Loving life is easy at Potomac Shores. After all, there’s so much to love. Like award-winning homes. A new elementary school. Jack Nicklaus Signature golf. And a trio of swimming pools at our Shores Club recreation center where refreshing fun lasts all summer long.

Share the love on Facebook or Twitter #PSILoveYouVA
This year’s Meet the Management event series draws to an end this month. I appreciated the opportunity to speak with many of you and learn about your experience with our service. As in previous years, I did hear a few questions that I can assure you we do follow up on as a team.

One of those questions was regarding canceling service during inclement weather, as many of our riders do not work for the Federal Government and some of our federal workers are essential employees. We do not take the decision to cancel service lightly. We coordinate with several groups in the event of inclement weather, and our decision whether or not to run is always based upon ensuring the safety of our riders.

Another frequently asked question this year was about adding a southbound train in the 2:00 hour. There are several elements that must align for an additional train to be added including the acquisition of additional train sets, storage for those train sets when not in use, and permission from our host railroads CSX and Norfolk Southern. Our staff will continue to work on these various pieces of the puzzle, and we will update you on any future changes to our operating schedule.

Again, I enjoyed speaking with you the riders this year. I look forward to doing it again next year.

Sincerely,

Doug Allen
Chief Executive Officer
Virginia Railway Express

Access RIDE online at
VRE.org/RIDE
**INCREASE IN AMTRAK STEP UP TICKET**

Effective July 1, 2018, Amtrak is increasing the cost to VRE for Step-Up tickets by $1. As a result, VRE riders utilizing the Step-Up program will see an increase in price from $7 to $8 per ticket.

**What is the Importance of the Step-Up Program?**

Our mission at VRE is to provide a cost-effective and convenient commuter-oriented passenger rail service. The Step-Up program is the lowest cost approach to add capacity to the VRE system and if not for the Step-Up program, some VRE trains would experience overcrowding. The Step-Up program also provides our riders with additional schedule options for a higher level of rider convenience.

**Why is this Changing?**

Amtrak has increased the required rate for each rider using the Step-Up service, and VRE must pay Amtrak for each Step-Up ticket produced. Given the benefits of additional seats and train times this program offers, VRE will continue to cover a portion of the total cost for Step-Up tickets as long as our budget allows it.

**AUTOMATIC PARKING COUNTER UPDATE**

Our Automatic Parking Counters allow for rider visibility into the number of available spaces at any time.

For example, if you live between Brooke and Leeland Road, you could check the parking availability at each and determine which station to utilize for the day.

Stations with Installed Parking Counters:
- Spotsylvania
- Fredericksburg
- Leeland
- Brooke
- Rippon
- Broad Run

Next on the Schedule for Installation:
- Quantico
- Lorton

Realtime Parking Information:
vre.org/parking
Plans for updates at the historic Quantico Station are almost complete. Plans include both safety and operational improvements.

**Safety Improvement: Pedestrian Bridge**
You've heard the onboard safety announcement as you approach Quantico Station: "Please wait to cross the tracks until the crossing gates are raised as a highspeed train may be approaching the station." You may be surprised by just how dangerous crossing the tracks before the gates are raised actually is, and even more surprised with the number of people that take a great risk to do so. However, the plans for station improvements eliminate the use of an at-grade crossing for pedestrians over the railroad tracks, and instead call for a pedestrian bridge to provide safer access to platforms, shuttles, and parking.

**Operational Improvements: Additional Track, Platform Extension & New Island Platform**
CSX and the Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation (DRPT) are presently engaged in constructing a new third track through Quantico Station which will help mitigate rail congestion. This additional track will help with service reliability.

VRE is designing and constructing an island platform, extension of the existing platform, and station track modifications. The island platform supports the addition of the new track as the new platform will be positioned between two tracks, while the extension of the current platform will allow all doors on an 8-car train to open and reduce the time spent boarding and deboarding riders. Improvements are being coordinated with DRPT and CSX.

**Project Status**
The design for station and site, civil, drainage, track, and retaining wall in the vicinity of the station are currently being reviewed and commented on by stakeholders.

