



# VIRGINIA RAILWAY EXPRESS

## Update



703-684-1001

[www.vre.org](http://www.vre.org)

October 4, 2007

### *Editor's Note:*

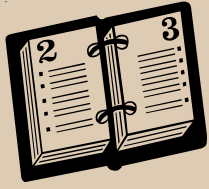
This time of year, the leaves change color and start to fall. It is a sight that can best be enjoyed through the window of a train. After all, you're not driving, and the leaves are so beautiful.

At VRE, the beauty of the leaves is something to worry about. When a strong storm blows through, those leaves fall onto the tracks and can cause significant delays. Some of our passengers have been baffled by the thought of leaf oil causing trains to come to a stop.

This year, we are pleased to include an article that was published last year in the Wall Street Journal. Written from a broader view, it discusses the pitfalls and possible, though expensive, solutions to a common issue on most major railroads. While leaf oil season has yet to hit Virginia, we are making sure that we have plenty of sand on hand to help with traction. It is important to note, though, that sand does not always help.

All in all, we hope you enjoy the reprint of the Wall Street Journal article.





### Upcoming Dates

Sunday, October 7  
Clifton Day

Monday, October 8  
Columbus Day  
No VRE Service

Wednesday, October 31  
Halloween!

# FRED Helps Feed Fredericksburg Station

Commuting from Fredericksburg and Spotsylvania got much easier this week, with the launch of the FREDericksburg Regional Transit (FRED) feeder service on October 1. The new service brings commuters to the downtown Fredericksburg VRE station in the morning and does the reverse in the afternoon. FRED has dedicated two 20-passenger buses to provide the service (each can also carry five standees), and all FRED buses are equipped with wheelchair lifts and two wheelchair tie-down positions. The one-way fare for the feeder service costs just \$1.00.



The Fredericksburg shuttle bus meets all of the VRE and Amtrak trains on the VRE schedule. The Fredericksburg service originates in the new Village of Idlewild and Estates of Idlewild near I-95 and proceeds through the City to the VRE station. Three stops are located in Idlewild: one on Hampton Street; one on Wilcox Avenue; and one on Idlewild Boulevard near Route 1. An additional stop is located on Kenmore Avenue near Hanover Street. In the afternoon/evening, FRED buses arrive at the Princess Anne Street side of the train station five minutes prior to each train departure.

In Spotsylvania County, the FRED meets all of the VRE and Amtrak trains except one evening train, with morning service originating at the VDOT commuter lot at Gordon Road and Route 3. It then makes one stop at the Salem Church VDOT commuter lot located behind

Ukrops, and proceeds directly to the downtown VRE Station. In the afternoon/evening, FRED buses arrive at the Princess Anne Street side of the train station 5-10 minutes prior to each train departure. Because

of the distances involved in the Spotsylvania service, FRED is unable to meet Amtrak 93/83.

For a complete schedule of stops, please visit [www.vre.org/service/FRED-feeder.html](http://www.vre.org/service/FRED-feeder.html)

Both the Fredericksburg and Spotsylvania services are being financially supported by the Federal Government and the Commonwealth of Virginia, as well as with the support of the jurisdictions in which the services operate. Additionally, the Idlewild-VRE feeder service is being supported by Ryland Homes, the developer of the Village of Idlewild, and the Village of Idlewild Homeowners Association.



VRE Update is a publication of Virginia Railway Express. The newsletter is published bi-weekly 24 times per year. Stories included are for the sole use of VRE riders and its supporters. Comments and questions may be directed to VRE Customer Service at [gotrains@vre.org](mailto:gotrains@vre.org) or at (703) 684-1001.

## 15<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Contest Honorable Mentions

When I moved to Virginia 7 years ago I didn't know anyone. When I was selecting a place to live I chose Burke, in part because it was close to the VRE. I thought it would just be a convenient way to get to work. It became much more than that. VRE was a way of making friends. It means a way to decompress after a hard days work, it means I get a little time for myself to read but most of all VRE means more time with my family which is the most important thing of all.

