

JANUARY 15, 2025

# IN THE LOOP

The Official Newsletter of the  
Southeastern Pennsylvania Transportation Authority

## Martin Luther King Jr. Day: Honoring a Legacy



January 20, 2025

Read about Dr. King's life and find more details on upcoming events [here](#) as we prepare to honor and continue his mission of justice, equality, and service.

1. Bartram's Garden Neighborhood Cleanup (January 20)
2. MLK Celebration at AAMP (January 17 - 20)
3. Philadelphia Orchestra's MLK Tribute Concert (January 20)
4. MLK Day at the National Constitution Center (January 20)

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*\*Please submit content by  
Friday for Wednesday's  
newsletter*

# A Fond Farewell: Our First Female Engineer



1984 marked a significant milestone in SEPTA--the opening of Philadelphia's Commuter Rail Tunnel connecting Suburban Station with trains that formerly used the Reading Terminal Station. It was one of the most ambitious infrastructure projects undertaken in the city of Philadelphia.

Around the same time another historic event occurred in Philadelphia. Jackie Pettyjohn became the first female locomotive engineer for SEPTA. Pettyjohn first found the job opening at SEPTA through an ad in the Philadelphia Inquirer in August 1984 and few weeks later, the job was hers.

And last week yet another milestone was marked when Pettyjohn retired after an incredible 40-year career of dedicated service for SEPTA. Last Friday, she was surrounded by well-wishers after completing her final trip from Philadelphia International Airport to Suburban Station.

Pettyjohn's trailblazing legacy lives today on as out of 202 engineers, 35 are women.

We wish you well in your retirement, Jackie!

*Courtesy of John Golden, Media Relations*

# System Safety: Confined Space Entry

Week of January 12, 2025



## Defining Confined Space and System Safety's Confined Space Entry Program



What is confined space?

A confined space is an area that's not designed for regular human occupancy and has limited means of entry and exit:

- **Size:** It's large enough for a person to enter and perform work
- **Atmosphere:** It has a hazardous atmosphere, such as toxic substances or asphyxiation
- **Entry and exit:** It has limited or restricted means of entry or exit

Examples of confined spaces include:

- Tanks
- Vessels
- Silos
- Storage bins
- Hoppers
- Vaults
- Pits
- Manholes
- Tunnels
- Equipment housings

Confined spaces can present life-threatening hazards, including:

- Toxic substances
- Explosions
- Electrocutions
- Asphyxiation

[System Safety's Confined Space Entry Program \(#1003\)](#) purpose is to ensure the protection of all workers on SEPTA property from the hazards associated with confined space entry. This document contains requirements for practices and procedures to protect workers from those hazards of entry into and tasks within confined spaces.

It shall be the policy of SEPTA to reduce the need for confined space entry. It shall also be the policy of SEPTA to eliminate, whenever possible, all confined space hazards in order to reclassify permit-required confined spaces to non-permit required confined spaces. When confined space entry is necessary, all provisions of this document are to be followed.

*Managers:* for a quick resource to give your employees please click here for [OSHA's Permit-Required Confined Space Quick Card](#).

Questions or concerns? Please contact System Safety at 215-580-7233 (SAFE) or email us [SystemSafety@SEPTA.org](mailto:SystemSafety@SEPTA.org)

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## SEPTA's DBE PROGRAM PRESENTS, DBE SPOTLIGHTS: BTC ENVELOPES & PRINTING

The SEPTA DBE Program Office would like to share a new DBE, SBE feature story spotlight initiative. Once a month, SEPTA's DBE Program Office will share the story of a Certified DBE/SBE. These features are made to share the stories of our amazing firms, while giving other DBE's and SBE's the encouragement to keep working hard to achieve the American Dream and build wealth.

We hope you enjoy this feature story about Andrew Magnus, Owner and CEO of BTC Envelopes and Printing LLC, and Britten Magnus, Solutions Provider. Click the picture to play video and click below to read the article.



**READ MORE**



### AUDITING & COMPLIANCE WORKSHOP

**Wednesday,  
January 15, 2025  
1:00 - 3:00 PM**

SEPTA Headquarters • 1234 Market Street, Philadelphia, PA 19107 • 3rd Floor Auditorium



**Scan the QR  
Code to  
Register**

Any questions contact:  
dbeprogram@septa.org

### DBE Auditing & Compliance Workshop Today!

SEPTA's DBE Program Office is hosting a workshop for all certified and prospective DBEs and SBEs to learn how to remain compliant when receiving federal funds.