**Project Highlights:**
- **Third track** to minimize congestion with Amtrak and CSX freight trains
- **Second platform** (island platform) making all tracks accessible to platforms
- **ADA-accessible bridge** between all platforms and Marine Corps Base Quantico for improved safety by eliminating at-grade crossing
- **Platform extension** to accommodate full-length trains, reducing time at station boarding and deboarding riders

**Schedule**

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<th>Phase</th>
<th>Year</th>
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<td>Finish Design</td>
<td>2018</td>
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<td>Construction Procurement</td>
<td>2018</td>
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<td>Construction Complete</td>
<td>2020</td>
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Now in its 52nd year, the Smithsonian Folklife Festival celebrates world cultures each summer on the National Mall with live music and dance performances, lectures, craft demonstrations and activities, food, shopping, and more.

The 2018 Festival, which runs from June 27 to July 1 and July 4 to 8, highlights the importance of cultural heritage in the face of change. Hundreds of artisans, designers, musicians, and cooks from Armenia and Catalonia will share their rich cultural traditions through interactive programs. The Festival also includes a collaboration with the Roadwork Oral History and Documentary Project to celebrate women artists through concerts, poetry, and spoken word performances, including the 40th Anniversary Sisterfire concert on July 8.

Armenian Food and Craft
Through participatory craft and food-related workshops, the Armenia: Creating Home program showcases the small country nestled at the crossroads of Asia and Europe.

Visitors can learn to make the staples of an Armenian feast: breads, cheeses, and barbecued meats (khorovats). While tasting and toasting Armenian wines, find out more about the discovery of a 6,100-year-old winery in a cave and modern efforts to reinvigorate the industry. Wandering through the Festival tents, engage with Armenian designers and artisans, trying your hand at weaving, embroidery, and carving.
Culture of Catalonia
The Catalonia: Tradition and Creativity from the Mediterranean program focuses on the bold creativity that has allowed the Catalan people to sustain a vibrant regional culture.

Visitors can take part in festival arts, including constructing human towers with more than one hundred people. While sampling Catalan fare from Festival concessions, visitors learn about the revitalization of artisanal food and wine production across the region and how local producers integrate new methods with old traditions.

Visitors can talk with Catalan builders and craftspeople working in tile and stone, learning techniques and experimenting with arranging mosaics (trencadís) and stacking stone without mortar to construct walls (pedra seca).

Shopping at the Marketplace
This year the Festival Marketplace will feature over 70 artisans and artisan groups, many of whom will offer live demonstrations of their craft. You can watch these masters at work and shop for one-of-a-kind gifts and mementos from around the world in the Marketplace tent, located on the lawn of the National Museum of American History.

Concerts
Once the daytime activities wrap up at 6 p.m., the Festival continues at 6:30 p.m. with evening music and dance performances from Armenia, Catalonia, D.C., and beyond, including the 40th anniversary Sisterfire concert on July 8. Purchase food at our concessions or bring your own, and enjoy a lively picnic (or open-air dance party) on the National Mall. All evening concerts are free and open to the public.

VISITOR INFORMATION
Dates: Wednesday, June 27, through Sunday, July 1, and Wednesday, July 4, through Sunday, July 8.
Location: On the National Mall between Twelfth and Fourteenth streets.
Admission: The Festival is free, and hours are from 11:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. each day, with special evening events most days beginning at 6:30 p.m.

For more information, including a schedule of events, visit www.festival.si.edu.

ACCESSIBILITY SERVICES AVAILABLE

The Festival is presented by the Smithsonian Center for Folklife and Cultural Heritage and co-sponsored by the National Park Service. Program partners include: the Department of Contemporary Anthropological Studies at the Institute of Archaeology and Ethnography in the National Academy of Sciences of Armenia, the My Armenia Cultural Heritage Tourism Program, funded by USAID and implemented by the Smithsonian Institution, the U.S. Embassy in Armenia and the Embassy of Armenia to the United States of America, Program partners include the Government of Catalonia’s Department of Popular Culture and Cultural Associations; the Provincial Governments of Barcelona, Girona, Lleida, and Tarragona; the Fira Mediterrània de Manresa; the Institut Ramon Llull; and Adifolk: the Association for the Diffusion of Folklife. Special thanks to the Virginia Railway Express for its promotional support.
FILL YOUR PLATE BEFORE THE RIDE HOME
GREAT EATS NEAR UNION STATION

If you depart from Washington, D.C.’s Union Station at the end of your working day, you’re in luck. Many great dining options are within a short walk from the historic station.

