



RTA Continues Regional Hub Network Development

Shared visions of the RTA's latest and brightest investment in the future prevented even the largest of cloudbursts from dampening the spirits of those attending the RTA's Westtown Mini-Hub Ground-breaking Ceremony on July 23. Community leaders, neighborhood representatives and RTA board and staff cheered as they broke ground on the third of six transit hubs that will form the RTA Regional Hub Network.

Regional hub development places the RTA at the leading edge in adapting passenger delivery and service to the changing needs of the customer.

Guest speaker, Federal Transit Administration (FTA) Community Planner David Werner commended the RTA for its region-wide service innovation and noted that significant transportation advancements such as the Regional Hub Network exemplify



(left to right): RTA Executive Director Minnie Fells Johnson, Federal Transit Administration Community Planner David Werner and RTA Trustee George Bayless break ground on the Westtown Mini-Hub.

the genuine value of FTA funding under the Intermodal Surface

Transportation Efficiency Act (ISTEA) legislation.

Dayton City Commis-

sioners Anthony Capizzi, Dean Lovelace and Idotha "Bootsie" Neal shared their enthusiasm for the RTA's many efforts to improve regional transportation. Capizzi expressed his excitement for the RTA's proactive role in using ISTEA legislation to enhance regional development. He praised the RTA's commitment to downtown Dayton, citing planned RTA renovation of the American Building and funding of transit-related amenities at the proposed minor league baseball stadium site. "I'm thrilled to have another mini-hub location here that can bring people downtown to baseball," said Capizzi.

Southwest Business Association President Ronald Rose proclaimed the Westtown Mini-Hub as the fourth wheel in the revitalization of west Dayton. According to Rose, C. J. McLin Parkway, Third Street, Gettysburg Avenue and the Westtown Mini-Hub each have the potential to significantly impact economic vitality of west Dayton. "What we're looking for now is

(See "Hub Network," page 13)

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Barnett Promoted to Director of Operations




Wayne Barnett

The RTA is pleased to announce the promotion of Wayne

Barnett to RTA director of operations. Barnett, who has a distinguished 22-year career in public transportation, will oversee the RTA maintenance, transportation and engineering divisions.

Since 1975, Barnett has served the RTA in a variety of positions including bus operator, transit supervisor, training supervisor and manager of planning and service development. In 1996, Barnett received the Executive Proclamation Award from the RTA board for his extraordinary contribution toward the fulfillment of a major management goal in establishing the Regional Hub Network. "Wayne is a true profes-

sional who, over the years, has become instrumental in advancing the RTA mission," says RTA Executive Director Minnie Fells Johnson, Ph.D. "His leadership in helping to establish the RTA Regional Hub Network, for example, speaks for many outstanding contributions he will make as RTA director of operations."

A Miami Valley resident for more than 40 years, Barnett has an associate's degree in labor studies from Sinclair Community College and a bachelor of arts from Capitol University in Columbus, Ohio. He and his wife, Norma, reside in Vandalia and have two children, Ronald and Jennifer. 

RTA Introduces New Customer-Friendly Fleet



The Nova Bus fleet will replace a majority of the RTA's oldest 300 and 800 series diesel buses.

The Miami Valley Regional Transit Authority (RTA) received the first of its 60 new Nova Bus diesels in early June and will continue taking delivery of the buses through the summer. Each vehicle has an array of customer-friendly features to provide RTA riders with a pleasant transit experience.

The Nova Buses are the

cleanest-running diesel buses in the RTA fleet. Their short, 35-foot length enables the vehicles to travel easily through Miami Valley neighborhoods, enhancing RTA accessibility. Equipped with a special kneeling feature that lowers the front door closer to the curb, the Nova Buses provide RTA customers, particularly senior citizens and individuals with disabilities, easier access when boarding.

Each Nova Bus comfortably seats 34 RTA customers who, when boarding, are greeted by a cheerful interior consisting of rainbow patterned seat cushions accented in red trim. Larger, updated wheelchair lifts are featured in the rear doors, and at least two wheelchair tie downs are available for individuals with disabilities. Ten buses will feature

three wheelchair tie downs and serve on the RTA routes most frequently traveled by individuals who use wheelchairs.

Each Nova Bus carries much brighter exterior lighting than older RTA diesel buses, enabling motorists, pedestrians and individuals with sight impairments to more easily identify the new RTA vehicles. Additionally, RTA customers are able to easily identify their appropriate bus via route information clearly displayed on front and curb-side destination signs and a route number display at the rear of each Nova Bus.

The RTA's award winning bus bike rack service continues to grow and enhance regional mobility with the addition of the Nova Buses, as the RTA progresses

(See "Nova Bus," page 10)

RTA Investment Ensures Accessibility of Proposed Minor-League Baseball Stadium

The involvement of the RTA in the proposed Downtown Dayton Baseball Stadium Project ensures that the new facility will be as transit friendly and accessible as possible to area residents and visitors:

The RTA and stadium developers will work together to integrate transit into the final stadium design. RTA bus stops and shelters, passenger waiting areas, benches, trash receptacles, security lighting, curb cuts and reinforced roadways are the types of projects that will be supported by transit funds.

The involvement of transit in the baseball stadium development is consistent with the recommendations of the RTA in 2000 Committee, a diverse group of community leaders from across the Miami Valley who established the foundation for the RTA strategic focus.



Dayton City Commissioner Tony Capizzi encourages RTA trustees to approve funding of transit amenities at the proposed baseball stadium site.

