

Ride RTA to Earthfest at Zoo on April 18

On Sunday, April 18, RTA will provide free service from Public Square to EarthFest at the Metroparks Zoo. It marks the 40th anniversary of Earth Day.

RTA is a sponsor of EarthFest, Ohio's largest educational environmental event.

The Metroparks Zoo is open 10 a.m.-5 p.m. You can ride RTA buses or trains to Public Square, where clean diesel buses will take you from West Roadway, north of Superior Avenue, to the Zoo Administration parking lot off Fulton Road.

The buses are equipped with bike racks. Environmentally friendly fuels - electric rail cars, and clean diesel and hybrid-electric buses -- power 100 percent of RTA's fleet.

Be sure to obtain a courtesy pass, which allows free admission to the Zoo. Without this proof, you pay regular Zoo admission. This is true for riding on any RTA bus that serves the Zoo that day.

Shuttles run every 15-30 minutes. The first bus leaves Public Square at 9 a.m. and the last trip leaves the Metroparks Zoo at 5:30 p.m.

RTA will have the educational community bus on display, and RTA employees will hand out info. For more information on RTA, visit rideRTA.com, or call 216-621-9500. Those who are hearing impaired can call 216-781-4271.

Tribe opens season

The Cleveland Indians open their home season April 12 at Progressive Field.

RTA rail service is the best way to go to every home game this season. Parking is free at many Rapid stations, and all rail lines serve Tower City.

The Walkway from Tower City opens two hours before every game. RTA guarantees service for at least 90 minutes after the game ends - even when those extra-inning battles continue well after midnight.

For Your Safety

RTA has a full-service Transit Police department, on duty 24/7 to protect the safety of more than 50 million RTA customers each year.

The main number to call to report an issue to is **216-566-5163**. In the event of an emergency, call **9-1-1**.

Transit Police have the same training and capabilities as city police in Cleveland or any suburb. They patrol Tower City, Public Square, along the HealthLine, on all RTA vehicles and at all RTA facilities, such as Park-and-Ride lots and rail stations. Undercover officers also ride the buses and trains, survey the parking lots, and are often used for specific crime problems.

Some safety tips:

- If you require assistance while riding RTA, contact a uniformed RTA employee for help.
- Emergency Call Boxes are in most Rapid Stations. These connect directly to the Transit Police Dispatcher. If no Emergency Call Box is available, dial "911" on any pay phone.
- Always be alert and aware of people around you.
- Walk briskly and confidently to your destination.
- Avoid talking to strangers - especially when in isolated areas.
- Hold your purse tightly, close to your body.
- Consider carrying a whistle or any type of noise-maker. If you're in trouble, use it!



Greater Cleveland Regional Transit Authority
rideRTA.com

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Planning begins for Clifton Blvd. project

RTA officials have begun the public involvement process for the proposed transit project on Clifton Boulevard in Lakewood. The first meeting was held April 7; other meetings will be scheduled.

"Public input is critical to the success of this project," says Joe Calabrese, RTA CEO and General Manager. "We want to hear from you."

Working with RTA, Congressman Dennis Kucinich (D-10) has requested a FY2011 appropriations earmark of \$5.0 million for the construction of the Clifton Boulevard Transportation Enhancement Project in Cleveland and Lakewood.

The project covers a little more than four miles of Clifton Boulevard, from the end of the West Shoreway to the Lakewood/Rocky River border. The goal is to make Clifton Boulevard more pedestrian friendly and visually pleasant with a landscaped medium, 30 upgraded curbside stations and dedicated bus lanes during rush hours.

The attractive curbside stations will fit into the neighborhoods. They will "be designed to reflect the architectural characteristics of their neighborhoods in concert with residents and stakeholders. The design will be developed during meetings with planners, residents, stakeholders and community leaders.

www.enhanceclifton.com

Have you mailed in your Census Form yet?

If you have not mailed in your Census Form, please do so today. Counting every person is important for many reasons.

The Census only occurs once every 10 years, so for the next 10 years, the results of this year's census will determine the amount of dollars our community receives to provide and support critical services, such as health care, child care, street and sewer repair, housing, education programs, recreation programs, and senior services.

