Behind The Wheel

RFTA'S INTERNAL NEWSLETTER

SUMMER 2024

Farewell and Thank You for 35 Great Years!

According to a 2022 Bureau of Labor Statistics news release, the median number of years that wage and salary workers had been with their current employer was 4.1 years. On September 1, 2024, I will have worked for the Roaring Fork Transportation Authority (RFTA) and its predecessor, the Roaring Fork Transit Agency (Transit Agency) for exactly 35 years. What is also significant about that date is that the title of RFTA CEO, which I have been privileged to have for over 23 years, will transfer to Kurt Ravenschlag, Chief Operating Officer. I am confident that Kurt will not only be a good steward of the organization he inherits, but he will dedicate himself to making RFTA even better than it has ever been! Please give him your enthusiastic support as he assumes his new responsibilities. I will stay on until the end of the year serving in a supporting role, as needed, and to archive important RFTA documents.

If the truth be known, when I arrived at RFTA on September 1, 1989, I was very nervous about how long I would hang on to the job. The first General Manager of the Transit Agency resigned after a few years, rather than terminate one of his employees who threw a pie in a Board member's face at a Board meeting (please don't get any ideas). After six months, the second General Manager cleaned out his office, taped a note on his door that said, "Gone Bear Hunting," and never came back. My initial goal was to outlast him and, after I did, it's been all downhill from there!

I am an anomaly in terms of how long I have held my job and, maybe, that's because I didn't have any other great options. The truth, though, is that when I arrived at the Transit Agency, I was 41 and single, and all my worldly possession fit into a tiny U-Haul trailer. Since then, I married my wife, Mary, became the stepdad of two great young men, and a father to my soon to be 21-year old son. I have made this incredibly beautiful valley my home, and built a fulfilling life that I could never even have imagined 35 years ago.

Along the way, I have had the opportunity to work with visionary RFTA Board members, who recognized the critical need for a convenient and reliable public transit system, and who wanted the best system the region could afford. I have also had the distinct pleasure of working with some of the most talented, creative, hard-working, and dedicated co-workers that any CEO could ever dream of leading. Their examples and encouragement along the way, have inspired me to do my best.

Also, I would be remiss if I failed to mention the many thousands of loyal RFTA riders and trail users who have stuck with us through thick and thin and who, along with other members of the public, have demonstrated their unwavering support for RFTA at the ballot box every time we have asked for their votes. In short, I have been truly blessed, and I thank God for allowing me to have such an amazing opportunity to serve in my capacity.

Space will not permit me to share all of the zany, challenging, and gratifying experiences I have had at RFTA over the decades. When looking back over the years, I am reminded of the old swashbuckling pirate sitting in a pub with an empty schooner of beer in front of him. When he was asked by another patron to recount some of his seafaring adventures, he replied with a wink, "Aye, matey, the stories I could tell if only me throat weren't so dry!" Although I am not a drinker, if you run into me some place, please don't get me started talking about the past, unless your calendar is free for at least the rest of the day!

Sincerely,
Dan Blankenship, RFTA Chief Executive Officer

BEHIND THE WHEEL

RFTA
ROARING FORK TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY

RFTA BOARD

Pitkin County
Greg Poschman / Francie Jacober

Town of Basalt
David Knight / Dieter Schindler

City of Aspen
Torre / Sam Rose

Town of Carbondale
Colin Laird / Ben Bohmfalk

Eagle County
Jeanne McQueeney /
Kathy Chandler-Henry

City of Glenwood Springs
Shelley Kaup / Ingrid Wussow

Town of New Castle
Art Riddile / Brandy Copeland

Town of Snowmass Village
Alyssa Shenk / Bill Madsen

RFTA CEO
Dan Blankenship

RFTA COO
Kurt Ravenschlag

RFTA CFAO
Michael Yang

RFTA Human Resources & Communications

Erin Kemp
HR Director | 970.384.4952

Bisi Costanzo
HR Generalist II | 970.989.1150

Megan Faichney
Benefits Manager | 970.384.4878

Natalie Pimental Rosario
HR Assistant | 970.384.4906

Terri Rider
HR Generalist I | 970.384.4889

Stacy Summers
HR Generalist II | 970.384.4854

Maria Vazquez
HR & Risk Management Manager | 970.384.4950

Jamie Tatsuno
Communications Manager | 970.384.4864

Joni Christenson
Communications Specialist | 970.384.4871

Yazmin Carlson
Creative Communications Associate | 970.989.1184

SUSTAINABLE TRANSIT FOR A HEALTHY PLANET

RFTA is proud for the recognition by the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) to be named one of this year's Champions of the Sustainable Transit for a Healthy Planet awards.

Federal Transit Administration Recognizes Transit Agencies for Reducing their Environmental Footprint and Tackling Climate Change.

