Grins that stretch from ear to ear is pure Americana. That’s exactly what you’ll find at our Shores Club, just 30 miles from DC. Come discover the riverfront community with award-winning homes, golf, hiking and biking trails, an upcoming VRE train stop, future schools and a big rec center that families will absolutely love.

13,000 SF Rec Center for Residents Only
Eight-Lane Competition Pool
Family Pool with Sundeck & Private Cabanas
Kids Pool with Fountains
Fitness Barn with State-of-the-Art Equipment
Movement Studio & Yoga Garden

Homes from the upper $400s

CALL OR VISIT THE GREETING HOUSE:
855-808-6051

Features and products vary by community. Price, offers, financing and availability are subject to change without notice.
Infrastructure is the basic physical structures needed for the operation of a system or society, and just last month regional governments and trade organizations from around the country participated in Infrastructure Week, which highlights how important, and under-appreciated, it is. Infrastructure impacts every aspect of our daily lives from our daily commutes and summer vacations, to our drinking water and electricity for our homes. Many organizations held local events or sent representatives to Capitol Hill to make the case for additional investment in infrastructure.

At about the same time the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority announced Metrorail is embarking on an unprecedented program, called “SafeTrack,” to rehabilitate the Metrorail system’s infrastructure to improve safety and reliability. The SafeTrack plan addresses federal safety recommendations and deferred maintenance backlogs while restoring track infrastructure to good health. The reasons for needing such an extensive and intrusive program are varied, but it highlights how constant investment in our infrastructure is vital to keeping the systems we rely on in a state of good repair.

Metrorail’s program is of such a massive scale that its effects will be felt across the region, whether you take Metro or not. The expected impact to VRE is an increase in ridership throughout the system for the duration of the work. For more information about SafeTrack, and what VRE riders should expect, please see the article on pages 2 and 3.

VRE is fortunate to have great partners who understand the importance of investing in the infrastructure we use to provide our service. Our host railroads, CSX Transportation, Norfolk Southern Railway and Amtrak, invest millions of dollars each year in their railroads to keep them in a state of good repair. Along with our host railroads, the Commonwealth of Virginia, through allocations made by the Commonwealth Transportation Board, provides funding for both the railroad tracks themselves and for VRE’s equipment and facilities. For instance, Virginia was the primary funder of the 3rd Track Project in Spotsylvania that was completed and put into service last month. These types of projects add much needed capacity to the system, which helps us maintain our reliability.

In addition to capacity enhancements, VRE works tirelessly to maintain our infrastructure and equipment so that it remains safe and reliable. This includes our recent move to a Life Cycle Maintenance strategy for our locomotives and railcars, and constant maintenance and upkeep at the stations.

Throughout the year I’m fortunate to meet with our partners and other stakeholders such as legislators and executives at the local, state, and federal level. At every one of those meetings I stress the importance of continued and increased investment in railroad and other VRE related infrastructure. I will continue to bring that message to our stakeholders and to make sure VRE is efficiently and effectively putting our funds to work.

As always, I thank you for riding and helping make VRE such a successful service.
METRORAIL’S SAFETRACK PROGRAM

On June 4, the Washington Metropolitan Area Transportation Authority’s (WMATA) Metrorail service began a program of rail maintenance projects referred to as SafeTrack. SafeTrack is an accelerated track work plan to address safety recommendations and rehabilitate the Metrorail system, thereby improving safety and reliability. It accelerates three years’ worth of work into approximately one year by eliminating extended weekend service and closing the system at midnight every day, and expanding weekday maintenance opportunities with long-duration track outages referred to as “Safety Surges.”

To help affected riders, WMATA is providing additional bus service and “bus bridges” to fill gaps in rail service. In addition, local transit providers are bolstering their services to help mitigate the impacts. Additional bus service is only able to help a portion of affected travelers, which is why Transportation Demand Management (TDM) strategies such as telework and van/carpooling will be encouraged. You should expect these SafeTrack surges to have significant impacts on Metrorail and all other modes of travel throughout the region. For locations and dates of the SafeTrack surges and other important information, including travel alternatives available for each individual surge, go to www.wmata.com/safetrack.

So what should VRE riders expect during SafeTrack? VRE does not have the resources to add service or lengthen trains during this period, but anticipates additional riders will make use of the available capacity on the system. During the first SafeTrack surge, from June 4th to June 16th, and other times when there is single-tracking on the Orange Line, we expect to see additional riders on our Manassas Line trains. In particular, we anticipate more ridership from the Burke Centre Station since it has the most available parking spaces.

