

New design set for Lee-Van Aken station

RTA's station at Lee Road and Van Aken Boulevard station will be remade next year into a brightly lit center of transportation.

The improvements will come with the help of Cleveland architects Bialosky + Partners. Final approval for the design is expected soon from Shaker Heights officials.

The station, originally planned as part of the Shaker Rapid System, has undergone few major improvements since 1980. Today, it serves about 250 riders per weekday -- the second-highest ridership of the Blue Line stations east of Shaker Square.

The new project was awarded its design contract in March 2008. The design should be completed within year. Construction should begin next year, according to RTA's capital budget.

Puritas station gets long-awaited upgrade

Later this year, construction will start on the long-awaited facility to replace the current Puritas rail station.

The Puritas station was originally built in 1966 on 6 acres of land, near the I-71 exit to W. 150th St. The site includes 558 parking spaces, and about 70 percent of them are used daily.

About 900 people board there daily, placing the station as one of RTA's top five for usage. The station is served by the #70, #78, and #809 routes. The new station will be ADA-compliant, with elevators and two entrances.

Public art will be featured. Four artists, picked by the RTA's Arts in Transit Committee, will add their art to the station to increase its attractiveness and heighten the area's civic pride.

Ride RTA to all events at Quicken Loans Arena

Don't miss all the what's going on at the Quicken Loans Arena in February. RTA is the warmest and most cost-effective source of travel to all events. Just park free at most Rapid stations, hop on a train to Tower City, and take the Walkway to the Q.

Cleveland Cavaliers

- Feb. 3, Toronto, 7 p.m.
- Feb. 8, L.A., 3:30 p.m.
- Feb. 11, Phoenix, 7 p.m.
- Feb. 22, Detroit, 8 p.m.
- Feb. 24, Memphis, 7 p.m.

Lake Erie Monsters

- Feb. 6, 27, and 28 at 7:30 p.m.
- Feb. 25 at 7 p.m.

Other fun events

- Feb. 7, 7: 30 p.m., Johnsonville Hot Winter Nights Tour
- Feb. 13, 7: 30 p.m., Monster Jam.
- Feb. 14, 2 p.m. and 7:30 p.m., Monster Jam, with a Pit Party from 10 a.m. -12:30 p.m.
- Feb. 21, 7:30 p.m, Rodeo

Rider's Digest



A PUBLICATION OF THE GREATER CLEVELAND REGIONAL TRANSIT AUTHORITY

Ridership increases for record sixth year

For a record sixth year in a row, RTA saw a jump in its number of riders. This is the longest sustained ridership increase in the history of the agency.

From 2002 to 2008, there was a total increase of 5.2 million riders. Total ridership in 2008 was 59.7 million.

"We know that a lot of new riders turned to RTA when gas prices were high," says General Manager Joe Calabrese. "Apparently, they stuck with us when gas prices returned to a five-year low. Our only conclusion is that they were pleased with our high-quality service."

Some key growth areas:

- HealthLine ridership in December was up 46 percent from a year ago, when it was known as the #6 route.
- Trolley ridership topped one million in 2008.
- Ridership on the rail system. Three-car trains are now being considered for the Red Line.
- Major Park-N-Ride lots in North Olmsted, Westlake and Strongsville.

"Greater Clevelanders recognize RTA as a viable means of transportation, and we're excited about that," says Calabrese. "Our pledge this year is to continue to provide as much high-quality service as our resources will allow."



Greater Cleveland Regional Transit Authority
rideRTA.com

Citizens Advisory Board seeks nominations

RTA is seeking applicants who would like to serve on the 20-member volunteer Citizens Advisory Board (CAB).

Persons must have a strong interest in public transit, and be regular riders. Civic-minded adults, age 18 and older, must also be available to attend 1-2 morning meetings each month.

Members receive a monthly transit pass from RTA.

If you are interested:

- Download an application form from the Web site. Follow this path: rideRTA.com > About RTA > organization > Citizens Advisory Board
- Send e-mail to: earnold@gcrta.org
- Call 216-566-5251

CAB members serve RTA and the general public in a proactive role as the pulse of the community in the promotion and provision of high-quality transportation programs and services.

RTV on display at Cleveland Auto Show

Visitors to the Greater Cleveland Auto Show can again see a 63-foot long hybrid-electric Rapid Transit Vehicle (RTV) from RTA's HealthLine. It is the longest public transit vehicle in Ohio. Thousands of visitors toured the RTV when it first appeared at last year's show.

The Auto Show runs Feb. 28-March 8 at the IX Center. Show hours are 11 a.m.-4 p.m. Friday and Saturdays, 11 a.m.- 8 p.m. Sundays, and noon-10 p.m. Monday-Thursday. Adult tickets cost \$12 each.

RTA staff will be on hand to provide information and answer questions.

Ride RTA to Rock Hall Induction Week events

RTA is working with staff at the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame and Museum to promote Induction Week 2009, set for March 28-April 4.

Artists and ticket information will be announced soon at rockhall.com.

Here is the lineup for this historic week:

Saturday, March 28

The popular Magic 105.7 Moondog Coronation Ball will be held at Quicken Loans Arena. You can park free at many RTA rail stations, ride any Rapid Line into Tower City, and take the Walkway to the Q. Stay warm, safe and dry, and save money on parking and gas. Visit rockhall.com for more information.

Sunday, March 29

A free community gospel concert will honor Pastor Shirley Caesar, at a site to be announced. RTA provides convenient transportation to all major music venues in Cleveland. Caesar has recorded more than 40 albums. Inducted into the Gospel Hall of Fame in 1982, she is pastor of a church in North Carolina. She will perform, and various choirs will honor her through music.



Wednesday, April 1

The Rock Hall will open the world's first exhibit devoted to the life and music of Bruce Springsteen. The Waterfront Line provides convenient access to the Rock Hall seven days a week.

Thursday, April 2

A free community concert will be held in the Wolstein Center at Cleveland State University. The concert will include performances by past Hall of Fame inductees. Several RTA bus routes serve the site, and it a short walk from the HealthLine on Euclid Avenue. Visit rockhall.com for more information.

Saturday, April 4

The Rock Hall will be open free all day. The 24th annual Induction Ceremony will be held at Public Hall. It will be broadcast live to a national TV audience and streamed live to audiences around the world. Visit rockhall.com for more information.

Look for the March *Rider's Digest* for info on an exciting new service.

Nominate a volunteer

April 1 is the deadline to submit nominations for the F. Robert Wiesenberger Community Volunteer award, sponsored by RTA and its Citizen Advisory Board (CAB).

The award is given in honor of the late Mr. Wiesenberger, who served on RTA's Advisory Board for more than 25 years. He was also active in the Rocky River city government, and served on committees throughout the county for more than 20 years.

Nominees should:

- Be residents of Cuyahoga County.
- Perform volunteer work in this region.
- Have demonstrated a willingness to get involved, an unselfish giving of oneself, an ability to lead others, and a desire to enhance the quality of life in the community.

Nomination forms:

- Are available on-line at riderta.com/CAB/cvaward.asp
- Will be accepted from individuals or organizations