Monday, April 22, 2024

As part of Earth Day, FTA Celebrates Work that Helps Achieve the Biden-Harris Administration's Clean Energy Goals

WASHINGTON – As part of the U.S. Department of Transportation's celebration of Earth Day, the Federal Transit Administration (FTA)[1] today recognized transit agencies that are taking innovative approaches to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. These transit agencies participate in FTA's Sustainable Transit for a Healthy Planet Climate Challenge[2], which encourages transit leaders to take bold actions and prioritize investments to help tackle the climate crisis.

Nearly 240 transit agencies from Maine to Hawaii are participating in the Climate Challenge. Today, **FTA Acting Administrator Veronica Vanterpool** recognized three of them as Champions of the Challenge due to their innovative efforts to reduce GHGs and increase resilience through forward-thinking policies, proactive planning, and stakeholder engagement:

- Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority (VTA) in San Jose, California, analyzed emissions forecasts and vulnerability assessments, which resulted in 33 GHG reduction strategies and 14 climate adaptation measures. VTA aims to increase resilience to climate risks and become carbon neutral by 2045.
- The Maryland Transit Administration (MTA) in Baltimore, Maryland, developed a climate action plan with detailed strategies to reduce GHGs. The agency also focused on adaptation and resiliency tools to improve preparedness and protection of transit assets.
- **Roaring Fork Transportation Authority (RFTA)** in Glenwood Springs, Colorado, the largest rural transit system in America, engaged stakeholders and analyzed methods to inform their strategy for a comprehensive climate action plan. RFTA's efforts are designed to support their goal of transitioning to a 100% electric fleet by 2050.

"Transit agencies nationwide are using innovative and collaborative approaches to greening their fleets, upgrading infrastructure, and transitioning their workforces to maximize climate resilience for our communities," Vanterpool said. "While transit is the most sustainable mode of travel, we still have an opportunity to lessen our climate footprint and improve the health and well-being of our communities."

1. Federal Transit Administration (FTA): https://bit.ly/3XP5cv8
2. Sustainable Transit for a Healthy Planet Climate Challenge: https://bit.ly/3zogIUa

New Hires

Drivers

Brian Allen

Joseph Brothers (rehire)

Jack Haroutunian

Cortney Jones

Jose Jurado Angulo (rehire)

Daniel Leatherman

Aaron Lockett

Clifford Millett

Peter Nardi

Ashley Roach

Sarah Spencer

David Spittler (rehire)

Walter Threat

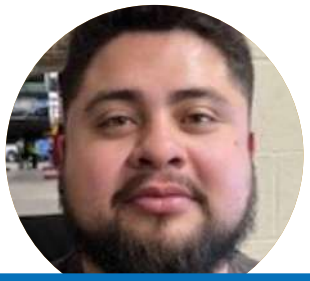
Rev Guzel was hired as Operations Support Specialist

Maria Membreno

Facilities
Custodian at the AMF

Randy Menjivar

Facilities
Facilities Tech II – Roads



William Rivera

Facilities
Facilities Tech II at the AMF

Flavio Cerna - IT Technician I (Information Technology)

My name is Flavio, although many know me as Flavor Flav. I am a lifelong resident of Colorado, hailing from the Vail Valley. Technology is my foremost passion, and I am dedicated to continuously expanding my expertise.

In my leisure hours, I pursue study, engage in CrossFit, mountain biking, and maintain and ride ATVs.

Robert Franc - Technical Project Manager (CEO Department)

Family / Location: I'm in Denver, and my family is from Arvada for quite a few generations.

Outside interests/hobbies: Love ice climbing, when the season is in. There is a little-known ice climb in Glenwood Canyon that I'm looking forward to attempting this winter.

Why you wanted to work for RFTA: After a successful ERP implementation with the Auraria Higher Education system in Denver, I thought I could lend some assistance in RFTA's ERP project. I'm also a passionate advocate for public transit so when the opportunity to use my IT skills in such an established transit system came up, I had to jump on it!

Anna Phillips promoted to Customer Service Business Specialist II
from her prior role as Customer Business Specialist

Ashley Nunn has transferred to Rubey Park as an Operations Support Specialist
from her prior role as a CDL Bus Operator

Andrea Osthed is now the Customer Service Rep at the Aspen Maintenance Facility (AMF)
from her prior role as a CDL Bus Operator

Looking for new opportunities? Check out the HUB! You'll find the list of current job openings and you can apply online at RFTA.com. Please connect with Human Resources, HR@RFTA.com if you have any questions.

we cycle

free community bikeshare

Carbondale Park & Ride Expansion

Due to high demand for bikeshare services at the Carbondale Park & Ride, the station's capacity was doubled and transformed into an e-bike charging hub. The bikeshare station underwent enhancements without relocation. The expansion involved extending the concrete pad to accommodate more charging docks and installing a solar charging unit for e-bikes.

The Town of Carbondale Public Works Department spearheaded the construction efforts.

