



VIRGINIA RAILWAY EXPRESS

Update



703-684-1001

www.vre.org

September 20, 2007

Editor's Note:

Our conductors have been very diligent checking tickets. While no one wants to receive a summons for failing to have a valid ticket, our crews are following VRE's no tolerance policy. See page 4 for details.

Every fall, VRE typically has a schedule change. This year, we are revamping our "S" schedule. None of the train times will change. The only change is to the trains that are designated as "S" trains. See article on this page for details.

We will again be operating trains to Clifton Day this year. The Clifton Betterment Association pays for VRE to run trains to reduce the congestion of thousands descending on Clifton for this fun festival.

Color printing of this week's Update is provided courtesy of Ladysmith Village. See their ad on the back page.

Ride VRE to Clifton Day October 7!



All Aboard! The historic town of Clifton is gearing up for its 40th Annual Clifton Day, a non-profit event to raise money for a variety of local charities, on Sunday, October 7. Once again, VRE will be supporting the festival in one of the most important ways—by transporting people there and back! The festival—which includes crafts and fine arts, antiques, craft demonstrations, a flea market, events and entertainment, children's activities, live music and food—is one of the area's biggest fall attractions, but it takes place in one of the smallest towns in Northern Virginia. In fact, 25,000 people are expected to attend!

The Clifton Day Festival will be held from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. in downtown historic Clifton. Getting there is easy, as VRE will run trains from the Manassas, Manassas Park, Rolling Road and Burke Stations to Clifton for free. Tickets for the return trip from Clifton may be purchased at the red caboose in Clifton for \$5. Children six and under ride free with a fare-paying adult. As this is a special event, VRE tickets will not be accepted.

This year, Clifton Day will proudly feature some of the area's hottest musicians, with the artists performing live in the Town Park from 10 a.m. until 5 p.m. All performances will be free, and this year's performers will include cloggers, the Mill Run Bluegrass Band, the Wayward Street

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"S" Schedule to Shift in the Fall

Around certain holidays and sometimes during inclement weather, VRE often operates on its "S" schedule rather than run a full schedule or cancel service entirely. The "S" schedule has historically consisted of the second, fourth and sixth train in each direction and are marked on the regular schedule with an "S" to help people identify the trains that will run.

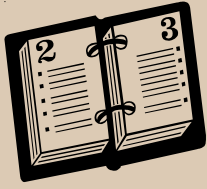
Effective October 29, the "S" schedule will change slightly:

Manassas line: The morning "S" schedule currently consists of #324, 328 and 332. We'll add #330. In the afternoon, train # 325, 327, 331, and 335 will operate. Northbound train #336 will not operate on the "S" schedule.

Fredericksburg line: The morning "S" schedule currently consists of #302, 306 and 310. We'll add #308. The afternoon "S" schedule currently consists of #301, 305, 309 and 313. Starting on October 29, it will shift to #301, 303, 307 and 311.

The changes are being done primarily to improve service. On both the Manassas and Fredericksburg lines, for example, a train has been added to the morning run because during inclement weather, we are concerned that our "turn back" trains would not be able to return to stations in time to make their second run (turn back trains deliver commuters from point

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Look, Listen, and Live

Upcoming Dates

Wednesday, October 3
On-Line Forum

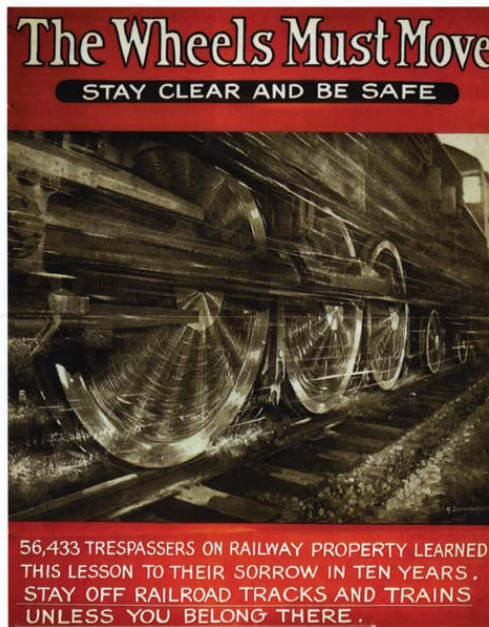
Sunday, October 7
Clifton Day

Monday, October 8
Columbus Day
No VRE Service

Monday, October 29
"S" Schedule Change

Monday, November 12
Veterans' Day Observed
No VRE Service

About every two hours in the United States, a train strikes a vehicle or person. That's clearly far too many lives that are being put at risk today, but even those startling statistics tell a far better picture than 35 years ago, when the national average of collisions at highway-rail grade crossing was about 76 percent higher, exceeding 12,000 annually. One of the biggest differences between now and then is the founding of Operation Lifesaver. When the safety campaign was first organized in Idaho in 1972, the state's crossing-related fatalities dropped by 43 percent in the first year alone. Since then, Operation Lifesaver, Inc. (OLI) has become an international, non-profit education and awareness program dedicated to ending tragic collisions, fatalities and injuries at highway-rail grade crossings and on railroad rights-of-way.