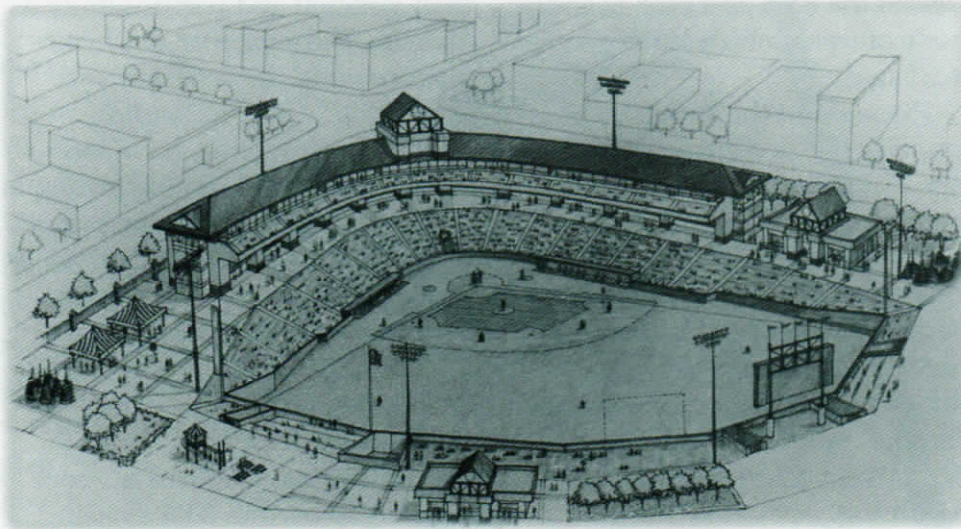
By being at the table from the beginning of the stadium project," explained RTA Board President James Payne, "we're better able to address the mobility needs of Miami Valley citizens and visitors. Transit's investment in this site adds value to the overall project, and benefits the entire community."

The RTA board of trustees demonstrated its commitment to

one of two funding arrangements. Ohio Congressman Tony Hall, with the help of the RTA, is currently seeking a special congressional earmark in federal transit funds to support transit amenities at the site. Acquisition of these funds is dependent upon reauthorization of transportation legislation currently known as the Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act (ISTEA), that will be determined in Washington D.C. later this year.

The baseball project must have timely financial commitments to move forward. Therefore, in the event that pending ISTEA reauthorization is stalled, the RTA board of trustees has agreed to commit \$400,000 in local dollars, 20 percent of the \$2 million needed. These local funds will be used to leverage the remaining \$1.6 million (80 percent) in federal formula funding.

Being responsive to the community's need for affordable and convenient mobility options is central to the RTA's mission. "Partnering with community



An artist's rendition of the proposed baseball stadium

"The RTA in 2000 Committee concluded that transit should be integrated into the economic and development context of the region.

the stadium project at its July 1 meeting when it resolved to financially support transit-related amenities at the stadium through

(See "Baseball," page 11)

Around the RTA



Dayton rotarians tour an RTA electric trolleybus prototype and Nova Bus following a special presentation by RTA Executive Director Minnie Fells Johnson, Ph.D. on July 21.



(left to right): Accounting Clerk Carolyn Terrill, Assistant Customer Service Supervisor Sheila Love, Payroll Analyst Dorothy Keller, Scheduling Supervisor Michele Conley and Manager of Procurement Deborah Howard sell bus and U.S. Air and Trade Show tickets to RTA customers on July 19.



(left to right): Federal Transportation Administration Community Planner David Werner and RTA Trustee James Francis avoid rain as Communications Coordinator Mike Sherman prevents the downpour from trickling between tents at the Westown Mini-Hub Groundbreaking Ceremony on July 23.

RTA Partnership With Community Brings Generations Together



senior citizens, such as Jane Murray, learn how to ride the RTA. "I've been wanting to ride the bus but I don't think I'm strong enough to go alone," says Murray.

Simple on-board surveys

"Riding Together" is a new transit-based program established through a collaborative effort between the RTA and New Choices, Inc., an outreach organization for at-risk youth. The program is designed to bridge the generation gap between local youth and senior citizens and present the RTA as a user-friendly mode of transportation for people of all ages.

Throughout the summer, 10 specially selected students escort senior citizens by riding the RTA together once a week. The students help with shopping and accompany their senior partners to medical and business appointments. RTA outings provide unique opportunities for sharing common interests and serve as catalysts for intergenerational mentoring.

Increasing senior citizen ridership and young people's awareness of public transit's benefits are important RTA goals. Assistance provided by student participants is invaluable in helping some

administered during the program assess each participant's feelings about transit and help identify senior citizen travel patterns and preferred destinations.

Students participating in "Riding Together" receive a small stipend, identification cards, RTA ball caps and vests that indicate their position and responsibility as escorts. Thirteen-year-old Justin Cotton found the program very rewarding. "It's fun helping people," says Cotton, who has learned to respect senior citizens.

Upon completion of the program, youth and senior citizens receive T-shirts and certificates recognizing their participation.

"'Riding Together' establishes a simple way to introduce public transit to customers who might otherwise be apprehensive about learning to use the RTA system," explains RTA Senior Planner Trudy Cordero. "The RTA's partnership with New Choices, Inc. has created a win/win situation for the RTA and Miami Valley residents." 

Articulated Bus Intrigues RTA Riders



More than 20,000 people rode the RTA's speedy express service to the 1997 U.S. Air and Trade Show on July 19 and 20. A 60-foot, low floor, articulated bus, on loan from New Flyer of America, was among the 68 vehicles that provided service to the airshow gates. The vehicle seats 58 passengers comfortably and was well received.