Aspen Airport Business Center (AABC) Area Expansion

For years, riders have been requesting WE-cycle in the Aspen Airport Business Center (AABC) area to provide bikeshare as a fast, convenient, and healthy mode of travel. In May, six new WE-cycle stations opened in the AABC Center and North Forty/Annie Mitchell neighborhoods. The network of stations is designed to facilitate bike connectivity to/from the airport bus stops, within the AABC, and to/from Aspen.

WE-cycle is designed for short, transit-oriented trips. The first 30-minutes of every ride are free! You must sign up to use the service on the web (visit we-cycle.org) or in the Transit app.

Bike to Work Day

RFTA teamed up with **CLEER (Clean Energy Economy for the Region)** and **Garfield Clean Energy** for **BikeThere!** (Bike to Work Day) on Wednesday, June 26th. We established refueling and information stations at DeRail Park in Carbondale in the morning, and also hosted an afternoon/evening event at Rifle Library.

Update From Trails and Railroad Corridor

Submitted by Brett Meredith, Trails and Corridor Manager

Rio Grande Trail – Pardon us for the dust and detours, but we are removing and replacing damaged sections of asphalt along the Rio Grande Trail, installing root barrier, and rebuilding the shoulders. Phase 2 of the Asphalt Repair Project is currently underway along Hooks Spur Rd, at approximately Mile 19. Phase 1 has been repaired and the newly placed asphalt is ready to roll! Thanks for your patience as we work to repair the Trail.

Mixed in with the mentioned Rio Grande Trail maintenance will be the upkeep and control of noxious weeds. The annual goats are anticipated to greet trail users middle of August. Be on the lookout for these friendly obstructions on the trail.

The Youth Art Park is the 3rd creative space within the Rio Grande ARTway in Carbondale. Designed and funded by Carbondale Arts, the space is meant for active play for kids of all ages.

It is a great location in the heart of Carbondale's Creative District and ties nicely into the Rec Center and all of its offerings. Think parkour. . .the park has large marble blocks and boulders to play on, a concrete slide, a "stump" amphitheater, and a climbing wall! Stop by on your next stroll through town and feel like a kid again!

PUBLIC NOTICE

Enhancing Your Rio Grande Trail Experience

Rio Grande Trail Asphalt Repair Project

Construction Impacts

Starting on May 20, 2024, the Rio Grande Trail from Emma Road to the Catherine Bridge Trailhead will be under construction in four phases from Mile Post 21.5 to 16.0.

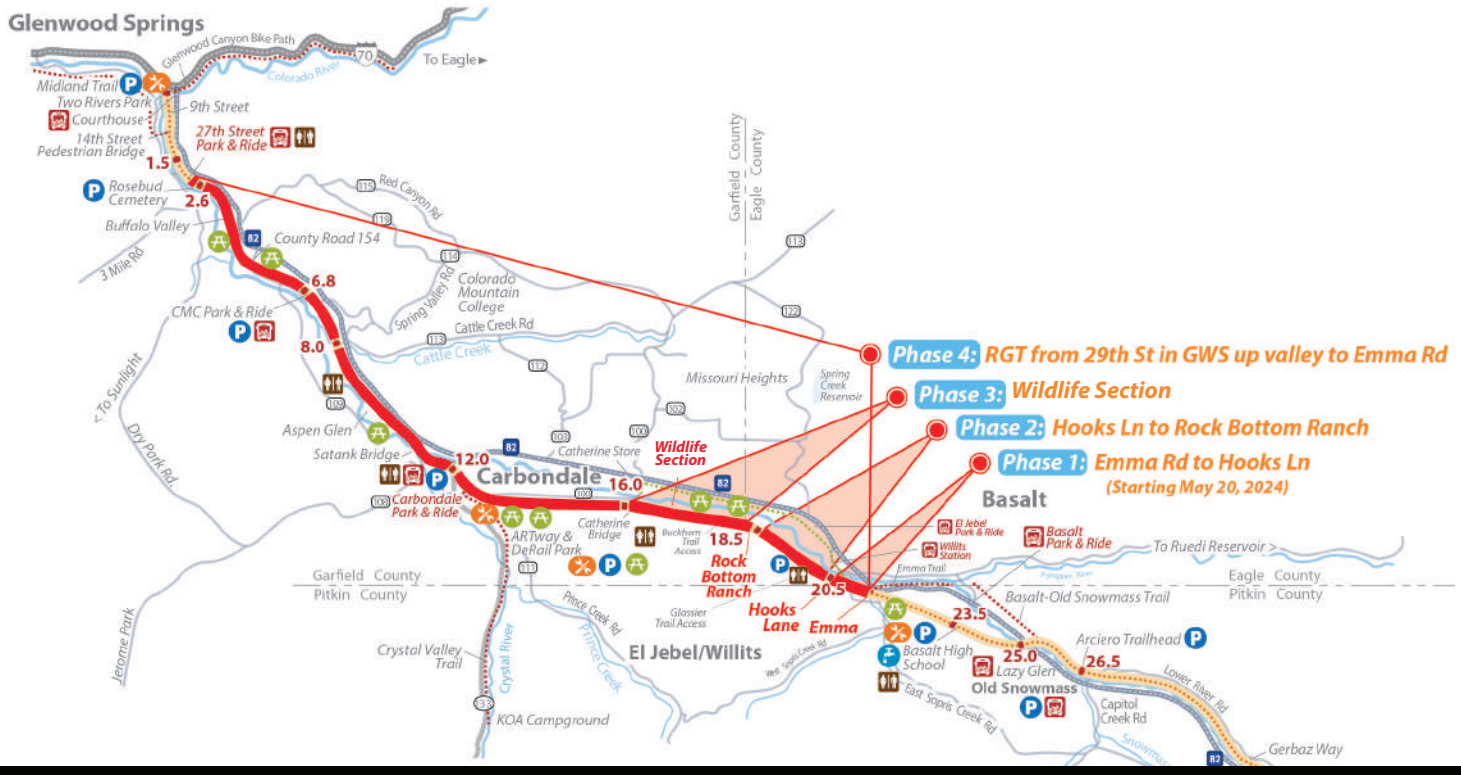
The Roaring Fork Transportation Authority (RFTA) and Holmes Excavation are excited to bring a much needed improvement to the Rio Grande Trail. We appreciate your patience, cooperation, and understanding as we work to repair and replace asphalt, ensuring a smoother and safer trail experience.

