

May the Luck of the Irish be with you this month

Take BART to St. Patrick's Day events in San Francisco, Dublin

Paint the town green! Not literally, of course, but with St. Patrick's Day spirit.

Saturday, March 14 San Francisco will celebrate St. Patrick's Day, and everything Irish, with a parade full of thousands of dancers, musicians and revelers of all kinds, reeling about the City with laughter and revelry. All who attend will be gifted with the Luck of the Irish, a twinkle and a smile.

Those who take BART will be smiling a bit more than others, having avoided traffic and parking hassles on the way to the parade and festival. Exit BART at the Montgomery Street, Powell Street or Civic Center stations to find your pot of gold. Plan your BART trip at bart.gov.

The parade begins at 11:30 a.m. at the corner of Second and Market; the festival will take



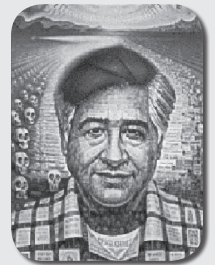
place from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. at San Francisco's Civic Center Plaza and on Grove Street from Polk to Larkin.

For more info, visit uissf.org

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Parade and festival mark Cesar Chavez holiday

Commemorate and celebrate the life and work of labor and civil rights leader Cesar Chavez on Saturday, April 4 at San Francisco's Cesar Chavez Holiday Parade and Festival.



Take BART to the 16th Street Mission station to assemble for the parade in Dolores Park. The parade starts at noon.

For the street fair, take BART to 24th Street Mission station. The fair runs from 1 to 5 p.m.

For more information online, please visit cesarchavezday.org. To plan your BART trip, visit bart.gov.

From the General Manager

Rainy days around the Bay...

The Bay Area has received some much needed rain recently, and March is bringing even more precipitation to help ease the threat of drought.

The rainy weather does have some downsides though, including slippery roadways. A great way to avoid hazardous roads, and the inevitable traffic nightmares that come with the wet weather is to take BART. Whether you're heading out for work or play, take BART and relax, instead of fighting Mother Nature.

A couple of tips for riding BART in the rainy season:

- Protect your tickets from raindrops. Dry tickets work much better in fare gates than wet tickets.
- Be careful when you're walking through BART stations and on platforms.
- We want you to have a safe trip, not an accidental slip! Avoid multitasking and wait to make your phone call or change the playlist on your iPod until you're comfortably aboard the train or seated on a bench.

Thank you for riding BART.



Dorothy W. Dugger, General Manager

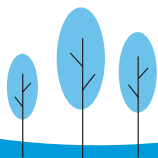
Stimulus package increases commuter tax benefit

The Emergency Economic Recovery Act signed into law by President Obama last month provides significant tax savings, up to \$1,000 or more a year, to working Americans who commute by transit. The law raises the amount of pretax income that workers enrolled in employer-sponsored commuter benefits programs can use to pay for mass transit -- from \$120 per month to \$230 per month.

The commuter benefit allows employees to deduct up to \$230 per month from their gross income to pay for their transit commutes. Employees whose monthly

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BART Eco-fact



Did you know BART carries riders more than 1.3 billion miles per year? That equals almost 52,000 trips around the earth at the equator and, even better, saves over 67 million gallons of gas a year.



For more about BART's environmental benefits, check out BART TV at www.bart.gov/barttv.



Apply today at bart.gov

Earn points fast with the BART Rider Rewards MasterCard

- Earn five points for each dollar spent on eligible BART purchases
- Two points per dollar at qualifying entertainment locations
- One point per dollar on all other purchases
- Points can be redeemed for BART tickets or cash



BARToon grimescartoons.com

March Good Times calendar

27th San Francisco International Asian American Film Festival

www.asianamericanmedia.org
Various locations:

Castro Theater, 249 Castro St., San Francisco
> **BART: EMBARCADERO, MONTGOMERY, POWELL OR CIVIC CENTER**; transfer to Muni Metro K, L or M outbound to Castro.

Sundance Kabuki Cinemas, 1881 Post St., SF
> **BART: MONTGOMERY**, Muni 38-Geary to Fillmore

Pacific Film Archive, 2575 Bancroft Way, Berkeley
> **BART: DOWNTOWN BERKELEY**, 7-block walk.

