

Listener's Lunch July 14th

RTA invites you to attend a free lunch July 14 at Star Plaza near Playhouse Square. Lunch is provided by Mix 106.5 and RTA will hand out prizes like T-Shirts, free passes, and other items while supplies last.

This is a great opportunity for us to answer questions you might have and, of course, have some fun. RTA's booth will be set up from 11:30 AM to 1:30 PM.

This is the third of five Listener Lunches. There are two more Listener Lunches scheduled for Aug. 11 and Sept. 8, so plan to attend.

Ride RTA and "monkey" around at the Zoo

Once again, RTA is offering special bus service to the Metropark Zoo and Rainforest. The 20C "Zoo Bus" runs hourly from West Roadway on Public Square to the Zoo's front door. Service is available every day of the week. The first trip departs from Public Square at 9:30 AM, with the last trip from the Zoo leaving at 5:05 PM.

There are a number of other bus routes that also provide service in and around the Zoo, including the #35, #51, #79, and the #20.

And now you can get half-price admission for letting RTA provide you with an affordable trip to the Zoo. Just ask your bus operator for a proof of purchase or courtesy pass for redemption at the ticket window. This offer applies to both adults and children.

Summer Zoo hours: Weekdays 10 AM to 5 PM
Weekends 10 AM to 7 PM. The ZOO Web site is- www.clemetzoo.com

Gas Pains No Problem for RTA Customers

Riders are continuing to take a stand against high gas prices by saying "No" to the pump and "Yes" to RTA. For the 5th consecutive month, ridership on RTA buses and trains grew by more than 130,000 trips. In fact, RTA ridership has grown each month since last October!

The prospects of saving more than \$5,000 a year by taking RTA has "driven" thousands of new riders to the system. Year-to-date ridership has grown by more than **1.2 million rides**.

Other highlights include:

-Year-to-date bus ridership has increased by nearly 1 million rides, continuing to grow at a rate of nearly 5.0 percent.

-Rapid transit trips increased by 8.3 percent in May, and year-to-date, 250,000 more customers have ridden the Rapid than had last year.

-In May, Community Circulator routes saw another double-digit percentage growth, which represents the 12th consecutive month Circulator ridership grew.

RTA thanks its customers who enjoy the convenience and reliability of taking the bus or train each day, choosing to pass on the pump, and ride RTA.



Greater Cleveland Regional Transit Authority
www.rideRTA.com

Rider's Digest



A PUBLICATION OF THE GREATER CLEVELAND
REGIONAL TRANSIT AUTHORITY

Celebrate July 4th with RTA & Fireworks

Ride RTA's Waterfront Line and "march" down to Settler's Landing for this year's 4th of July Fireworks spectacular. Prior to the pyrotechnics, sit back and enjoy the sounds of a 12-piece brass band, as they play John Phillips Sousa's greatest hits and other American classics.

All are welcome to take part in the festivities starting at 7 PM at the station on the east bank of the Cuyahoga River. There will be street entertainers, such as jugglers and magicians, along with games and prizes. Aquafina bottled water will be distributed, compliments of Pepsi Americas, along with other fun surprises.

RTA encourages riders to purchase a \$3 All-Day Pass, or for children 6 – 12, buy the All-Day Child's Pass for just a dollar. And don't forget, up to three children under age 6 can ride free with an adult.

So get to the Settlers Landing Station early, and celebrate our Nation's birthday with RTA. For further details, visit www.rideRTA.com or call the RTAanswerline, 216-621-9500 (TDD 216-781-4271).

Tour de Cleveland on RTA Buses, Trains

RTA has made riding the bus and Rapid with your bike much easier. Now you can bring your bicycle wherever RTA takes you. New bike racks, with the capacity of holding two bikes each, have been installed on all RTA buses, making for safe and convenient transportation. And if you're taking the Rapid Transit, just carry your bike right on the train with you. It's easy, it's safe and best of all, it's free.

Safety Tips for Bikes on the Bus:

- As your bus arrives, wait for it to come to a complete stop, then signal to the driver that you need to load your bike.
- Load your bike securely, unfolding the rack if necessary and board the bus as usual.
- As you approach your stop, be sure to remind the driver that you will be getting off and need to unload your bike.
- Once the bus stops and you get off, wait to be sure it's safe before unloading your bike.
- After your bike is unloaded, fold the bike rack into its upright position. You are on your way.

Safety Tips for Bikes on Rapid Trains:

- Once your train arrives, wait for all riders to get on and off. When it's clear, carry your bike onto the train.

- After you are on the train, please situate your bike so it doesn't block aisles or doorways.
- When it comes time to get off the train, be sure to signal the operator in advance, and safely carry your bike off the train.
- For safety reasons, cyclists under age 18 must be accompanied by an adult.
- RTA cannot allow mopeds, tricycles, tandems, segways, or recumbents on the Rapid Transit trains.

New Expanded Bike Hours for Rapid Trains:

This summer, with the increasing popularity of bikes, RTA has decided to expand the time bikes are permitted on trains in order to see if this might be a potential long-term change.

"We are pleased to be able to do more to help Cleveland's growing cyclist population," said RTA CEO and General Manager Joe Calabrese, "We appreciate their past support of RTA, and look forward to working with them even more in the future."

Bikes are now welcome on Rapid Trains at all times **except** weekdays from 7 AM to 8 AM and 4:30 PM to 5:30 PM.

This is one more way that RTA continues to adapt to riders's changing needs.

Introducing an Easier Route to Owning a Home

RTA can help you buy a home with the Smart Commute Plus Initiative. By selecting a home within one-quarter mile of RTA bus stop or one-half mile of RTA rail service, you may qualify for the added benefits of getting a home mortgage through this program.

All you have to do is contact one of the following lenders to determine your eligibility and apply for a mortgage loan through the Smart Commute Plus Initiative:

Countrywide Home Loans
216.707.2110

Huntington Bank
216.447.4424

Sky Bank
800.231.6107

Key Bank
800.487.8334

This initiative, through the cooperation of the participating lenders and the RTA, is designed to expand housing choices and reduce traffic congestion by linking housing and public transportation.

For more information, visit www.rideRTA.com.

RTA's Lost & Found Often Has Missing Items

If you think you might have left a book, backpack, umbrella, cell phone or other item on a bus or train call the RTA Lost & Found at (216) 566-5272. Describe what you're missing and our staff will check for your lost item. Please note that the RTA Lost & Found also has a new home – in the Tower City Rapid Transit Station. If you think you may have lost something on RTA, just ask a Customer Service Representative for assistance . . . *you have nothing to lose.*