Windsor Encourages RideLine's Thoughtful Donation

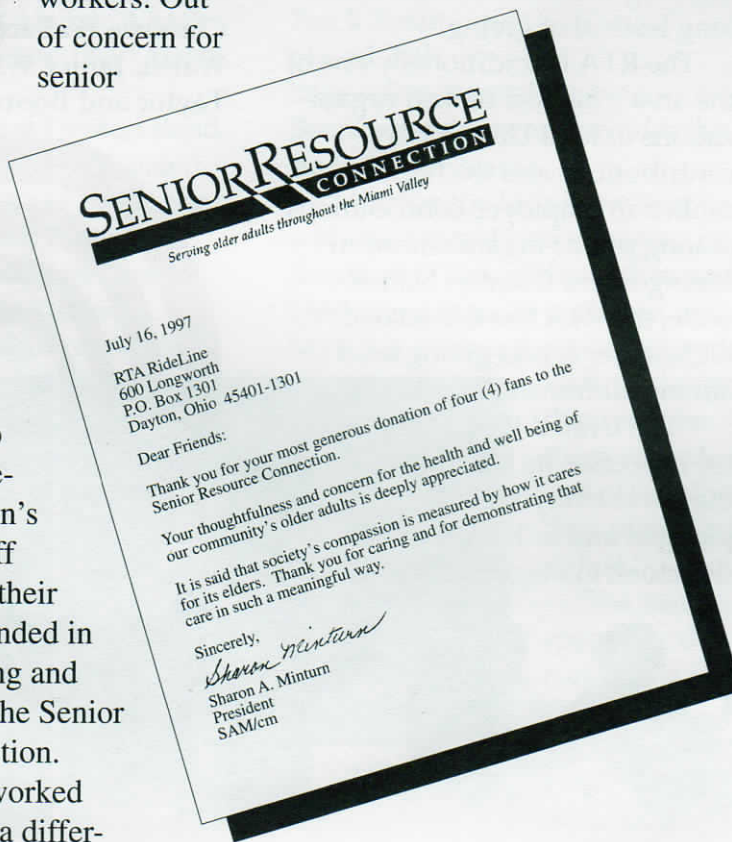


Clarence Windsor

A tip of our hat to Clarence Windsor and his caring RTA RideLine co-workers. Out of concern for senior

citizens at risk from this summer's intense heat, Windsor rallied fellow RTA customer service representatives to answer Senior Resource Connection's plea for fans. Staff members pooled their money and responded in kind by purchasing and donating fans to the Senior Resource Connection.

The RideLine worked together to make a difference," says Windsor, who read in the Dayton Daily News about the need for fans. "I'm very proud of our team." 



Around the RTA



(left to right): RTA Board President James Payne, Manager of Marketing/Public Affairs Rosemary Walsh and Director of Marketing/Planning Carla Lakatos chat at the Westtown Minnie-Hub Groundbreaking Ceremony on July 23.



(left to right): Project Mobility Manager Norman Barksdale visits with Transportation Consultant Scott Meese and Frank Wiley at the Access Center For Independent Living's seventh annual Americans With Disabilities Act Day at Island Park on July 25.



(left side, front to back): Research Coordinator Donna Johnson, SEEK Student Natasha Matthews and Marketing Coordinator Cynthia King provide students with RTA information at the University of Dayton's new student orientation program, First Stop Fare.

Employees Show Power in Reaching Campaign Goal



1997 United Way Committee

Employees showed their power and compassion for others during the '97 United Way campaign by surpassing the RTA United Way Committee goal of \$62,000.

United Way received \$63,946 in donations from RTA employees, and according to committee chairperson, RTA Manager of Marketing and Public Affairs Rosemary Walsh, pledges were still trickling in after the close of the campaign. "Each and every employee can be proud of the humanitarian spirit that is so strong here," says Walsh.

The campaign, which began with complimentary snacks and beverages on September 11, established a first-day record of \$29,596 in United Way donations.

In addition to a variety of food sales, fund raising events


included tear-offs, basketball shooting and golf putting games and raffles of donated prizes.

A fried chicken victory picnic dinner on September 18 brought employees together in the 601 building to celebrate their week-long festival of giving.

The RTA is traditionally one of the area's highest ranked organizations in total United Way contributions and the highest ranked in employee contributions among public organizations in Montgomery County. Nationwide, the RTA has the second highest per capita giving level among all transit properties.

"The United Way Committee expresses its heartfelt thanks to everyone who pledged and to RTA directors, managers and

supervisors for being patient with committee members during the campaign," says Walsh. "This campaign is truly a shared project that draws on the strengths of individuals from each department of our company. If you happen to see a United Way Committee member walking down the hall or in the barn, give them a pat on the back. They deserve it!"

The following employees served on the '97 United Way Committee: Calvin Adams, Isaiah Barbour, Claudia Broyles, Becky Choate, Rhonda Curington, Ron Fisher, Vera Heard, Leo Hemmerich, Bob Hutchison, Cynthia King, Donald Lawson, Jonathon McKinney, Susan Morgan, Sharon Nash, Joyce Pritchard, Ernie Robinson, Sherry Seay, Nancy Shultz, Sue Szymczak, Clarence Wallace, Rosemary Walsh, Janice Whitaker, Steve Taylor and Brenda Thomas. 



The power of U™



Breathett Lives Life in the Fast Lane as Track Coach

RTA Operator Leslie Breathett wears many different hats. "Shoes" may be a more accurate word, when you consider Breathett's passion for track and field.

