

Rider's Digest



A PUBLICATION OF THE GREATER CLEVELAND
REGIONAL TRANSIT AUTHORITY

Ride RTA to see Cavs

The Cleveland Cavaliers play seven home games this month at the Quicken Loans Arena.

RTA is always the most reliable and economic way to get to Cavs action. Just park free at many rail stations, buy an All-Day Pass for \$3.50, and take the train into Tower City. Use the Walkway to Gateway to reach the Q without ever going outside!

RTA, Vanguards promote fire safety on Dec. 11

From 4-6 p.m. on Dec. 11, RTA staff will be at Tower City to distribute new timetables.

At the same time, The Vanguards of Cleveland, local black firefighters, will distribute information on its "Bright Future Initiative" – an effort to ensure that that a working smoke detection device is installed into every occupancy within the City of Cleveland where a child under the age of 12 lives. For details, visit usfaparents.gov/materials

Nominations being sought

The deadline to nominate RTA employees for the 2006 General Manager's Customer Service Award is Jan. 8, 2007.

Nomination forms and rules are available at the RTA Main Office, 1240 W. Sixth St.; the Customer Service Center at the Tower City Station, or at rideRTA.com.

All RTA meetings are open

RTA's Board meetings are open to the public. They are held at RTA Main Office Building, 1240 W. Sixth St.

- Tuesday, Dec. 5, 9 a.m., Committee meeting.
- Tuesday, Dec. 19, 9 a.m., Regular Board meeting and adoption of the 2007 budget..

Public Square re-opens

The Southeast Quadrant of Public Square and Lower Euclid Avenue re-opened to traffic on Nov. 13. All buses returned to the routes shown inside their current public timetable.

The #6 and the #61 E-Line trolley return to Euclid Avenue, instead of operating on Prospect Avenue.

Three bus routes -- #145Y/R, #86F and #49F -- did not change. The alignment they were following is their new regular route.

These routes have returned to normal operations in the Public Square area:

#1, #4, #6, #7X, #8, #9X, #14, #15, #15F, #17, #19, #20, #23, #25B/W, #32X, #33, #35, #38, #39X/BX, #39F, #51X, #51F, #61 E-Line Trolley, #62 B-Line Trolley, #76X, #76F, #77F, #81, #88X, #135, #239, #251, #451.

Local childhood flu vaccination rate low

The flu hits the Cleveland area hard, especially our kids.

In a recent survey, Cuyahoga County ranked 33 out of the 46 metropolitan areas for pediatric flu vaccination rates -- more than 10 percent below the national average of 18 percent.

Each year, more than 3,000 deaths are attributed to flu and pneumonia, making them among the top 10 causes of death in Ohio.

In 2003-2004, flu was the leading cause of vaccine-preventable death in children in the U.S.

The Community Flu Immunity Challenge wants to change that. Protect your family this flu season. Call 800.493.4266 to locate a flu clinic closest to you.



Greater Cleveland Regional Transit Authority
rideRTA.com

Celebrate the holidays with RTA's family

For generations of children, riding a train downtown during the holidays, and a family reading of *The Polar Express*, were magical event.

On Dec. 9-10, RTA will offer a way to experience both with an exhibit at the Tower City Station. The weekend features three vintage train cars that have been meticulously restored. Volunteers dressed as old-time Motormen will conduct free tours of the

HAPPY *Holidays*

cars from 10 a.m.–4 p.m. each day. Readings from the book *Polar Express* will be conducted on the hour.

For a \$5 donation to *Toys for Tots*, visitors will receive a *Polar Express* bell and a picture with the Motorman.

Holiday service schedule

RTA offices will be closed on Friday, Dec. 22; Monday, Dec. 25, and Monday, Jan. 2.

RTA service will follow a Sunday/Holiday schedule on Dec. 24 –25, and Dec. 31-Jan. 1.

Staff will man the RTAanswerline from 6:30 a.m.-

Continued Inside

Holidays, continued

6:30 p.m. on Dec. 22, and 8 a.m.- 4:30 p.m. on Dec. 23. Staff will be off on Dec. 25 and Jan. 1, but the automated system will respond at 216-621-9500.

