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# Safety Newsletter

Southwest Area Regional Transit District

July, August, and September 2021

Quarterly Newsletter

## Reminders:

- Make sure a pre-trip inspection is being done correctly and complete
- Do not use your cell phones while driving, please use mic.
- Assist clients on and off the bus, always ask if they need assistance.
- Place the phone in the cup holder.
- Do not leave straps in the floor place them back in the rails, it is not safe to use a trash can or anything else to hold straps, they have to be returned to the tracks for safety reasons.

## The new Texas COVID-19 surge could be worse than anything the state has seen yet

The highly transmissible delta variant of the coronavirus is spreading rampantly in Texas. We're keeping our readers up to date on the latest news on the pandemic. We will text you a few times a week. Let us know what questions you have about what's safe right now, what's happening with cases and hospitalizations, and how the state is responding as Texas faces its latest wave of COVID-19 cases.

## Do Not Let your COVID-19 Guards Down

We must remain alert that COVID-19 is a contagious illness that poses the possibility of exposure in any public place where people are present. Despite life seeming more "normal" than in previous months, COVID-19 will be part of our reality for the foreseeable future. We must stay vigilant, especially as the Texas Department of Health reports recent increases in the numbers of confirmed cases of the virus around the state.

Now is not the time to let our guards down. The same best practices that helped us flatten the curve this spring are critical now. They include:

- Wearing face coverings indoors and outdoors where a six-foot distance from others is not possible
- Continued physical distancing
- Frequent and proper hand-washing
- Avoiding touching your face

Staying home and away from others if you are sick

As the priority is to keep everyone safe in the communities, we must continue to take personal responsibility when it comes to protecting ourselves, our loved ones and everyone with whom we come in contact.

These small steps — even the ones that seem strange or inconvenient — should be habit by now, and they remain critical practices.

## SAFETY COMMITTEE

Cynthia Rodriguez — Uvalde

Francisco Villalobos— Eagle Pass

Carlos Mallen—Eagle Pass

Jesus Puente—Eagle Pass

Jesus Rodriguez—Eagle Pass

3 available Vehicle Operators from the county service area.

The Committee members will be meeting quarterly to tackle any safety issues or concerns. Feel free to bring any issues to those members as needed.

Your concerns are greatly appreciated.

### New Hires.....Vehicle Operators

Carlos Aceves—Eagle Pass

Jose I. Cruz— Eagle Pass

Maria Sandoval—Uvalde

Forrest Jones—Leakey

Rhonda Linehan— Batesville

Manuel Gonzalez—Carrizo Springs

**WELCOME!!**

### COVID 19

#### Important dates/recipes

Safety Meeting News

#### Community Involvement

Employees Birthdays/Safety

Drive Safely !



**SWART**

Don't forget to visit  
our web site



July Birthdays

Laura Herrera—7/1  
Forrest Jones — 7/9  
Cristina Guerrero — 7/10  
Jesus Puente — 7/27  
Anna R. Diaz—7/31

August Birthdays

Jesus A. Rodriguez—8/6  
Elizabeth Martinez—8/10  
Francisco Villalobos—8/20  
Rolando De Luna—8/24  
Rosalee Ramos—8/26

September Birthdays

Rey De Los Santos—9/2  
Rhonda Linehan—9/10  
Humberto Acosta—9/12  
Rosalia Parra—9/13  
Manuel Cervantes—9/16



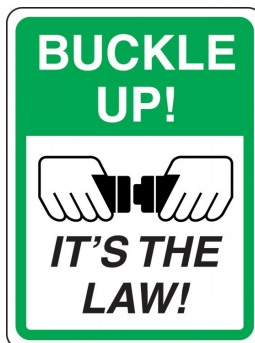
Remy Reyes, Vehicle Operator from Uvalde attends PASS training with Frank Villalobos, Safety and Training Technician.



Rhonda Linehan, Vehicle Operator from Batesville attends PASS training with Frank Villalobos, Safety and Training Technician.



