

## New Transit Center opens

RTA and the City of Parma have opened a new \$2.1 million transit center near the Parmatown Mall.

"This transit center will improve RTA service throughout the area," says RTA CEO & General Manager Joe Calabrese.

The 1.8-acre site is at 8555 Day Dr., just south of the Parmatown Mall, and in front of Fitworks and the Fox-n-Hound Restaurant.

The facility includes 52 parking places and a 1,000 square foot building, where customers can wait in warmth, comfort and safety. Similar to an airport-waiting lounge, it is equipped with a state-of-the-art information system providing "real time" arrival and departure information on RTA services, fare vending machines, and other retail services.

Six bus lines -- #20A, #23, #45 Y/R, #68, #79A and #145Y/R -- serve the facility.

"The building design is unique to Parma, fitting into the suburban mall context while being attractive, light, and transparent," says Project Manager Maribeth Feke.

The Ohio Department of Transportation helped fund the project.

RTA also operates Park-N-Ride lots or transit centers in Westlake, North Olmsted, Fairview Park, Maple Heights and Euclid.

Construction has begun on the expansion of the Strongsville Park-n-Ride lot. RTA is designing expansions to the park-n-ride lots in Westlake and North Olmsted, and wants to build five more facilities in the next five years.

## 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, Sept. 5, 9 a.m.**, Committee meeting.
- **Tuesday, Sept. 19, 9 a.m.**, Board meeting.

The 20-member volunteer Citizen's Advisory Board meets at 8:30 a.m. on Thursday, Sept. 14.

## Transit safety a ruff job, but these dogs are up to it

Thanks to a federal grant from Homeland Security, Transit Police have acquired three bomb-sniffing dogs.

"These dogs are the most effective and economical way to detect explosives. They will help make our transit system safer for our riders," says Transit Police Chief John P. Joyce.

The three German Shepherds -- Cantor, Max and Timon -- have been training extensively in Cleveland to detect explosives for the last two months. They have been certified by the State as explosive detection dogs, and are certified by the North American Working Dogs Association.

"Although dogs can be trained for multiple tasks, it was thought best to train them primarily for explosives detection, because that is a foremost concern in transit security," Joyce says.

Four Patrolmen have also received training. They will be in charge of the dogs 24/7.

Security in the transit system has been a major concern after the attacks of Sept. 11, Joyce says. Each dog cost \$5,000, and their training cost \$10,000.

"Canines are most reliable and consistent in explosives detection. They are extremely flexible and are at our disposal 24/7 to work. Dogs are dependable and trustworthy. People like dogs, because it makes them feel more safe and secure," says Joyce.

Joyce thanked the owners of Solar Solutions, Inc., a window-tinting firm in Mentor. They donated the materials and labor to tint the windows in the vehicles that police use to transport the dogs.



Greater Cleveland Regional Transit Authority  
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# Rider's Digest



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## RTA expands free trolley service hours

Trolley service will remain free in Cleveland this fall, and service on the E-Line will run until 11 p.m. weekdays.

Previous hours were 7 a.m.-7 p.m. Monday-Friday, on two routes.

- E-Line serves the Warehouse District, Tower City, Euclid Avenue., Playhouse Square and Cleveland State University.
- B-Line serves the Warehouse District, Public Square, and businesses and offices on Superior Ave., East 12<sup>th</sup> Street, Lakeside Avenue and West Sixth Street.

Hours on the E-Line have been extended to 11 p.m. Monday-Friday. Hours on the B-Line remain the same.

"This change is great for thousands of CSU students who use RTA," says RTA CEO & General Manager Joe Calabrese. "These students can now park free at rail facilities all over the county, ride the Rapid to Tower City, and ride a trolley to the front door of their classroom."

The new hours also benefit patrons of Playhouse Square, who can ride the trolley to restaurants in the Warehouse District before and after theater performances.

*Continued inside*

## Two Circulator schedules change on September 10

Schedules for the #802 and #806 Community Circulators change on Sept. 10. The #802 Community Circulator will begin serving the City View Center, a new shopping area on Transportation Boulevard

in Garfield Heights. That change was requested by Garfield Heights city officials. New timetables will be needed. Visit [rideRTA.com](http://rideRTA.com) For more information, or call the RTAanswerline, 216-566-5211.

