

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.

SMILE! You're on camera!

And that means that taking a ride on the rail just became safer.

RTA has received a \$893,000 grant from the Department of Homeland Security to install a state-of-the-art video camera system on 60 Red Line heavy-rail vehicles.

"This grant is a major step in RTA's efforts to boost our overall safety and security," says Joe Calabrese, CEO and General Manager. "We want every customer, every day, to feel at ease while riding public transit."

Transit Police Chief John P. Joyce says the system should be fully operational by next fall.

Earlier this year, RTA Trustees approved the purchase of a similar system for 40 vehicles on the Blue and Green lines, as well as 16 cameras at rail station platforms. All 11 trolleys are equipped with video cameras.

The 45 new buses that are expected to arrive later this year will also be video-equipped, as will the 21 Silver Line vehicles along the Euclid Corridor in 2008.

There are already 280 cameras watching RTA rail stations, bus facilities and parking lots

The estimated cost of equipping each heavy-rail vehicle is \$12,000, or \$720,000 total. The rest of the grant will be used for wireless equipment and network design and installation.

RTA has already spent \$2.7 million for existing cameras on vehicles and in facilities.

Ride RTA to see Cavaliers

The Cleveland Cavaliers play nine 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!

Bone marrow donors help save many lives

The National Marrow Donor Program saves lives. It helps people who need a life-saving marrow or cord blood transplant. It connects patients, doctors, donors and researchers to the resources they need to help people live longer and healthier lives.

RTA connects lives. Daily, RTA connects people to home, to work and to each other. RTA connects lives in many ways, even through the National Marrow Donor Program. At least five RTA employees or their family members have needed a transplant. On any given day, a patient in need of a transplant may be riding the transit system. At least three RTA employees have donated marrow, either for a family member or for a patient who needs it.

If you are willing to donate your marrow, consider joining the marrow donor registry. Your name will be part of the database that is used to help those in need. Just fill out some paperwork and donate a cheek cell sample.

Learn more about RTA employees with bone marrow stories, and learn how you can join the database. Visit marrow.org/riderta or call 888-862-7769, Ext.105.



Greater Cleveland Regional Transit Authority
rideRTA.com

Rider's Digest



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RTA: Your ticket to lots of holiday fun

RTA is your ticket to holiday fun in November.

On Nov. 18, both Crocker Park and Shaker Square host lighting ceremonies with visits from Santa. In Westlake, the event runs from 7-8 p.m. Use the #46 bus.

The 6:30 p.m. Shaker Square event, hosted by Wayne Dawson of TV-8, includes lighting a tall pine tree, singers, and Santa Claus and his elves arriving by rail. Ride any light-rail train to Shaker Square, or hop on bus routes #48/48A, #25B/W or the #821 Community Circulator.

Nov. 25 will be busy downtown. RTA will operate extra rail service to accommodate the crowds.

Winterfest and the lighting ceremony on Public Square start at 6 p.m. with 50 vintage horse-drawn carriages and of course, Santa. Before and after the parade, fireworks and special holiday activities will be held throughout downtown.

RTA, working with the Downtown Cleveland Alliance, will provide free trolley service from the Public Square area to a new ice rink at the Great Lakes Science Center, from 1-9 p.m.

In addition to the holiday events, a Cavaliers game starts at 7:30 p.m.

For service info, visit rideRTA.com or call 216-621-9500.

State transit funds shrink

In September, RTA Trustees passed a resolution expressing “grave concern” over the level of state funding for transit. Here’s why....

In the last six years, State funding for public transit has declined from \$43.35 million to \$16 million annually. The cumulative sum of these cuts to transit is \$93 million.

The state has reduced funding by 63 percent, to 1980 levels. While most states provide more money to public transit than the federal government, Ohio provides only 10 percent of the federal amount.

Ohio ranks seventh in the nation in population and 12th in transit ridership, but 28th in per capita funding, at \$1.58. Of the border states, Pennsylvania spends \$63.29, Illinois \$61.25 and Michigan \$20.73.

To find states with a lower per capita ranking than Ohio, look to South Dakota at \$1.29, and West Virginia or New Mexico, both at \$1.26.

Ohio transit systems serve 400,000 customers on a typical weekday and more than 126 million annually. Approximately 60 percent of all transit trips are work-related. Seniors and people with disabilities depend on public transportation for access to health-care facilities, school and work.

Almost all state funding for transit originates as General Revenue Funds. Public transit has been unable to compete with other social services to maintain a reasonable funding level. Because of a long-standing interpretation of the Ohio Constitution, Ohio gas tax dollars do not go to public transit.

However, that is not the case at the federal level. Public transit receives a formula-based portion of Highway Trust Fund tax dollars. Transit officials believe that Ohio should use the same formula with federal gas tax dollars that are returned to Ohio.

Transit officials suggest the establishment of a bi-partisan state committee to consider the gas-tax formula and other options to establish a dedicated funding source.

RTA will be smoke-free!

On Oct. 17, RTA Trustees passed a resolution to clarify the agency’s smoking policy.

Effective Jan. 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.

Because of the well-documented dangers of second-hand smoke, RTA asks your cooperation in following these rules.

Walking to public transit may meet exercise needs

Saving at the gasoline pump isn’t the only benefit of taking public transportation.

Using public transportation regularly to commute to and from work, run errands or make social visits may give transit users the 30-plus minutes of daily moderate-to-vigorous physical activity recommended by the U.S. Surgeon General.

According to a study published in the American Journal of Preventive Medicine, transit users’ average walking time was nearly 25 minutes on days they used public transit.

“An additional motivation to encourage new transit opportunities and use existing transit is that it can increase physical activity levels,” says the study.

“Increased access to public transportation may provide a viable and effective option to promote and maintain active lifestyles,” the authors conclude.

Nearly half of Americans currently do not meet the 30-minute recommendation, according to Department of Health and Human Services figures.

Ride RTA to these events

Visit rideRTA.com for the new automated trip planner and other service info. Or call the RTAanswerline, 216-621-9500.

At Browns Stadium clevelandbrowns.com

- **Nov. 19**, 1 p.m., Pittsburgh
- **Nov. 26**, 1 p.m., Cincinnati
- Park free at most rail stations. Buy a \$3.50 All-Day Pass. Ride any rail line to Tower City and take the Waterfront Line to the Browns Stadium.

At Quicken Loans Arena theqarena.com

- **Nov. 1**, Cavs vs. Washington
- **Nov. 7**, Cavs vs. Atlanta
- **Nov. 9**, Cavs vs. Chicago
- **Nov. 11**, Cavs vs. Boston
- **Nov. 15**, Cavs vs. Portland
- **Nov. 17**, Cavs vs. Minnesota
- **Nov. 21**, Cavs vs. Memphis
- **Nov. 24**, Guns N’ Roses concert
- **Nov. 25**, Cavs vs. Philadelphia
- **Nov. 29**, Cavs vs. New York
- Park free at most rail stations. Buy a \$3.50 All-Day Pass. Ride any rail line to Tower City and take the Walkway to Gateway.

Wolstein Center at CSU, 2000 Prospect Ave.

wolsteincenter.com

CSU women’s basketball

- Nov. 5 & 10 & 12 & 21 & 28

CSU men’s basketball

- Nov. 7 & 11 & 13 & 22, & 29

Other events

- Nov. 8, The Cheetah Girls
- Nov. 9, Live wiggledancing
- Nov. 17, Larry the Cable Guy, comedy
- Park free at most rail stations. Buy a \$3.50 All-Day Pass, ride any rail line to Tower City.
- Ride bus routes #8, #14, #25, #33, #32X, #47