Come learn about audit expectations and certification resources. This workshop will help you establish controls to ensure your firm continuously monitors and measures the effectiveness of all your business's internal control systems.

There will be presentations from:

- SEPTA's DBE Program Office
- SEPTA's Office of Inspector General:  
Michael Purcell (Deputy Inspector General)
- Milligan & Company: John Milligan  
(CEO and Managing Principal)

# National Blood Donor Month

## Your Donation Saves Lives!



*Give blood.*

Every 2 seconds someone  
in the U.S. needs blood.

**American Red Cross**



## SEPTA Administration

Wednesday January 29, 2025

8:00am—1:00pm

1234 Market Street  
11C—11<sup>th</sup> Floor

For an appointment, please visit [redcrossblood.org](https://redcrossblood.org)  
and enter sponsor code: SEPTA  
or scan QR code:



1-800-RED CROSS | 1-800-733-2767 | [redcrossblood.org](https://redcrossblood.org) | Download the Blood Donor App

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# Independence Blue Cross: Where to Get Care

## Where to get care

Know your options for care...before you need them



### Telemedicine

24/7 access to fast, affordable care for common, non-emergent medical issues.



#### Best for

- Allergic reactions (minor)
- Bronchitis
- Cold, cough, and flu
- Digestive issues
- Eye pain or irritation
- Fever
- Headache (minor)
- Skin conditions
- Sinus pain
- Sore throat
- Urinary tract infection
- Vomiting



### Retail clinic

Get quick, convenient care for illnesses and vaccines.



#### Best for

- Allergic reactions (minor)
- Bronchitis
- Burns (minor)
- Cold, cough, and flu
- Cuts and scrapes
- Digestive issues
- Ear pain
- Eye pain or irritation
- Fever
- Headache (minor)
- Insect bites
- Sinus pain
- Sore throat
- Urinary tract infection
- Vaccinations
- Vomiting



### Urgent Care Center

Use this faster, less expensive choice if you get sick or hurt.



#### Best for

- Allergic reactions (minor)
- Animal bites
- Asthma attack (minor)
- Cold, cough, and flu
- Back pain
- Broken bones (minor)
- Bronchitis
- Burns (minor)
- Digestive issues
- Ear pain
- Eye pain or irritation
- Fever
- Headache (minor)
- Infections
- Injuries (minor)
- Insect bites
- Sinus pain
- Skin conditions
- Sore throat
- Sprains and strains
- Stitches
- Urinary tract infection



### Emergency Room (ER)

Go to the ER in case of a life-threatening or severe sickness or injury.



#### Best for

- High fever with headache or stiff neck
- Loss of consciousness
- Major injury
- Overdose
- Poisoning
- Seizure
- Severe allergic reaction
- Signs of heart attack or stroke
- Spine injury
- Sudden severe headache
- Suicidal thoughts
- Trouble breathing

This flyer is provided for informational purposes and is not meant to substitute for the advice provided by your own physician or other medical professional. You should not use the information contained herein for diagnosing or treating a health problem or disease, or prescribing any medication. If you have, or suspect that you have, a medical problem, promptly contact your health care provider.

Independence Blue Cross offers products through its subsidiaries Independence Hospital Indemnity Plan, Keystone Health Plan East and QCC Insurance Company, and with Highmark Blue Shield — independent licensees of the Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association.



886017 (10/19)

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# Eagles Pep Rally Recap



Employees gathered for a pep rally on Friday to show their support of our very own Philadelphia Eagles.