"Leslie could spend all day talking track," says wife, LaDeidra Breathett. In addition to his RTA career, Breathett travels the United States extensively to officiate meets for U.S.A. Track and Field, the sport's governing body. He also competes in the 200 meters and long jump in local track meets and coaches the sport year round.

Breathett coaches track at Dayton's Resurrection Catholic School, and he is a cofounder, president and coach of the West Dayton Road Runners' Track Team, which competes in a variety of indoor and outdoor Amateur Athletic Union (AAU) and U.S.A. Track and Field meets each year.

In July, the West Dayton Road Runners' Track Team competed against 42 teams from across the country in the AAU National Championships at Walt Disney Sports Complex in Orlando, Florida. Twenty-three children

ages six to 18 represented Dayton in the meet, competing against teams with as many as 100 or more participants.

"Evander Holyfield's team was there, and he had well over 100 kids competing," says Breathett. His girls team, age division nine through 10, placed 2nd, and the entire West Dayton Road Runners' Track Team placed 20th, impressive, according to Breathett, when you consider the size of other teams.

"A lot of the kids have been with me several years," says Breathett. "The other coaches and I just want them to come out and have fun during the summer and let them know that we love them regardless of whether they place first or last."

The team spent five days competing in the Florida track meet. While there, each competi-



In addition to coaching, Breathett finds time to compete in a few track meets each year, including the South Dayton Flyers and Dayton Masters meets at Welcome Stadium and The Capitol City Strider's meet in Charleston, West Virginia.



The West Dayton Road Runners' Track Team is like a family, says Coach Breathett. The team purchased these uniforms with donations received from RTA employees through the United Way.

tor had the opportunity to visit Disney's new water park, Watermaina, when not competing.

Fund-raisers and charitable donations helped pay for the trip to the national championships. Breathett says that competing in the meet would have been impossible without \$1500 the team received from RTA employee donations to United Way. "Thank you to all the people who donated to the West Dayton Road Runners' Track Team Through the United Way," says Breathett.

Children age six to 18 can run on the West Dayton Road Runners' Track Team. Parents can call Breathett at 274-5634 for more information 📧

RTA Employees Honored for Outstanding Service

Operator Larry Esterline, Maintenance employee William "Tex" Dinser and Project Mobility Operator Linda Freshour are



Larry Esterline

in Brookville with his wife, Paula, and daughter, Melanie. Esterline also has two grown children, Dennis and Susie, and six grandchildren. He is a member of Pymont United Methodist Church and enjoys camping, traveling, bicycling and spending time with family. Classic cars and trucks are among Esterline's favorite interests, and he considers being a good neighbor and friend as one of his most important endeavors. "I am always there to lend a helping hand to family and friends when needed," says Esterline.



William "Tex" Dinser

the RTA's May employees of the month. Operator Dwight Stevens, Maintenance Employee Charles Wehrman and Project Mobility Operator Loyd Wood are the RTA June employees of the month, and

Operator Steve Deak, maintenance employee, Michael Terrill and Project Mobility Operator Duane Lewis are the July RTA Employees of the Month.

Larry Esterline has been employed at the RTA for 16 years, and he has an outstanding 13-year safe driving record. "I enjoy my job and meeting and helping people," says Esterline, who resides



William "Tex" Dinser

is a diesel shop mechanic who served at the RTA in the 1980s and recently rejoined the RTA family in March 1996. Dinser and his wife, Christie, reside in Cincinnati. Together they proudly raised their nieces, Melissa and Jennifer, and nephew, Mike. Dinser's favorite hobbies include camping, electronics and swimming.

Linda Freshour has been employed with the RTA for approximately one and a half years. "My goal is to learn all that I can at the RTA," she says. Freshour and her husband, Tim, have been married for 25 years and reside in New Lebanon. Together they have



Linda Freshour

three children and four grandchildren. Family outings, reading, softball and dancing are among Freshour's favorite activities. Freshour takes her work very seriously. "I just want to be best I can be," she says, "and treat others like I want to be treated."

Dwight Stevens is a Huber Heights resident who has been employed with the RTA for 13 years. He and his wife, Beverly, have been married for 37 years and have five children and nine grandchildren. Stevens spends his free-time visiting his grandchildren, fishing, boating and traveling. He also serves as Miami-Shelby Chapter president of the United Ostomy Association and is an active member of the Dayton Ostomy Club.

Charles Wehrman is a trolley shop mechanic who has been employed with the RTA for five years. In addition to being the March 1995 Maintenance Employee of the Month, Wehrman's most significant accomplishments include serving in the U.S. Army from 1976-1980 and graduating from Sinclair Community College



Dwight Stevens



Charles Wehrman

in 1987 with an Associate Degree of Applied Science in General Business Management. Wehrman is a member of the National Youth Sports Coaches Association and a Northmont Amateur Baseball League



Loyd Wood

eled throughout North America and enjoys collecting coins and baseball memorabilia, playing checkers, watching football, displaying his culinary skills and spending time with his family. "My biggest accomplishment," says Wood, "is raising a beautiful family."

Steve Deak is a Union resident who has been employed with the RTA for 17 years. He and wife Teresa, his high school sweetheart, have been married for 37 years, and have two children, Chris and Rose, and one grandchild,

Michael. Deak's hobbies include golf and fishing, and he considers the many long-standing friendships he has

established as an operator to be his most rewarding accomplishment. "Being able to enjoy my riders as I do," says Deak, "and having a positive attitude toward everyone helps to make a pleasant and relaxing ride."

