



Volume 1, Issue 3  
December 2007

REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY

# STAR TRACKS



## Music City Star's High Wattage



**Editor's Note:**  
*Last week we received the below article submitted by a small group of riders from the Martha Station. We appreciate the submital of this article.*

Today they are looking forward to a long and happy life in the Middle Tennessee area where they just bought a home in Castalian Springs. They are now proud home owners!

with Iowa Interstate out of Chicago and R.J. Corman out of Lexington. Music City Star was the fortunate benefactor of his experience and passion.

Shaun Watt is the Music City Star's youngest full time train operator and has an engaging personality. He is devoted to his wife Virginia. Together they have three children, Rebekah, Dawson and Dakota. Dakota was born after the Music City Star service began.

At an early age Shaun knew that he wanted to be a train engineer. As a young lad he would watch the trains go by and even ride them on occasion. In school, Shaun never got below an A but he wasn't on "track" for college. After graduating from high school he assessed what he wanted to do with his life as his career. His goal was clear, to become a locomotive engineer.

As if working everyday on the train was not enough to satisfy his love for the rails, on weekends he is Road Foreman of Engines for the Kentucky Railway Museum in New Haven, Kentucky.

Shaun moved his family here from Lexington, Kentucky. He and Virginia are originally from Bowling Green, Kentucky. Just prior to the first running of the Music City Star, they lost almost everything to a house fire yet his upbeat personality never showed the loss.

Shaun joined CSX out of Louisville a little over twelve years ago and went to Cho Cho U in Atlanta. He later worked

Shaun is one of the most caring and sincere persons you will ever meet. If you are a frequent passenger you already know this. If you are not, look for the smiling young man playing with his "big toy train".

**THANK YOU to all of our dedicated engineers and conductors for keeping us Right On Track!**

**SNEAK A PEAK AT OUR NEW LOOK!**

**THE RTA AND MUSIC CITY STAR ARE SHOWCASING NEW COLORS AND A NEW BRAND FOR 2008!**

Star Tracks is a publication of the Regional Transportation Authority.

For more information about our services and programs, contact us: (615) 862-8833 or [info@rta-ride.org](mailto:info@rta-ride.org)

RTA, 501 Union Street, 6th Fl.  
Nashville, TN 37219-1705  
[www.rta-ride.org](http://www.rta-ride.org)

# Question of the Month

Dear RTA:

I live in Wilson County and work in the Donelson Business Center. How would I get to my place of business from the Donelson Train Station?

Concerned Commuter

+++

Dear Concerned Commuter:

What a great question! The RTA began a shuttle that serves the Donelson Business Center in October. The shuttle

meets the trains in the morning at the Donelson station and then makes a route that includes Thomas Nelson, the Lakeview Buildings at Century City, the Highland Buildings and then Lakeview Ridge on Elm Hill Pike. The shuttle picks up at these same locations to take passengers back to the station to catch the afternoon buses. For a schedule of the shuttles and additional information, go to the website [www.musiccitystar.org](http://www.musiccitystar.org) or call 862-8833.

And always remember to enjoy the ride!



*In warm appreciation for your ridership on the Music City Star in 2007, we extend our Best Wishes for a happy Holiday Season, and a New Year filled with Peace, Joy and Success.*

*The Staff of the Regional Transportation Authority*



## Train Safety Tips

Train safety is everyone's responsibility! Please keep these safety tips and facts in mind:

- A train may extend three feet or more outside the steel rail, which makes the safety zone for pedestrians well beyond the rails themselves.
- If you are riding a train, as the train approaches be sure you are behind the textured warning strips—and never, never try to catch a moving train.
- Don't stand on the tracks or step in front of a train—the operator may not see you or be able to stop in time.
- Always stop, look and listen for a train before crossing the tracks and only cross at crosswalks and look both ways.
- Modern trains are quieter than ever. Also an approaching train will always be closer and moving faster than you think.
- A typical locomotive weighs approximately 200 tons. The weight ratio of an automobile to a train is proportional to a soda can to an car.
- If there are rails on the railroad ties, assume the track is in use, even if there are weeds or the track looks dusty.
- There are roughly 200,000 miles of railroad tracks in the United States.
- It is trespassing to walk along the tracks or be in the railroad right of way. It is private property. Stay off, stay away and stay alive!

*-Operation Lifesaver*