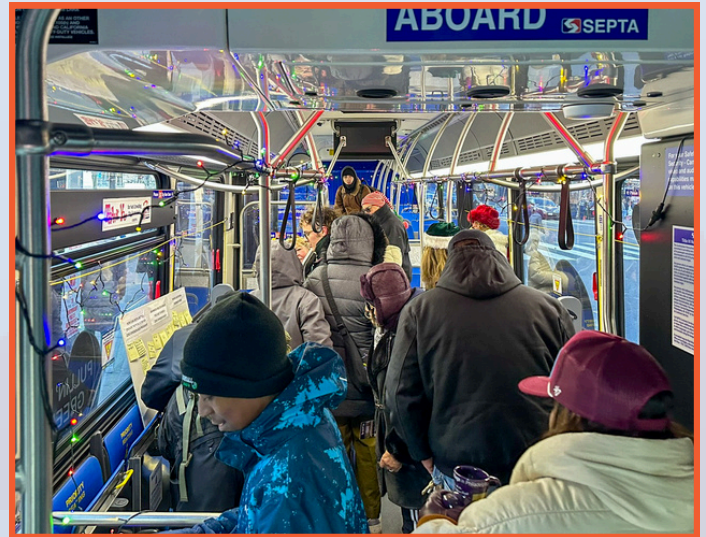
Following a special performance by the Philadelphia Eagles Pep Band, SEPTA announced extra Express trains to NRG Station for Sunday's Wild Card game. Interim General Manager Scott A. Sauer also highlighted SEPTA's initiatives to keep the system safe, secure, and clean for customers.





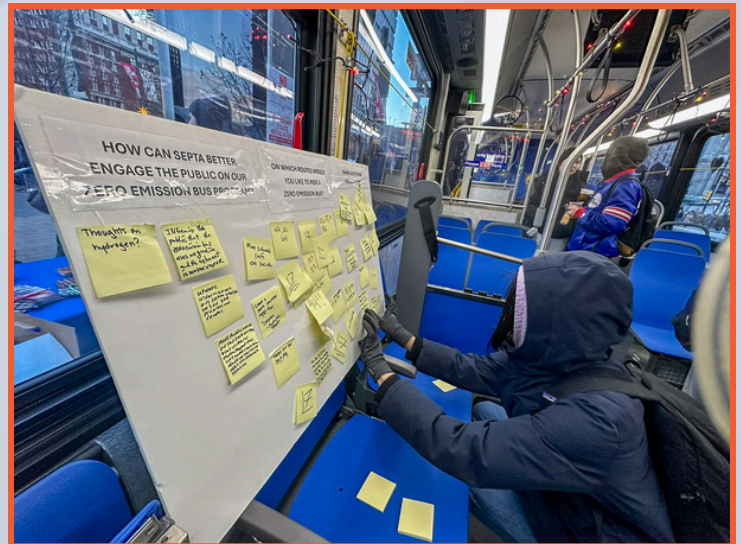
# Zero Emission Bus Pop-Up Recap

SEPTA hosted a successful public pop-up event at Christmas Village on Saturday, December 21st with a turnout of approximately 250 people! The event promoted the rollout of SEPTA's new zero emission fuel cell electric buses, powered by hydrogen to provide cleaner air, quieter rides, and a greener future.



Attendees had the opportunity to learn about SEPTA's zero-emission bus program and the fuel cell electric bus pilot, explore the bus interior, share feedback, and engage with the project team, including representatives from SEPTA's Zero Emission Bus Program, Office of Innovation/Sustainability, and New Automotive Vehicles Team.

Learn more about SEPTA's zero-emission bus technologies and pilot programs at [www.septa.org/ZEB](http://www.septa.org/ZEB).





# HR Connection



## Can't Find Time To Get To Human Resources?

HR Connection is a customer service program for employees offering a one-stop link to Human Resources services at your location.

During the Month of January – HR Connection Service Representatives will be available at the following locations to help answer questions and provide information about Benefits, EAP Programs, EEO/AA & ER, Recruitment, Testing, Training and Medical.

We are making the connection by bringing HR Services to you.

### Cierra Robertson

215-580-3756

[cirobertson@septa.org](mailto:cirobertson@septa.org)

*January 6*

Roberts Yard: 7:00 am – 2:00 pm

*January 13*

Wayne Junction: 7:00 am – 2:00 pm

### Jeanette Gerena

215-580-7120

[jgerena@septa.org](mailto:jgerena@septa.org)

*January 8*

Comly: 6:30 am – 10:30 pm

Frankford: 11:00 am – 2:00 pm

*January 24*

Midvale: 6:00 am – 2:00 pm

### Camille Kersey

215-964-4784

[ckersey@septa.org](mailto:ckersey@septa.org)

*January 9*

Fern Rock: 6:00 am – 2:30 pm

### Joseph Taylor

215-580-7434

[jataylor@septa.org](mailto:jataylor@septa.org)