In July, the schedule calls for segment closures along Metrorail’s Blue and Yellow lines. Because this Metrorail line generally parallels the Fredericksburg line, many affected commuters may choose to ride VRE. Additional ridership should be expected throughout the Fredericksburg line. The Franconia-Springfield Station, which is co-located with a Metrorail station, will likely see a significant increase due to its plentiful parking. In the morning, the Franconia-Springfield Station is the Maximum Load Point on the Fredericksburg line (i.e. the point at which the train has the most riders), but approximately 20% of our riders disembark at the next station, Alexandria Union Station. We also expect riders to transfer from Metrorail to VRE at the Alexandria station during these periods.

In short, we do expect an increase in ridership and some crowding during certain SafeTrack Safety Surges. VRE is working with its partners in the region to coordinate the dissemination of information about commuting alternatives during Metrorail’s critical maintenance efforts and will also get the message out to potential new riders about how to use VRE. We strongly suggest all riders, current and new, consider using the VRE Mobile app to purchase and validate tickets. New and additional riders can slow down sales and validation at station Ticket Vending Machines (TVM). You can avoid long lines at the TVM by using VRE Mobile. Information about how to download and use the mobile app, including how to use Federal Transit Benefits to purchase tickets, is available on our website at www.vre.org/mobile or by calling VRE customer service at 800-RIDE-VRE (743-3873).
What is SafeTrack?
SafeTrack is a yearlong plan to improve safety and reliability on the Metrorail system. The plan puts safety first by completing more track work and prioritizing the most needed repairs. In addition, 15 planned “Safety Surges” throughout the year will cause segments of rail lines to be shut down or experience continuous single tracking for extended periods. While we know many riders will be affected, this is the only way to complete the work in a timely manner that maximizes safety. We thank you for your patience.

Project Details
• The 15 Safety Surges (listed below) are major track work projects that will lead to continuous single tracking or complete shutdowns of certain line segments. This will severely impact both casual riders and regular commuters on these lines.
• There will be increased track work on nights, weekends and during some rush hours. Always check wmata.com and sign up for MetroAlerts to “know before you go.”
• Beginning June 3, and throughout the duration of SafeTrack, Metrorail will close at midnight, 7 days a week. The last train may depart your station before midnight, so check wmata.com/stations for information.

These are major service disruptions that will cause crowding and delays. Although some shuttle bus service will be provided during shutdowns, you should consider alternate travel options during Safety Surges that affect your line.

### Updated Work Plan and June Safety

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Surge</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Lines Affected</th>
<th>Stations Affected</th>
<th>Type of Surge</th>
<th>Duration</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>6/4 – 6/16</td>
<td>OR SV</td>
<td>Ballston to East Falls Church</td>
<td>Single Tracking</td>
<td>13 Days</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>6/18 – 7/3</td>
<td>OR SV BL</td>
<td>Eastern Market to Minnesota Ave/Benning Rd</td>
<td>Shutdown</td>
<td>16 Days</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>7/5 – 7/11</td>
<td>YL BL</td>
<td>Reagan National Airport to Braddock Rd</td>
<td>Shutdown</td>
<td>7 Days</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>7/12 – 7/18</td>
<td>YL BL</td>
<td>Reagan National Airport to Pentagon City</td>
<td>Shutdown</td>
<td>7 Days</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>7/20 – 7/31</td>
<td>OR SV</td>
<td>Ballston to East Falls Church</td>
<td>Single Tracking</td>
<td>12 Days</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>8/1 – 8/7</td>
<td>RD</td>
<td>Takoma to Silver Spring</td>
<td>Single Tracking</td>
<td>7 Days</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>8/9 – 8/18</td>
<td>RD</td>
<td>Shady Grove to Twinbrook</td>
<td>Single Tracking</td>
<td>10 Days</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>8/20 – 9/5</td>
<td>YL BL</td>
<td>Franconia-Springfield to Van Dorn St</td>
<td>Single Tracking</td>
<td>17 Days</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>9/9 – 10/20</td>
<td>OR</td>
<td>Vienna to West Falls Church</td>
<td>Single Tracking</td>
<td>42 Days</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>10/10 – 11/1</td>
<td>RD</td>
<td>Fort Totten to NoMa-Gallaudet</td>
<td>Shutdown</td>
<td>23 Days</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>11/3 – 11/11</td>
<td>OR SV</td>
<td>East Falls Church to West Falls Church</td>
<td>Single Tracking</td>
<td>9 Days</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>11/12 – 12/6</td>
<td>GR YL</td>
<td>Greenbelt to College Park</td>
<td>Single Tracking</td>
<td>25 Days</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>12/7 – 12/24</td>
<td>BL</td>
<td>Rosslyn to Pentagon</td>
<td>Shutdown</td>
<td>18 Days</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>1/2 – 1/13 and 1/23 – 1/23*</td>
<td>YL BL</td>
<td>Braddock Rd to Huntington/Van Dorn St</td>
<td>Single Tracking</td>
<td>24 Days</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>3/6 – 3/19</td>
<td>OR SV</td>
<td>East Falls Church to West Falls Church</td>
<td>Single Tracking</td>
<td>14 Days</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Note: No track work during Inauguration Week (January 15-21, 2017)

