pressure and other health conditions. Massage therapists gave free massages, and Vitamin B-12 shots were available for a nominal fee.

OC Rideshare hosted a booth at the OCEA Health Fair to highlight the benefits of ridesharing, such as less stress from traffic, cleaner air to breathe and the benefits of walking or biking. This year a representative from OCTA Vanpool shared our booth! Many of you stopped by to pick up rideshare information and spin the wheel for a prize donated by OCTA!
**Metrolink Tips**

**Onboard Amenities**
On each Metrolink train you can enjoy the following amenities:

- Tables for reading, watching a movie or getting some work done
- Power outlets for electronic devices in most cars
- Restrooms and drinking water in each car
- Accommodations for at least three bikes (there are also special Bike Cars)

**Quiet Cars**
All Metrolink trains have a designated "Quiet Car" available on weekdays on a first-come, first-served basis at no additional charge. These cars are intended to be a peaceful, quiet atmosphere for those who want to rest or work without distractions. Passengers are asked to follow these guidelines:

- No loud conversations
- Use headphones for audio on devices

You can locate the Quiet Car on the changeable message sign on the side of the passenger car. Typically, the Quiet Car is the second passenger car from the locomotive.

**Save Money and Time**
Request a Metrolink Corporate Quick Card (CQC). The CQC is used to retrieve monthly passes reserved by OC Rideshare for your specific route. Each month, you’ll see a deduction on your pay stub for any monthly passes that you’ve retrieved from the Ticket Vending Machine. The cost of the monthly pass will be paid with pre-tax dollars under the Commuter Choice Program for savings on your income tax. Sign up for the Program through OC Rideshare by using the Voluntary Payroll Deduction Authorization Form.

Will Metrolink work for you? Test it out with the Try-Transit-On-Us incentive. Get reimbursed by OC Rideshare the first time you purchase a 1-day or 7-day Metrolink ticket to commute to work. It’s easy using the All-in-One form with your proof of purchase.

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**Did You Know...**

- **Carpool Lanes Open on I-215** – In June Caltrans opened the final 7.5 mile segment of carpool lanes of Interstate 215, closing the last remaining gap in the carpool lanes between Riverside and San Bernardino counties. The new lanes extend from the Orange Show Road interchange in San Bernardino to the I-60/I-91/I-215 Interchange in Riverside.

- **Lose 20 Pounds a Day**...of pollution, that is. According to the American Public Transportation Association, a person with a 20-mile round trip commute who switches from driving to public transit can reduce his or her daily carbon emissions by 20 pounds a day, or nearly two and a half tons in a year!