Michael Terrill is a utility cleaner who has been with the RTA since 1991. He is a Vietnam War veteran who earned five medals while serving in the U.S. Marines. Terrill and his wife, Carolyn, who works in the RTA Finance Department, reside in Trotwood and have three children, Steven, Robert and Dawnyel, and four grandchildren, Christopher, Kelsey, Aaron and Alan. Terrill's hobbies include camping, fishing, hunting, spending time with his family and

working with his church's youth department.

Duane Lewis has been employed with the RTA for approximately two years. He resides in Yellow Springs with his wife Beverly and



Michael Terrill

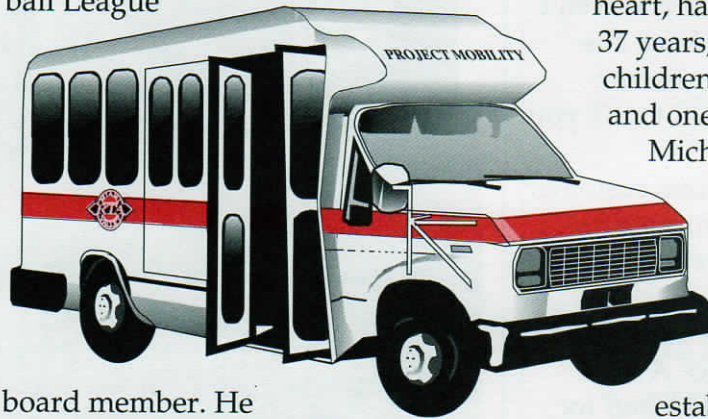
their son, Duane Anthony Lewis III. Softball and flag football are among Lewis' favorite pastimes, and being the best father he can



Duane Lewis

be is one of his most important endeavors. "I want to ensure that my son Duane's life is happy and successful," says Lewis.

The RTA is delighted to have Esterline, Dinser, Freshour, Stevens, Wehrman, Wood, Deak, Terrill and Lewis on staff, and is proud of their outstanding professional contributions and concern for RTA customers. 📌



board member. He resides in Union with his wife Lisa and their 12-year-old son Matthew and 10-year-old daughter Leah. Coaching youth sports, tinkering with personal computers and listening to rock music are among

Wehrman's favorite interests.

Loyd Wood started his RTA career in March 1996. He and his wife, Tonya, reside in



Steve Deak

Dayton and are members of Macedonia Baptist Church. They have two children, Antoinette and Chelsea, and are expecting their third child soon. Wood has trav-



Enhance Your Relations With RTA Customers

National Customer Service week, October 6-10, is sponsored by the International Customer Service Association to recognize the contributions of customer service professionals and demonstrate the importance of customer service to a business' bottom line.

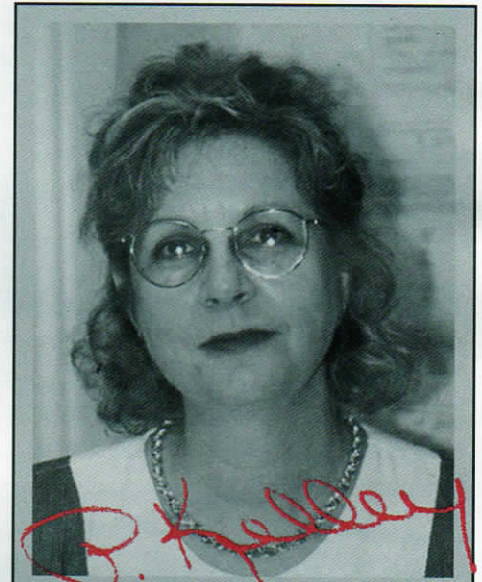
In recognition of National Customer Service Week, RTA Customer Service Supervisor Pat Kelley offers the following steps we can all use to enhance our contact with RTA customers:

- 1) Expect and be prepared for encounters with unhappy people, regardless of your RTA position.
- 2) Interpret customer comments professionally, not personally, to help avoid responding inappropriately.
- 3) React constructively to enhance the customer's encounter or to resolve a problem. Customers should always experience responsive, caring and knowledgeable RTA employees.

"Arguing with a customer is a disservice to the RTA and to the customer, says Kelley. "It hurts the RTA's reputation and angers the customer." According to Kelley, we should all try to identify challenging customer service situations in our own work environment before they arise. "Learning, in advance, how to most effectively resolve a situation will maximize your contribution to the RTA and the community," says Kelley. "If you aren't sure how to respond to a customer in a particular circumstance, don't be afraid to ask your supervisor."

The RTA recognizes customer service excellence through its employee of the month awards (see page 8).

In 1996, the RTA introduced the Customer Service Award which honors salaried staff for customer service excellence. See your department secretary to obtain an award nomination form. 



Look for a new customer service column by Kelley in each issue of Wires & Wheels starting in 1998. As a service to RTA employees, Kelley will continue sharing helpful tips and information that we can all use to enhance our contact with customers as the RTA continues making customer-friendly enhancements to its system.

Nova Bus

Continued from page 2

toward a 100 percent bike-rack-equipped fixed route fleet.


The Nova Buses also reflect the RTA's ongoing commitment to customer and bus operator safety. Security cameras are mounted on the interior of each Nova Bus to monitor activity and deter rowdiness and vandalism.

Automatic voice annunciators are another popular technological advancement that are featured aboard the Nova Buses. When

up-linked with a satellite via Intelligent Transportation System technology, the voice annunciators will call out RTA route time points and intersections to customers, particularly benefiting sight-impaired individuals.

