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NEW FRIENDS FOR LIFE

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FEATURES AND PRODUCTS VARY BY COMMUNITY. PRICE, OFFERS, FINANCING AND AVAILABILITY ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT NOTICE.
ATTENTION NEW RIDERS

New to VRE? Welcome aboard! This magazine is distributed on our trains monthly, and offers our riders insight on our current projects as well as information on area happenings. In addition to signing up for Train Talk alerts at vre.org, please use this magazine to stay informed.

FROM THE CEO

YES, WE ARE PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION

We are public transportation, and as such, we actively work with and receive regulatory oversight from several Federal agencies including the Federal Transit Administration (FTA), Federal Railroad Administration (FRA), Transportation Security Administration (TSA), and Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA).

Much of our work with these agencies is focused on safety and security, and is supported by a two-way dialogue. Sometimes we are responsible for reporting information to an agency, as with the FTA’s National Transit Database (NTD). The NTD serves as the American transit system’s repository of financial data including funding source information, as well as the repository of data pertaining to agency operating and asset conditions. NTD Data Reports – Agency Profiles and Summaries and Trends – are available at transit.dot.gov/ntd. NTD’s reports provide a great level of visibility and in pertaining to VRE, offer a snapshot of our annual passenger miles, weekday trips, and more.

As we are public transportation, we follow many standardized procedures and you have visibility into our activities. Coupling our team’s strong belief in customer service and transparency of performance results – we serve you, the rider. We’re always available for questions, and encourage you to reach out to us through our website, on our monthly Online Forum, or by giving us a call.

Sincerely,

DOUG ALLEN
Chief Executive Officer
Virginia Railway Express

DATES TO REMEMBER

Clifton Day: October 7th
Columbus Day (No VRE Service): October 8th
VRE Pop Up Event at Quantico: October 17th
As all VRE riders are aware, we have faced some major challenges in maintaining our high standard of On Time Performance (OTP) for the past few months. The environment in which we operate presents some unique conditions and we have built a reputation on being able to navigate those conditions and deliver a safe trip, while getting passengers to their destinations on time. We understand the frustration of our riders and continue to work with our host railroads to manage some of the causes of these delays.

On September 21st, we presented a summary of the delays along with the primary causes to the VRE Operations Board. The intent was not to make excuses, but to share the information simply to keep everyone better informed. We fully understand our riders generally do not care about the reasons why we are late, they just want to get to and from work on time. However in the interest of full disclosure, we thought sharing this information here may be beneficial.

We looked at March 2018 as an example of an average month. We had 47 delayed trains in March (delayed meaning more than five minutes late to their final destinations), resulting in a system OTP of 92%. The delayed trains were a reflection of the normal things we see on the railroad including some train interference from Amtrak and freight trains, a few signal and switch issues, and a few other minor routine issues.

Contrasting an average month (March) with July and August, we see the summer months with a spike in train interference, major issues with signals getting through the Amtrak tunnel into and out of Union Station, weather related delays, and speed restrictions due to track work. Please see the full list of delay causes below, and the number of corresponding late trains.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Cause of Delays</th>
<th>March</th>
<th>July</th>
<th>August</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Amtrak Signal Issues-Tunnel</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>67</td>
<td>51</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Weather (Heat/Flash Flood)</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>46</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Train Interference</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>71</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Switch/Signal Issues</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brush Fire</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CSX Tie Replacement</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KRSV (Keolis)</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Medical/Police</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Testing</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Passenger Handling</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Trains Delayed</td>
<td>47</td>
<td>161</td>
<td>210</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>On Time Performance</td>
<td>92%</td>
<td>76%</td>
<td>71%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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Once again, this information is being provided simply as information. VRE continues to work daily with our host railroads to help minimize these delays and get back to the reliability we have all come to expect. We would like to thank all of our riders for their patience and understanding as we work through these issues.
**Amtrak Signal Issues**

The summer’s storms led to saturated electrical and signal equipment in the tunnel leading to Union Station. The water caused improper Track Occupancy Lights to appear in the signal system. Those improper indications simulated the presence of a train, which required trains to be given permission by the signals, and to proceed at an extremely slow speed. This resulted in delays and congestion coming in and out of Union Station. Amtrak is working to solve the issue with the signal system.

