There’s a place where the love of country runs as deep as the love of family. It’s just 30 miles from DC along the Potomac River. Come discover award-winning homes, exciting family-friendly amenities, and the genuine, heartfelt sense of community that colors every aspect of Potomac Shores.

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Recreation Center with Swimming Pools (2016)
On-Site Elementary School (2017)
Hiking & Biking Trails
Jack Nicklaus Signature Golf Course and Clubhouse
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Homes from the upper $400s

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Features and products vary by community. Price, offers, financing and availability are subject to change without notice.
We launched our Meet the Management events for 2016 in April at Washington's Union Station. Throughout May and June we will continue coming out to the big destination stations for an opportunity to personally meet you, our riders, and listen to your comments and suggestions about the service. I always enjoy these events and come away feeling I have gotten important perspectives on how we are doing and what we can improve upon.

The remaining events will be the next four Wednesday afternoons, when we will be out at the remainder of our destination stations. This year we will also be doing one morning event at our newest station, Spotsylvania.

Here is schedule for our upcoming events:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Station</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday, May 11, 2016</td>
<td>Afternoon and Evening Service</td>
<td>L’Enfant</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday, May 18, 2016</td>
<td>Afternoon and Evening Service</td>
<td>Crystal City</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday, May 25, 2016</td>
<td>Afternoon and Evening Service</td>
<td>Alexandria</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday, June 1, 2016</td>
<td>Afternoon and Evening Service</td>
<td>Franconia-Springfield</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday, June 8, 2016</td>
<td>Morning Service</td>
<td>Spotsylvania</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

We really hope to see you at one of these stations, but if you cannot join us for Meet the Management, VRE also offers several ways to share your suggestions and feedback through our monthly online forum, Facebook, Twitter and our annual Customer Opinion Survey. Comments and inquiries may also be submitted by phone, fax, mail, email or through our website. Go to www.vre.org/feedback for all the ways to contact us.

I am looking forward to seeing you at Meet the Management and as always, thank you for riding VRE.

DOUG ALLEN
Chief Executive Officer
Virginia Railway Express
SCULPTURE UNCOVERED

If you are riding the VRE through the City of Manassas, beginning in May you will see new sculptures popping up around the Historic Downtown. They may inspire you to take the next train and enjoy taking a look around downtown.

In October 2015, the City of Manassas arts group began working with Northern Virginia Community College’s Assistant Professor of Studio Art, Zac Jackson. The project was to work with NOVA sculpture students to produce outdoor sculptures to be displayed in the Historic Downtown area of the city.

Jackson and his students worked to create a website where art group members could view and comment on sculpture submissions. As the projects progressed, so did the website with more commentary and photos to capture the growing sculptures. The arts committee worked with City of Manassas staff to locate sculpture pad sites for the projects and in April, the students visited the Historic Downtown to select their sites.

On May 6, 2016 during the Manassas First Friday Gallery Walk, these 10 pieces were unveiled to the public. An online map is available at www.manassascity.org/art. After a year these sculptures will be replaced by the next year’s art students’ projects.

The 2016 artists include Alex Dorney, Paige Fischer, Audrey D’agastinio, Hunter Knight, Frank Albert, Harry Mayer, Micheal Platequal, Harold Martin, Jessica Morales, Sarah Fischer, Christian Gallik, and Andrea Rivera. Some of the pieces were created specifically for the Historic Downtown, like Belle, a Civil War era lady or Danville, a train made of geometric shapes that represent the many trains that pass through the city. Others capture the artist’s imagination, like Distracted, a representation of a person staring at their cellphone.

The Sculpture project is part of an ongoing initiative by the City of Manassas to encourage art and artistic expression. Other art projects in the city include the Banner Art Competition, the Little Bits project and other competitions held throughout the year. To find out more, visit www.manassascity.org/art.

\[Image of sculptures being installed.\]
VRE hosted a series of meetings with area residents, elected officials, and local government staff during the month of April to gather feedback on the initial alternatives for the Gainesville-Haymarket Extension (GHX) study. Public meeting materials have been posted at www.vre.org/ghx.

The initial alternatives included various service plans, feasible station locations, and potential storage and maintenance facility locations. The service plans described the proposed number of trains, the frequency of service, the stations being served, and the end-of-line or terminus options. Estimated ridership, savings in vehicle miles traveled, and preliminary capital and operating costs for the alternatives were also presented to help weigh the benefits and drawbacks of each option.