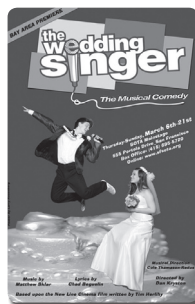
March 12-22: The festival showcases the best Asian and Asian American films from around the globe, including world premieres from two celebrated Bay Area filmmakers: "Fruittfly" by H.P. Mendoza and "In the Matter of Cha Jung Hee" by Deann Borshay Liem. Please see website for information and tickets. (Also in a non-BART-accessible San Jose location; see website for details.)

The Wedding Singer

Bay Area premiere of the new musical San Francisco School of the Arts Main Stage, 555 Portola Drive at O'Shaughnessy
www.sfsotsa-ptsa.org or 415/695-5720

> **BART: GLEN PARK**, cross Bosworth and take Muni 44-O'Shaughnessy to Portola.

March 5-21: In this quality production by students at San Francisco's highly regarded public arts high school, it's 1985 and rock-star wannabe Robbie Heart is New Jersey's favorite wedding singer. He's the life of the party, until his own fiancée leaves him at the altar. Shot through the heart, Robbie makes every wedding as disastrous as his own. Enter Julia, a winsome waitress who wins his affection. The only trouble is that Julia is about to be married to a Wall Street shark.



Berkeley Farmers Market cooking demos

Tuesday market: Derby Street at ML King Jr. Way
www.ecologycenter.org or 510/548-3333

> **BART: ASHBY**, 5-block walk

Tuesday, March 31: For National Nutrition Month, well-known chefs demonstrate their techniques: Chef Leif Hedendal 2:30-4 p.m.; Christine Manoux 4:30-6 p.m.

San Francisco City Guides Ferry Building Tour

Market and the Embarcadero, San Francisco
www.sfcityguides.org

> **BART: EMBARCADERO**



Saturdays, Tuesdays and Thursdays at noon, though April: Enjoy an free hourlong guided tour and learn about the rise, tragic fall, and modern rebirth of one of San Francisco's most renowned historic landmarks. Visit a contemporary swirl of shops and learn the history of ferries, freeways and quakes. Meet at the foot of the stairs at the front entrance, Market and Embarcadero. No reservation needed (except for groups of eight or more).

Gustafer Yellowgold's Golden Heart Symphony

Presidio Middle School
450 30th Ave. @ Geary Boulevard, San Francisco
www.gustaferyellowgold.com or 415/750-8435

> **BART: MONTGOMERY**, Muni 38-Geary to 30th Ave.

Saturday, March 21, 11 a.m. and 3 p.m.; Sunday, March 22, 2 and 5 p.m.: In Taylor's unique blend of live music and moving image, Gustafer is a friendly creature who came to Earth from the sun and has an unusual magnetism for making friends with some of Earth's odder creatures. His best friend is Forrest Applecumbie, the flightless pterodactyl. Taylor's images and music delight kids, teens and adults alike. A benefit for San Francisco schools Save the Summer Music Workshop campaign. Tickets \$15.

Lemony Snicket's "The Composer is Dead!"

San Francisco Symphony Music for Families
Davies Symphony Hall
Grove at Van Ness, San Francisco
www.sfsymphony.org or 415/864-6000

Sunday, March 29, 2 p.m.: A little spooky, a little sad, and a lot of musical fun. The San Francisco Symphony asked composer Nathaniel Stookey to write the music and the great storyteller Lemony Snicket – both San Franciscans – to create the story. See the smile of a walking, talking, living composer, and meet the famous author of the "Series of Unfortunate Events" books.



St. Patrick continued

If you're celebrating St. Patty's Day in the East Bay, check out Dublin's St. Patrick's Day Festival Saturday and Sunday, March 14 and 15 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Dublin Civic Center.

Be sure to catch the free shuttle from the Dublin/Pleasanton BART Station to the festival. To get to the shuttle, exit the station and follow signs to the St. Patrick's Day Festival Shuttle. Board the #10 Wheels Bus. The Festival is just over a mile from the BART Station. Be sure to get a green ticket, as it is your return voucher.

For more info, visit dublinstpats.com.

Stimulus continued

mass transit fares are less than the \$230 cap are allowed to deduct the full amount of their transit costs from their paychecks.

Additionally, employees are allowed to deduct up to \$230 per month for eligible commuter parking expenses.

The measure also helps employers save money by lowering their payroll taxes. If your company isn't signed up, ask your boss to get with the program!

More information on tax benefits for commuters can be found at bart.gov/guide/taxbenefits.aspx.