

Disney on Ice joins sports action at the Q

Forget the cold outside. With 29 events planned for January, things are always hot inside Quicken Loans Arena.

The January calendar includes 5 games for the Cavaliers, 8 ice hockey matches for the Lake Erie Monsters, and 16 performances of Disney on Ice, family entertainment that comes to Cleveland January 7-17.

Getting to the Q is easy. Just park for free, hop on any Red, Blue or Green line, and ride in comfort into the Tower City Station. From there, it's a short inside stroll through the Walkway and right into your seat at courtside, or center ice. You never have to go outside.

The Walkway opens two hours before each event at the Q.

Or, you can hop on the HealthLine, which operates 24/7 on Euclid Avenue. Get off at Public Square and walk through Tower City to the Walkway.

Ride RTA to MLK events

Here are some tips to help you enjoy special events in Cleveland on Martin Luther King Jr. Day, Monday, Jan. 17.

RTA bus and rail service will operate on a weekday schedule, so the Waterfront Line will not be in service.

These museums offer free admission or discounts: Great Lakes Science Center, Rock and Roll Hall of Fame, Cleveland Museum of Natural History, Cleveland Children's Museum, and the Western Reserve Historical Society.

To reach the Science Center and the Rock Hall:

- Hop on the HealthLine, ride to Tower City, and transfer to the B-Line trolley.
- Ride the Rapid to Tower City, and transfer to the B-Line trolley.

The HealthLine on Euclid Avenue provides service 24/7. Use it to reach many museums.

For your safety

See Something, Say Something

What started out as a simple phrase in New York City after the 9-11 attacks has spread into a national safety campaign. All transit systems in the country, including RTA, encourage its 150,000 daily commuters to do a simple thing.

"If you see something, say something."

RTA's Transit Police need your vigilance to maintain safety on buses, trains and facilities.

You are asked to:

- Be alert to unattended packages.
- Be wary of suspicious behavior.
- Take note of people in bulky or inappropriate clothing.
- Report exposed wiring or other irregularities.
- Report anyone tampering with surveillance cameras or entering unauthorized areas.
- Learn the basics of safe train evacuation. On RTA trains, that information is on posters, with directions above the doors.

Describing suspicious behavior:

- WHO did you observe?
- WHAT did you see? Be specific.
- WHERE did you see it?
- WHEN did you see it?
- WHY is it suspicious?

Who should you say something to? Alert Transit Police, the rail or bus operator, any RTA staffer in the area, or call Transit Police, 216-566-5163. That line is answered 24/7 by a dispatcher.

In case of an emergency, call 9-1-1.



Greater Cleveland Regional Transit Authority
rideRTA.com

Rider's Digest



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New Year's greetings from Joe Calabrese

As we enter a new year, there is reason to be optimistic about public transit.

Over the last several years, we have made some tough decisions. RTA raised fares, reduced service, reduced staff positions, consolidated facilities and cut salaries. Because of those efforts, our future is brighter.

In 2011, RTA does not plan to cut service or raise fares. That's good news for all of us.

In fact, thanks to some additional funding from the Ohio Department of Transportation, we were able to add two new bus routes on Dec. 12, made improvements to six others, and have applied for more State funds to add even additional service in 2011.

We still have a long way to go financially before we recover from the worst national recession in decades, but the fact that things are stable is cause to breathe a bit easier.

However, our work is far from over.

There are many new faces in Congress and the Statehouse, and many services are vying for limited resources. We all have to work to make sure that public transit - the low man on the totem pole for years - gets its fair share of funding.

Gov. Kasich is now working on the two-year State budget that begins July 1, 2011, and we are work-

See Greetings Inside

Note to parents: Juvenile fare program begins next month

In February, RTA will change the way it disciplines juveniles who do not pay their fares on the HealthLine and Red Line.

These changes will affect every student who uses public transportation. A major campaign to increase public awareness has begun. Look for signs with these slogans:

"Walking our hallways without a pass will cost you more than a detention."

"There's no such thing as a free ride."

"Students: Pencils down. Fare Passes out."

"For students, the cost of riding RTA is extremely economical," says Joe Calabrese, RTA's CEO and General Manager.

"The penalty for trying to avoid paying is not. The difference is simple math. We urge youths to take the right route, and pay the correct fare for their ride."

Under RTA's new proof-of-payment system, riders are required to pay before they board. Periodically, Transit Police ask riders to show proof that they paid. It is important that all riders retain their proof-of-payment to show officers when asked.

RTA has considered several options on how to handle juvenile offenders, most of whom can purchase students tickets at deep discounts from the schools they attend.

RTA greetings (Cont. from front)

ing now to send a message to Columbus - adequate money for public transit must be included in that budget. The plan that ODOT developed in 2010, which redistributed Federal dollars to transit, will provide additional funding to transit and not negatively impact the State budget.

Please join us in this effort. Let your voice be heard at www.fundohiotransitnow.org.

I hope that 2011 will be a special year for each of you.



Under a program approved by the Board, juveniles (age 17 or younger) who do not possess an activated and valid proof-of-payment will be given a written warning by Transit Police. Notification of the warning will also be mailed to their home address.

On the second offense, they will receive a fine of \$50, after an officer has verified they have already received a warning. If that fine is not paid, the juvenile will be placed in Cuyahoga County's diversion program, and may be assigned community service.

Youths who do not complete the assigned action of the diversion program will be referred to Juvenile Court.

The message is clear: There is no such thing as a free ride, in life or on RTA. All riders have a financial obligation to pay their fare. It is important that juveniles recognize their responsibility.

RTA officials urge parents to discuss these responsibilities with their children. Obeying the law is the best choice for everyone.

"It's important that we keep this program in perspective," Calabrese says. "In 2009, more than 9 million customers rode the Red Line and the HealthLine, and 3,751 violations were issued. This is one violation for every 2,421 customers, or 0.041 percent. Yes, it is a small number, but every fare counts. RTA needs to collect the revenue, so that it can continue to provide important service to its customers."

For details, visit www.rideRTA.com/juvenilefare.

New timetables needed

New timetables are needed for four bus routes — #51, #79A/B, #86 and #94 — as well as the Blue and Green rail lines. Changes have been made to those routes in recent weeks.

Look into the future at Jan. 13 public meeting

RTA is drafting a new strategic plan for 2010-2020, and officials want to hear from you.

A public meeting on the plan begins at 5 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 13, in the first-floor Board Room of RTA, 1240 W. Sixth St. Two downtown trolley routes serve the building.

The new plan reflects the challenges and opportunities that RTA faces in the new economy. It is an update of the agency's 2004 Long-Range Plan. The vision of the plan is for RTA to be the preferred mode of transportation in the Cleveland area.

You can come to the meeting and give input, or you can visit RTA's Web site at:

www.RideRTA.com/strategicplan

The Web site includes a survey for you to fill out and return. RTA planners say the survey will give them the feedback they need to finish the plan before it goes to the Board of Trustees later this year.

You can also submit comments. Both the survey and the comments are due by Jan. 31.

2 projects receive funds

RTA will receive \$1.2 million in funding for two projects.

The Northeast Ohio Areawide Coordinating Agency (NOACA) has approved grants of \$600,000 each for the Clifton Transit Enhancement Project in Cleveland and Lakewood, and for the reconstruction of the 53-year-old University Circle Rapid Station in Cleveland.

The University Circle Station project also received a \$10.5 million grant last year from the U.S. Department of Transportation. Design work should be completed this spring. RTA hopes to break ground on a new station this summer. Construction should take two years.

The Clifton Boulevard grant allows RTA to continue to work on improvements to a very important transit corridor.