Questions and comments received will help VRE identify a smaller set of alternatives for further refinement and evaluation. Another community meeting will be held in fall 2016 to review the results of this more detailed analysis. These efforts should bring the project closer to its final overall configuration, so that more detailed engineering and environmental analysis can take place later this year and next.

VRE welcomes you to share your thoughts on the best way to advance the GHX project toward construction and service start-up through the project website at www.vre.org/ghx, email ghx@vre.org, on Facebook at www.facebook.com/VRE.GHX, or Twitter @VRE_GHX.
Summer weather brings railroad heat and flood speed restrictions

Summertime can bring on hot and severe weather. Just as automobiles are sometimes required to lower speeds for various road and weather conditions, trains are subject to similar constraints. Heat and flood restrictions are orders given from the railroad dispatchers to train engineers requiring them to reduce their speed over a given section of track.

While flood restrictions are fairly self-explanatory, the need for heat restrictions tend to perplex many of our riders. The concern is over what are known as “sun kinks” as the steel rails expand and contract from rapid temperature increases and decreases throughout the day, or extremely high temperatures, which can also increase their likelihood. Careful engineering measurements are taken when rail is installed to account for rail expansion and contraction, but the heavy weight of the trains combined with extreme heat or temperature variability can set the steel molecules in motion causing unusual expansion. In the most extreme of cases this can cause the rail to “kink” out, which is a very hazardous condition for rail operations.

Our host railroads are diligent about safety on their tracks and send inspectors out when these kind of conditions exist. The track inspectors look for indications the track is under extreme compression and in danger of kinking. Signs include wrinkles in the track and disturbances of the ballast. When an actual kink or extremely high tension is found in the track, that section is taken out of service, repaired, and then put back into service as quickly as possible. That is why during the summer, as these repairs are made, we are sometimes limited on which tracks we can use.

While our host railroads are extremely thorough in their inspection of the tracks, it is impossible to mitigate every instance and the possibility, while slim, still exists that a kink will form before a piece of track can be taken out of service. That is why they also have strict policies in place on when conditions warrant the slowing of trains, known as a heat restriction, allowing greater time and distance to avoid a kink if one should happen.

At VRE, we strive to maintain high on-time performance as we know your time is valuable, but that will never trump safety. Our highest priority will always be the well-being of our riders, staff, and the general public. So if hot or severe weather is in the forecast, please keep in mind your commute may be affected. You can keep up to date on VRE through Train Talk email alerts, www.vre.org and VRE’s Twitter and Facebook pages.
N & W Class J 611 Steam Excursions from Manassas to Front Royal, June 4–5

The American is a half-day, 102 mile roundtrip through the rolling hills of Northern Virginia over the former Southern Railway tracks. Along with historic landmarks you’ll see vineyards representative of Virginia’s ever-growing wine industry. Continue your journey toward the Shenandoah River, and turn around on the wye along the river at Riverton Junction in Front Royal.

Visit FireUp611.org or call 1·800·310·4274 for details and to purchase tickets.

Brought to you by the Virginia Museum of Transportation. To learn more please visit www.vmt.org
John Kerins loves the railroad business, and especially the "hands-on" aspect of operations. Having worked in the freight and passenger railroad industries for over 30 years, this kind of passion is no surprise.

Passion is a big part of the railroad industry. "As a fourth generation railroad manager, I can tell you that no industry surpasses the rail industry in passion for the job," says John. "Most railroad employees truly love the industry and the people in it. I know I do."

Coming from a railroad family, John is the fourth generation to work in the railroad industry and has aspired to it ever since he was child. Getting his start in finance with Omaha’s Union Pacific Railroad after graduate school, he soon moved to his passion: railroad operations.

As a General Manager at Keolis North America, John is in charge of the operations and maintenance of the Virginia Railway Express (VRE). He oversees the conductors, engineers, and mechanical team to ensure safe and timely experiences, as well as manages the upkeep of trains and support facilities.

“We want to create a seamless experience for the customer. VRE has a reputation for high standards. It’s all about meeting and exceeding these high standards for customer service and safety,” says John.

