Caltrain Takes a Stand Against Suicide
Sponsors BraveMaker Film Festival

Caltrain was proud to sponsor the BraveMaker screening of The Edge of Success at The Fox Theatre in Downtown Redwood City on Thursday, September 12.

The documentary film examines two clusters of high school student suicides that occurred in Palo Alto over the last decade, some of which tragically took place on Caltrain tracks.

The event included a post-screening panel, featuring the filmmakers, mental health professionals, local students, and parents as well as Caltrain’s Chief Communications Officer, Seamus Murphy. “While we are first and foremost a public transit agency, we are also committed to working with the communities we serve to help prevent suicides and address underlying causes for these tragedies,” said Murphy. “Through partnerships like this, we hope to help reduce the stigma around mental health, amplify the message that help is available and refer those in crisis to local public health agencies for the support they need.”

The Caltrain Board of Directors proclaimed September as both Rail Safety and Suicide Prevention Month in collaboration with San Mateo County Behavioral Health & Recovery Services. “We couldn’t ask for a better partner to promote mental health and suicide prevention awareness,” said BraveMaker Founder, Tony Gapastione. “We all need to work together to make our community safer for everyone, especially those most vulnerable and in need of emotional support.”

Caltrain reminds the public if someone is ever facing a mental health crisis or considering suicide, the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline is available at 1-800-273-8255 to provide 24/7, free and confidential support.

For more information, visit www.caltrain.com/SuicidePrevention.

Fare Changes
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The changes allow Caltrain to participate in a Regional Means Based Fare Pilot Program currently scheduled to begin in early 2020. By participating in this regional program, Caltrain will be able to offer eligible participants a 20% discount on single-ride adult Clipper Card fares.

The changes also include a 20% increase to the price of the Go Pass that will become effective on January 1, 2020, with a 5% increase to follow every two years on January 1. Clipper discounts for one-way fares and monthly passes will also be reduced by 30 cents on April 1, 2020. The Caltrain Go Pass program allows companies, educational institutions and residential complexes to purchase annual unlimited-ride passes for all eligible employees, residents or students.

Additionally, there will be regular incremental fare increases every two years, with a 50-cent increase to the base fare scheduled for July 2020, a 25-cent increase to the zone fare scheduled for July 2022 and a 50-cent increase to the base fare scheduled for July 2024.

Caltrain is exploring options to create a dedicated revenue source in 2020 to help fund options for expanded service being evaluated in the Caltrain Business Plan.

The Chase Center has arrived in the Mission Bay neighborhood of San Francisco, and if you’re a Peninsula resident looking to catch either the Golden State Warriors or one of many hot concerts, Caltrain is your ticket. The Chase Center is located less than a mile from the San Francisco Caltrain Station, easily accessible on foot or by transferring to the Muni T–Third Line, which is free with a ticket for all Chase Center events.

Regular Caltrain service offers multiple return trips, so even if the game runs into overtime or your concert has a double encore, there will still be a train waiting for you. After weekday events, scheduled trains depart at 9:30 p.m., 10:30 p.m. and 12:05 a.m. After Saturday events, scheduled trains depart at 9:37 p.m., 10:50 p.m. and 12:05 a.m., while events on Sundays and holidays will have the last train depart at 9:37 p.m. and makes all stops. In addition, Caltrain has offered additional trains for some of the shows at Chase Center. Go to www.caltrain.com/specialevents to see if special service is available.

Chase Center has become the hottest ticket in town, so make sure you remember to take Caltrain to get there, because riding the rails is much more fun than sitting in traffic and hunting for a parking spot.

Board Approves Fare Changes

The Caltrain Board of Directors adopted changes to the agency’s fares that will provide low income rides with discounted fares and will generate additional revenue to help support the system’s operating and maintenance needs over the next few years. Caltrain is the only transit system in the region without a dedicated funding source to support its operations. Projections for the coming years anticipate that contributions from Caltrain’s member agencies will remain flat and indicate that the agency will require additional revenue to offset costs associated with the operation of new federally-mandated safety systems. The fare changes will generate nearly $25 million over the next three years to support these needs.

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Round 1 - Cavolfiore & Burrata

So it turns out there are too many good restaurants in downtown Mountain View. It’s a good problem to have, but this column exists to bring light to the darkness and point people towards the best transit-adjacent food available, and boy did we find one at Doppio Zero.