For more information, visit wmata.com/safetrack.
VRE CONTINUES TO ADVANCE THE GAINESVILLE-HAYMARKET EXTENSION

VRE is continuing to build momentum for the Gainesville-Haymarket Extension (GHX) project, the 11-mile extension of VRE commuter rail service that includes potential new VRE stations at Innovation, Gainesville and Haymarket. Following April community and stakeholder meetings, the VRE GHX team is reviewing public comments received to-date and continues its technical analysis of the benefits and opportunities associated with each of the preferred station locations and service plans under consideration.

The GHX corridor, which runs parallel to I-66 in western Prince William County, continues to be a focus of regional population and employment growth. To improve mobility in the corridor, the following GHX alternatives are under consideration:

An Extension alternative to Haymarket that increases VRE daily Manassas line trains from 16 to 22 trains with 20-minute service frequency during peak periods. This alternative serves all Manassas line stations and new stations at Innovation, Gainesville and Haymarket but does not serve the existing Broad Run station.

- An Extension alternative to Haymarket that increases VRE daily Manassas line trains from 16 to 22 trains with 20-minute service frequency during peak periods. This alternative serves all Manassas line stations and new stations at Innovation, Gainesville and Haymarket but does not serve the existing Broad Run station.
- An Extension + Off-Peak Shuttle alternative that provides the same service as the Extension alternative, plus 14 additional shuttle trains, operating hourly during the mid-day in both directions between Haymarket and Alexandria.
- A Broad Run Terminus alternative that maintains the current VRE service pattern with an increase in the number of daily trains to 22, and 20-minute service frequency to all existing Manassas line stations during peak periods.
- An Extension & Broad Run alternative with daily split service that operates 12 trains that serve the Innovation, Gainesville and Haymarket Extension stations and 10 trains to and from Broad Run station. This results in 40-45 minute service frequency during peak periods on each branch. All other Manassas line stations have 20-minute service frequency during peak periods.
- All alternatives assume VRE service would operate weekdays from Monday through Friday.

Feedback is desired from VRE riders and members of the community regarding the key benefits of the extension that you consider important, such as promoting economic development at station areas, preserving the Prince William County Rural Crescent by concentrating future development along the Gainesville-Haymarket extension corridor, providing a more reliable commute (compared with car travel), removing cars from I-66 and local streets, and shortening the travel time from your home to a convenient VRE station.

If you have not yet shared your comments or completed the VRE GHX project survey, please visit www.vre.org/ghx to view the latest project information and share your thoughts about this important regional transportation initiative. Complete meeting materials from the April community meeting are also available online.

Your comments will provide valuable insight and help the VRE GHX team refine and narrow down the station and service options to best address local concerns and priorities, evaluate the project’s public benefits and ensure that the VRE GHX project will support the region’s long term goals. Over the coming months federal environmental review requirements will also begin to be identified, project costs developed in more detail, and a draft funding plan prepared.

You may also meet the GHX project team at the Manassas Heritage Railway Festival on Saturday, June 4, 2016 starting at 10 am at the Manassas station, where VRE will be operating excursion trains. The Railway Festival is a great way to encourage your friends and family to try VRE service. Historic Manassas hosts this annual event as a family celebration of the City’s rich railroad history. There will be specialty vendors, country and bluegrass music, and elaborate miniature train displays that are created by a number of local model train groups. Located under the Harris Pavilion, these displays are a must see. Visit www.visitmanassas.org for additional details.