A limited number of the vehicles were initially introduced to the public via RTA express Park-N-Ride service to the Dayton's U.S. Air and Trade Show in July. The buses began operat-

ing in revenue service on August 5.

"These smaller, cleaner running, attractive vehicles are helping to establish benchmarks for customer-driven standards of quality," says Carla Lakatos, RTA Director of Marketing and Planning. "Sensitivity to the customer in RTA fleet design makes transit a more attractive option among the many transportation modes available to area residents." 

Around the RTA



(left to right): RTA Service Supervisor Eric Easterling and Transportation Department Secretary Susan Morgan sell raffle tickets during the 1997 United Way campaign.



(left to right): RTA mechanics, Michael O'Rourke and Dale Adams, attend the United Way Victory Dinner on September 18.

Baseball

Continued from page 3

organizations to implement transit-friendly enhancements on projects of regional significance reflects the RTA's strategic goals and furthers the quality of life in our region," explains RTA Executive Director Minnie Fells Johnson, Ph.D. "We look forward to the advancement of the stadium project and meeting the new transportation needs that will face our community." 



Look for the above sticker prominently displayed in the windows of RTA vehicles. Created through a joint fund-raising effort between local organizations Parity 2000 and Friendship Force Bosnia, the stickers help to reinforce Dayton's positive image. Proceeds from a sale of the stickers are benefiting the Miami Valley by helping the Parity 2000 Mentoring Program and Friendship Force Bosnia "Passage to Peace," achieve important community goals.



August 29, 1997

RTA, Public Relations
600 Longworth Street
Dayton, OH 45402

Re: Letter of Appreciation for Driver Gloria Howard

Dear Sirs:

I'm 28 years old, married and I have two kids: Sam, age three, he's a real handful, and Emma, Five months, who is learning to crawl. A couple of years ago my wife and I bought a house on Oakland Avenue in Kettering. We didn't realize it at the time, but that's right on a RTA route.

Several times a week I'm outside with my son and the bus goes by. Some drivers wave, some don't, but they usually go by slowly enough that I can see them smile at Sam waving furiously to get their attention. Occasionally a bus flies by so fast it seems they'll never be able to stop by the time they hit Dorothy Lane. A chill always goes up my spine when I see those drivers come through the neighborhood so fast, since there are dozens of children on our street. In fact, there were several times that I've thought of mailing in my opinion, but I never did. Until Today.

Several days ago, as I was playing baseball with my son in our front yard. Sure enough, just as the bus came by, Sam hit the ball in the street. I've had nightmares about this happening when I'm not home. To my shock and surprise, the bus slowed to a crawl near our house and then stopped. The door opened and driver Gloria Howard picked up the ball and cheerfully returned it to me.

I rarely see this kind of concern for kids. I run an outreach to kids in the greater Dayton area. Most adults find kids a nuisance at best. Gloria seemed to find it a pleasure to stop and serve my son. Please affirm her actions in front of her co-workers that they would imitate her.

And they say chivalry is dead. I guess not. Thanks again Gloria.

Sincerely,

Erik Hofmann

cc: Gloria Howard

Sons Get Glimpse of RTA and Miami Valley Future



Forty boys ranging from age six to 18 participated in the day-long exploration of the RTA's many operations and endeavors.

The RTA's commitment to the regions' future highlighted many of the events and activities held during the Authority's third annual "Bring Your Sons to Work Day" on July 31.


Three rambunctious groups of boys toured the Longworth Street

Facility and the RTA Marketing and Planning Department in the American Building downtown following a special continental breakfast and staff introductions. Group leaders explained each department's functions as the young men visited with staff ranging from customer service representatives to mechanics.

Carillon Historical Park provided the perfect setting for a picnic lunch and gave the boys the opportunity to expend their youthful energy before embarking on a journey to the RTA's Southern Montgomery County Maxi-Hub and Eastown Mini-Hub. During their trip, the boys learned about the RTA's innovative hub network, future service design and thoughtful customer service enhancements and amenities that will be located at each of the six hub sites.

RTA Manager of Internal Services Tim Nixon continued the afternoon activities by holding a group discussion on popularity verses uniqueness, a sequel to last year's inspirational presentation on self image.

A mock board meeting conducted by RTA Executive Director Minnie Fells Johnson, Ph.D. rounded out the days activities. Johnson provided insight into how RTA decisions are made and emphasized to our guests the importance of the RTA's accountability to the public.

The following RTA employees served on the "Bring Your Sons to Work Day Committee," and helped to make this important event a success: Committee Chair Donna Yoshida, Debby Ballard, Norman Barksdale, Joy DesLauriers-Davis, Dave Snyder and John Thomas. 

Spooky Scrambler

c	h	r	i	m	l	t	x	h	f	a	q	l	p	m	l	y	i
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h	a	p	d	w	o	r	c	e	r	a	c	s	u	v	q	a	s
p	x	n	o	m	s	w	i	r	c	x	t	a	c	t	i	c	h

Find the following words associated with the spookiest of holidays:

- | | |
|----------------|-----------|
| spook | party |
| halloween | scarecrow |
| ghost | corn |
| goblin | pumpkin |
| witch | carve |
| Samhain | graveyard |
| Celts | monster |
| candy | broom |
| trick or treat | fright |
| October | hat |
| costume | moon |
| mask | bat |

(Answers found on page. 15)

In Memory of Spencer Johnson Jr.

Spencer Johnson Jr. passed away on August 24, 1997. He is fondly remembered by RTA employees for his many outstanding professional and personal contributions made over his 15-year career in public transit.

