

Benefits checkup free for senior citizens

Cleveland's Department of Aging offers free BenefitsCheckUps for seniors. This automated program helps seniors learn if they are eligible for federal, state and local assistance programs

Many older persons are not aware of the programs for which they are eligible, and determining eligibility can be difficult and time-consuming.

With BenefitsCheckUp, that process is easy. Data from a questionnaire is entered into a computer program. The program produces a report of all programs for which the senior is eligible, along with info on where to apply and what to bring. For details, call 216-664-3418.

June 12 job fair set

If you are interested in becoming a bus operator or body mechanic, come to RTA's job fair on June 12. It runs from 10 a.m.-3 p.m. at the Spanish-American Committee, 4407 Lorain Ave. The site is served by RTA's #22 bus route.

All applicants must have a good driving record. Operator applicants must have a high school diploma and at least two years experience in a customer service position.

Please bring with you:

- A criminal history report. They can be obtained from the Cuyahoga County Sheriff's Office on the third floor of the Justice Center, from 9 a.m.-3:30 p.m., for \$6, cash or money order.
- A valid Ohio driver's license, and Ohio BMV driving report. They can be obtained from the BMV, 12000 Snow Road, Parma, from 8 a.m.-3:30 p.m.

For more information, visit rideRTA.com

RTA e-newsletter available

RTA publishes a customer-based e-newsletter. To subscribe by e-mail, go to rideRTA.com, and select "important information."

Geauga Lake service begins

RTA service to Geauga Lake and Wildwater Kingdom runs through Sept. 4.

Route #441 operates between Geauga Lake and the Warrensville-Van Aken rail station at the east end of the Blue Line, every day except Aug. 28-Sept. 1.

The service also stops at Randall Park Mall, Solon Square Shopping Center and the Marketplace at Four Corners.

RTA service mirrors park hours. The first bus arrives at Geauga Lake almost two hours before the park opens, and the last bus leaves about two hours after the park closes.

Timetables are available at the Tower City Station, RTA's Main Office at 1240 W. Sixth St., or at rideRTA.com. You can also call the RTAanswerline, 216-621-9500.

For more info, visit geaugalake.com

Ride RTA to Crocker Park

For service information, visit the automated trip planner at rideRTA.com. If you need more details, call the RTAanswerline, 216-621-9500.

At Crocker Park, Westlake

- **Fridays & Saturdays**, Concerts, 6:30-9:30 p.m.
- **June 10-11**, Fine Art Fair, with artisans from around the nation
- **June 15**, Radio Disney Kidz Club Party, 4-5 p.m., Borders Books
- **June 24**, 9 a.m., American Lung Association Asthma Walk and Health Exhibit
- Ride the #46, #55F, #808 or #822
- crockerpark.com/events



Greater Cleveland Regional Transit Authority
rideRTA.com

Rider's Digest



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RTA Board approves two-step fare increase

Pushed by fuel costs that have more than tripled in recent years, RTA Trustees approved the first system-wide fare increase since 1993.

To lessen the impact on customers, the Board approved a two-step increase. Most fares will increase 25 cents on July 1, 2006, and 25 cents on Jan. 7, 2008.

Because more than 90 percent of RTA customers either purchase passes or qualify for reduced fares, the average fare collected per ride is far less than the established cash fares. If the current mix of riders continue, the average fare will increase by 14 cents in July, and 14 more cents in 2008.

Farebox revenue is not used for capital projects, such as the Euclid Corridor. Surveys showed overwhelming support for balancing the budget with a fare increase instead of service reductions.

Highlights:

- RTA is moving toward a common fare for bus and rail. All passes will be accepted for full fare after July 1.
- Park-N-Ride bus customers and Football Flyer customers will pay a bit more for premium service.
- Weekly and monthly passes are being added for seniors/disabled.
- The discount continues for seniors/disabled.

Continued Inside

Fares Continued

- Although Federal law allows RTA to charge more than the base rate, Paratransit customers will continue to pay only the base rate
- ADA clients can continue to use fixed-route bus and rail service at no charge.