Engineering: Operation Lifesaver encourages continued engineering research and innovation to improve the safety of railroad crossings.

Other, more specific safety messages are important to remember when commuting by train every day, and to help passengers remember the rules of safety—and because many deaths occur each year when people “didn’t see the train”—please keep the following in mind when riding VRE or Amtrak:

Never cross tracks immediately after dtrainning—a second train might be coming in the opposite direction.

Wait until you can see clearly in BOTH directions.

Do not cross the tracks until the lights have stopped flashing at the crossing indicating there are no other trains

approaching.

Even when moving slowly, a train cannot stop quickly. Don't assume a locomotive engineer can stop when he or she sees you ahead on the tracks.

Keep in mind that within VRE territory, there is not a single crosswalk or public highway crossing that is NOT protected by flashing lights and gates. If the lights are flashing, and/or the gates are down, no one can cross legally, much less safely.

For more information about Operation Lifesaver, including more safety tips for drivers and pedestrians, please visit www.oli.org.

VRE and Amtrak are enormous supporters of OLI's mission, teaming up with the organization to help spread its safety message of the “3Es”:

Education: Operation Lifesaver strives to increase public awareness about the dangers around the rails. The program seeks to educate both drivers and pedestrians to make safe decisions at crossings and around railroad tracks, telling drivers to “look, listen and live” at crossings, and telling pedestrians to “stay off, stay away, and stay alive” if they're thinking about walking near train tracks.

Enforcement: Operation Lifesaver promotes active enforcement of traffic laws relating to crossing signs and signals and private property laws related to trespassing.



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 or at (703) 684-1001.

Clifton Day

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Players, the Colin Thompson Band, and the Jimmy Cole Band featuring Raymond Van Lienden.

In the meantime, arts and crafts exhibitors will include basketry, ceramics, and more. Craft demonstrators in the town center provide demonstrations on walking sticks, woodcarving, syrup making, and more.

The Flea Market is an area dedicated to whimsical and non-traditional crafts, selected buy-sell items and screen-printed clothing, children's toys and craft activities, hobbyist and collector items and other fun, family-oriented articles for sale.

Kids will enjoy the flea market's candy art, spiral art, toys and novelties, wax art and puppets, as well as pony rides and face painting. Pony rides will benefit the Northern Virginia Therapeutic Riding Program, and riders for the pony rides must be at least three years old. Pony-petting is, of course, free!

For Civil War buffs, the 49th Virginia Regiment will dazzle the crowd with its always popular annual Clifton Day Civil War Reenactment.

For more information on Clifton Day, call (703) 968-0740 or visit www.cliftonday.com.

Clifton Day Schedule

Eastbound						
MANASSAS	9:16	10:42	12:19	1:57	3:30	5:00
MANASSAS PARK	9:24	10:50	12:27	2:04	3:36	5:06
CLIFTON	9:32	10:58	12:35	2:12	3:44	5:14
CLIFTON	9:38	11:06	12:46	2:22	3:54	5:24
BURKE CENTRE	no stop	11:14	12:54	2:30	4:02	5:32
ROLLING RD	9:48	11:20	1:00	2:36	4:08	5:40
Trains turn at Rolling Station						

Westbound						
ROLLING RD	9:58	11:30	1:08	2:45	4:15	5:48
BURKE CENTRE	10:08	11:40	1:18	2:53	4:23	5:56
CLIFTON	10:15	11:47	1:25	3:00	4:30	6:03
CLIFTON	10:21	11:57	1:35	3:10	4:40	6:10
MANASSAS PARK	-----	12:03	1:41	3:16	4:46	6:16
MANASSAS	10:32	12:09	1:47	3:22	4:52	6:22
Trains turn at Manassas Station						

Safety Sense

Vandalism in our lots is rare, but it can happen. Here are some tips to help prevent you from being another statistic.

1. Make sure you rolled up your windows and locked the doors.
2. Take all valuables, such as CDs, cellular phones, wallets or purses with you.
3. Carry your vehicle registration and insurance cards with you. Do not leave any documents inside your car that can provide personal information.
4. Make sure that your car's alarm system is activated before leaving.

When you return, take a second to look around. Checking to see that everything is in its proper place is important. Even things as simple as license plates are prone to theft.

If you are the victim of theft or vandalism, report the crime immediately to local police so that they can take a report and begin an investigation. Once a report has been filed with the police, please contact VRE at (703) 684-1001 or report the incident online by completing a Vandalism Form at www.vre.org/cgi-bin/vandalismconcerns.