*January 9*

Jenkintown: 6:30 am – 9:30 am

*January 23*

Courtland/Berridge/Wyoming:  
6:30 am – 9:30 am

### LaVerna Peay

215-580-3756

[lpeay@septa.org](mailto:lpeay@septa.org)

*January 9*

Southern: 6:30 am – 9:30 am

### Kimberly Zavislak

215-580-3501

[kzavislak@septa.org](mailto:kzavislak@septa.org)

*January 10*

Allegheny: 7:00 am – 3:00 pm

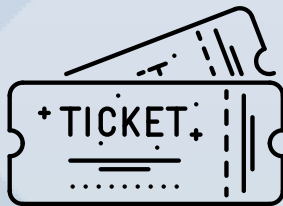
*January 31*

Suburban: 7:00 am – 3:00 pm

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## COMTO Breakfast



COMTO cordially invites you to our upcoming DBE Breakfast on Monday, February 3, 2025, at the Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission Headquarters Building (190 North Independence Mall West, Philadelphia, PA 19106).

The breakfast will feature a distinguished panel of business executives who will share their insights on cultivating effective partnerships and DBE's will have the opportunity to engage in a speed networking session designed to connect them with Primes contractors and foster new business relationships. *Employees will have to use personal time to attend this event.*

## SEPTA | Philadelphia Employer of Choice

SEPTA is honored to be recognized as a Philadelphia Employer of Choice. A big thanks to The Chamber of Commerce for Greater Philadelphia and Philadelphia Department of Commerce and congratulations to our fellow honorees!

We are excited to begin another great year serving the people of the Philadelphia region and supporting all of our dedicated employees.

SEPTA is a great place to build a career because of the critical service we provide, fabulous employee benefits, and terrific co-workers.

In 2024 #SEPTA hired a record 1,475 employees.





## HR Recruitment



### Get Moving In The Right Direction!

The SEPTA Recruitment Team is happy to share with our employees and spread community outreach.

During the Month of January, our recruiters will be available at the following locations to recruit qualified individuals. We are looking for the best candidates to fill very important positions.

Feel free to spread the word and share the opportunities:

#### City Employer Job Fair

January 16, 2025

10:00 am – 2:00 pm

2500 Jackson St, Philadelphia, PA 19145

#### City Employer Job Fair

January 28, 2025

10:00 am – 2:00 pm

2500 Jackson St, Philadelphia, PA 19145

#### Drexel Engineering & Technology Career Fair 2025

January 28, 2025

1:00 pm – 5:00 pm

3301 Market St, Philadelphia, PA 19104

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## Empower Events

**Boost your savings Seminar** (in person), January 21st at 12:00 PM. Conference Room 5A, 1234 Market Street.

- Come Join Empower to learn more about the 457b plan, and how to save with the plan!

**Lobby Day**, January 28th from 9:00 am – 1:30 pm. Lobby, 1234 Market Street

- Come visit Empower at the SEPTA lobby to get your questions answered.









## In the Loop on Viva Engage



Want to keep In The Loop? Join our community on Viva Engage. Get the latest news and info on SEPTA as it happens, plus employee spotlights, fun polls, and much much more.

Click [here](#) to join the conversation.

# JANUARY 2025

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			 <b>01</b> New Years Day	<b>02</b> Hanukkah Final Day 	<b>03</b>	<b>04</b>
<b>05</b>	<b>06</b>	<b>07</b>	<b>08</b>  Toastmasters @ Noon	<b>09</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>  WITsgiving	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>19</b>	<b>20</b> MLK Day 	 <b>EMPOWER 21</b> Boost your savings Seminar (12PM)	<b>22</b>  Toastmasters @ Noon	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>
<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	 <b>EMPOWER 28</b> Lobby Day (9AM - 1PM)	 <b>29</b> Chinese New Year Annual Blood Drive	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>	

## January Observances & Key Dates

New Years Day (1/1)  
 Kwanzaa Ends (1/1)  
 Hanukkah Ends (1/2)  
 Martin Luther King Junior Day (1/20)  
 Chinese New Year (1/29)  
 National Blood Donor Month  
 Glaucoma Awareness Month  
 Cervical Health Awareness Month

## Coming Next Month

Super Bowl Sunday (2/9)  
 Valentines Day (2/14)  
 Presidents Day (2/17)  
 Black History Month