There’s a lot to love about our well-appointed Tidewater homes—now welcoming families to Potomac Shores. Choose from five new neighborhoods by two national builders. Traditional and main-level living with indoor/outdoor floorplans. Over a dozen home designs with two to seven bedrooms. And golf or forest views. It’s resort-style living only 30 miles from DC. Where every home comes with an exquisite community. VRE Station on track.

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There’s a lot to love about our well-appointed Tidewater homes—now welcoming families to Potomac Shores. Choose from five new neighborhoods by two national builders. Traditional and main-level living with indoor/outdoor floorplans. Over a dozen home designs with two to seven bedrooms. And golf or forest views. It’s resort-style living only 30 miles from DC. Where every home comes with an exquisite community. VRE Station on track.
FRENCH TALL SHIP L’HERMIONE TO VISIT ALEXANDRIA

VRE PARTICIPATES IN NTSB AND AMTRAK SAFETY AND SECURITY EVENTS

JOIN VRE FOR MEET THE MANAGEMENT

IMPROVING RAIL SERVICE FROM WASHINGTON TO RICHMOND

THE VIRGINIA ASSOCIATION OF RAILWAY PATRONS WORKS FOR YOU

SPOTLIGHT ON KEOLIS

MEET THE MANAGEMENT

Every spring, VRE launches our Meet the Management events at our five busiest destination stations. Meet the Management enables me and our VRE team the opportunity to personally meet you, our passengers, and listen to your suggestions and ideas to improve VRE.

In April, we hosted our first Meet the Management event at Washington’s Union Station. We will be at the following stations for evening trains in the upcoming weeks:

- Wednesday, May 13 - L’Enfant
- Wednesday, May 20 - Crystal City
- Wednesday, May 27 - Alexandria
- Wednesday, June 3 - Franconia/Springfield

We will be serving refreshments, giving away promotional items and hosting hands-on demos showcasing VRE Mobile, our new mobile ticketing app, launching later this month.

Additionally, throughout May we will be hosting demos of VRE Mobile during all morning trains at several stations. More details about these demos and VRE Mobile can be found on the back cover of this month’s RIDE magazine.

If you cannot join us for Meet the Management, VRE offers several ways to share your suggestions and concerns through our monthly online forum, Facebook and Twitter accounts and annual passenger surveys. Additionally, 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 hope to see you at Meet the Management as we value your feedback. Please stop by and say hello.

DOUG ALLEN
Chief Executive Officer
Virginia Railway Express

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DOUG ALLEN
Chief Executive Officer
Virginia Railway Express

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FRENCH TALL SHIP L’HERMIONE TO VISIT ALEXANDRIA IN REENACTMENT OF HISTORIC VOYAGE
ALEXANDRIA CELEBRATES 3-DAY VISIT WITH 10 DAYS OF FRENCH-THEMED EVENTS

This summer, visitors to Alexandria can explore an exact replica of the ship that brought the Marquis de Lafayette to George Washington with news of full French aid in 1780, helping turn the tide of the American Revolution. French tall ship L’Hermione will sail 3,819 miles across the Atlantic from France to the U.S. to commemorate Lafayette’s historic voyage before docking in Alexandria, the ship’s regional port of call and one of 12 iconic stops on its tour.

On June 10–12, Alexandria will host free public tours of L’Hermione, while celebrating Alexandria’s French connections for 10 days, June 5–14, with special lectures, an historic ball at Gadsby’s Tavern, and special French offerings from Alexandria restaurants. Also, from June 10–12, in addition to sailor-guided tours of the ship itself, visitors can take part in pier-side activities including historic shipbuilding demonstrations, costumed characters and a traveling exhibition that tells the story of L’Hermione, its reconstruction, and Lafayette’s role in the American Revolution.

In May, leading up to the June visit, the Alexandria-Caen Sister City Committee presents a Lafayette lecture at the George Washington Masonic National Memorial on Thursday, May 14, and a special ‘Lafayette in Alexandria’ Day will take place on Sunday, May 31 from 1–5 p.m., featuring free open houses at nine Alexandria museums and a 1 p.m. kick-off at Market Square with the launch of the web-based game Tides of Revolution: The Hermione Game.

For more information and tickets go to www.VisitAlexandriaVA.com/hermione.
VRE PARTICIPATES IN NTSB AND AMTRAK SAFETY AND SECURITY EVENTS

The National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) recently held a public forum on the dangers of trespassing on the railroad right-of-way.

In 2013, 476 people were killed and 432 were injured in trespassing accidents, according to preliminary data from the Federal Railroad Administration.

NTSB’s forum, “Trains and Trespassing: Ending Tragic Encounters” drew on the expertise of railroads, regulators, and researchers, including Greg Deibler, VRE’s Manager of System Safety and Security, to review the diversity of trespassing accidents and incidents and look at current and future prevention strategies. Additionally, the forum featured speakers who have been seriously injured by trains and focused on communities that have been affected.

“Railroad trespassing will not begin to abate until the sense that the railroad is a dangerous place to be, under any circumstances becomes culturally ingrained,” Deibler noted at the forum.