**Weather**

Speed restrictions due to heat are not unusual during the summer, but this year has also seen multiple occurrences of flash flood speed restrictions, and high wind warnings which require trains to stop completely.

**Train Interference**

As mentioned previously, there will always be some level of interference from other trains. However, the delays VRE has experienced recently are largely attributable to two factors.

First, is the ongoing impact of a CSX derailment south of Alexandria back in May. While the loss of track one south of Alexandria to Springfield does not directly impact VRE’s ability to operate, the railroad’s inability to put freight trains on track one in Springfield has meant freight trains crossing in front of VRE trains at the Alexandria/Franconia (AF) interlocking. AF is also the point where VRE’s Fredericksburg and Manassas Lines merge. Adding the freight trains to the mix there has added to congestion and has limited the railroad’s ability to recover from disruptions which do occur. CSX continues to work on restoring track one and the bridge which was damaged by the derailment, and anticipates having work completed at the end of the year.

The second factor in the summer’s raised train interference numbers was the derailment in the Amtrak tunnel on August 2nd. The incident occurred just prior to our afternoon service, and impacted nearly every VRE train because we were unable to get the trains from the storage yard north of Union Station and pass to head south. We were also unable to stop most trains at the platforms in Union Station, so many riders who typically board at Union had to get to L’Enfant. The number of trains delayed and the length of those delays combined to make August 2nd VRE’s worst day ever for total delay minutes.

**CSX Tie Replacement**

Fredericksburg riders have seen the many ties stacked along the railroad. This particular project is much larger than most we have seen, with CSX replacing over 30,000 ties in a 30 mile stretch of railroad. Once the ties and ballast are replaced, speed restrictions are placed on the specific track until a set tonnage passes over the area to allow the area to settle properly. The work is completed overnight so the tracks are available for VRE trains in the morning, but the speed restrictions remain in place until enough traffic can be routed over those tracks. The challenge for VRE is most of our platforms are on track 2, and the initial phase of the project was done on track 2, requiring VRE trains to abide by the speed restrictions. That’s why some passengers may have seen other trains running on Track 3 at regular speed.
One of Northern Virginia’s favorite fall events, the Clifton Day Festival, will take place on Sunday, October 7th from 9 am to 5 pm in the scenic town of Clifton.

**Vendors & Activities**

Under the theme “Small-town charm, big-time fun,” the 2018 festival will feature a marketplace with around 150 artisans, antique dealers, vintage sellers and other vendors. Live music, children’s activities, pony rides, a beer & wine garden and other delicious food and beverage choices will add to the fun.

This year’s festival will also include a display of LOVEwork letters provided by the Virginia Tourism Corporation. Visitors can take selfies with the eight-foot-tall LOVE letters, which will be located on Ayre Square at the corner of Main Street and Chapel Road.

**Festival History**

The Clifton Day Festival, hosted by the Clifton Betterment Association (CBA), arose from a 1960s revitalization effort for the historic town of Clifton, which had fallen into a state of disrepair since its incorporation in 1902. Residents decided to hold a festival in 1967 as a way to attract the public to the place they called home. The annual festival, now in its 51st year, has been going strong ever since on the Sunday before Columbus Day.

Each year, Clifton Day raises funds for the Girl and Boy Scouts, Clifton Lions Club, Acacia Lodge, the Clifton Presbyterian Church and other nonprofit groups. Sponsors for 2018 include F.H. Furr Plumbing, Heating, Air Conditioning & Electrical; Norfolk Southern; Ourisman Fairfax Toyota; Peterson Companies; Republic; United Bank; Villagio Hospitality Group; and VRE.

**Admission & Getting There**

Admission is free. Parking starts at five dollars per car. VRE will provide roundtrip train service to Clifton from all stops between Manassas and Rolling Road. The train ride to Clifton is free, and the return trip costs $5 per person (children under age two ride free).

