



Happy Holidays!

As 2023 draws to a close, RIPTA extends warm wishes to you and your family for a joyous and healthy holiday season. May your days be filled with the warmth of loved ones and the joy of shared moments that become cherished memories.



RIPTA Honors Rosa Parks

Friday, December 1 - the date Rosa Parks refused to surrender her bus seat because of her skin color - is Rosa Parks Human Rights Day. RIPTA salutes her by showcasing beautiful art e-signage commemorating her courage on buses as a reminder of who she was and what she represents.



[Click here](#) to read more about the mother of the modern-day civil rights movement in America.

Stuff A Bus for Toys for Tots

Are you ready to help stuff a bus for Toys for Tots?

Join RIPTA, Rhode Island FC and B101 at Cardi's Furniture & Mattresses in West Warwick (681 Quaker Lane, Rt. 2) on Saturday, December 2 from 9am till

STUFF A BUS

DONATIONS TO BENEFIT
MARINE CORPS RESERVE

TOYS FOR TOTS

Saturday, December 2, 2023
9am – 12pm

Cardi's Furniture and Mattresses
Rt 2. West Warwick, RI

Presented By:

Cardi's
FURNITURE + MATTRESSES

iHeart MEDIA RIPA RHODE ISLAND PUBLIC TRANSIT AUTHORITY B101

noon! The Marine Corps Reserve Toys for Tots programs provide support to disadvantaged children during the holiday season and beyond.

Bring a new unwrapped toy to this Stuff A Bus event and say hello to B101's Morning team Kristin and Steve and the B101 street team!

CCRI On The Rhode – Community Holiday Outreach Event

Join CCRI On the Rhode at Kennedy Plaza in Providence to spread comfort, care, and kindness.

CCRI Community Service Days

Happy Holidays
from CCRI

Kennedy Plaza,
Providence
Thursday, Dec. 7
7 am – 4 pm

Spreading Comfort,
Care and Kindness

FREE
Hot Chocolate!

On Thursday, **December 7**, come spread Holiday Cheer and share a cup of cocoa with CCRI. A group of volunteers will be there from **7 a.m. to 4 p.m.** giving out hot chocolate (while supplies last), some fun CCRI swag, and spreading holiday cheer.

Faculty and Staff will also be available to answer questions about programs and services offered at CCRI. CCRI looks forward to connecting with the Rhode Island community to share comfort, care, and kindness.

Please note that the rain date is scheduled for Wednesday, December 13.



Important Notice: Ride Free Central Falls Program Ending on Dec. 31, 2023

The "Ride Free Central Falls" pilot program, which has been in effect since March 2022, will conclude on December 31, 2023. This initiative, aimed at testing geofencing technology to promote public transportation use, has been a valuable experiment in enhancing accessibility and affordability.

Under the "Ride Free Central Falls" pilot, a virtual boundary, or geofence, was created around Central Falls, and later extended to include the Pawtucket-Central Falls Transit Center. **Beginning January 1, 2024, all passengers boarding in Central Falls and at the Pawtucket-Central Falls Transit Center will be required to pay the full fare.**

This innovative initiative, made possible by a grant from the Federal Transit Administration's "Accelerating Innovative Mobility" initiative, has allowed us to explore new ways of improving transit services and transportation options.

We extend our sincere thanks to you for being part of this exciting pilot program. [Click here](#) to learn more.

Employee Spotlight

Stanley Fallens, Fixed-Route Operator

"Things change," RIPTA operator Stanley Fallens says with a smile as he prepares for another day of work as a RIPTA operator.



Or do they? One thing that hasn't changed is that Fallens has been driving for RIPTA for the past 48 years and still loves his job. At 72, he is ranked number one for seniority and works full-time on standby, ready to fill any driving vacancy that may occur during his shift. "I can go anywhere on any given day," he says. "There isn't any route I haven't driven. I roll with the times. Even if I'm having a bad day, I always try to show up with a smile."

Fallens still lives in Olneyville where he grew up and says it's hard to quantify how many changes he has seen in public transit buses over the decades. "We had no power steering, no air conditioning," he says. "And when we changed routes, we had to manually crank the sign at the front of the bus." Still, he's not fazed by any technological innovations, including electric buses that are gradually beginning to be added to RIPTA's fleet. "I've driven some of them," he says. "I don't very often, but I've been behind the wheel of buses so long, I adapt pretty quickly."

