

Rider's Digest



A PUBLICATION OF THE GREATER CLEVELAND
REGIONAL TRANSIT AUTHORITY

Blood donors get books on Sept. 6-7

On Sept. 6-7, RTA will host a blood drive that rewards those who come to donate with a free book by a Cleveland author. One of those authors, veteran Cleveland weatherman Dick Goddard of Fox 8 News, plans to donate blood during the drive.

Donors will also receive a voucher for 25 percent off specific Cleveland books at Borders Books & Music. The vouchers are good through Oct. 31.

The drive kicks off an areawide *Books for Blood* effort by the American Red Cross. From 1-6 p.m. on Sept. 6, and 10 a.m.-3 p.m. on Sept. 7, donors can come to RTA's Main Office Building, 1240 W. Sixth St.

"The demand is high and supplies are critically low," says RTA CEO Joe Calabrese. "We know our employees and customers will graciously respond."

Convenient transportation is available aboard the #147 loop, which operates on a 10-minute frequency. Donors are encouraged to register in advance at 1-800-GIVE-LIFE. **Walks-ins are welcome.** Allow about an hour to go through the donation process.

Donors must be at least 17 years old, weigh at least 110 pounds, and be in general good health. They can safely donate blood every 56 days.

New transit center being built near Parmatown

A new \$2.1 million transit center is now being built near the Parmatown Mall. It will improve RTA service throughout the area when it opens in December.

The 1.8-acre site, at 8555 Day Dr., is in front of Fitworks and the Fox-n-Hound Restaurant. The project includes:

- A 1,000 square foot building where customers can wait in warmth, comfort, and safety. Similar to an airport waiting lounge, it will be equipped with a state-of-the-art information system providing "real time" arrival and departure information on RTA services, fare vending machines, and possibly other retail services.
- 52 parking spaces.
- Service from six bus lines — #20A, #23, #45, #68, #79A and #145.

The Ohio Department of Transportation is helping fund the project.

RTA operates similar facilities in Westlake, North Olmsted, Fairview Park, Maple Heights and Euclid, and wants to build six more facilities in the next five years.

RTA to expand Park-N-Ride lots at three locations

Thanks to state funding, RTA plans to expand heavily used Park-N-Ride facilities in North Olmsted, Westlake and Strongsville.

The Ohio Department of Transportation wants the facilities expanded before Innerbelt construction begins. RTA expects a ridership surge during the multi-year construction period.

The **North Olmsted** Park-n-Ride Lot, on Great Northern Blvd near I-480, was completed in 2002. As RTA's newest Park-n-Ride, the lot serves 300 commuters each weekday, and is 100 percent full on most days. To add 150 spaces, RTA plans to purchase of two acres of land, and design and construct additional space.

The **Strongsville** Park-n-Ride Lot, RTA's oldest, opened in 1990 at the junction of the Ohio Turnpike and the I-71 on-ramp at Pearl Road, on property leased from the Ohio Turnpike Commission. About 80 percent of the 380 parking spaces are used on most weekdays. RTA wants to

Ride RTA to see the Browns

At 1 p.m. on Sept. 11, the Bengals invade Browns Stadium. RTA offers extra rail service starting at 11 a.m. Waterfront Line trains drop off riders at the West Third Street Station, across the street from the Browns Stadium. A \$3 All-Day Pass, which includes unlimited ridership, is available from every farebox.

RTA offers more than 7,000 free parking spaces at rail stations and park-and-ride lots throughout Cuyahoga County. Flyer buses at four sites leave at 11:30 a.m.; buses at Solon leave at 11:15 a.m. After the game, fans board the bus on the north side of Lakeside Ave., near Mall C, and return home. Adult round-trip fare is \$3. The service leaves from these sites.

Solon Square lot, Rt. 43 at Solon Blvd. Park in designated RTA area in the middle of the parking lot.

Strongsville Park-N-Ride lot, on the Pearl Road entrance to the Ohio Turnpike.

Brecksville Municipal Parking lot, Rt. 21, south of Rt. 82.

North Olmsted Park-N-Ride lot, I-480 and Great Northern Blvd.

Westlake Park-N-Ride lot, on Sperry Road, near the Columbia Road exit of I-90.

add about 200 spaces to the capacity.

About 80 percent of the 550 spaces at the **Westlake** Park-n-Ride Lot are used on most weekdays. The site opened in 1995 on Sperry Road near the intersection of I-90 and Columbia Road. RTA plans to purchase 5-7 acres of land, and add an additional 350 spaces.

RTA also operates transit centers at 23900 St. Clair Ave., just west of Babbitt Road in Euclid; at 21159 Center Ridge Road in Fairview Park; and at 5499 Warrensville Center Road in Maple Heights.