For more information about Clifton Day, visit cliftonday.com or the festival’s Facebook page.
BURKE VOLUNTEER FIRE & RESCUE DEPARTMENT

Each Wednesday, Regular BINGO sessions start at 7:45pm
9501 Old Burke Lake Rd, Burke, VA 22015
Doors open at 5:30 p.m. and Early Bird games begin at 7:00 p.m. The Regular session follows and typically begins between 7:45 pm – 8:00 pm. In addition to 10 Early Bird games and 21 regular session bingo games during the evening, the department also plays a Progressive game, Pick 7, and a end of the night, cover-all Jackpot for $1,000.

36TH ANNUAL MANASSAS FALL JUBILEE

October 6, 10:00 am - 5:00 pm
Historic Downtown Manassas
Center Street, Manassas, VA 20110
This year’s Jubilee will include an assortment of fun for both kids and adults with over 100 crafter and community booths, live music and entertainment, and more! The Fall Jubilee is free to the public. Bring the family out for a day of fun – play games, shop at unique crafter booths, and so much more!

23RD ANNUAL ART SAFARI

October 13, 12:00 pm - 4:00 pm
Torpedo Factory Art Center, 105 N. Union St.
Alexandria, VA 22314
An Alexandria tradition for more than two decades, Art Safari returns for a day of hands-on activities for kids and families. Dozens of artists lead budding arts enthusiasts in hands-on projects throughout the building. Children should wear clothing that can get a little dirty. Most activities are appropriate for ages 5 ~ 11. Some parental participation may be required.

UMW PHILHARMONIC

FIDDLESTIX INSTRUMENT PETTING ZOO

October 27, 3:00 pm – 5:00 pm
Dodd Auditorium, 1301 College Ave
Fredericksburg, Virginia 22401
The Fiddlestix Instrument Petting Zoo will be a Halloween event on Saturday, Oct 27, 2018 from 3:00 pm – 5:00 pm in Dodd Auditorium. Kids and families will meet the principal players of the Philharmonic orchestra up close and personal. The musicians will demonstrate each instrument for the kids, who will get a chance to try them out. Dr. Bartram will also be giving conducting lessons on stage! There will be games and lots of fun. The event will conclude with a brief concert for the kids. No reservation or tickets required.

COMMUNITY UPDATE

“Spooktacular”
Fiddlestix Halloween Concert and Instrument Petting Zoo
Meet the instruments of the orchestra starting at 3pm followed by a Halloween concert at 4pm!
Saturday, Oct. 27
from 3 - 5 pm
Dodd Auditorium
FREE and Open to the Public!
COSTUMES ARE ENCOURAGED!

umwphilharmonic.com 540-654-1324

Manager – Safety and Security
Warehouse Specialist
Warehouse Intern

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Sr. VanPool Program Associate
Voters Who Commute on Election Day:

Commuters are eligible to vote by absentee ballot in advance of Election Day. Commuters can use Reason Codes 1C, 1D, or 1E.

www.vote.virginia.gov

Vote by Mail: You can vote in the comfort of your own home by having a ballot mailed to you. In order to have a ballot mailed to you, voters must fill out and submit an application to the Office of Elections. Apply for your mail ballot online at the Virginia Department of Elections > Ways to Vote > Vote Absentee by Mail.

Vote at a Prince William County Absentee Vote Center: Voters who plan to visit an Absentee Vote Center do not need to submit an application online beforehand. Simply show up at the Vote Center most convenient for you with your Photo ID. All Vote Centers are open 8:30am to 5:00pm. Visit pwcvotes.com for a complete schedule including Saturday hours.