We entered before the lunch rush, preferring the cozy indoors to the al fresco tables that were all filled by the time we left. A wall composed of firewood led the eye to the traditional pizza oven in the kitchen, which is always what I want to see in an Italian joint.

As we took in the ambiance, our first round of cavolfiore and burrata arrived. It’s not often that cauliflower steps out as the star of the show, but the lovely balance between the sweetness of the currants, the crunch of the pine nuts and bread crumbs, and the wholesome caramelize goodness of broccoli’s albinico cousin really hit it out of the park. The burrata was served with a simple combination of tomatoes and eggplant, allowing the cheese to stand out. We used it to assemble our own bruschetta, taking advantage of that incredible fresh bread that we kept needing refills on.

Our main courses came right on time as we polished off the shared plates. The fettucine with wild boar was properly toothsome, and the boar ragu was outstanding. Not at all gamey, and with a taste similar to oxtails, its piggy wonderfulness infusing every bit of the sauce with so much wonderful flavor.

This was matched by their pistachio pizza, a celebration of everyone’s favorite natural finger food. The nuttiness of the pistachios was front and center, with the mortadella taking a subtle back seat. The crust was velvety soft at first bite, but crisped up by the end, offering us a textural journey. The only problem was that I’m fairly sure we ate everything on the table in about 20 minutes.

Doppio Zero’s dishes were deceivingly simple, but all were filled with complex and mature flavors. This place is run by people who know what they’re doing, so come on down and let them show you what’s up.

DOPPIO ZERO - As close as Caltrain gets to Italy

Caltrain’s Holiday Train is a beloved tradition that marks the beginning of the holiday season for Peninsula residents. Revelers should mark their calendars for Saturday, December 7, and Sunday, December 8, if they want to catch the magic in person.

This event began in 2001 and serves as a toy drive for the Salvation Army’s Season of Sharing Program and the Marines Toys for Tots Program. Caltrain and SVCF will be collecting toys at each station for under served children in our community. Last year, the Holiday Train brought an audience of around 30,000 people for the annual event, and facilitated the collection of more than 3,000 toys for children in need.

Decorated with more than 75,000 lights, the Holiday Train visits nine Caltrain stations during the weekend. At each of the train’s 20-minute station stops, people can join in singing with onboard carolers and a Salvation Army brass band. Santa, Mrs. Claus and their extended family — including Frosty the Snowman and Rudolph the Red-nosed Reindeer — will get off the train to greet kids and pose for pictures. Prior to the arrival of the train, families can enjoy free entertainment at each of the Holiday Train station stops. For more information, visit www.holiday-train.org.

Caltrain Safety Tips

- Autumn is upon us, so as you begin to bundle up, keep an eye on your wardrobe. Scarves and long jackets can get caught in the doors if you don’t pay attention.
- There is never an appropriate time to walk along train tracks. Caltrain tracks are private property, and the only time you should be near them is when you are at a station or a designated crossing.
- If you’re driving towards a grade crossing, and see the crossing gates come down, stop, even if you can’t see the incoming train. The temporary inconvenience is much better than the alternative.

Chew Chew Train is a monthly blog feature highlighting places to eat along the Caltrain line. If you have a suggestion for a future restaurant, please email Public Affairs Specialist Dan Lieberman at liebermand@samtrans.com.

Holiday Train
is Coming to Town

The Caltrain Holiday Train will run again during the first weekend in December.

EVENTS CALENDAR

November 28
Applied Materials Silicon Valley Turkey Trot
Downtown San Jose
San Jose Diridon Caltrain Station
www.svturkeytrot.com

November 29
The Chainsmokers
Chase Center, San Francisco
San Francisco Caltrain Station
www.chasecenter.com

December 6
PAC-12 Championship
Levi’s® Stadium, Santa Clara
Mountain View Caltrain Station
www.levisstadium.com

December 7
Hometown Holidays
Courthouse Square, Redwood City
Redwood City Caltrain Station
www.hometownholidays.org

Take Caltrain to these special events. The station name and any additional transit service are listed below each event.

November 19 - January 12
Cirque du Soleil - Amaluna
Oracle Park, San Francisco
San Francisco Caltrain Station
www.cirquedusoleil.com

November 29 - January 12
Christmas in the Park
Plaza de Cesar Chavez, San Jose
San Jose Diridon Caltrain Station
www.christmasinthepark.com