The most rewarding part of the job for John is the positive feedback from customers about the VRE employees. “To most riders, Keolis employees are the face of VRE, and I’m always proud at the positive comments and survey results we get about them,” he said, continuing: “I’m lucky to have managers and employees at Keolis who are so dedicated and committed to their work, and who take it as a personal responsibility to see the VRE succeed.”

When he’s not working, John likes to golf and travel locally. His family recently moved to the area from Southern California and they enjoy exploring the rich history of Virginia. John’s favorite thing to do is spend time with his youngest daughter who has Down Syndrome. Together they take weekend trips to explore the Civil War history and scenic towns in the area. Spending as much time with her as he can always brings him joy.

Keolis is VRE’s contractor that maintains and operates VRE trains.

TRUST YOUR INSTINCTS WHEN IT COMES TO SAFETY

While most of us agree it’s important to report suspicious bags or behavior, we often stay silent. It can be hard to know what to look for or who to contact about it. You may be worried that it will turn out to be nothing, or that reaching out will cause your trip to be delayed. While all of these may be reasonable concerns, they can cause us to hesitate when we should be taking action. In these cases, it’s always better to be safe than sorry.

If you see something, say something™

It can be difficult to know what something suspicious looks like, but trust yourself when something doesn’t feel quite right. Take detailed notes, such as the train number or station name. Race, gender or religious affiliations are not indicators of suspicious behavior. Don’t be afraid to report something, even if you aren’t sure how serious it is.

Notify a police officer or transit personnel or call the police at either 1-877-4VA-TIPS or 911. 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.

Working together to report suspicious bags or behavior is our first line of defense against potential threats. For more information about how you can help keep your ride safe, visit SecureTransit.org.

This ad was purchased with funds provided by the US Department of Homeland Security.
TAKE ACTION ON TRANSPORTATION WITH TransAction

You already know that Northern Virginia has some of the worst traffic congestion in the country, but now you have a unique opportunity to get behind the wheel and guide the way toward the most critical transportation improvements over the next 25 years.

You are invited to participate in this important regional initiative, the update of TransAction, Northern Virginia’s regional transportation plan. The update is being conducted by the Northern Virginia Transportation Authority (NVTA) in coordination with regional agencies, localities and transportation service operators.

The TransAction plan will build upon your comments and suggestions, in addition to the latest available technical data, to develop a multimodal vision for Northern Virginia’s transportation system that includes a variety of efficient highway, rail, transit, ridesharing and commuter service program improvements. This vision will serve as the mechanism through which more than $1.7 billion will be allocated to regional transportation improvements from 2018 to 2023.

As your regional commuter rail service, we have developed a long range plan specific to Virginia Railway Express, and you can view it online at www.vre.org/projects-plans-facility/plans/2040. The VRE System Plan 2040 includes major improvements like the extension of new service to Gainesville and Haymarket, more frequent service along both the Manassas and Fredericksburg lines, and greater capacity for train seats and station parking throughout the system. Please consider VRE improvements as part of your TransAction project comments.

To ensure maximum public participation in this critical initiative, the NVTA will host spring workshops and pop-up events designed to gather feedback from people throughout the region. Between April and June, the TransAction project team will be out at more than a dozen locations, including transit stations, festivals, parades, community centers and other local gathering points.

Please plan to join the project team at any of the upcoming events listed below.

More information is available on the NVTA TransAction project website at www.nvtataction.org, where you can watch the project video, sign up for news, take a brief survey, read the latest planning documents, and share your questions and comments with the project team.

Our region’s strengths have attracted countless businesses, families and individuals to Northern Virginia over the past decades, outpacing our transportation capacity and creating major traffic congestion. Today, we have a great opportunity to shape our future transportation network and plan for the new economic growth and vitality that will continue to make Northern Virginia a great place to work and live for generations to come. Please take a moment to participate in TransAction and help shape our transportation future.