**East Side**

**The Monocle Restaurant:** For more than 50 years, this classic American eatery has served steaks and wine to the Capitol crowd.

**201 Bar:** Modern tavern with leather booths and colorful lighting offering microbrews, mixed drinks and wine.

**Union Pub:** Multiple TVs and a lengthy craft beer list draw fans to this bar with a spacious patio.

**West Side**

**Billy Goat Tavern DC:** Outpost of a famed chain of pubs founded in Chicago in 1934. Known for its burgers.

**Art and Soul:** Southern cuisine served in a contemporary dining room and on a patio with views.

**Article One American Grill:** The Hyatt Regency’s 5-story atrium lobby is the backdrop for upscale local and organic American fare.
COMMUNITY EVENTS

FRANK LLOYD WRIGHT BIRTHDAY PICNIC
June 8, 2018
9000 Richmond Highway, Alexandria, VA
Celebrate world-renowned American architect Frank Lloyd Wright’s birthday at the only Frank Lloyd Wright house open to visitors in the D.C. region—the small and magnificent Pope-Leighey House! This house is the perfect example of one of Wright’s “Usonian” style homes that he began designing in the 1930s. As we come to the end of a celebration year for Wright’s 150th birthday, visit Pope-Leighey House for a special birthday picnic and party fundraiser in the evening.

SATURDAY NIGHT ADULT DANCE – BEATLEMANIA
June 16, 2018, 8:00pm – 11:00pm
Harris Pavilion in Manassas
Dance to all the “Beatles” songs!

SUMMER CONCERT SERIES FEATURING QUANTICO MARINE CORPS BAND
Thursday, June 28, 2018, 7:00pm-8:30pm
National Museum of the Marine Corps
Bring your blanket or camp chair to the parade deck in front of the Museum for a performance by the Quantico Marine Corps Band.

2ND ANNUAL DEEP RUN BARREL REGATTA
June 16, 2018, 12:00pm-1:00pm
1 Bowman Drive, Fredericksburg
Join A. Smith Bowman Distillery and River Rock Outfitter for this FUN watery tradition! Individuals or teams from around the area are invited to create their own boats made from used bourbon barrels and race them in Deep Run. There will be prizes and awards for the two fastest finishes, most spirited and best sinking! Entry Fee: $75 includes one bourbon barrel. All proceeds go to the American Canoe Association’s education and safety programs. Deadline to register is June 8th. Must be at least 13 years old to participate (all minors must be accompanied by an adult). Call 540-373-4555 or e-mail mbegin@asmithbowman.com for more information and to receive the Race Rules, Registration Form and Waiver. Want to just come and watch? Admission is free to the festival.

Change your commute, change your life!

Urge your boss to consider Fredericksburg!
Visit fredericksburgva.com/considerfxbg to learn how.

FREDERICKSBURG, VA
Economic Development
540.372.1216
METRO OPTION AVAILABILITY

Starting July 1, 2018, the Metro Option will no longer be available for VRE riders.

What is the Metro Option?
The Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA), which operates Metrorail, has been a valuable partner to VRE during service disruptions. In the past when we experienced a service disruption, VRE was able to open the Metro Option as one way to help mitigate disruption of a rider’s trip. This allowed VRE riders to show a validated VRE ticket to the Metrorail station manager for free access into the Metro system.

Why is this Changing?
As a part of their efforts to keep Metro safe, reliable and affordable, WMATA is making changes to their rail stations that will secure the gates previously used to allow VRE riders and others access to the system. WMATA’s efforts to improve their system, including this initiative, aim to decrease fare evasion and customer conflicts. Unfortunately, these changes will eliminate VRE’s ability to offer the Metro Option.