Laurie Nevarez

Moving from the Chicago area, we knew how wonderful it is to live in a town with access to the trains. That, besides the quaint town and good schools, is how we selected Fredericksburg as our new home town. Our move was prompted by aging parents who lived in the Lorton area. After my mom died, I started suffering from vertigo. This could have limited my visits to see my dad; instead, I take the train to see him. Without VRE, we would have had to move to the concrete jungle. Thanks, VRE!

Julie Kay



### *Courtesy Corner*

The struggle to promote courtesy has been a long one (how old is the Golden Rule?) In Emily Post's 1922 book *Etiquette*, she writes that the first rule of etiquette is "never do anything that is unpleasant to others" and adds "never take more than your share." The fact that this 85 year old advice is still relevant simply means that the courtesy will always be an issue.

As you go about your daily commute keep the following Emily Post quotation in mind so that we may all have a relaxing trip:

"Consideration for the rights and feelings of others is not merely a rule for behavior in public but the very foundation upon which social life is built."

## *Safety Sense*

### VRE and Evacuation Plans

We recommend that riders check the VRE website and/or Train Talk for emergency updates and develop alternative plans to get home; one involving public transportation and at least one that does not.

Scenario I: If the bridges and tunnels are open, VRE will begin southbound service immediately. Schedules, if possible, will be posted on the VRE website, sent via Train Talk and downloaded to the message boards at the station.

Scenario II: If you cannot get information or train service is halted in the DC area, VRE passengers should exit the city and utilize their alternate method home. Those absolutely dependent upon VRE should go to Crystal City or Alexandria. Shuttle train service from one or both of those stations will be initiated at the earliest possible time.

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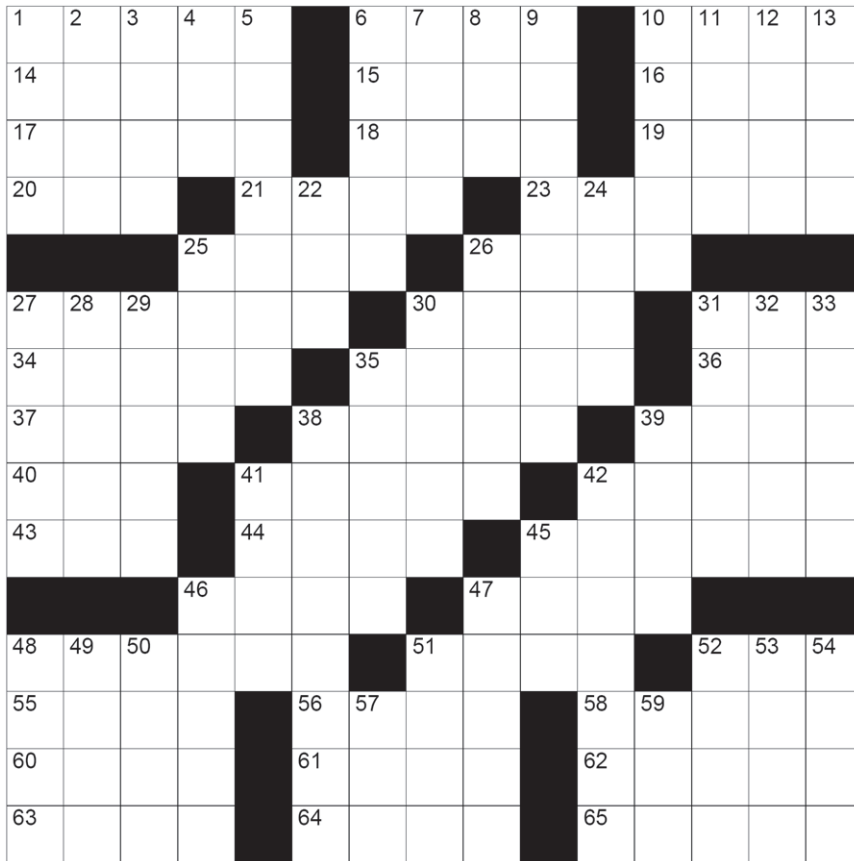
VRE is “me” time. I can choose to relax, read a book, take a nap, have a snack, pay bills, play a hand-held game, look out the window, do a puzzle, write a letter — any of a number things that I might want to do. It is a quiet time without interruptions from my husband or co-workers. It is a relaxing time without home distractions such as laundry or other household chores. VRE is for me!