Finally, look for the VRE GHX team on VRE trains in mid-June as they continue to seek VRE rider’s feedback about the project. The next VRE GHX community meeting is planned for fall 2016. Please continue to follow the project online at www.vre.org/ghx, on Facebook at www.facebook.com/VRE.GHX and on Twitter @VRE_GHX. You may also send your questions and comments to the VRE GHX team at any time at ghx@vre.org.
LOCAL EVENTS

A CIVIL WAR PERSPECTIVE

Memorial Day originated as Decoration Day in 1868, following the Civil War. VRE serves countless communities steeped in Virginia’s Civil War history. In light of the recent holiday, we compiled an overview of some key events that took place all those years ago.

Burke’s Station Raid December 28, 1862
Confederate General Jeb Stuart raids train station and later sends a telegraph to the Union Quartermaster complaining about the poor quality of mules he had just captured.

1st & 2nd Bull Run
July 21, 1861 & August 28-30, 1862
Both battles resulted in Confederate victories. During 1st Bull Run, retreating Union soldiers were blocked on the roads by fleeing civilians who had come to picnic to watch the battle. Confederate General Jackson receives the nickname “Stonewall.”

1st Battle of Fredericksburg
December 11-15, 1862
Resulted in a Confederate victory.

2nd Battle of Fredericksburg
May 3, 1863
Resulted in a Union victory.

Battle of Chancellorsville
April 30 - May 6, 1863
Confederate General Robert E. Lee defeats Union General Joseph Hooker despite being outnumbered two to one. Stonewall Jackson wounded by friendly fire and later dies from complications.

Battle of Wilderness and Battle of Spotsylvania Courthouse
May 5 - 21, 1864
Inconclusive victories for either side. Forty-three men and one woman received the Medal of Honor for the Battle of Spotsylvania Courthouse.

Infographic by Ryan Lange of VRE, and Pulsar Advertising.
Robert Hostelka can trace his roots in the world of information technology (IT) back to his days as an 18-year-old Airman in the United States Air Force. He served for four years as a telecommunications specialist at Offutt Air Force Base in Omaha, Neb., and operated in Saudi Arabia for both Operation Desert Shield and Desert Storm. After leaving active duty he decided to pursue a career in IT.

As a civilian, Robert has held various positions working for the Air National Guard Headquarters, “K” Line America – the fourth largest international ocean freight carrier – and for defense contractor A-T Solutions.

Robert says the military helped choose his career path in IT.

“The military chose my career for me, I actually thought about becoming a weatherman before the military,” Robert says.

Robert earned his BS in Computer Information Systems in 2004 and his MBA from Liberty University in 2014.

Robert’s previous experience includes upgrading IT infrastructure, and auditing IT security in controlled environments for the Department of Defense and other federal agencies. His specialties are IT security and transforming IT systems into enterprise environments. Here at VRE, a couple of Robert’s primary focus areas for the next year include cybersecurity, cloud computing and infrastructure upgrades.

“I believe I should have a positive impact on the lives of others every day,” Robert says.

The most rewarding part of the job for Robert is looking back over the last year and seeing how much has been accomplished and how other employees have been positively impacted.

“We’ve made tremendous strides to improve the IT environment at the VRE,” he says.

One of his favorite perks of the job is riding the train to work.

“I love riding the train every day – it’s not a commute, but rather an opportunity to meet new people, kind of like the water cooler conversation part of your day,” Robert says.

When Robert is not busy at the office and riding the train, he enjoys spending time with his family or jumping on a tractor at the farm. They enjoy family life on the river, including bonfires on the beach, baling hay and occasionally playing a round of golf with his kids. His favorite thing to do in the area is to spend time on the river checking the crab pots or walking on the beach behind the house. Robert is a dedicated father and husband whose family includes his wife of 21 years, an 18-year-old son that is headed off to college soon, and an 11-year-old daughter.
WORKING TOGETHER FOR A SAFER COMMUNITY

Communities play an essential role in our overall mental and physical wellbeing. That’s why it’s important we work together to continue making the places we live, work and leisure as safe as possible.

One of the best ways to protect your community is to be prepared. Knowing what to look for and how to report it ahead of time will help you respond more quickly in a crisis. It can be difficult to know what something suspicious looks like, but trust yourself when something doesn’t feel quite right.