Prince William County Absentee Vote Center Locations:

Main Office of Elections
9250 Lee Avenue, Suite 1, Manassas, VA 20110

DMV Office of Elections
2731 Caton Hill Road, Woodbridge, VA 22192

Haymarket Gainesville Community Library
14780 Lightner Road, Haymarket, VA 20169

LAST DAY TO VOTE ABSENTEE
Saturday November 3
All Vote Centers open 8:30am to 5:00pm

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NEXT SUMMER'S PROPOSED FARE INCREASE

Each summer, we begin preparing the budget for the following fiscal year based on known factors and educated forecasts. In order to sustainably and equitably support the costs of providing our service, the VRE Operations Board has directed that passenger fares and jurisdictional subsidy contributions should be increased in alternating years. Following a jurisdictional subsidy increase in Fiscal Year 2019, we are proposing a 3% average fare increase for Fiscal Year 2020. This proposed increase will help VRE continue to meet its requirement of covering at least 50% of our operating costs through ticket sales.

Any increases will not go into effect before July 1, 2019, which is the beginning of our next fiscal year.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Example Ticket</th>
<th>Current</th>
<th>Proposed</th>
<th>Difference</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Monthly Pass: Spotsylvania to Union</td>
<td>$327.60</td>
<td>$336.80</td>
<td>$9.20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monthly Pass: Broad Run to Union</td>
<td>$268.60</td>
<td>$277.20</td>
<td>$8.60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monthly Pass: Backlick to Union</td>
<td>$209.60</td>
<td>$216.20</td>
<td>$6.60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Single Ride: Spotsylvania to Union</td>
<td>$11.90</td>
<td>$12.15</td>
<td>$0.25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Single Ride: Broad Run to Union</td>
<td>$9.80</td>
<td>$10.00</td>
<td>$0.20</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

50% FAREBOX RECOVERY

VRE must maintain a 50% farebox recovery ratio in accordance with our Master Agreement. This means that fare revenues must cover at least 50% of all operating costs. The remaining operating costs are covered by jurisdictional subsidies and other grants.

OPERATING BUDGET & OUTSIDE FACTORS

We carefully develop our budget each year and look for ways to reduce costs while still delivering safe and reliable service. However, there are factors beyond our control that tend to increase our costs each year. These factors include implementation of the federally-mandated Positive Train Control (PTC) system as well as contractual increases in track access fees and train operations.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

VRE will hold a series of public hearings starting this month on the proposed 3% average fare increase. VRE staff will review the proposed fare increase in the context of VRE’s preliminary Fiscal Year 2020 budget, and members of the public will have an opportunity to provide comments. These public comments will be compiled along with written comments that VRE receives. The members of the VRE Operations Board will be provided the comments prior to a decision on the final Fiscal Year 2020 budget in December. A full date and location list is available on our website at: vre.org/publiccomment

For those who are unable to attend a public hearing but would like to learn more, a copy of the presentation is also available on our website.

Written comments will be accepted through Friday, November 23, 2018. Mail written comments to: Public Comment, 1500 King Street, Suite 202, Alexandria, Virginia 22314. Comments may also be submitted to: publiccomment@vre.org or via fax at (703) 684-1313.
BACKPACK, OR SMACK-ATTACK?

Backpacks are common with commuters as backpacks naturally make it easy to carry everything needed for the ride. You may be surprised however that while your backpack is convenient for you, it may be inconvenient for your fellow riders at times.

We receive requests each month to remind riders to be mindful of their backpacks. It seems too often, unsuspecting riders are bumped and knocked by a backpack being hurriedly thrown on or quickly spun around.

Additionally, backpacks and other bags should not be placed in empty seats while new riders are boarding, unless there is a corresponding (second) validated ticket.

Please note we appreciate you and your backpack, and appreciate that you have chosen us for your commute ... but we do ask that all backpack wearers make sure they are considerate of fellow riders.

Get Noticed With VRE Advertising

Reach our passengers with advertising opportunities on our platforms, in our trains and through our award-winning RIDE Magazine. 70 percent of passengers have an annual household income of more than $100,000.