To minimize disruption and ensure efficiency, trail repairs will unfold in four distinct phases:

- **Phase One:** Emma Rd to Hooks Spur Trailhead (MP 21.5 to 20.5) **STARTING MAY 20, 2024**.
- **Phase Two:** Hooks Spur Trailhead to Rock Bottom Ranch (MP 20.5 to 18.5).
- **Phase Three:** Rock Bottom Ranch to the Catherine Bridge Trailhead (MP 18.5 to 16.0).
- **Phase Four:** Crack Sealing along the RGT from 29th St in GWS up valley to Emma Rd; the trail will remain open during this phase of work (MP 2.0 to 21.5).

Follow All Posted Detours: RFTA and Holmes Excavation will establish temporary detours for trail users to navigate around construction zones safely. Please follow all trail closures and detours for your safety and the safety of our workers.

Your tax dollars are hard at work, enhancing our beloved Rio Grande Trail with RFTA Destination 2040.



Have questions or concerns?
Contact RFTA at 970.925.8484 or visit RFTA.com for up-to-date information.

ROARING FORK TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY

PUBLIC NOTICE

Enhancing Your Rio Grande Trail Experience

Roaring Fork Bridge CLOSURE

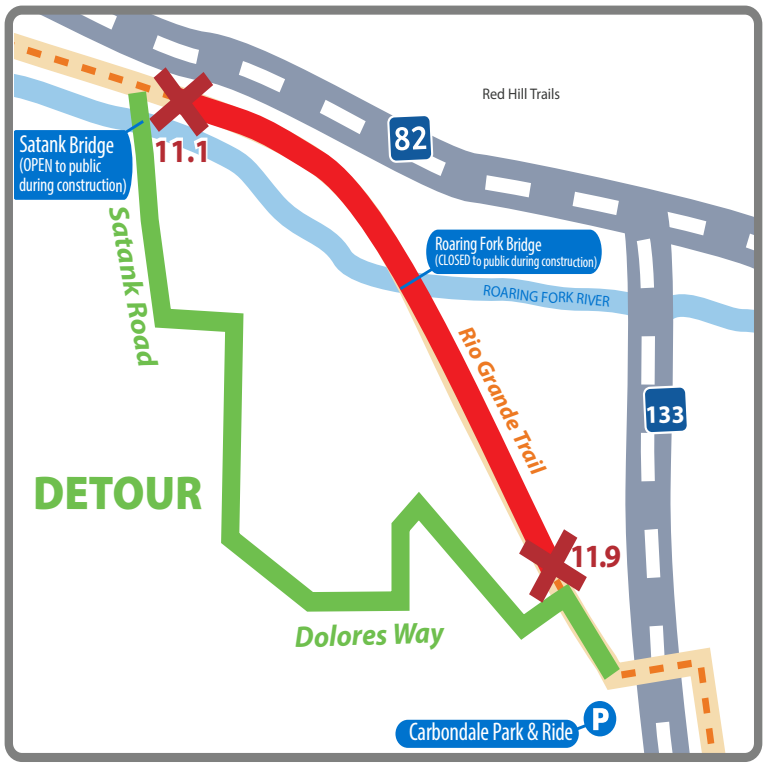
until January, 2025

Starting on July 15th, 2024, the Roaring Fork Bridge will be closed until January, 2025. The Roaring Fork Bridge is located along the Rio Grande Trail (RGT) just west of the Carbondale Park & Ride at mile post 11.5. The Rio Grande Trail will be closed from mile post 11.1 to 11.9.

