

RTA is your best ticket to October sports action

In October, sports fans have their pick of baseball, football or ice hockey.

With more than 7,000 free parking places throughout Cuyahoga County, RTA is the easiest way to get to Browns Stadium, Jacobs Field, or Quicken Loans Arena.

Indians

For the first time in seven years, the Indians are headed to post-season play. Leave the car in the parking lot, and take a train to the game. Extra service starts two hours before every game, and continues 90 minutes after the game ends.

Browns

The Browns host Miami at 1 p.m. on Oct. 14.

Take the Rapid Transit to the West Third Street Station, right across the street from Browns Stadium.

Or, hop on a special “football flyer” bus in any of six Park-n-Ride lots. Either way, your game will be hassle-free.

Monsters

Ice hockey returns to Cleveland this month, as the Lake Erie Monsters begin their inaugural season at Quicken Loans Arena. Just take the Rapid into Tower City, grab a snack, and head over to the Q on the Walkway to Gateway. The Walkway is open two hours before every arena event.

The Monsters, a minor-league team, play in the North Division of the Western Conference of the American Hockey League (AHL). They are affiliated with Colorado Avalanche of the National Hockey League (NHL).

Their season begins Oct. 6 against Grand Rapids. All games will be broadcast on WKNR 850 AM.

Are you registered to vote in November?

RTA and the League of Women Voters are working together to make it easier for you to vote in the Nov. 6 general election.

The deadline to register is Tuesday, Oct. 9.

Voter registration tables will be set up in the Tower City Rapid Station from 7-9 a.m. and 4-6 p.m. on Oct. 1-9. Volunteers from the League will answer your questions and help you fill out the needed paperwork.

Flyers with voter registration info will be distributed at Rapid stations, trolleys and in Tower City.

In late January, League volunteers will again staff voter registration tables at the Tower City Rapid Station.

RTA will also place voter registration cards and card collection buses on trolleys, which carry more than 4,000 persons daily.

Questions?

If you have questions about any items mentioned this issue, here is where you can go for help.

- rideRTA.com contains all timetables, press releases and links to the automated trip planner
- 216-621-9500, the RTAanswerline
- euclidtransit.org, Euclid Corridor Transportation Project
- apta.com, American Public Transportation Assn.
- clevelandbrowns.com, Cleveland Browns
- cleveland.indians.mlb.com, Cleveland Indians
- theqarena.com, Quicken Loans Arena
- lakeeriemonsters.com, Lake Erie Monsters hockey
- lvwcef.org, 216-781-8375, League of Women Voters



Greater Cleveland Regional Transit Authority
rideRTA.com

Rider's Digest



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RTA named best transit agency in North America

RTA has been named the “best” by the American Public Transportation Association (APTA).

That announcement was made in Cleveland October 1 by APTA President William Millar.

RTA competed in the category of more than 30 million passenger trips a year – the same category as transit systems in New York City, Chicago and Los Angeles.

“Winning this award is a huge achievement,” says Joe Calabrese, RTA’s CEO and General Manager. “This can be compared to the Super Bowl of public transit. I thank our riders for their on-going support.”

Although RTA has many credentials, APTA judges say they were most impressed by how RTA leadership has kept the agency strong when the economy was weak.

The award will be presented on Oct. 9, at the annual APTA conference in Charlotte, NC.

U.S. Senator George V. Voinovich applauded RTA.

“I am proud of RTA’s outstanding achievements. At a time when our nation faces important energy issues, we must continue to develop and support our public transportation systems. With its commitment and dedication to the Greater Cleveland community, RTA has created a model system that other public transportation systems around the country should aspire to emulate.”

RTA begins campaign to keep Euclid Avenue safe

Soon, RTA will re-open Euclid Avenue between East 17th and East 55th streets. Bus routes #6, #7 and #9 will provide service. You will see many changes in this area.

RTA urges you to follow these safety tips.

New stations are located in the center of Euclid Avenue at East 19th, 24th, 30th, 36th, 40th, and 51st streets, eastbound and westbound. There are well-marked designated crosswalks adjacent to each station.