Patti Vause

What a bargain I’ve found in VRE! Count me as one less fume-spewing vehicle on 95. Count me as an on-time or early worker arriving cool and focused for my day ahead. Count me as a happy husband returning home stress-free after relaxing with a good book or listening to music. I count on VRE and trust my commute to their friendly, professional staff. VRE as a commuter’s best friend? Priceless!

Bob Walter

# Duck Soup



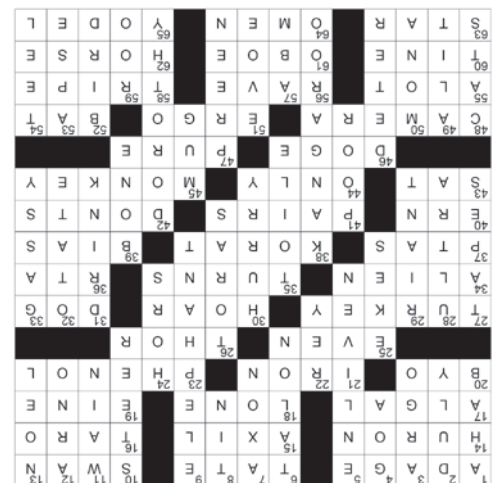
## ACROSS

- 01. Saying
- 06. London gallery
- 10. — dive
- 14. Great Lake
- 15. Angle between stem and branch
- 16. Tropical bulb
- 17. Like pond scum
- 18. The — Ranger
- 19. Suffix for a base
- 20. Party acronym
- 21. Golf club
- 23. C6H5OH; disinfectant
- 25. Level
- 26. Norse god of thunder
- 27. — trot
- 30. Rime
- 31. — days
- 34. Foreigner
- 35. Rotates
- 36. Public transportation system
- 37. School groups

- 38. Thai breed of cats
- 39. Prejudice
- 40. Sea eagle
- 41. Twosomes
- 42. Do's and —
- 43. College entrance exam
- 44. Mere
- 45. — business
- 46. Venetian magistrate
- 47. Free from contamination
- 48. Kodak invention
- 51. Therefore
- 52. — boy
- 55. Tons (sl.)
- 56. Talk irrationally
- 58. Garbage (sl.)
- 60. Prong
- 61. Orchestral instrument
- 62. — laugh
- 63. Polaris, for one
- 64. Augury
- 65. Swiss cry

## DOWN

- 01. King of Israel
- 02. Fittingly
- 03. Jason's ship
- 04. Tibetan gazelle
- 05. Invigorate; animate
- 06. Claw
- 07. Part of a neuron
- 08. Metal
- 09. — ears
- 10. Range animal
- 11. Farm cart
- 12. Italian river
- 13. Christmas carol
- 22. King (Sp.)
- 24. — d'oeuvres
- 25. Metes out
- 26. Jewish documents
- 27. Audio or video
- 28. Excessive
- 29. Laughing
- 30. Move with haste
- 31. Sip
- 32. Mexican grass
- 33. Flatulent
- 35. Transparent linen
- 38. — court
- 39. Femur, for one
- 41. Having little money
- 42. Girl from Kansas
- 45. Coffee cup
- 46. Discourage
- 47. Groom
- 48. — pajamas
- 49. Got off
- 50. — Lisa
- 51. Heraldic cry
- 52. — brain
- 53. Church recess
- 54. Gen—; well bred
- 57. Antiballistic missile
- 59. Pooh's friend



WE SHOULD DO THIS MORE OFTEN.



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COMPLIMENTARY VALET PARKING FRIDAY AND SATURDAY EVENINGS