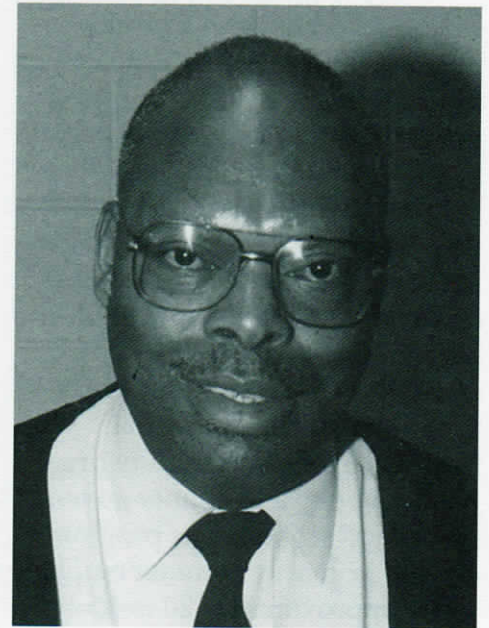
Johnson began working as an operator at the RTA in 1982. He served on the RTA Safety Council and was instrumental in teaching new operators techniques in driving a 40-foot passenger bus, as a Commercial Divers License instructor.

Johnson volunteered his time to a variety of community service projects including the United Way Campaign, which he supported as

a 1992 and 1993 Campaign Steering Committee member and solicitor. He also served as the president of the 7 Plus 7, a social club whose primary focus is to foster relationships among families.

In recognition of his outstanding service to the community, Johnson received Parity 2000's distinguished Ten Top African American Males award the first year the awards were presented in 1994.

Spencer Johnson Jr. touched the lives of many RTA employees and customers. He will truly be missed. 📧



Spencer Johnson Jr.

Hub Network

Continued from page 1



Dayton City Commissioners Dean Lovelace and Tony Capizzi tour an RTA Nova Bus following the groundbreaking ceremony.

residents and the business community to work together to make this a big success," said Rose.

The 500-square-foot Westown Mini-Hub will be one of three smaller hubs within the Regional Hub Network that feature an RTA Park-N-Ride, a passenger waiting

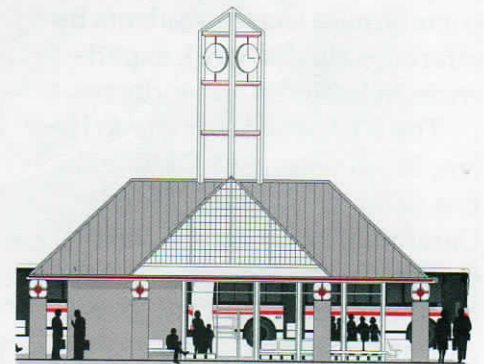
area, public restrooms, bike racks, security and RTA route and schedule information. The hub will initially serve routes 1, 3, 24, 41, 63 and eventually 8.

Regional Hub Network construction began in 1996 when the

RTA broke ground on the Southern Montgomery County Maxi-Hub and Eastown Mini-Hub in late September. Construction of these first three facilities is expected to be complete by the end of this year; service to the hubs will begin in 1998 and be phased

in over the next several years.

"Investing in the community through the Regional Hub Network furthers the quality of life in our region," says RTA Executive Director Minnie Fells Johnson, Ph.D. "The Regional Hub Network will improve mobility options, increase RTA accessibility and service efficiency, enhance rider comfort and promote economic development." 📧



SEEK Program Benefited RTA and Students

The RTA has been a proud member of the Student Employment Encourages Kids (SEEK) program since the program began in 1982. Although SEEK suspended its program at the end of this summer due to cuts in administrative funding, the RTA will consider rehiring its 1997 SEEK students next summer.

SEEK was a community-based program organized by local business, labor, community organizations, city and county governments and schools. The program offered primarily summer employment, approximately 20 to 40 hours per week, to Dayton Public and Montgomery County school students between 16 and 21 years of age. Student eligibility for participation in SEEK was based on students' school attendance, grades, prior work experience, financial status and counselor and teacher recommendations.

More than 8,000 area students have participated in SEEK since 1982, gaining positive work experience that contributed to their continuing education and ability to become productive, working adults. The program provided local companies and public agencies with screened and motivated employees, and it demonstrated the public and private sector's commitment to area students by offering valuable work experiences in business and industry.

The RTA was fortunate to have employed seven SEEK students this summer including Kandis Daramola, Toyia Day, Kenneth Griffin, Teisha Jackson, Natasha Matthews, Edward Platt, Jr. and Adriane Sheperd.



(left to right) front row: Natasha Matthews, Adriane Sheperd, Kenneth Griffin and Toyia Day
back row: Edward Platt and Teisha Jackson

Kandis Daramola attends Alabama State University (ASU) and returns to Dayton on holidays and during the summer to work in the RTA Finance Department. She was recently recognized in the Neighborhood Section of the Dayton Daily News and at an ASU Honors Convocation for being named on the Dean's List. "Kandis is a very talented lady who wants to pursue an advanced degree," says RTA Chief Financial Officer and SEEK Treasurer Richard DeLon.

Toyia Day is a junior at Wright State University. She is pursuing a bachelors degree in economics and worked in the RTA Human Resources Department. After college, Day plans to attend law school and establish her own practice in corporate law. "I live by the saying 'I will do my best to be the best so I am ready when my chance comes,'" says Day. Bowling, dancing, shopping and traveling are among Day's favorite interests.