If you have questions, visit rideRTA.com/fares, or send e-mail to fares@gcrta.org.

Zoo service begins June 11

Seasonal service from Public Square to the Metroparks Zoo begins June 11, and continues through mid-August.

Passengers can catch the #20C on Public Square, on Superior Avenue at West Roadway, every hour, from 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. The bus departs the Metroparks Zoo approximately every hour from 10 a.m. until 5:05 p.m.

The #20C stops at all RTA bus stops on W. 25th Street and Pearl Road. The bus drops off and picks up passengers at the shelter on Wildlife Way, near the main Zoo entrance, and then returns to Public Square via Wildlife Way, Pearl Road and West 25th Street. Summer hours are 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Monday-Friday, and 10 a.m.-7 p.m. Saturdays, Sundays and July 4.



A valid pass or proof of payment from the Zoo Bus allows passengers half-price admission to both the Zoo and RainForest. Riders must surrender their transfer or passes to the Zoo box office to receive the discount.

Summer admission rates are \$9 for adults, \$4 for ages 2-11, and free for children under age 2.

Visit us online at rideRTA.com for a detailed schedule.

New timetables needed for June 11 changes

New timetables go into effect June 11 for a number of bus and rail routes.

RTA plans to adjust the downtown portions of 35 bus routes. The changes come after an extensive study of downtown routes, and are in preparation for the new Silver Line on Euclid Avenue.

Changes will affect a downtown portion of these routes:

#1, #4, #6, #7X, #9X, #14, #15, #15F, #19, #20, #25B/W, #32X, #33, #35, #38, #39X/BX, #39F, #49F, #51X, #51F, #55X, #55F, #75X, #76F, #77F, #81, #86F, #87F, #96F, #135, #145Y/R, #239, #251, #263, #451

Go to rideRTA.com/downtown for more information.

There will also be minor schedule adjustments to routes listed below. New timetables are needed.

#2, #8, #20A, #41A/C, #45Y/R, #66X (Red Line), #67X/AX (Blue/Green/Waterfront Lines), #76X, #79A/B, #88X, #326 and #805.

Other changes:

The #17 E. 49th-Canal is a new route replacing the reverse commute trips on #77F that travel on E. 49th St., Canal Road and Sweet Valley.

The #77F reverse commute trips will become a new route -- #17 E. 49th-Canal.

The #75X will have additional trips on Country Club Blvd. in North Olmsted.

The #20C "Zoo bus" begins service June 11, and the #441 to Geauga Lake begins service May 27. Stories on those routes are published elsewhere in this issue.

New timetables are being printed and will be posted as soon as possible on rideRTA.com. They will be 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 RTAanswerline, 216-621-9500.

A free AM ride June 7 from Charter One Bank

Thanks to Charter One Bank, you can ride free to work on the morning of June 7.

From 3-10 a.m., Charter One will provide free rides on any RTA bus or train for approximately 80,000 riders.

The "Free Ride" promotion kicks off Charter One's "Free Money Free-For-All" giveaway of more than \$100,000 in cash prizes, including one card worth \$10,000. More than 500,000 game cards will be distributed on RTA on June 7, in *The Plain Dealer* on June 16, and at a variety of events throughout June. The cards can be redeemed for cash and other prizes at participating branches through June 30.

RTA offers direct bus service to the Grand Prix

From Friday-Sunday, June 23-25, RTA will operate bus service from the Municipal Parking Lot and South Harbor Waterfront Line station to Ticket Gate "B" of the Cleveland Grand Prix at Burke Lakefront Airport.

Bus service starts at 10 a.m. Friday and at 7 a.m. Saturday and Sunday. It will continue until the last event has ended and the crowd has cleared.

The one-way cash fare will be \$1. Tickets and passes will be accepted. For race info, visit grandprixofcleveland.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, June 6**, 9 a.m., Committee meeting.
- **Tuesday, June 20**, 9 a.m., Board meeting

The 20-member volunteer Citizen's Advisory Board meets at 8:30 a.m. on Thursday, June 8.