Forrest Jones, Vehicle Operator from Leakey attends PASS training with Frank Villalobos, Safety and Training Technician.



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# Safety Issues

- Make sure walkers are secured at all times.
  - Illegal U turns in the middle of the street are prohibited.
  - Do not use vehicles that are not equipped with cameras. It's for your own safety.
  - Check ramps, make sure they are properly secure before opening doors.
  - Be accurate on pre-trips.
  - Incident/accidents Reports need to be turned in within 24 hours that an incident/accidents occurs not days later.
  - Park buses in their designated spots. For no reason should we have vehicles parked under the canopy.
  - Mechanical failures need to be reported to the Vehicle Technicians, not to your Supervisor.
  - Gassing up vehicles at the end of your shift is a must and they need to be cleaned as needed.
- Asegúrese de que los caminantes estén asegurados en todo momento.
  - Los giros ilegales en U en medio de la calle están prohibidos.
  - No utilice vehículos que no estén equipados con cámaras. Es por tu propia seguridad.
  - Cheque la rampa, asegúrese de que estén correctamente seguros antes de abrir las puertas.
  - Sea preciso en los viajes previos.
  - Estacione los autobuses en sus lugares designados. Sin ninguna razón deberíamos tener vehículos estacionados bajo el dosel.
  - Las fallas mecánicas deben ser reportadas a los Técnicos del Vehículo, no a tu supervisor.
  - El gasing up vehicles al final de su turno es una necesidad.

## TML Comparison Report

Please note that this report reflects as of June 30, 2021

Fund Year	Workers Comp.	General Liability	Auto
2020/2021	2	0	4
Contribution	34,662	209	43,078
Loss Ratio	29.1%	0.0%	37.1%
Fund Year	Workers Comp.	General Liability	Auto
2019/2020	1	0	5
Contribution	36,734	268	45,424
Loss Ratio	1.5%	0.0%	10.7%

**Vehicle Safety:** While preventive maintenance and repairs are normally the responsibilities of maintenance personnel, the transit driver/operator alone is responsible for assessing the safety of the vehicle before, during, and after regular service.

**The professional operator/driver must carefully pre-trip (inspect) the vehicle at the end of the shift.**





## Important dates to remember:

⇒ Don't forget to clock in daily, and submit your timesheet. If you have any questions or problems with EWS, contact Laura Herrera, Finance Assistant at 830-278-4155 ext. 3039

## Simple recipes

### Creamy Herb Chicken

#### Ingredients

2 large chicken breasts cut in half lengthwise, 1/2 teaspoon garlic powder,

- Salt & pepper to taste
- Flour for dredging
- 1 tablespoon olive oil
- 1 tablespoon butter
- 1 teaspoon Dijon mustard
- 1/2 cup dry white wine or chicken broth
- 1 tablespoon chopped poultry herb mix (sage/thyme/rosemary)
- 1 cup heavy/whipping cream



Cut chicken in half lengthwise; sprinkle both sides with the garlic powder and salt & pepper, then dredge the chicken in the flour so it's completely coated.

Add the olive oil and butter to a skillet over medium high heat. Add the chicken in when the pan is hot. Cook the chicken for 4-5 minutes/side or until it's nice and golden, then take the chicken out of the pan and set aside.

Add the white wine and mustard to the pan and stir thoroughly. Let it bubble for a couple of minutes.

Stir in the cream and herbs and add the chicken back into the pan. Let it simmer for another 5 minutes or so (you may need to turn the heat down), until the chicken is cooked though and the sauce is thickened. Season with extra salt & pepper if needed.

**The difference between  
ordinary & extraordinary  
is that little extra.**

– Jimmy Johnson



# SWART involved within our Communities...

Maria Camacho, Mobility Manager Specialist



Cotulla Housing 8/24/2021



Crystal City Kids—Middle Rio Grande Development Council 8/16/2021



Crystal City Centro De Salud Fair 8/13/2021