Going Forward
In the event of a service disruption, VRE riders may still use Metro as an alternative. However, riders will have to use a SmarTrip card and incur the cost of the trip.

WMATA’s change also impacts Maryland Area Regional Commuter (MARC) riders, and VRE is committed to working with MARC and WMATA for a long-term, regional solution. Stay tuned to Train Talk and vre.org for updates.

PUZZLE SOLUTIONS

RAIL TIME PUZZLES

ACROSS
1 Loss ornamented
6 ___-free (unpunished)
10 French state
14 Tied up, as skates
19 Stage whisper
20 Windy City daily
21 Frenzied
22 Run off to unite
23 Unemotional
24 Long, long time
25 Lake beside Buffalo
26 Subject matter
27 Wright place
29 Chevy Chase golf film
31 Chilly
32 Hiking routes
34 Auction site
35 Christmas ornament shape
39 Sport fish
40 Have a tab
41 Hebrew National offering
42 Engages, as an alarm
44 Still-life container
46 Sicilian landmark
50 Reunion attendee
51 Haughty one
53 Not so scintillating
54 Leaving no tip for
57 Golden Rule word
58 King of Spain since 2014
59 Wall bracket shape
60 Bar mitzvah band selection
62 Intensify
67 Itinerary abbr.
68 Attacks verbally
69 Certain sentence ending
71 Costa ___ Sol
72 Inappropriate, as behavior
73 Parting remark
74 Parfaits and pies
75 Permanent written
76 Cultural pursuits
77 Halliwell of the
78 Spice Girls
79 Woolly beasts
80 Carpet fabric
81 Noisy birds
82 Play caller
83 "That's what you
84 Think!"
85 Ponder (over)
86 Exuberant
87 Hugs, perhaps
88 Wooly beasts
89 Signaled on stage
90 Clear-cut separation
91 Diversion with an
92 On Down
93 Picked up from the air
94 Furthermore
95 Rein in
96 Conclusion of
97 Hamilton
98 Espionage acquisition
99 "Get moving!"
100 Judge's request
101 Great care
102 Hip-hop entourage
103 Yin's complement
104 Envelope notation
105 Mountain-road curves
106 Go quietly
107 Eyeglasses
108 Sidelight
109 Was up to par
110 Thrash about
111 Modern prefix
112 Potato products
113 "Grecian Urn" guy
114 Calls off a project
115 Provide with gear
116 Branch of Islam
117 Atlanta-based cable channel
118 In full accord

DOWN
1 Sit in the sun
2 Spumante city
3 Barrel of laughs
4 Polish for publication
5 Turn bottles into bags, perhaps
6 Make off with
7 Ballgame turnout
8 Baryard sound
9 Atlanta-based cable channel
10 Dollars
11 Sideline
12 Bottom line
13 Inside
14 Practice
15 Crib
16 Clear, as
17 Write
18 Star
19 Contest form
20 Wrestling surfaces
21 "Let's shake on it!"
22 Make a mistake
23 Singer McEntire
24 "Jabberwocky" opener
25 Splinter group
26 Sound of delight
27 Director DeMille
28 Sound of distress
29 Azure expanse
30 Side of a doorway
31 Hernando's "Huh?"
32 Examined
33 Bureaucratic delay
34 See to
35 Southeast Asian river
36 Ushers in
37 Retail inventory
38 Sister of Marge
39 Simpson
40 Is wearing
41 Shade
42 Stare
43 Win
44 DreamWorks insect movie
45 Is a boarder
46 Hold in esteem
47 Off the mark
48 Brown photo frame
49 Construct
50 Go quietly
51 Sidelight
52 Tie
53 Case
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55 "That's what you
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SUDOKU

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"I could go on and on about this. And I will. Get comfortable."
ABLE TO FLEX YOUR TIME?

A SMALL SCHEDULE ADJUSTMENT COULD LEAD TO MORE ELBOW ROOM.

REVIEW THE LATEST TRENDS ON THE NUMBER OF PEOPLE RIDING EACH TRAIN:

VRE.ORG/FLEX