### Ride RTA to these events

For service info, visit [rideRTA.com](http://rideRTA.com) for the new automated trip planner. For more details, call the RTAanswerline, 216-621-9500.

#### Downtown

- **Sept. 1-4**, Taste of Cleveland, Tower City Amphitheater
- **Sept. 1-4**, National Air Show, Burke Lakefront Airport
- Park free at most rail stations. Buy a \$3.50 All-Day Pass and ride any rail line to Tower City. Walk or take a shuttle bus to the Taste of Cleveland. Ride the Waterfront Line to the North Coast Harbor Station and walk to the Air Show.
- [towercityamphitheatre.com](http://towercityamphitheatre.com)

#### At Browns Stadium

- **Sept. 2**, BGSU vs. Wisconsin
- **Sept. 16**, HBCU Ohio Classic
- **Sept. 10**, New Orleans Saints
- **Sept. 24**, Baltimore Ravens
- Park free at most rail stations. Buy a \$3.50 All-Day Pass. Ride the Waterfront Line to the Browns Stadium.
- [www.clevelandbrowns.com](http://www.clevelandbrowns.com)

#### At Quicken Loans Arena

- **Sept. 27**, Roger Waters concert
- 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.
- [theqarena.com](http://theqarena.com)

#### At Jacobs Field

- **Sept. 12-13**, Kansas City Royals
- **Sept. 25-27**, Chicago White Sox
- **Sept. 28-30**, Tampa Bay
- 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.
- <http://cleveland.indians.mlb.com>

#### At Historic Shaker Square, Cleveland

- **Saturdays**, North Union Farmers' Market
- **Sept. 30**, Fallfest family celebration
- Park free at most rail stations. Buy a \$3.50 All-Day Pass. Ride the Blue or Green light-rail lines to Shaker Square, or hop on bus routes #48/48A, #25B/W or #821.
- [shakersquare.net](http://shakersquare.net)

#### At Crocker Park, Westlake

- **Saturdays**, North Union Farmers' Market
- **Sept. 7**, Neil Zurcher at Borders
- **Sept. 22**, Red Cross blood drive
- **Sept. 23**, Athmo signs books at Borders
- Ride the #46, #55F, #808 or #822
- [crockerpark.com/events](http://crockerpark.com/events)

#### Wolstein Center at CSU, 2000 Prospect Ave.

- **Sept. 23**, Battle of the Bands
- **Sept. 25**, Tool concert
- Park free at most rail stations. Buy a \$3.50 All-Day Pass, ride any rail line to Tower City. Ride bus routes #8, #25B/W, #33, #57
- [wolsteinsciencecenter.com](http://wolsteinsciencecenter.com)

### Trolleys, Continued from front

Calabrese tipped his hat to the Convention & Visitors Bureau of Greater Cleveland.

"Last spring, these fine people recognized the tourist appeal of our trolleys, and agreed to offer financial support to keep them free through Labor Day. Now, they have extended that offer through Dec. 31. I salute them for their continued generosity. They are a joy to work with."

RTA is seeking a corporate sponsor, and plans to keep the trolley service free in exchange for naming rights. Parties wishing to explore this relationship can call Marketing Director Steve Bitto, 216-566-5255.

The trolleys replaced buses on two loop routes last spring. Since then, ridership has nearly tripled, to more than more than 2200 persons on an average weekday.

### Give blood Sept. 6-7 at RTA Main Office Building

In the annual commemoration of the 9-11 attacks, RTA and the American Red Cross will host a blood drive after Labor Day.

Blood will be collected at RTA's Main Office Building, 1240 W. Sixth St., from 1-6 p.m. Sept. 6, and 10 a.m.-3 p.m. on Sept. 7. The Main Office Building is served by RTA's two free downtown trolleys.

"Demand for blood spikes during the summer and holiday time," says Karen Kelley of the Red Cross.

"We are very grateful to our supportive sponsors, like RTA, who not only provide a place for donors to give the gift of life, but during a traditionally critical time."

Blood donors must be at least 17 years old, weigh at least 110 pounds, be in general good health and present a valid photo ID. Donors may give blood every 56 days. For more information, contact the Red Cross at 1-800-448-3543 or visit [northernohio.redcross.org](http://northernohio.redcross.org)