

## Ride RTA, stay safe, have fun, see legal fireworks

For a sixth year in a row, RTA will host a Family Fest as part of Cleveland's major fireworks celebration.

The festival runs from 7 p.m. until dusk on Saturday, July 4. Families are encouraged to ride the Waterfront Line to the Settler's Landing Station.

Bring a blanket, and grab a spot on the hillside for a great view of the fireworks. The fireworks are expected to start around 9:30 p.m.

RTA will operate extra trains before and after the fireworks, to make travel to and from the Flats fast and convenient. The event includes:

- 12-piece Sousa band
- Free glow sticks
- Free bottles of AquaFina water

Customers are encouraged to buy an All-Day Pass -- \$4.50 for adults and \$1.75 for each child, age 6-12, up to three children. Up to three children, younger than age 6, can ride free. An adult must accompany the children at all times.

## Orchestra on Public Square for annual free concert

RTA is the best way to go to the Cleveland Orchestra's annual Independence Day concert on Thursday July 2, at 9 p.m.

Festivities begin at 4 p.m. and the concert will end around 10:30 p.m. Weather permitting, fireworks will follow the performance. The concert set-up equipment will cause several downtown streets to close, and many RTA buses will be re-routed.

There are more than 7,000 free parking spaces available along the RTA rail system. All Red, Green, and Blue lines serve Tower City. Additional rail service will be provided before and after the concert.

You are encouraged to purchase an All-Day Pass. This will help operations after the concert.

## IngenuityFest set for July 10-12



RTA offers easy transportation to IngenuityFest at Playhouse Square and Star Plaza in downtown Cleveland.

The event, for all ages to enjoy, is fast becoming downtown Cleveland's signature summer event. Festival hours are:

- 4 p.m.-1 a.m. Friday, July 10
- noon-1 a.m. Saturday, July 11
- noon-8 p.m. on Sunday, July 12

IngenuityFest highlights important international masters' original works alongside Northeast Ohio's performing and visual artists. Major colleges and universities, NASA and research firms, and acclaimed artists collaborate to create new and exciting works that merge art and technology.

Admission is \$10 a day, or \$15 for the weekend. Children 12 and younger are free, as are all Cleveland Municipal School District students.

Look for a special RTA farecard with the IngenuityFest logo. The discount is good for a 2-for-1 admission to the event.

## Music festival cancelled

The North Coast Music Festival, featured in the June *Rider's Digest*, has been cancelled. The festival was set for Aug. 7-9.



Greater Cleveland Regional Transit Authority  
rideRTA.com

# Rider's Digest



A PUBLICATION OF THE GREATER CLEVELAND  
REGIONAL TRANSIT AUTHORITY

## A letter from CEO Joe Calabrese

I want to update you on several items.

### Safety

In June, RTA saluted bus and rail operators who had 20, 25 and 30 years of driving without an accident. This is an incredible achievement. Combined, these operators have gone 725 years without an accident. You're in good hands.

### Budget

RTA again faces significant budget challenges. About 70 percent of RTA's operating money comes from a one percent countywide sales tax, and it has been severely affected by the economy. Projections are that the 2009 receipts will be \$12 million to \$15 million below 2008.

It appears that Ohio will once again cut funding to public transit – this time by 20-30 percent.

In June, about 285 salaried employees saw a 3 percent cut in their wages. This will save RTA about \$400,000 this year – not enough to close the gap on a deficit, but it's a start. RTA has also frozen hiring, restricted travel and reduced overtime. We will continue to work with State officials to seek other methods to balance the budget before considering service cuts and fare increases.

See "Letter" Inside

## “Letter” From Cover

### Fare collection

The media has reported that some RTA employees are not collecting fares properly. At RTA, every penny is important. We continually stress the importance of collecting proper fares. Employees not taking all reasonable efforts to collect fares will be disciplined.

I know that this problem is the exception and is not the norm. We monitor revenues collected carefully, and year-to-date, fare revenue collected is up 9.38 percent over last year. The proof-of-payment fare collection system that will begin soon on the Red Line was designed to address many of these issues.

### Subway crash

The recent accident in Washington, D.C., causes us to pause and reflect on the vital importance of what we do. It heightens our awareness of our role in the safety of this operation. As we learn more about what caused the crash, we will re-examine our rail safety systems, procedures and training, and we will make modifications if needed.

Rail is a very safe mode of travel, much safer than cars. Did you know that on the average, 3 people are killed every day in auto accidents in Ohio?

We are doing our very best to operate safely every day. While there are no guarantees in life, we remain focused on the safety of our customers and our system.

### Employee indicted

The FBI has indicted an RTA construction manager and his wife on a number of counts. RTA cooperated fully with FBI agents in their investigation, and we will continue to cooperate as the case moves through the court system.

It is wrong for any employee to use his position here for personal gain. We are an organization of hard-working employees and, frankly, are outraged that one of our own might have betrayed the public trust. There is no evidence that these alleged actions in any way jeopardized the safety of our passengers, employees or the public.

### H1N1 virus

In June, the County Board of Health informed us that a bus operator from the Triskett Garage tested positive for the H1N1 virus. Immediately, we put out the word to our riders and employees, with as much detail as possible. We also thoroughly cleaned each bus that the operator had used in recent weeks. This is in addition to cleaning all vehicles daily with disinfectant.

RTA continues to monitor the news on a regular basis with county, state and national health officials. Your on-going safety is a top priority.



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## July 4 holiday service

- RTA will operate a Sunday/Holiday schedule on July 4.
- RTA will operate a weekday schedule on Friday, July 3.
- RTA offices will be closed on Friday, July 3.
- The #20Z bus to the Zoo will continue to operate only on Saturdays and Sundays.

## Remodeling seminars set

On Thursday, July 9, from 1-7 p.m., the Department of Consumer Affairs will host a “Community Remodel Housing and Resource Fair”, with seminars showcasing remodeling. This event is free and open to the public. All activities are held at the Cleveland Job Corps Academy, 13421 Coit Road.

## Red Line upgrades fare collection system

A new proof-of-payment fare collection system is being installed and tested on the Red Line. It will mean a faster, safer ride for you.

### How the system works

If you enter a station without an active, valid farecard trip or pass, please use one of the new fare machines before entering the “*fare paid zone*” within the stations. While on a train or in a *fare paid zone*, you must have an active pass, or a farecard with an active trip, ready for inspection at all times. If not, Transit Police may issue a violation fare notice (\$76) or a criminal citation. Retain your farecard or pass until you have exited the rapid transit system.

### A standard ticket vending machine...

- Offers Braille and audio features for sight-impaired customers.
- Accepts coins and bills (no change given).
- Accepts all major debit and credit cards.
- Issues All-Day Passes, activated for immediate use or saved for another day.
- Issues 1-ride and 2-ride tickets. Like cash fares, these have no transfer privileges. The first ride is automatically activated for immediate use. You must activate the second ride of a 2-ride ticket before using it.

The busier Red Line stations also have additional machines that sell many types of passes and farecards. Some stations also have a small validating machine to activate passes and farecard trips.

### What needs to be activated (validated) before you enter a *Fare Paid Zone*:

- 7-Day Flex Passes (first use only).
- All-Day Passes (first use only).
- Farecards, each trip.
- Second ride on a 2-ride ticket.