Additionally on April 24, Amtrak, in coordination with VRE and area first responders, participated in a simulated incident in the First Street Tunnel at Washington’s Union Station, to test communications, drill coordination and response efforts should an emergency occur.

The exercise simulated an incident between an Amtrak and a VRE train. The simulated incident tested the coordination of information and resources among multiple agencies, examined procedures and response and assessed implementation of the incident command system during an actual emergency. Following the exercise, participating agencies conducted an after action review.

“These types of drills are important, as our region’s railroads and first responders must always be fully prepared to successfully manage a major emergency,” said Deibler.

VRE has frequent safety and security drills. VRE’s safety and security strategies take a system wide approach to create one community dedicated to the safety and security of VRE as a rail system. Learn more about VRE’s commitment to safety and security at www.vre.org/safety.

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Meet the Management is VRE’s opportunity to show our appreciation for you, our loyal passengers. During this time, VRE management visits a different station every week on Wednesday evenings, bringing refreshments for everyone. The goal is to meet our passengers in person to hear any questions, complaints or comments they may have. Please note that “Meet the Management” events are held during all evening trains.

Upcoming Dates:

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<tr>
<th>DATE</th>
<th>TIME</th>
<th>STATION</th>
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<tr>
<td>Wed., May 13</td>
<td>3:15–6:56 PM</td>
<td>L’Enfant</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wed., May 20</td>
<td>3:20–7:01 PM</td>
<td>Crystal City</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wed., May 27</td>
<td>3:30–7:08 PM</td>
<td>Alexandria</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wed., June 3</td>
<td>3:50–7:11 PM</td>
<td>Franconia/Springfield</td>
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**Men Your Health Matters. Get Checked!**

**FREE Prostate Cancer Screening**

**Wednesday, June 10, 2015**

Inova Alexandria Hospital Atrium
4320 Seminary Road
Alexandria, VA 22304

**FREE Screening**
5:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.
PSA (blood test screening for prostate cancer) and DRE (digital rectal exam) performed by Inova Alexandria Hospital physicians.

Prostate cancer is the most frequently diagnosed cancer in men and the second leading cause of cancer-related death in men. One in six men will develop prostate cancer at some point in their lives.

Special Note:
This free prostate screening event has been moved up earlier in the year. There will not be an additional free prostate screening in September.

Appointments are required. Call 703.504.7025 to register.
The Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation is working in conjunction with the Federal Railroad Administration on a project to increase the speed and frequencies of Amtrak service between Washington and Richmond while also bringing benefits for VRE passengers.

The Washington-to-Richmond VA (DC2RVA) segment of the federally-designated Southeast High Speed Rail Corridor is the northernmost part of a five-state network of higher speed rail corridor under development stretching southward from Washington through Richmond to Raleigh, Charlotte, Atlanta and Jacksonville. Track and signal improvements for the Southeast High Speed Rail Corridor will provide capacity for more trains operating at speeds up to 110 miles per hour.

The current DC2RVA study focuses on improvements to the 115-mile CSX Transportation (CSXT) railroad line between Arlington and Richmond shared by CSXT freight trains and passenger trains operated by Amtrak and VRE. These improvements are complementary to those recommended in the VRE System Plan 2040. The ultimate goal of both plans is to increase speeds, capacity and reliability for all three carriers in the corridor, offering travelers more and better transportation choices.

The proposed changes in the DC2RVA segment would result in the construction of additional tracks, easing curves and improving switches and signals. VRE is working in collaboration with DC2RVA to also add second platforms to all of its Fredericksburg Line stations including grade-separated pedestrian walkways and elevators to improve safety and further enhance corridor capacity. Collectively, the DC2RVA and VRE improvements will create a faster, more flexible rail line for more efficient and reliable operation of all passenger and freight trains in the corridor.

The DC2RVA project team invites you to public meetings to discuss the current planning efforts, learn about the alternatives screening process and initial rail alignment options, and provide your feedback. With your input, these options will be narrowed and evaluated in greater detail in an Environmental Impact Statement. These identical open house meetings will be held from 5:00 to 7:30 p.m. at:

<table>
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<tr>
<th>ALEXANDRIA</th>
<th>FREDERICKSBURG</th>
<th>RICHMOND</th>
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<tr>
<td>Monday, June 1</td>
<td>Tuesday, June 2</td>
<td>Wednesday, June 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hilton Alexandria</td>
<td>Dorothy Hart Community Center</td>
<td>Department of Motor Vehicles</td>
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<tr>
<td>Old Town 1767 King St.</td>
<td>408 Canal St.</td>
<td>2300 W. Broad St.</td>
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Don't miss this opportunity to help select the best options for improved passenger rail service.

For more information and to stay connected, visit DC2RVA’s project website at www.DC2RVArail.com and connect on social media (Facebook: DC2RVArail and Twitter: @DC2RVArail).
VA RAIL UPDATE

THE VIRGINIA ASSOCIATION OF RAILWAY PATRONS WORKS FOR YOU

By Dick Peacock, VARP Secretary

Since 1980, the Virginia Association of Railway Patrons (VARP), a non-profit and volunteer-led organization, has worked for better and expanded rail service in Virginia and West Virginia.