RTA plans to build six more facilities in the next five years. Construction has begun on the Parmatown Transit Center, which should open later this year. Other facilities are being planned for the new I-77 Ohio Turnpike exchange in Brecksville, I-77 and Rockside Road in Independence, the junction of I-271 and I-480 in Oakwood Village, near Rt. 422 in Solon, and along I-271 in Mayfield/Highland Heights.

Ride RTA on Labor Day

This Labor Day weekend, promoters of three major events offer something for everyone; and RTA is ready to take you in comfort. For the best value, be sure to buy a \$3 All-Day Pass with unlimited ridership

AIR SHOW: The long-running Cleveland National Air Show flies out of Burke Lakefront Airport Sept. 3-5. Each day, gates are open from 9 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Ride RTA's Waterfront Line to the North Coast or South Harbor stations. Check out www.clevelandairshow.com.

FOOD FEST: The always popular Taste of Cleveland runs Sept. 2-5 at the Tower City Amphitheater. Ride any rail line into Tower City, and then either walk to the event, or take a Tower City shuttle. Several well-known musicians will perform. Hours are 11 a.m.-11 p.m. Sept. 2, and noon-11 a.m. on Sept. 3-5. Go to www.cleveland.com/tasteofcleveland

INGENUITY: The newest kid on the block is the Ingenuity Festival of Art and Technology downtown, just a short walk from RTA's Tower City rail station. The Festival runs from 7:30 p.m.-midnight on Sept. 1, and noon-2 a.m. on Sept. 2-4. Admission to many festival areas is free. The Festival site is Euclid Ave., from Public Square to E. Ninth St., and on E. Fourth St., from Euclid to Prospect. More than 70 local organizations are working together to celebrate the richness, diversity and creativity shared by the arts and technology communities. There will be many exhibits and performances.

Visit www.ingenuityCleveland.com

For personalized scheduling, call the RTA Answerline, 216-621-9500. For service information, visit www.rideRTA.com.

Save \$\$ on gas, let RTA take you to these events

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At Jacob's Field, Tribe games

- Sept. 9-10, 7:05 p.m., vs. Minnesota
- Sept 11, 1:05 p.m., vs. Minnesota
- Sept. 12-14, 7:05 p.m., vs. Oakland
- Sept. 16-17, 7:05 p.m., vs. Kansas City
- Sept. 18, 1:05 p.m., vs. Kansas City
- Sept. 27-29, 7:05 p.m., vs. Tampa Bay
- Sept. 30, 7:05 p.m., vs. Chicago
- Park free at any rail station. Buy a \$3 All-Day Pass, ride any rail line to Tower City and go to the Walkway to Gateway
- www.indians.com

At Browns' Stadium

- Sept. 11, 1 p.m., Browns vs. Bengals, www.clevelandbrowns.com
- Sept. 17, 1:30 p.m., Proctor & Gamble Ohio Classic, Morgan State vs. Savannah State, www.ohioclassic.com
- Park free at any rail station. Buy a \$3 All-Day Pass, ride any rail line to Tower City and take the Waterfront Line to the Stadium. On Sept. 11, park free at five sites, and ride flyer buses to the Stadium with non-stop service.

At Gund Arena

- Sept. 3, 4:30 p.m., Championship Boxing
- Sept. 23, 10:30 a.m. & 7:30 p.m., Spirit of America concert, presented by the US Army
- Sept. 24, 2 p.m. & 7:30 p.m., Spirit of America concert, presented by the US Army
- Park free at any rail station. Buy a \$3 All-Day Pass, and ride any rail line to Tower City and the Walkway to Gateway
- www.gundarena.com

Community events

- Sept. 1-4, InGenuity Festival of the Arts, Culture and Technology, downtown, www.ingenuityCleveland.com
- Sept. 2-5, Taste of Cleveland, Tower City Amphitheater, www.cleveland.com/tasteofcleveland
- Sept. 3-5, National Air Show, Burke Lakefront Airport, www.clevelandairshow.com.
- Sept. 22-24, Oktoberfest, Tower City Amphitheater
- For downtown events, park free at any rail station. Buy a \$3 All-Day Pass, and ride any rail line to Tower City. For the Air Show, transfer to the Waterfront Line at Tower City, and exit at the North Coast Harbor Station on E. Ninth St.

At Historic Shaker Square, Cleveland

- Sept. 3, 10, 17, 24, 8 a.m.-noon Saturdays, North Union Farmers Market
- Park free at any rail station. Buy a \$3 All-Day Pass, and ride the Blue or Green light rail lines to Shaker Square. Or, hop on bus routes #48, #25 or the #821 Community Circulator.

At Crocker Park, Westlake

- Sept. 3, 10, 17, 24, 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Saturdays, North Union Farmers Market
- Ride the #46, or #808 or #822 Community Circulators
- www.crockerpark.com/events



Greater Cleveland Regional Transit Authority
www.rideRTA.com