Paratransit schedulers and the Customer Service Desk at Tower City will be closed Dec. 25 and Jan. 1.

Paratransit schedulers will maintain normal office hours on all other days. Automated services will be available on days that the scheduling office is closed.

RTA's automated trip planner is available 24/7 at rideRTA.com. Information forms and rules are available at the RTA Main Office, 1240 W. Sixth St.; the Customer Service Center at the Tower City Station, or at rideRTA.com.

Progress at Puritas Station

The Puritas Rapid Station – the last remaining original station on the West Side – will soon be rebuilt. The station opened in the 1950s.

Design work is about 50 percent complete, and will continue into next year. A bid for construction should be awarded in fall 2007, and an 18-month construction project will start.

Work continues daily on a new Rapid Station at West 117th Street. It is slated to open in late 2007.

RTA will be smoke-free!

Effective Feb. 1, 2007, **all** RTA property will be smoke-free.

This includes **all** indoor and outdoor areas open to the public and to customers, such as rail stations, transit centers, park & ride facilities and bus shelters on RTA property, as well as all buses and trains.

RTA asks your cooperation in following these rules. Transit Police will enforce these rules and issue tickets when necessary.

Toys for Tots at RTA

RTA is helping the U.S. Marines help needy children this year by participating in the annual "Toys for Tots" campaign. You can bring toys and cash donations to these sites:

- **North Olmsted Park-N-Ride:** Nov. 28-29, from 6:30-9 a.m.
- **Westlake Park-N-Ride:** Nov. 30-Dec. 1, from 6:30-9 a.m.
- **Strongsville Park-N-Ride:** Dec. 5-6, from 6:30-9 a.m.
- **Euclid Park-N-Ride:** Dec. 7-8, from 6:30-9 a.m.
- **Tower City Rapid Station:** Daily through Dec. 10, during normal service hours.

Help make this holiday season a special one for those less fortunate. Give to the Toys for Tots.

Trinity Commons offers unique shopping outlet

In the midst of holiday hustle and bustle, a store in downtown Cleveland offers shoppers truly unique items.

Ten Thousand Villages at Trinity Commons is at 2254 Euclid Ave., across from CSU.

Free parking is available in the Trinity Commons parking lot on Prospect Avenue at East 22nd Street.

The store presents handmade home décor, personal accessories and gift items from craftsmen around the world. Their work is an expression of their culture.

RTA customers can pick up a discount card on the trolleys or at the Tower City Station, "to receive \$5 off your next in-store purchase of \$25 or more."

"Ten Thousand Villages helps provide vital, fair income to tens of thousands of artisans worldwide by marketing their products and telling their stories in North America," a spokesman says. "It's easy to find a perfect, meaningful gift here, and you can make a difference while you shop."

For details, call 216-575-1058, or visit tenthousandvillages.com.

Some timetables change on Dec. 10

A number of RTA timetables change on Sunday, Dec. 10.

New timetables are being posted on rideRTA.com. They are also available at:

- RTA's Main Office, 1240 W. Sixth St.
- Customer Service Center at Tower City

For more information or to receive a new timetable by mail, call the RTA Answerline, 216-621-9500.

New timetables are needed for:

#2, #326, #6, #7X, #9X, #10, #14, #15, #16, #19, #20A, #22, #28, #39X/BX, #43, #45Y/R, #46, #48/A, #49F, #50, #75X, #77F, #78, #79A/B, #87F, #96F, #451, #701 (Northwestern Supplemental Timetable), #802 and #821.

For these routes, departure and arrival times downtown have been changed to allow for more convenient connections between routes during the evening and/or on weekends:

#326, #6, #19, #20A, #22, #39X/BX, #45Y/R, #79A/B. Late-night #19 riders should note that some trips have been shifted by up to 30 minutes.

The #43 and #46 will operate on the North and South Marginal Roads along I-90 in Lakewood and Cleveland. This change will improve access to transit service for these neighborhoods.

In addition to minor schedule adjustments, the new #48/A and #75X timetables will reflect the reopening of the Adelbert Road and Triskett Road bridges.