Obey all traffic laws. To cross Euclid Avenue, or to reach a station in the center median, ALWAYS use a designated crosswalk.

Board all buses from stations on the center median. To reach the center median, always stay in the designated crosswalk, and cross only when it is legal.

As the bus approaches the station, stand back from the edge of the platform. All stations have tactile pavers to mark the caution zone. Because buses now use a special mechanical docking arm, they pull closer to the curb than before.

Use the front door to board buses, and always let exiting passengers off first. Whenever possible, use the rear door when exiting.

After you exit the bus, wait until it pulls away from the station. Then leave the station platform, walk to a designated crosswalk, and cross when it is legal.

All stations are ADA accessible, and only low-floor buses will be used.

For bike riders

All buses have bicycle racks. Using a designated crosswalk, walk your bicycle to the station on the center median. Have your bike ready to go as the bus approaches your stop. When the bus stops, signal the operator that you are going to load your bike. When the operator motions to you, step off the station platform, place your bicycle on the rack

and board the bus. As the bus approaches your stop, tell the operator that you need to unload your bicycle. After unloading your bicycle, signal to the operator that you are finished. Walk your bicycle through the station to the designated crosswalk, and back to the bike lane.

Left-hand turns

If you are driving a vehicle, remember, each lane has its own traffic signal, and buses in the transit lane have a special traffic signal. You can make a left-hand turn onto a side street ONLY when the arrow tells you to, because buses will be traveling in the lane on your left.

Stay in the proper lane. If you drive in the bus-only lane, Police will ticket you. If you park in the bus-only lane, you will be ticketed and towed.

On your right-hand side, watch for parked cars pulling out into traffic, and for bicycles in the bike lane.

Watch for pedestrians in the crosswalk. Stop your vehicle BEFORE you reach the crosswalk.

Show extra care around strollers, wheelchairs, and pedestrians who may be visually impaired.

Merchants celebrate Oct. 4-6

From Oct. 4-6, the shops at Trinity Commons will host a party to celebrate the completion of the sidewalk in front of their businesses on Euclid Avenue across from Cleveland State University.

Hours are 10:30 a.m.-7 p.m. Thurs., 10:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m. Fri., and 11 a.m.-4 p.m. Sat.

Ten Thousand Villages Cleveland, an award-winning fair trade non-profit retail store, will offer discounts, raffles, balloons and international treats from 32 countries.

Sacred Path Books and Art offers a 10 percent discount on all books during this event.

Café Ah-Roma will offer coffee tastings in the stores.

RTA to dedicate W. 117th Street - Madison Highland Park Rail Station on Oct. 16

The new RTA Red Line rail station – Highland Square at West 117th Street – will be formally dedicated at 9:30 a.m. on Tuesday, Oct. 16.

The new name is a reference to a neighborhood name used in the 1800s. The station's red brick exterior reflects nearby manufacturing plants, and keeps the flavor of the neighborhood. The design was a joint effort of staff from the Cudell Improvement Corp., and city officials from Cleveland and Lakewood.

A bus loop entrance was moved 250 feet away from the busy intersection of West 117th Street and Madison Avenue, increasing safety. The improved bus loop offers riders an easy, convenient transfer point.

The \$5.5 million project was 80 percent federally funded. It includes:

- Public art.
- A larger parking area with 170 spaces.
- Handicapped parking places and an ADA-compliant elevator.
- A more open and spacious tunnel.
- New canopies for passengers who need to walk from the station to waiting buses.
- An energy-efficient LED neon light, with the RTA graphic, on top of the station will stay lit all night.
- A heated waiting area for up to 50 persons on the platform level.

Design work is progressing on new rail stations at Brookpark, Puritas and East 55th Street.

Smoking reminder

All RTA vehicles and facilities are smoke-free. This includes all buses and trains, transit centers and rail stations. It also includes outside areas, such as rail station platforms, bus waiting areas or just outside the rail station doors at the street level.