The Roaring Fork Transportation Authority (RFTA) and Meridian Consulting Inc. will be conducting necessary repairs and improvements to the Roaring Fork Bridge. We appreciate your patience, cooperation, and understanding as we work to enhance the bridge, ensuring a smoother and safer trail experience.

Follow All Posted Detours: The established detour route will be along Dolores Way and Satank Road and then across the Satank Bridge for trail users to navigate around the construction zone safely. Please follow all trail closures and detours for your safety and the safety of our workers.

DETOUR ROUTE: *Roaring Fork Bridge CLOSED*



Your tax dollars are hard at work, enhancing our beloved Rio Grande Trail with RFTA Destination 2040.
www.rfta.com/2040roadmap

Have questions or concerns?
Contact RFTA at 970.925.8484 or visit RFTA.com for up-to-date information

ROARING FORK TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY

Keeping Everyone Safe in Today's Technology

Jason Schelhaas, Director of Information Technology

Personal Cyber Security Tips and Tricks for Employees

In an interconnected world, personal cyber security is more important than ever. As employees, protecting our own digital lives helps safeguard the organization as well. Here are some essential personal cyber security tips and tricks to keep yourself and our workplace secure.

1. Create Strong, Unique Passwords

Your passwords are your first line of defense against cyber-attacks. Follow these guidelines:

- Length and complexity: Use at least 12 characters, mixing letters, numbers, and symbols. If the website allows, use a series of unrelated words to create a "pass phrase", i.e. Chasing Bring Daydream2 which can be easier to remember.
- Unique: Never reuse passwords across different sites.
- Randomness: Avoid using easily guessable information like names or birthdays.
- If you use a password manager to record and autofill your per-site passwords, use a secondary authentication method to verify your identity.

2. Enable Multi-Factor Authentication (MFA)

MFA adds an extra security layer by requiring more than just a password. It could be a code sent to your phone, a fingerprint, or another verification form. Enable MFA wherever possible to protect your accounts from unauthorized access.

3. Be Cautious of Phishing Scams

Phishing attacks aim to trick you into revealing personal information or clicking malicious links. To protect yourself:

- Verify the sender: Check the sender's email address carefully.
- Spot red flags: Be wary of emails that create urgency, contain spelling errors, or request sensitive information.
- Avoid suspicious links: Hover over links to see where they lead before clicking.
- Ensure websites requesting sensitive information have HTTPS in their URL and display a padlock icon in the address bar.

4. Keep Your Software Updated

Regular updates are crucial as they often include security patches. Ensure your operating system, applications, and antivirus software are up to date:

- Enable automatic updates when possible.
- Manually check for updates regularly if automatic updates aren't available.

5. Secure Your Devices

Physical and digital security for your devices is essential:

- Lock your screen: Always lock your computer when stepping away, even for a short time.
- Encrypt data: Encrypt sensitive information stored on your devices.
- Be cautious with public Wi-Fi: Use a virtual private network (VPN) when connecting to public Wi-Fi networks.

6. Protect Personal Information on Social Media

Be mindful of what you share on social media platforms:

- Adjust privacy settings: Limit who can see your posts and personal information.
- Be selective: Avoid sharing sensitive details that could be used to guess security questions or passwords.
- Be selective about which third-party apps and services you allow to access your social media accounts. Review and revoke permissions for apps that no longer need access or that you don't recognize.
- Avoid posting announcements about leaving home for vacation. Thieves may target your home for break in.

7. Report Suspicious Activity

If you notice anything unusual or believe you might have been targeted by a cyber-attack, report it immediately to the IT department. Early reporting can help prevent a minor issue from becoming a major breach.

By following these personal cyber security tips, you not only protect yourself but also contribute to a safer digital environment for our entire company. Remember, cyber security is a collective responsibility, and every small action counts in the fight against cyber threats.

Who and Where is HR

The BEST way to contact HR is by email to:

hr@rfta.com

The HR department is located at 401 23rd Street Suite 207 in Glenwood Springs - the Valley Professional Building. This building is next to Alpine Bank on Grand Ave.

Erin Kemp

HR Director (Works Remotely): ekemp@rfta.com | 384.4952

Bisi Costanzo

HR Generalist II - On-Boarding & Employee Relations: bcostanzo@rfta.com | 989.1150

Megan Faichney

Benefits Manager: mfaichney@rfta.com | 384.4878

Natalie Pimental Rosario

HR Assistant: nrosario@rfta.com | 384.4906

Terri Rider

HR Generalist I - Medical Leaves: trider@rfta.com | 384.4889

Stacy Summers

HR Generalist II - On-Boarding & Employee Relations: ssummers@rfta.com | 384.4854

Maria Vazquez

HR & Risk Management Manager - Workers' Comp and Accidents: mvazquez@rfta.com | 384.4950

When you call one of us, please leave a voice message.
We can better respond when you leave your name, return phone number, and reason for calling.