**SUSPICIOUS BEHAVIOR**

You know your community better than anyone. So keep an eye out people who seems out of place or don’t fit into your daily routine. Any unusual questioning about hiring processes or system operations is cause for alarm. Attempts to impersonate police, mail carriers or transit employees to gain information should also be reported.

Other unusual behavior can include people staying at train stations for long periods of time without getting on or an individual who seems fixated only on a particular object or location. This can also mean people entering unauthorized areas at train or bus stations or tampering with security equipment. Race, gender or religious affiliations are not indicators of suspicious behavior.

Take note of any attempts to measure response times of the public, security, or police to unattended items or reported activity. If you happen to notice anyone attempting to use inconspicuous means of transferring and spending money, such as unusually large cash transactions or exchanges for large amounts of gift cards, report it as soon as you can.

These activities may be harder to detect, but early recognition and reporting of them can be vital to the safety of our entire system.

**SUSPICIOUS OBJECTS**

While on your regular transit rides, be on the alert for any suspicious objects. This may include bags, boxes, or packages left unattended – especially if partially hidden or in unusual locations. Because suspicious objects are often left in dim hallways, corners or trashcans, it’s notify a maintenance worker regarding any overflowing bins or broken lights.

Other suspicious objects include aerosol spray cans, anything emitting a strange smell or gas, or carry-on items such as large backpacks. It’s also worth noting any gym bags or luggage that seem to weigh more than normal, or if anyone places a package in one compartment, and then leaves for another.

Obtaining explosives, weapons, or large amounts of one-time use cell phones may seem like obvious causes for suspicion. But often we don’t even notice these things. Just to be safe, report any of these suspicious objects or behaviors including attempts to steal or obtain uniforms, badges or credentials of transit personnel, security or police.

**WHAT TO DO**

Don’t be afraid to report something, even if you aren’t sure how serious it is. Take detailed notes, such as the train number or station name.

- **DO NOT** take direct action
- **DO NOT** confront the individual
- **DO NOT** reveal your suspicions
- **DO** record as many details as possible
- **DO** notify appropriate authorities as soon as possible

**WHO TO TELL**

Notify a police officer or transit personnel. If you’re on a bus, tell the driver. If you’re on a train or at a train station, tell a conductor or transit worker.

Report any imminent threats or attacks to the police by calling **911**. Save 1-877-4VA-TIPS and your local police phone number into your contacts for quick future reference.

Informed, alert communities are our first line of defense. So let’s work together to learn how to detect and report signs of possible threats. For more information about how you can help keep your community safe, visit [SecureTransit.org](http://SecureTransit.org).

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*T his ad was purchased with funds provided by the US Department of Homeland Security.*
2016 SMITHSONIAN FOLKLIFE FESTIVAL

The Basque Country is home to San Sebastian, the 2016 European Capital of Culture. But if you don’t have time or the money to visit, the 2016 Smithsonian Folklife Festival will bring the music, culture and cuisine of Basque Country to you.

Held every summer on the National Mall, the Folklife Festival is a celebration of living cultures, bringing master artisans, musicians, dancers, cooks, storytellers and more from across the United States and around the world to share their experiences in their own voices. The 2016 Festival program, Basque: Innovation by Culture, will feature more than 200 participants, highlighting the diversity of Basque and Basque American communities. Visitors can see traditional Basque shipbuilding methods in action as craftsmen build a 26-foot-long sailing vessel, taste authentic Basque sukalki (short rib stew) and kalimotxo (red wine and cola), and learn phrases in the Euskara language. While children can try kid-friendly versions of Basque sports such as stone lifting and corn cob racing, grownups can sip a refreshing Basque cider.

The 2016 Smithsonian Folklife Festival also features Sounds of California, which showcases the diverse music and cultures of the Golden State. The 2016 Folklife Festival runs June 29 to July 4 and July 7 to 10 on the National Mall between Fourth and Seventh streets. The Festival is free and open to the public 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. with evening concerts most nights at 6:30 p.m. Visit www.festival.si.edu for detailed schedule and more information.
WHICH BAG LOOKS SUSPICIOUS?

DIFFICULT CHOICE, RIGHT?
(THE ANSWER IS ALL OF THE ABOVE)

REPORT ALL UNATTENDED BAGS AND UNUSUAL BEHAVIOR TO POLICE OR TRANSIT PERSONNEL.

IF YOU SEE SOMETHING, SAY SOMETHING.
securetransit.org

1-877-4VA-TIPS

Purchased with funds provided by the US Department of Homeland Security