In 1980, VARP fought the cutbacks that threatened Amtrak's Cardinal service going between Washington and Chicago. In the 1990's, VARP was a leader to establish VRE. In the late 2000's, VARP was part of a group that established new Amtrak train service to Lynchburg, Norfolk and Richmond.

Another goal of VARP is to have high-speed passenger service on the Washington-Richmond-Charlotte corridor.

Furthermore, VARP works for better and more rail rapid transit including Metro's new Silver Line in Northern Virginia.

Besides communicating its goals to elected officials and rail operators, VARP provides public information, hosting displays at events such as the Manassas Railway Festival in June. The group also hosts an annual meeting at varying locations in the region.

Earlier this year, VARP held a joint meeting in Alexandria with members of the National Association of Railroad Passengers (NARP), with presentations by Amtrak, the Maryland Transit Administration and VRE. VARP works closely with other rail advocates, including NARP, Virginians for High Speed Rail, Piedmont Rail Coalition and Friends of the Cardinal. Membership in VARP is open to all individuals or organizations who believe in better rail service for Virginia and West Virginia. You can learn more about VARP at www.varprail.org.

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MEET RANDY ANDES

Randy Andes, an assistant conductor for the VRE, truly embodies the phrase, “hard work pays.”

Born and raised in Manassas, Randy began his working life as a teenager, bouncing from job to job at various grocery stores and working on the night cleaning crew at a local office building. Wanting more from life and his career, Randy began searching for more permanent, meaningful work.

The opportunity he was looking for appeared in 2008. Drummac, Inc., a company that specializes in rail car repair, cleaning and maintenance, was hiring passenger car cleaners for its VRE contract. Randy applied, got the job, and jumpstarted a new career in the railroad industry.

“I liked trains as a little kid and the job was cleaning coach cars, so I thought, maybe this is something I should run with,” he said. “I got the job and put all my hard work and ambition into being the best I could be.”

It didn’t take long for Randy to hit his stride. By 2010, he had graduated to a mechanical team servicing trains in the rail yard, and in 2011, achieved the rating of Qualified Mechanical Person (QMP). In his position as QMP, Randy served as a dispatcher, preparing trains for the morning commute.

Recently, Randy achieved another milestone becoming an assistant conductor, a job he very much enjoys. Assisting passengers and his fellow conductors to ensure a safe and enjoyable journey is a fulfilling role, he says. He also relishes the opportunity to work with top-notch equipment. “Our double-decker cars are pretty cool,” he noted.

“I liked trains as a little kid and the job was cleaning coach cars, so I thought, maybe this is something I should run with.” – Randy

Above all, Randy stays focused on his work and his family. “I’ve worked my way up through the ranks, working really hard, and trying to be successful,” he said. “I really enjoy working for VRE. They’ve given me the chance to grow and excel.”

When he’s not on the clock, Randy enjoys rehashing the day’s events with his son, a fellow train enthusiast. He also revels in attending his children’s sporting events.

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Keolis is VRE’s contractor that maintains and operates VRE trains.
In May
Big Stars Come to Play
at Fredericksburg’s
Very Own Cabaret
May 30th show is already sold out
act now to secure a high-class Cabaret night.

Sat. May 9
Mothers’ Day with
Shirleta Settles
performing music from
Etta to Aretha

Sat. May 16
Ayreheart
Folk, Celtic & Bluegrass
Centuries Collide

Sat. May 23
Jimi Simon
and the NuReVaLuShEn
A Magical Tour of
Woodstock to Motown

Dinner Seatings 6:00-7:30 | Performance 8:00-10:30

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VRE DAY PASS
Starting on May 1, 2015, VRE has replaced the current 2-Ride ticket with a Day Pass. The Day Pass is valid for the entire calendar day, so it is a round-trip ticket. Now, you will only need to validate one time in the morning and your ticket will be good for the full day. The Day Pass price is equal to the 2-Ride ticket, it is just more convenient. If your return trip is on a different day, the Single-Ride ticket is still your best option.

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RAIL TIME PUZZLES

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Arriving Soon: VRE Mobile

Soon you will be able to buy and use VRE tickets and passes instantly on your smartphone – anytime, anywhere!

• No paper tickets to keep track of

• No need to stop at a vendor location or ticket vending machine

• Split payment between two cards, or a card and SmartBenefits℠

• Purchase tickets at your convenience, then just validate before boarding the train

Upcoming VRE Mobile Demos:

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<tr>
<th>DATE</th>
<th>TIME</th>
<th>STATION</th>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday, May 12</td>
<td>5:10–8:05 AM</td>
<td>Quantico</td>
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<td>Tuesday, May 19</td>
<td>4:41–7:56 AM</td>
<td>Manassas</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday, May 26</td>
<td>4:35–7:50 AM</td>
<td>Broad Run</td>
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