RFTA participated in a job shadow event with three students from Glenwood Springs High School as part of their College/Career Discovery class. This 2-day event took place from 20th – 21st of May, 2024. These students met with the Directors and staff from Vehicle Maintenance, Operations, Safety department and HR. They were able to tour parts of our facility at the AMF and enjoy a theoretical and hands-on experience with Vehicle Maintenance, and observe other aspects of what we do at RFTA. A big shout out to everyone who made this event a success!

Congratulations

Congratulations Ryan and Evelyn Giertz on the birth of their second son, born 05/16.

KOLT

PLAN A TRIP TO THE **MAROON BELLS!**

RFTA employees can now make a reservation to see Maroon Bells, free of cost! This amenity is *only for employees and employees immediate family members* (partners & dependants).

1. Visit the Aspen Chamber website to book a reservation:
   https://aspenchamber.org/

2. When going through the checkout process, use discount code: ***RFTA24***

3. Enter in your credit/debit card information
   You will still need to enter in a credit/debit card to complete your reservation, however the total amount when checking out should be zero.

4. On the day of your reservation, RFTA employees and dependents ***MUST SHOW THEIR RFTA ISSUED ID/BUS PASS*** in order to obtain their tickets.

   - If you plan on visiting with additional friends or family members, they must purchase their tickets in a separate transaction. This promo code does not extend to anyone outside of current RFTA employees and their dependents as currently listed with HR, that are eligible to receive a bus pass.*
   - If your dependent is an adult (spouse/significant other) that does not currently have a dependent pass, please reach out to HR to fill out the appropriate information to receive one.
     Dependent adult children of 19+ years are not eligible.

Please do not spread word of this promotional code to the public. It is a great privilege for us to be able to use and we would like to keep it with minimal barriers by respecting the rules that have currently been put in place.

Enjoy the ride, the views & the great outdoors!

Want to share your pictures?
Email any pictures you want to share to the communications team for use on the company's social media & other marketing avenues: **communications@rfta.com**

COMPANY EVENT AT GLENWOOD CAVERNS

RFTA is currently organizing a special summer event at Glenwood Caverns in August for RFTA employees and their immediate families. Stay tuned for more details coming your way soon!

June 26 - August 18

75th Anniversary Summer Season 2024

Tickets Now On Sale!

Aspen Music School Festival began June 26th. RFTA has again been given an opportunity to attend the summer events. Tickets are free beginning at 12:00pm, the day prior to the event. If you would like to reserve tickets prior to the day before, there is a $15.00 reservation fee. The box office is open Monday – Sunday from 12:00 – 4:00. To reserve tickets, you may directly call the box office: 970-925-9042. You must specify the tickets are to be held at will-call.

The schedule of events is located online: aspenmusicfestival.com

Through the company **From You Flowers**, RFTA employees may order discounted floral deliveries to family and friends living out of state or out of the local area. This is a great way to remember Grandma's birthday living in Indiana, or congratulate a friend's new baby born in California, or a delivery simply just because. Go to **fromyouflowers.com/RFTA**, for your **25% discount** (applied at time of your purchase).

Or call **800.838.8853** and mention **Code: RFTA** and your **25% discount** will be automatically deducted.

Life comes with challenges.

Your Assistance Program is here to help.

Your Assistance Program can help you reduce stress, improve mental health, and make life easier by connecting you to the right information, resources, and referrals.

All services are free, confidential, and available to you and your family members. This includes access to short-term counseling and the wide range of services listed below:

Mental Health Sessions
Manage stress, anxiety, and depression, resolve conflict, improve relationships, and address any personal issues. Choose from in-person sessions, video counseling, or telephonic counseling.

Life Coaching
Reach personal and professional goals, manage life transitions, overcome obstacles, strengthen relationships, and build balance.

Financial Consultation
Build financial wellness related to budgeting, buying a home, paying off debt, managing taxes, preventing identity theft, and saving for retirement or tuition.

Legal Consultation
Get help with personal legal matters including estate planning, wills, real estate, bankruptcy, divorce, custody, and more.

Work-Life Resources and Referrals
Obtain information and referrals when seeking childcare, adoption, special needs support, eldercare, housing, transportation, education, and pet care.

Personal Assistant
Save time with referrals for travel and entertainment, seeking professional services, cleaning services, home food delivery, and managing everyday tasks.

Medical Advocacy
Get help navigating insurance, obtaining doctor referrals, securing medical equipment, and planning for transitional care and discharge.

Member Portal
Access your benefits 24/7/365 through your member portal with online requests and chat options. Explore thousands of self-help tools and resources including articles, assessments, podcasts, and resource locators.

BENEFIT SUMMARY FOR RFTA

- Eligibility: Full-time and seasonal employees as well as their spouse or significant other and dependents 26 and under.
- Counseling Session Available: 8 per incident, per year.
- Access to triadeap.com website.