One thing that does surprise him is the fact that RIPTA has to work hard to actively recruit drivers these days; there is a shortage of qualified candidates. He applied to RIPTA in 1976, a few years after he graduated Mt. Pleasant High School when things were very different. "There were about 1,200 applicants for four openings," he said. "And you didn't have to have a CDL (Commercial Driver's License) – you just got a couple of weeks of training and then you were on the road."

Fallens said he wanted to work at RIPTA because it was a good, stable job that provided benefits and room for advancement. Prior to coming here, he served for several years in the National Guard and also worked in manufacturing.

He has a treasure trove of memories, including driving through Garden City Shopping Center during the historic Blizzard of '78 with a couple of passengers still on board. "We hit a snowbank and that was it," he says. "We had to walk to the fire station on Sockanosset Cross Road and we were there for four or five days – they couldn't have been nicer."

Fallens shares some of his memories while sitting at one of the small tables in the drivers' lobby at RIPTA's main garage in Providence. He is ship-shape and trim in his crisp uniform, and he has his neatly packed lunch bag beside him. He reaches inside and brings out some of his prized career pictures wrapped in a plastic bag. One of his favorites is a snapshot of him standing in front of a bus circa 1976 with his mom. Another is him with Lt. Gov. Sabina Matos, who he proudly says is a good friend from the Olneyville neighborhood. He's always liked politics, he says, but has worked more behind the scenes, helping with campaigns, and serving as a member of his Democratic Ward Committee. As



he talks, some younger drivers tap him on the shoulder and tease him about his seniority.

“This guy is number one,” they say, pointing to a long piece of paper pinned to the wall, listing every driver by date of hire.

Paul Harrington, Executive Director of Transportation, says, “Anyone spending 48-plus years in one profession is impressive – never mind being a bus operator.”

Fallens has obviously seen a lot of things and changes over the course of his career here at RIPTA. From the blizzard of 78 to Super Storm Sandy and beyond, but the one constant is that he has helped move Rhode Islanders to their destinations for a very long time.

He says he has no intention of retiring any time soon and would not hesitate to recommend driving for RIPTA as a career. “Anybody who wants to, can work their way to the top,” he says. “I’m number one in seniority now, but it doesn’t happen overnight – you have to work your way up.”

DRIVE YOUR CAREER FORWARD
NOW HIRING

JOIN OUR TEAM!

- GROWTH ORIENTED
- OUTSTANDING BENEFITS
- VARIETY OF CAREER PATHS

RIPTA
RHODE ISLAND PUBLIC TRANSIT AUTHORITY

Drive Your Career Forward

Interested in our new Class C CDL Training Program or other job openings?

Attend the RIPTA Career Fair on Monday, December 11, 2023 from 10am to 3pm at 705 Elmwood Avenue, Providence, RI.

Visit [RIPTA.com/careers](https://ripta.com/careers) to learn more.

RIPTA Photo ID Bus Pass Road Trips

RIPTA's Photo Identification staff will travel to communities throughout the state to process bus pass applications for qualified seniors and individuals with disabilities who are unable to get to our office in Providence. Staff also provides travel training.

RIPTA staff will process Photo ID bus passes at the following locations:

PAWTUCKET

Thursday, December 7 • 10am - 12pm

Leon Mathieu Senior Center

420 Main Street

NORTH KINGSTOWN

Thursday, December 14 • 9:30am -
11am

North Kingstown Senior Center
44 Beach Street

Photo ID bus passes cost \$10 and are
valid for two years.

For information on how to qualify for
RIPTA's Bus Pass Program for Seniors
and People with Disabilities, customers
can call (401) 784-9500, ext. 2012 or
visit [RIPTA.com/ReducedFare](https://www.ripta.com/ReducedFare).



RIPTA To Run Holiday Service Schedule on Christmas Day and New Year's Day

RIPTA will operate all regular fixed-route bus service on a Sunday/Holiday schedule on Monday, December 25, 2023 in observance of Christmas Day and on Monday, January 1, 2023 in observance of New Year's Day.

RIPTA offices will be closed on Christmas Day and New Year's Day. Also, the Flex Service reservation line (1-877-906-FLEX) and the Ride reservation line (461-9760) will not be staffed on either holiday.

[Click here](#) for details.

DETOURS

Providence Christmas Tree Lighting: Friday, December 1

Routes 1, 3, 4, 6, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 51, 54, 58, 60, 72, 78, 92, and the R-Line will be on detour from 8 am to 9 pm.

Visit [RIPTA.com/alerts](https://www.ripta.com/alerts) for details on upcoming detours.



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