The Nose Knows!

The key to perfume and cologne is subtlety. If the Engineer at the other end of the train can tell that you fell into a vat of *Shalimar*, then perhaps you've dabbed on a touch too much. Yes, we're being a bit facetious. However, remember where you are: in a small crowded tube with lots of people. Some people do have genuine allergic and asthmatic reactions to various fragrances. So dab away, but please keep it light and airy.

**Silent Auction
Announcement**

City Square Café is hosting a silent auction of train pictures to benefit the Prince William Area Free Clinic on Sunday, September 30, 2007 from 6:00-8:00 pm at the City Square Café (9428 Battle Street) in Manassas. The cost is \$15 per guest.

Please contact Michelle Schuller at (703) 792-6378 for ticket information.

Validating - An Important Part of Riding

When the train arrives, you board, insert your validated ticket in the strap in front of you, sit back and relax. It all sounds easy, doesn't it?

Unfortunately, we do have to issue summons on occasion to those riders without valid tickets, and we don't want that person to ever be you. So, here's the scoop: We realize that for some people, boarding a train without a valid ticket is truly a mistake. But to others, it's purposeful fare evasion. Either way, it's difficult for our conductors to determine which side of the fence a person is on when they:

- are using a ticket that has not been validated for that day and time,
- are traveling outside the zones listed on the ticket,
- are riding on a monthly ticket for a month that hasn't started yet or from a previous month (except on the grace period day),
- are using a Free Ride Certificate (FRC) that has not been machine validated
- are riding on an expired ticket that cannot be validated or a ticket that has no remaining value,
- are riding without a ticket at all.

We have asked our conductors to stop trying to guess and simply issue a summons whenever they come across someone who is not in possession of a valid ticket. Should you witness an individual being issued a summons, we ask that you not intervene and offer to "resolve"

the matter with an FRC. Not only is the FRC not validated, but there may be a history with the individual that you are not aware of (i.e., the person was previously found without a valid ticket or was observed boarding the train without stopping to validate their ticket).

Section 18.2-160.1 of Virginia code states that anyone boarding the train without a valid ticket is evading the fare. Riders traveling outside of the zones printed on their ticket (overriding) or traveling on a counterfeited or otherwise altered fare media are also in violation and are subject to a fine of up to \$150 plus court costs (currently \$71). Not only is fare evasion unfair to fellow commuters who have paid their way to ride, but it's unfair to ask conductors to make the call on who is being honest and who is not.

Once the summons is written, the only way a passenger can prevent it from going to court is by producing the original monthly ticket purchased before the summons was written and showing proof of ownership (photocopies are not sufficient). Upon proof of ownership, the summons can be waived.

We certainly don't want to sound like the heavies on this one ... we just want all of our passengers to understand that our goal is to treat everyone equally and fairly, and that means asking all of our riders to purchase and validate tickets before they ride.

"S" Schedule Changes

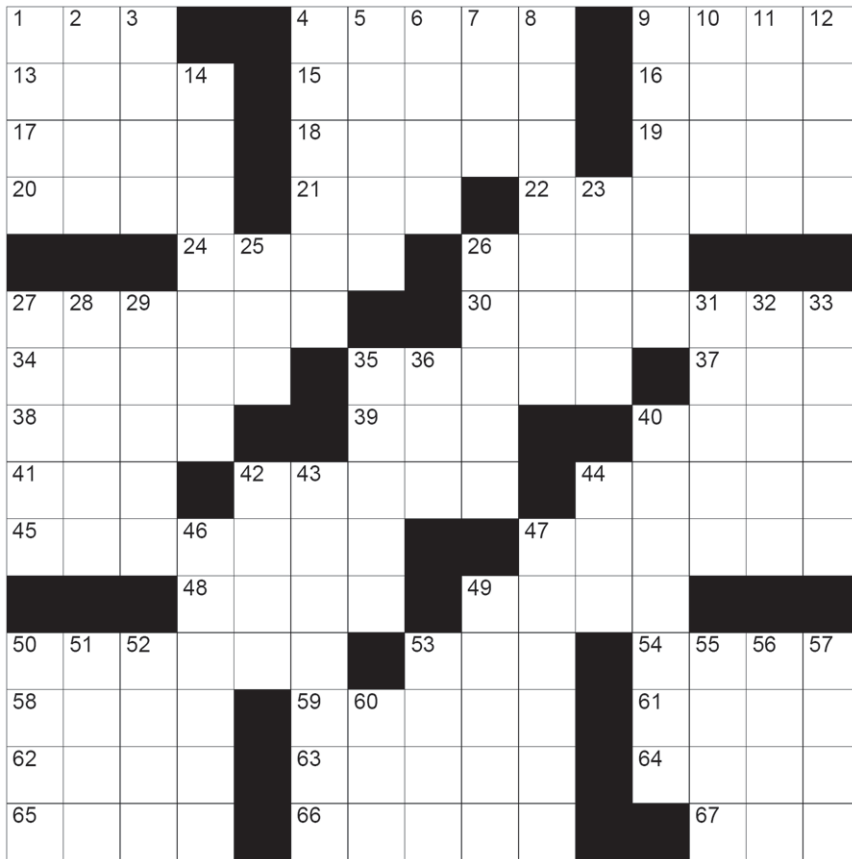
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A to B, and then go back to point A to bring a second (later) group of commuters to point B).