The Census form is easy to fill out, and it is safe. No Social Security numbers are required, and the information may not be shared with any other governmental agency.

For more information, go to census.gov.

Event increases diversity awareness

RTA is a gold sponsor of the May 1 Walk, Rock and Run event, which is coordinated by the Diversity Center of Northeast Ohio.

This fun family event is open to all. It starts at the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame and Museum. Registration for the 5K run begins at 7:30 a.m., and the run begins at 8:30 a.m. Registration for the 3-mile walk begins at 8 a.m., and the walk begins at 9 a.m.

All participants gain free entry to the Rock Hall, the Great Lakes Science Center and the Baseball Heritage Museum on May 1.

Sponsors say the event unifies communities while raising awareness of diversity issues. Proceeds directly support youth programs in nine Northeast Ohio counties.

A team of RTA employees will be among those participating.

For more info, call 216-752-3000 or send e-mail to sserfass@diversitycenterneo.org

Weekly Shopper Shuttle launched in Lakewood

A weekly Lakewood-Cleveland Shopper Shuttle is now operating from noon-6 p.m. Fridays, part of a one-year agreement between RTA and the cities of Lakewood and Cleveland. The Shopper Shuttle will serve Lakewood and part of Ward 16 in Cleveland.

Lakewood agreed to contribute \$10,000, with an additional \$5,000 coming from Cleveland. RTA will match the \$15,000 commitment of the cities and supply the Paratransit operator and the ADA-accessible Paratransit vehicle.

All regular RTA fare media will be accepted. A one-way cash fare is \$2.25, senior fare is \$1.

The Shopper Shuttle will pick up customers only at scheduled stops. The vehicle is expected to complete about 4 trips in the 6 hours, for a 90-minute frequency.

Schedules are available at most of these 17 pick-up points.

SHOPPING: Giant Eagle (2), Walgreens (2), Target, Nature's Bin, CVS, Drug Mart

RESIDENTIAL: Winton Place and the Carlyle, Lakehouse, Shoreham, Kirby Manor, Fedor Manor, Castlewood, Southwesterly Towers.

COMMUNITY: Lakewood Senior Center East, Lakewood Public Library, Lakewood Hospital.

RTA is working with several Cleveland City Council members in the West Park area, where a Shopper Shuttle is expected to be launched in the near future. The exact date will be announced.

For more information, go rideRTA.com, click on the Maps and Schedules pages, and scroll to near the bottom of the list of routes.

Annual report now on-line

The 2009 annual report is now available on the RTA Web site. To access it, go to rideRTA.com and follow this path:

News and updates > Newsroom > Publications > Annual Report

Cavs excitement continues

The Cavs' regular season ends on April 11, but the excitement continues at Quicken Loans Arena.

As the post-season schedule is announced, remember that playoff games may be scheduled on nights when Indians also play next door, at Progressive Field. This will create a huge traffic jam downtown.

With thousands of free parking places along the rail lines, and direct access to the Arena from Tower City, RTA remains the best ticket to watch any sports action downtown.

For up-to-date news about the Cavaliers in the playoffs, go to nba.com/cavaliers/. For up-to-date transit info, log on to rideRTA.com.

Buses replace trains as RTA upgrades crossings

Because of extensive grade crossing work, shuttle buses will replace trains for several weekends on the Blue and Green lines this spring.

During this time, workers will replace existing grade crossings, track and sidewalks with a new concrete crossing surgance, asphalt road approaches, new track and new concrete sidewalks.

Transit riders will enjoy increased safety. Both transit riders and car drivers will appreciate a smoother ride.

This month, the shutdowns begin with work on the Farnsleigh Road crossing on the Blue Line from April 16-23. The crossing will be closed to auto traffic the entire time. Buses will replace trains on the Blue Line between Shaker Square and Warrensville- Van Aken on the weekend of April 16-18.

Other crossings will be worked on later:

- Blue Line, Lynfield Road, May 7-19.
- Green Line, Coventry Road, May 28-June 9.
- Green Line, Attleboro Road, June 18-30.