

Ride RTA to see July holiday concert downtown

RTA offers the best way to hear the world-famous Cleveland Orchestra, as it offers its 21st annual holiday concert at 9 p.m. Thursday, July 1, on Public Square.

Pre-concert entertainment begins at 5 p.m. The concert ends around 10:10 p.m., when fireworks begin, weather permitting.

Several downtown streets will be closed for the concert and the set-up, and many RTA buses will be rerouted. Check rideRTA.com for details.

RTA offers more than 7,000 free parking places along its rail system, and all Red, Blue and Green line trains serve Tower City. Extra rail service will operate both before and after the concert. The HealthLine will also be operating, from Public Square to East Cleveland.

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

Riders: let's be courteous

Rapid riders are reminded of a few simple rules.

When trains are crowded, seats are for passengers, not packages, luggage, knapsacks or your laptop. Keep these items with you or use the space inside the rail car to store luggage or packages. Feet also belong on the floor of the rail car, not on the seat. It's no treat...to sit on a seat...that's been covered by feet.

Use trash cans in stations to dispose of your personal trash and newspapers. Rail car floors can be slippery. When they are covered with trash, they are more hazardous.

Listening to music? Just make sure that only your ears hear your music. Some folks may not appreciate your music choices.

For your safety

Rack-n-roll celebrates 10th anniversary at RTA

In June 2000, RTA began its Rack-n-Roll program and started accepting bicycles on its buses and trains.

Today, more than 400 RTA buses are equipped with bike racks, and all 108 rail cars accept bicycles on board.

More than 50,000 rides each year are taken with bicycles, thus marrying two great forms of environmentally friendly travel.

If you take your bike on board an RTA bus or train, please do it safely.

Before you travel, check out RTA's bicycle guidelines at www.riderta.com/ro_bike.asp

When taking your bicycle on a train car, remember these safety tips.

- In stations, use stairs and elevators only.
- No more than two bicycles are permitted per rail car, with space available on a first-come, first-served basis.
- Yield to wheelchair passengers.
- Board the train after other passengers, and stay with your bicycle for the entire ride.
- Bikes must not block aisles or doorways on trains, and must be securely held or tied in place.
- When on the platform, keep your bicycle well away from the edge at all times.



Greater Cleveland Regional Transit Authority
rideRTA.com

Rider's Digest



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Thank you, Senator Sherrod Brown

RTA officials thank U.S. Senator Sherrod Brown (D-OH) for co-sponsoring Senate Bill 3412, the Public Transportation Preservation Act of 2010.

"Public transit systems and public transit unions across the nation strongly support this bill," says Joe Calabrese, RTA CEO & General Manager.

"We thank Senator Brown for co-sponsoring the bill. Public transportation needs increased funding and more flexible funding, and this bill will provide that. Quality public transportation is important to thousands of people who depend on RTA for their daily commute to work, and so much more."

If passed, RTA could gain up to \$11 million in one-time funding that can be used to preserve existing services through 2013.

RTA is currently projecting deficits in the years ahead, and the passage of Senate Bill 3412 could help eliminate or minimize the negative impacts of those projected deficit, Calabrese says.

RTA urges members of the U.S. House of Representatives to introduce and support a companion bill.

Persons who want to write in support of the bill can visit www.fundohiotransitnow.com, or access the site from rideRTA.com.

Summer service changes on 23 bus routes planned

The timetables of 23 RTA bus routes change on Sunday, June 13.

New timetables will be needed for the Health-Line, #7, #9, #14, #15, #16, #22, #25, #26, #32, #40, #45/45A, #51, #68, #75, #76, #77F, #79A/B, #81, #83, #246, #251/451 and #263.

Effective Sunday, June 27, new timetables will be needed for the Red Line and the Blue/Green lines.

Where to obtain new timetables

- Maps and Schedules Page at www.rideRTA.com.
- RTA's Main Office, 1240 W. Sixth St.
- RTA's Customer Service Center at the Tower City Station

For more information, or to receive a new timetable by mail, call the RTAanswerline, 216-621-9500.

Going to the Zoo?

If you are going to the Cleveland Metroparks Zoo this summer, RTA can take you there. Just hop on the #20A, #35 or #51. These buses drop you off on West 25th Street-Pearl Road. Walk 0.3 miles to get to the main Zoo entrance at 3900 Wildlife Way.

Reminder on school service

In March, RTA announced that these supplemental school routes would be discontinued at the end of the current school year – #702, #722, #742, #762, #791, #792. In North Olmsted, five supplemental routes – #781, #782, #783, #784, #785 – are being consolidated into fewer routes. The new routes will begin service when classes resume this fall.

Euclid Beach theme at July 4 family event

Euclid Beach Park may be closed, but the spirit of the park will come alive on July 4 at the Settler's Landing Station on the Waterfront Line.

For the sixth year in a row, RTA will host a Family Fest as part of Cleveland's major fireworks celebration. Many items from the former Euclid Beach amusement park will be present.

- Take a free ride on the former Euclid Beach rocket car.
- Have your photo taken by Euclid Beach memorabilia.
- Buy some famous Humphrey popcorn balls.

The event features a 12-piece Sousa band, and food wagons will sell refreshments.

The festival runs from 7 p.m. until dusk on Sunday, July 4. Families are encouraged to park free at an RTA Rapid Station, ride the Rapid to Tower City, and then take 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, shot off from the mouth of the Cuyahoga River, 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. Plan to come early. With many local communities canceling their fireworks this year, attendance at this year's Flats event could be at an all-time high.

Customers are encouraged to buy an All-Day Pass - \$5 for adults and \$2.50 for each child, age 6-12, up to three children. Up to three children younger than age 6 can ride free. Children must be accompanied by an adult at all times.

Euclid Beach Park, patterned after New York's Coney Island, operated from 1895-1969.

Five employees receive Customer Service Award

Five RTA employees have won the 2010 General Manager's Customer Service Award.

Each was honored for their outstanding work in solving problems, implementing an innovative customer service idea or showing an outstanding act of customer service.

John Brown Jr. drives a bus on route #11, which includes downtown and the Near East Side. He is being nominated for his polite manners towards riders. Rider Barbara Butler, who nominated Brown, appreciates the way he handles unruly passengers "calmly and respectfully."

Lt. Michael D'Amico has been coordinating security for all special events for more than 10 years. He is also the Officer-in-Charge of the afternoon shift for Transit Police, which is "the most active and productive shift in terms of calls for service" says his nominator, Transit Police Chief John Joyce.

Karen Hawkins is an operator out of the Triskett Garage on Cleveland's West Side. She volunteered her time during benefit's open enrollment to help her colleagues complete the important process. Her supervisor, William Eltrich, cites her "unselfishness and willingness to go the extra step to help her colleagues."

Janet Johnson, a Paratransit bus operator, was nominated for her careful driving and courteous manner towards her passengers. "She is very knowledgeable about the county," says rider LaVerne Barnes.

Michael Yelko II operates a bus on routes #22, #26 and #81 on Cleveland's West Side. He was nominated for his helpfulness towards passengers. Rider Carol Froelick says Yelko is kind to bus passengers and gives them helpful directions when asked.