For more information, visit: vre.org/advertising

Contact: advertising@vre.org (703) 838-5417

PUZZLE SOLUTIONS

Ideas, Likes, Critiques?
RIDE Magazine Online Survey: vre.org/ridesurvey
RAIL TIME PUZZLES

ACROSS
1 Elegant quality
6 Six-Emmy Alan
15 Poet Angelou
19 Strive for
20 County of Hawaii
21 Online payment option
22 Higuest level
23 Scott Adams' job before Dilbert
25 John Adams' new home in 1800
27 One way to leave the airport
28 Sunshade
30 Musical talent
31 Telfate sign of a shark
32 Building supports
33 They're essential to email addresses
37 Aggregated
41 Cuban "line" dance
42 HS exam
43 "Alley ..."
44 Construction 32 Across
45 Ansel Adams' field
47 Wall St. takeover
48 Squarerish
49 "Midley" rock group
50 Is in debt
51 Middle of the fifth century
52 Unrefined
53 John Quincy Adams' post-presidential job
57 Shape of some
58 Eroded
59 Betting stats
60 Citi Field player
61 Ctr. of many small towns
62 Flatten
64 Congestion setting
65 On the way out
66 Had discussions
67 Preliminary races
69 Very much
70 __ cit. (footnote notation)
71 Lois Lane colleague
72 "Audience" for
73 Douglas Adams' Guide to the Galaxy
76 Yoko
77 Two state trees
78 Innate talent
79 Four and five
80 Genesis shepherd
81 Relaxing resort
82 Edie Adams' spouse and partner in comedy
83 Unhandy
87 Vb. designation
88 Obscures, with "up"
89 Written permanently
90 Twitches
91 Curt denial
92 Thug
96 "Mambo ..."
98 Harry Potter pal
99 __ nova (Brazilian dance)
102 Institute (Patch Adams medical facility)
103 Library endurance
106 Character in
108 Metal in magnets
109 Be melodramatic
110 Just hanging around
111 Smoothie flavor
112 Wine (act)
113 Poet Mark Van __
114 Auction signals
115 Beasts of burden
116 Crumple up, so to speak
117 Crumple up, so to speak
118 "To __ not to ...
119 How gazpacho is served
120 Pilot projections
122 Revs
123 Bus Stop dramatist
124 What flatterly feeds
125 Band's date
126 Ship's old name
127 Managed care grp.

DOWN
1 USCG rank
2 Former money in Milan
3 Frenzied
4 Herb in some stuffing
5 Attacks from above
6 Mid east capital
7 Mary follower
8 Expected soon
9 Circulation aid
10 Time, for one
11 Spanish
12 Indian-born director
13 Winter hrs. in Oregon
14 Spotted speedsters
15 New Zealand natives
16 Simpson's shopkeeper
17 "May I help you?"
18 Firefighting tool
19 Corrosive
20 Too fast
21 Shakespearean schemer
22 Unhappy spectator
23 Rocky Mountain resort
24 Two film awards won by Amy Adams
25 Blue bloods
26 Went bad, in Britain
27 Only inanimate zodiac sign
28 WWII sub
29 Don Adams' TV spy role
30 Be too interested
31 Steam engine sounds
32 Handle roughly
33 Gear shift letters
34 Apples for baking
35 Needing deciphering
36 Facial feature
37 Assembly of witches
38 1940s computer
39 Electronic instrument, for short
40 Crumple up, so to speak
41 Bides one's time
42 And to all a good-night" poet
43 Nightclub
44 Scraps (out)
45 Number of hills of Rome
46 Secluded valleys
47 Hammers at an angle
48 NFLer's honor
49 Stereo systems
50 Get ... out of (savor)
51 Early afternoon
52 Stallions-to-be
53 Depend (on)
54 Making no sense
55 Sensible and well-balanced
56 Santa __ CA
57 Actor Zac
58 New York senator
59 Gillibrand
60 Difficult duty
61 Thalmic, for instance
62 Beach of Rio
63 Jellybean
64 Main stem of a sycamore
65 Nightclub
66 Matching socks
67 To __ not to ...
68 __ 104
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SUDOKU

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"Fine, have it your way. About your mother tell me."
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#35202

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