NVTA TRANSACTION TEAM IN-PERSON OUTREACH – SPRING 2016

WORKSHOPS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Manassas Park Community Center</td>
<td>May 21</td>
<td>10 a.m. –12 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Loudoun County Senior Center at Cascades</td>
<td>May 24</td>
<td>10 a.m. –12 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1776 in Crystal City (METRO)</td>
<td>June 16</td>
<td>7 – 9 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Providence District Office (METRO)</td>
<td>June 21</td>
<td>7 – 9 p.m.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

POP-UP EVENTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bike to Work Day, Market Square (METRO)</td>
<td>May 20</td>
<td>6:30 –8:30 a.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Purcellville Music and Arts Festival</td>
<td>May 21</td>
<td>2 – 4 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rock the Block, City of Fairfax</td>
<td>May 27</td>
<td>6 – 8 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Falls Church Memorial Day Parade and Festival</td>
<td>May 30</td>
<td>10 a.m. –2 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Manassas Heritage Railway Station Plaza (METRO)</td>
<td>June 4</td>
<td>10 a.m. –3 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ballston-MU Metrorail Station Plaza (METRO)</td>
<td>June 7</td>
<td>5 – 7 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Plaza at Wiehle-Reston Metrorail Station (METRO)</td>
<td>June 8</td>
<td>5 – 7 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Celebrate Fairfax, Upper Main Street</td>
<td>June 11</td>
<td>10 a.m. –12 p.m.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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### RAIL TIME PUZZLES

**ACROSS**
- 1 Five diamonds, perhaps
- 6 BOGO event
- 10 Light sprays
- 15 Top of the head
- 19 Cardiology concern
- 20 Tricky move
- 21 Impromptu
- 22 Preceder of history or hygiene
- 23 Being humbled
- 25 She might be beside herself
- 26 Lumber factory
- 27 Painless state
- 28 Not falling behind
- 30 Poetic dusk
- 31 Revealed, with "open"
- 33 Batwater tester
- 34 Thing with springs
- 39 Appetite enticements
- 43 Pilot’s affirmative
- 47 Developer’s map
- 48 Getting a walk or hit
- 51 IRS shelter
- 52 Nevada city
- 53 Has a share of
- 54 Mentally quick
- 55 Rah-rah
- 56 Moo goo ___ pan
- 57 Talk-show talking head
- 59 Used for dinnerware
- 60 End of Caesar’s boast
- 61 Electronic instruments, for short
- 63 Art sch. class
- 65 Exodus 19 locale
- 67 ___ step further (do more)
- 68 Snoopy’s fantasy identity
- 72 Time delay
- 73 What the Statue of Freedom tops

**DOWN**
- 1 Small statue at the FDR Memorial
- 2 Diving bird
- 3 Astronomical bear
- 4 Heel style
- 5 Dry-cleaner freebie
- 6 UV protection figures
- 7 Jail
- 8 Not widespread
- 9 Watch closely
- 10 Alexander’s realm
- 11 Loufing
- 12 Pick up some things
- 13 Novelist Morrison
- 14 Hound’s following
- 15 Ellen of Grey’s Anatomy
- 16 42 Down solo
- 17 Soft mineral
- 18 Glamour rival
- 19 Big-hearted
- 28 Japanese beer
- 29 45th Vice President
- 32 “That’s a relief!”
- 34 Digital video files: Abbr.
- 35 Set to rest
- 36 Happening
- 37 Stitched together
- 38 Memory’s winged footwear
- 40 Grp. in charge
- 41 French cleric
- 42 Strauss opera
- 44 In pursuit
- 45 Author Jong
- 46 Half-diameters
- 49 Nine-season CBS spinoff
- 50 In the mail
- 55 About birds
- 57 Cool, in the ’90s
- 58 Mai ___ cocktail
- 62 Works hard
- 64 Stick with a kick
- 66 Schedule opening
- 68 Sudden commotion
- 69 Movie power, perhaps
- 70 Carry on

**SUDOKU**

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 8 4 5 1 2 3 9 7 6
5 6 9 8 3 1 7 2 4
 2 1 3 4 9 8 6 5 7
3 7 5 9 1 4 8 2 6
 1 2 9 8 7 6 5 3 4
 7 9 8 5 2 1 3 4 6
6 3 2 4 5 7 1 9 8
 9 8 1 7 6 4 3 5 2
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**INTERJECTIONS**

“Waaa! Oh! Ouch! Hey!”

---

“Technically, Michael, the things your dad yelling at other drivers are exclamations, and we don’t need any more examples.”

---

RIDE Magazine | May 2016
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.

1-877-4VA-TIPS

IF YOU SEE SOMETHING, SAY SOMETHING.
securetransit.org

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