Username: RFTA **Password:** EAP

Contact Triad EAP
Call: 877-679-1100
Visit: www.triadeap.com

TRIAD EAP
An AllOne Health Company

PILLARS AMONGST US

APRIL PILLARS 2024

Scott Benesh (Facilities)

Scott Benesh has been with RFTA since September 2022, in the capacity of Facilities Supervisor. Nancy Hostetler his colleague, wants to recognize Scott for his dedicated efforts.

I would like to recognize Scott Benesh for his supervisory leadership of the AMF Facilities crew. Scott and his crew have had three consecutive months where during my inspections I did not observe any issues or see any area in need of improvement. Scott's prompt and informative communication as well as his leadership of timely corrective and preventative maintenance is greatly appreciated. Scott leads by example and is a great RFTA asset.

Felix Castillo (Vehicle Maintenance)

Felix Castillo has been with RFTA since November 2019, in the capacity as a Collision and Service Technician. Stewart Clark, his Supervisor, wants to recognize Felix for his dedicated efforts.

RFTA has adopted the practice of using large colorful bus wraps and decals to cover our fleet of buses. Replacing damaged partial sections of wraps and decals is a challenge because the replacement pieces are not exactly like the originals in size and color. This has presented significant challenges to our Vehicle Maintenance body repair team. Felix has spent considerable time struggling through this issue and finding solutions to this uncharted territory within Vehicle Maintenance. He has also shared what he has learned with others.

CONGRATULATIONS

Kody Stewart (Operations)

Kody Stewart has been with RFTA since November 2016, in the capacity of Transportation Supervisor. Nancy Hostetler his colleague, wants to recognize Kody for his dedicated efforts.

I would like to recognize Kody Stewart for his willingness to learn and improve his knowledge. Kody has contacted me with thought provoking procedural questions looking for another perspective as well as to improve his skills as a Road Supervisor. His positive attitude is paired with a willingness to make improvements in the workplace. Kody writes excellent accident investigation descriptions. He presents all the necessary facts in an organized, clear, accurate, and well written manner. Kody summarizes his conclusions from the start to the end of the accident. His thorough descriptions are stated in a way that anyone (internal or external to RFTA) can understand his findings and his clearly stated accident determination without a need to reference other materials.

MAY PILLARS 2024

Brian Brooks (Vehicle Maintenance)

Brian Brooks has been with RFTA since December 2021, currently in the capacity of Buyer for Vehicle Maintenance. Stewart Clark his colleague, wants to recognize Brian for his efforts.

Brian initiated and carried out a couple of special projects for the Vehicle Maintenance Parts Department, which included the removal of very heavy obsolete parts, packaging and transport to the CMF. The disposal of decade old obsolete bike racks at the CMF, also included working through hazardous conditions and large wasp nests. Thank you for taking on these special projects.

Dan Walsh (Paratransit-Senior Van)

Dan Walsh has been with RFTA since April 2021, in the capacity of Paratransit-Senior Van. Barb Rey, Susan Merritt and Peggy Thomas his supervisors, want to recognize Dan for his dedicated efforts.
Dan works primarily as a Senior Van driver. He is great at working out scheduling with other drivers to make certain everyone is working around other's schedules for great coverage, Dan is a true team player!

Dan is one of our most praised drivers, being very patient and considerate of the Senior Van and Paratransit riders. The Senior Van team of Dan Walsh and Debbie Kendrick have really stepped it up. They work with each other to ensure the riders feel special and cared for. Dan comes to the Paratransit from Aspen and Glenwood Springs Fire Departments; need we say more as to his qualifications!

Dan makes every passenger feel special. He was recently praised by a coworker for his extraordinary patience under often demanding situations. He is continually receiving positive feedback from the riders regarding his patience and kindness.

Dan has been a wonderful addition to the Paratransit team. He is very flexible with his schedule, working to best fill the needs of the system. RFTA is truly fortunate to have Dan on the team as a primary senior van driver.

CONGRATULATIONS

Ping Wright (Facilities)

Ping Wright has been with RFTA since July 2023, in the capacity of Facilities Supervisor at the GMF. Nancy Hostetler his colleague, wants to recognize Ping for his dedicated efforts. I want to recognize Ping for his willingness to continually make improvements as well as be a RFTA team player. Ping is glad to help out and take care of a GMF safety or waste concern that I notice during monthly inspections.

He has demonstrated initiative and problem-solving skills by researching the parts carousel electrical panel, purchasing a new flammable cabinet, organizing the bus wash pump room and enhancing walking surfaces using safety traction tape in safety sensitive areas. Ping has improved the GMF Facilities Preventative Maintenance work orders. As a result, their inspections are more accurate, thorough, and efficient. The GMF has experienced significant safety and maintenance improvements since Ping's arrival.

