



Moving into the Future

*The Weekly Newsletter from America's Most Efficient
Suburban Transit Agency*

Vol. II, Number 68

www.pacebus.com

November 17, 2005

Pace is the suburban public transit agency for Chicagoland's six-county metropolitan region. As the 13th largest bus agency in the U.S., Pace operates fixed bus routes, vanpools and paratransit services in nearly 250 municipalities consisting of 5.2 million residents. Visit the [Route Finder](#) for bus route information.

Bus drivers honored for outstanding service

It takes a uniquely safety-conscious individual to drive one million miles without an accident. Considering the average American drives 12,000 miles per year, it would probably take you 83 careful years to accomplish this goal--quite a feat. However, a significant number of highly dedicated Pace bus operators have done just that: driven at least one million miles without a preventable accident.

It takes a bus driver approximately 12 ½ years to drive one million miles, and if he or she reaches that mark without a preventable accident, the [National Safety Council](#) recognizes them as a recipient of the Million Miler Award. Drivers in similar professions, such as truck drivers and postal employees, can also qualify for this award.

"If you add up the safe driving miles driven by all who have been inducted into the Pace



Pace Executive Director T.J. Ross and new Two Million Miler John Garrity, a Pace bus driver with 29 years of service.

Million Mile Club, it would equal the distance required to make 840 round trips to and from the moon!" said Deputy Executive Director Melinda Metzger at Saturday's Annual Million Mile Club Breakfast. Such as statistic shows clearly that, over the past 21 years, Pace operators have been a pretty impressive group. To drive all day, every day, for 12 ½ years without a preventable accident requires skills, perseverance and a true love of serving the public.

Pace Northwest operator Ron Halamar, who is a Two Million Mile driver, spoke at the event about how the world has changed in the 33 years he's been driving. With today's driver attitudes and behavior, traffic and congestion, the Million Mile mark becomes more difficult to reach each year.

Yet Pace drivers have adapted to these changing conditions and actually improved their safety records. Of the 900 bus operators who provide service to our customers each day, 4.5% have achieved at least one million miles of safe driving. Ten years ago, 2.5% had reached that goal.

Saturday's event honored all of Pace's Million Mile drivers and introduced the 2005 inductees--24 new One Million Milers and 6 new Two Million Milers. They herald from throughout the region - places like Chicago, Elgin, Des Plaines, Grayslake, Plainfield, Forest Park, Bolingbrook, Oak Lawn, North Chicago, Montgomery, Dyer, IN and more. Their hobbies range from prairie restoration and collecting thimbles, plates and pencil sharpeners to fishing, basketball and racquetball.

In all, 391 Pace bus drivers have achieved Million Miler status. Fully 44 of those individuals have driven 25 years without a preventable accident to reach Two Million Miler status, and two superstar bus drivers in Pace's history have achieved the Three Million Mile plateau.

On hand to celebrate their success were Pace Chairman John Case and Executive Director T.J. Ross. They offered their congratulations to all the Million Milers on a job well done, and their thanks to the Lane Tech High School Junior ROTC Unit, who presented the colors.

Visit Chicago's Festival of Lights without the hassle of driving

This Saturday, November 19, you can enjoy the beauty and pageantry of the Magnificent Mile Festival of Lights while letting Pace do the driving. Express Pace bus service to downtown Chicago from Schaumburg delivers you to this distinctive celebration of the holiday season. The [Festival of Lights Express](#) departs from the [Northwest Transportation Center](#) (NWTC) in Schaumburg at 11:30 a.m. and transports you to downtown Chicago.

The bus departs from Pioneer Court, 401 N. Michigan Ave., south of the Tribune Tower at 7:45pm and returns to the NWTC/Schaumburg. All riders receive an Ultimate Shopping

Excursions card for savings at stores and restaurants in Water Tower Place and the 900 North Michigan shops.

Take the whole family and enjoy the beautiful sights of the Magnificent Mile! The cost is \$7.50 (exact fare is required if tickets purchased on the bus). If you purchase 6 or more tickets, the price per rider is only \$5 each! Kids under 7 are free with each adult fare (limit 2 per adult).



"Moving into the Future" is a weekly newsletter provided by Pace Suburban Bus to update interested parties on the services Pace provides and the progress it makes to constantly improve. Forward to others as you wish. For best results, please print in landscape format. Please submit feedback or remove yourself from the mailing list by calling 847-228-2421 or e-mail your request to govt.affairs@pacebus.com.

© 2005 Pace Suburban Bus