We shifted the afternoon train schedule on the Fredericksburg line because we've learned that many riders tend to leave their offices early during inclement weather and around the holidays. By shifting the "S" schedule trains earlier in the day, we're hopeful that there will be more trains and service during the earlier afternoon times, when more people need us.

The new schedule will appear on our website, and new pocket schedules will be printed. Operators of the EZ Bus and other shuttle buses in Burke are aware of our changing "S" schedule and will shift their schedules accordingly. (In poor weather, however, the EZ Bus sometimes does not operate regardless of our schedule, so please be sure to check the Fairfax Connector website at www.fairfaxconnector.gov for EZ Bus and Burke Centre shuttle updates.)

Crossword Puzzle



ACROSS

- 01. Health resort
- 04. Game fish
- 09. At that time
- 13. Freshwater cod
- 15. Excuse
- 16. Plunder
- 17. Poker stake
- 18. Danger
- 19. The chief solid component of urine
- 20. Dam
- 21. Wrath

- 22. Salt or pepper ___
- 24. Baseball glove
- 26. Conventional religious picture
- 27. Base
- 30. Error
- 34. Cut of meat
- 35. Lifting device
- 37. Epoch
- 38. Adhesive, for one
- 39. Carpet
- 40. Stunned
- 41. Australian bird

- 42. Disgrace
- 44. River in Paris
- 45. Toothed wheel
- 47. Financial officer
- 48. Rabbit
- 49. Tramp
- 50. Currency unit of Portugal
- 53. Hawaiian garland
- 54. Dish for serving gravy
- 58. Bacon unit

DOWN

- 01. Salad made from cabbage
- 02. Long for
- 03. Opposed
- 04. Large N American deer with large much-branched antlers
- 05. Warn
- 06. Charter
- 07. Japanese sash
- 08. Slicker
- 09. Hooky player
- 10. Listen!
- 11. Fencing sword
- 12. Close to
- 14. Relevant
- 23. Water down
- 25. Type of kind
- 26. Mental representation
- 27. Later
- 28. S. American animal
- 29. Done for

- 31. Auspices
- 32. Swedish monetary unit
- 33. Like a beaver
- 35. Packing box
- 36. Type of liquor
- 40. Type of exercise
- 42. Food fish
- 43. Melodramatic behavior
- 44. Hoagie
- 46. Plump
- 47. Heating system
- 49. Haft
- 50. To be: Lat.
- 51. Luge
- 52. Greeting or playing
- 53. Harp
- 55. Burden
- 56. Land measure
- 57. You
- 60. Persistently ask for overdue payment

- 59. A musical composition that evokes rural life
- 61. Part of a foot
- 62. Slav
- 63. Baseball pitch
- 64. Heal
- 65. Whirlpool
- 66. Smile scornfully
- 67. Observe





THE METROPOLITAN AT LORTON STATION

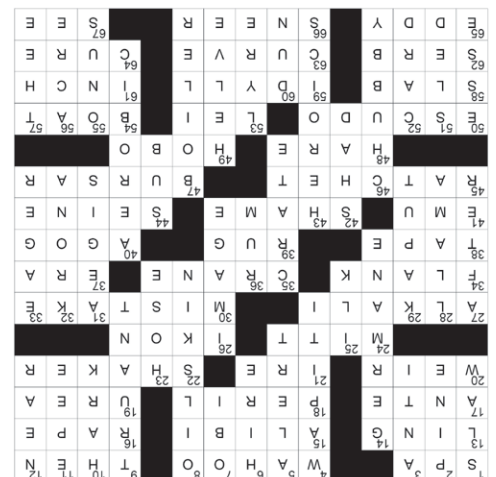
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*Some restrictions may apply.

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When A Town Grows Up Right, Its Children Do Too.

Stroll along any block in Ladysmith Village and you'll sense a town that's good for all inhabitants. Especially children. The rural setting provides a safe haven from outside pressures. The lay of the land encourages interaction. Lighted sidewalks lead to tot lots and parks where children are free to play and explore. The new library awaits their inquisitive minds and a planned elementary school will soon follow.



The town is on the right path because those who live here care deeply about the place they call home. Which means Ladysmith Village will not only grow, it will blossom. And so will its children.



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