JUNE PILLARS 2024

Garcia Bertilio (Operations)

Garcia Bertilio has been with RFTA since November 1999, in the capacity of CDL Bus Operator. Dale Elwood and Alice Trotto his supervisors, want to recognize Bertilio for his dedicated efforts.

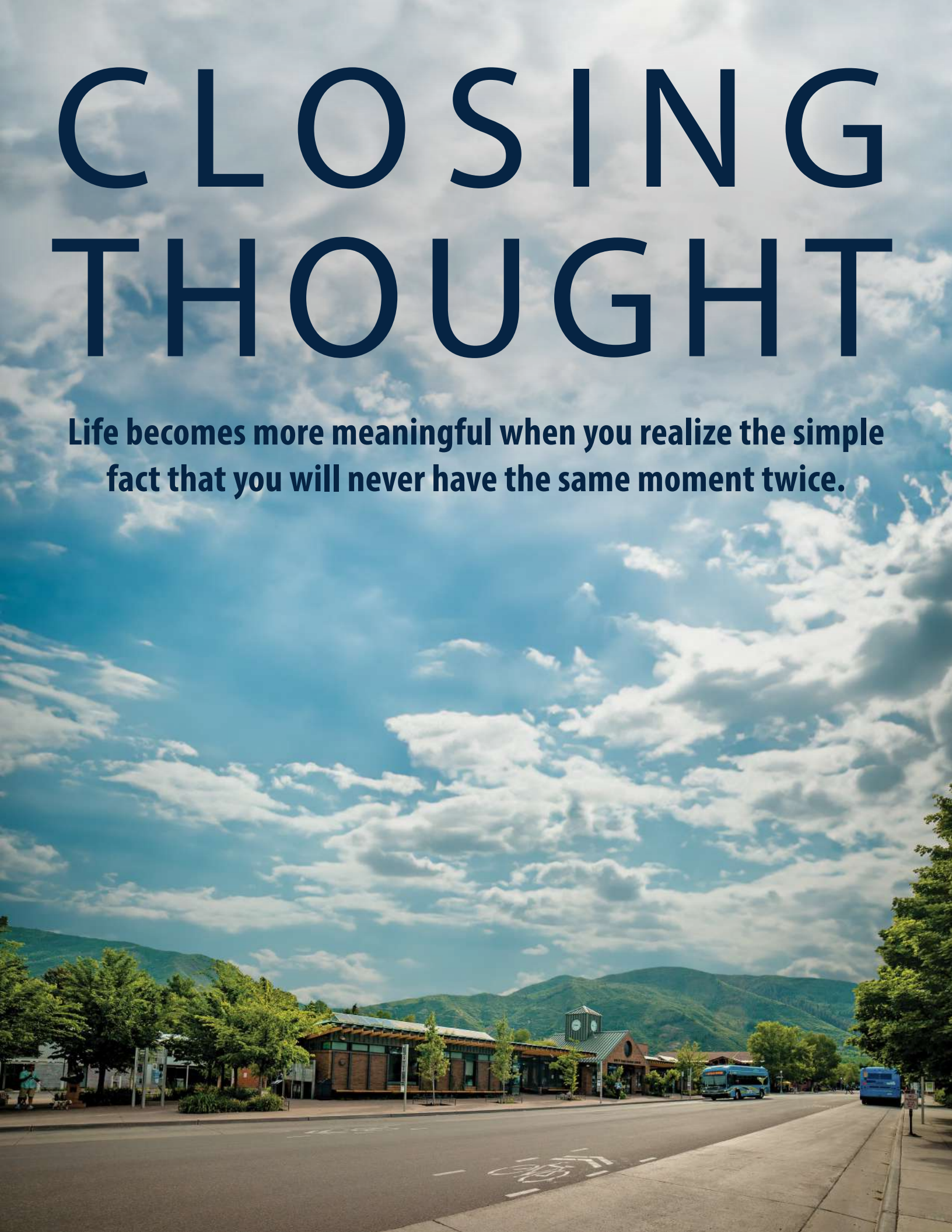
Bertilio is always happy and helpful with all his passengers and co-workers. He is one of the best show-ups we have. He always has his ear on the radio. He is always ready to help when asked. He looks out for his fellow drivers by making sure they have a good bus when he does switch out.

Seth Salisbury (Vehicle Maintenance)

Seth Salisbury has been with RFTA since July 2007, in the capacity of EV Team Leader Mechanic Trainer. Stewart Clark his colleague, wants to recognize Seth for his dedicated efforts.

Vehicle Maintenance (VM) is very thankful for Seth's Battery Electric Bus (BEB) Maintenance leadership and organizational efforts. Seth has played a major role in developing our VM BEB program. The BEB knowledge he has gained and shared with co-workers over the past five years has been exemplary for our department. We want to recognize his dedication to RFTA's BEB program.

CONGRATULATIONS

CLOSING THOUGHT

Life becomes more meaningful when you realize the simple fact that you will never have the same moment twice.