Eighteen-year-old Kenneth

Griffin attends Belmont High School and worked in inventory in the RTA Maintenance Department. Griffin would like to eventually play professional basketball or football. He is interested in the fields of engineering, medicine and education, and he enjoys collecting basketball cards.

Teisha Jackson is a Sinclair Community College student who is earning a degree in physical therapy assistance. Jackson worked in the RTA Operations Department. She is certified in infant, child and adult cardiopulmonary resuscitation. Her future plans include attending a four-year university and earning a bachelor's degree in physical therapy. "I'm considering looking into how to go about opening a day care facility," says Jackson, who loves children. Teisha will be working in the Finance Department during the 1997-98 school year.

Natasha Matthews assisted the RTA marketing and planning staff.

She is a junior majoring in math education at Wright State University (WSU) and aspires to become a college professor. Matthews recently received a community advising position in WSU housing, and honors in the Dayton Daily News from her church, Shiloh Baptist, for outstanding academic performance. Bowling is one of Matthew's favorite pastimes. "I consider myself to be a professional bowler," says Matthews with a chuckle. "My average is 170."

RTA ACEs With Cephias Penn



Cephias Penn

Belmont graduate Cephias Penn received a special mentorship at the RTA this summer through the Advancing

Competitiveness Through Education (ACE) Program.

The program recognizes academic excellence and encourages Dayton Public School graduates to achieve career goals. ACE offers students mentorships, scholarships and internships while enabling local businesses to attract and retain highly skilled individuals to meet future employment needs.

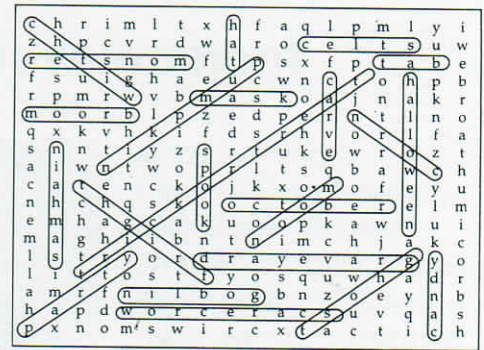
Penn took computer classes in high school and earned a 4.027 grade point average.

While at the RTA, he observed the daily operations in each department.

Penn now attends the Wright State University as a computer engineering major.

Spooky Puzzle

(Answers to puzzle on p. 12)



spook
halloween
ghost
goblin
witch
Samhain
Celts
candy
trick or treat
October
costume
mask

party
scarecrow
corn
pumpkin
carve
graveyard
monster
broom
fright
hat
moon
bat

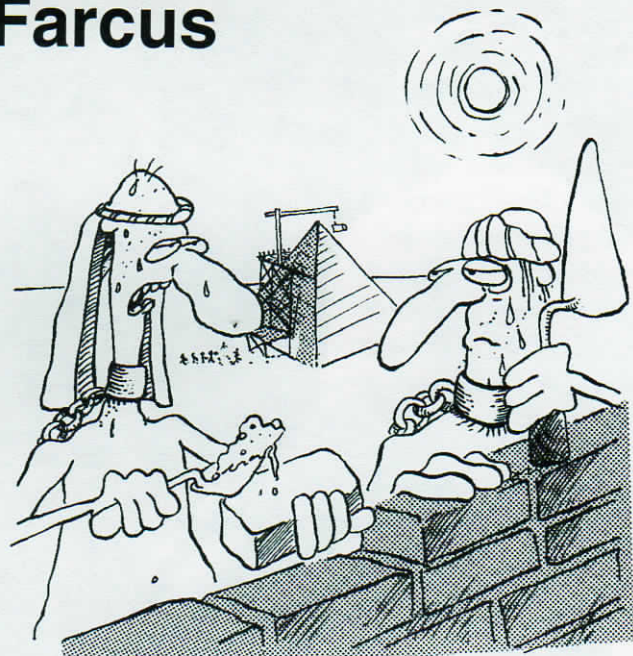
Edward Platt, Jr. attends Colonel White High School where he takes honors courses in language arts. He worked for RTA Building and Grounds and looks forward to attending college either as a major in cinematography or art. Sports, art, filmmaking, martial arts and computers are among Platt's favorite interests.

Adriane Sheperd recently graduated from the Miami Valley Career Technology Center. Sheperd spent her senior year enrolled in a graphic printing course and her summer producing printed materials in the RTA copycenter. Through her involvement with 4-H over the past eight years, Sheperd participated in the Junior Leader Club, the Junior Fairboard, 4-H summer trips and camp. She is 4-H's most outstanding female for 1997. Dance is Sheperd's favorite hobby. She has taken lessons in kickline, tapp, jazz, hula and country line dancing over the past 10 years.

Daramola, Day, Griffin, Jackson, Matthews, Platt and Sheperd have been a pleasure to work with and a lot fun to have around this summer, according to RTA staff. Look for their return soon, and introduce yourself. 🍷

Humor

Farcus



© Farcus Cartoons Inc. 1990

I wonder if we get Labor Day off?

Wires & Wheels

A Newsletter for Employees and Retirees
Miami Valley Regional Transit Authority
600 Longworth Street
Dayton, OH 45401

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MVRTA

In Other News...



Look for Operator Alice Cook in a :30 RTA commercial airing on television stations throughout the Miami Valley.

Wires & Wheels

Wires & Wheels is a quarterly publication of the Miami Valley Regional Transit Authority Marketing Department. Its purpose is to inform employees and retirees of activities, events, commendations and changes in policies.

If you have any comments, suggestions or contributions, please forward them to the RTA Marketing Department.

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