

VRTA NEWS AND VIEWS

Volume 1, Issue II

2nd Quarter 2004

Special points of interest:

- Golf Tournament success
- Bowl-A-Thon Results
- Information about the newly formed Accident Review Committee
- CTAV Scholarship winner Zechariah Daniel Jones
- Congratulations to Mr. Kassaye Demena
- Various Regional News

Front Royal and the Leesburg Trolley



A prototype model for the new trolley system that will operate along Leesburg's "blue" route, which will connect the downtown area with the outlet mall.

occurring in the City of Front Royal, Virginia. At some point between September 1 and October 1, transit services will start within the Town of Front Royal. The Town of Front Royal and VRTA are both very excited about instituting transit services within the Town.

In the upcoming months there will be many new changes

In Leesburg there are plans to modify the existing fixed

route service by shifting service from 6 routes to 3 individual routes. The decision to make this change was made after a series of discussions with passengers and drivers. It will allow for more efficient transportation within Leesburg—headways will be 30 minutes. There are also plans to convert the existing Leesburg outlet mall route into a more enticing Trolley-car service.

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The Accident Review Committee: Reborn

The VRTA Administrative staff has decided to reinstate the accident review committee. Donna Ferrell will serve as the new committee chair and John Ben-nick, Elena Yeger and Tommy Thompson will serve as committee members.

The resurrected committee is in the process of formulating a mission statement,

which will include committee goals and structure.

The committee was disbanded approximately four or five months ago. General Manager Michael Socha says that "the original Accident Review Committee was disbanded pending changes in the organizational structure of the company." Donna Ferrell assures VRTA

staff and drivers that the new committee will increase awareness of problems associated with accidents by reviewing accidents in depth. In turn this will prevent future accidents before they occur.



What's happening?

AIM Account Phone

The phone number published for the employee AIM account (our simple IRA) was incorrect. The correct number is (877)-384-7355. Hit ** to get out of the automated sequence and speak with a representative.

Bowl-A-Thon Results



The Bowl-A-Thon raised approximately \$3,000. Close to 60 people participated in the event, which was an increase from last year's 40 people. The event was a great success and there will be more

like it to come in the near future.



Driving Tip of the Month

July is often accompanied by sudden and frequent rainstorms. The first five minutes of any rainstorm cause road surfaces to become slick (oil and water accumulate on road surfaces). VRTA cautions all drivers to anticipate these conditions.

6th Annual Golf Tournament

The 6th Annual VRTA Golf

Classic turned out to be a great success. The tournament raised approximately \$10,000. Money raised from the tournament will fund transportation expenses for the upcoming 2004 Babe Ruth World Series, which will be held in Loudoun County. Tom Ahalt's Mobile Repairs team took first place with a score of 58 and DBA Architects came in at a close second with a score of 60. Bay Transit came in at third place with a score of 62.

Congratulations and thanks go out to all winners, participants and sponsors.

West Central Virginia District

In early May Transit Manager, Lori Wicka toured Warrenton by bus with three of the City's new Council members. During the tour, council members were given an update of VRTA's progress and future goals. In the second week of May, Lori attended her first Culpeper-area TAC committee meeting as a VRTA employee. She has been able to make a very smooth transition into the group. Culpeper's Town

Planner, John Lassiter has said that he is looking forward to a wonderful relationship as he works with Lori on many of the County and Town-wide transit projects. All computer systems were up and running in the Warrenton office soon after Lori took

over in late April, which has helped staff there tremendously.

"I want to thank all of the staff for their hard work and I think it's great that we can give a raise in the middle of the year and I wish it could be more."



Lori Wicka has helped to keep the West Central Virginia District moving in the right direction.

Mountain District

Transit services in Page County and the surrounding area have progressed and improved very well in recent months. In other news, the former Transit Advisory Committee Chair for Page County, Ms. Tina Sumpter has resigned from her position as Director of the Office of Economic Development. She has been replaced by Chris Anderson. A regional goal of 30 riders by late

June has been set for the Mountain District.

During Page County's *Mayfest*, John Maher continued to foster relations between VRTA and the greater Page area as he passed out schedules, brochures and answered community questions. John has participated in meetings with Page

County localities and the area's surrounding colleges. Transit services within the mountain district are expected to grow and expand in the upcoming months and years.



John Maher works to foster a mutual relationship between the greater Page community and VRTA.

PEOPLE IN THE NEWS

Zechariah Daniel Jones is Awarded CTAV Scholarship



Mark McGregor presents Zechariah Jones with this year's \$1,000 CTAV Scholarship.

Zechariah Jones was named as the 2004 recipient of the Community Transportation Association of Virginia Scholarship. Mark McGregor, President of the CTAV presented Zechariah with the \$1,000 award at the Riverheads

High School Award ceremony. Zechariah recently graduated from Riverheads High School in Augusta County and is also the son of Mountain District driver Mr. Jerome Jones. Mr. Jerome Jones operates a trolley in Staunton. Zechariah belongs to a family of thirteen children and will go on to continue his studies next fall at the University of Virginia. Congratulations to Zechariah, Jerome and the rest of the Jones family!

CTAV Rodeo Highlights



Sharon Kennedy, Barbara Bush, Tiny Alston, and Alice Nelson at the CTAV Rodeo.

At this year's CTAV Driver's Rodeo some VRTA drivers showcased their

driving skills and talents. Special recognition goes out to "Tiny" Alston for winning first place in the *Right-Hand Turn Competition*. Barbara "Mousy" Bush was also awarded first place in the *Judgment Stop Competition*. Richard Cooper of Staunton had a lucky day as he won tickets to see a NASCAR Race in Richmond.

Ann Kavanagh Receives of Recognition Service (1990-2004)

Ann Kavanagh, VRTA founding member and Board member from 1990-2004 recently resigned from her position as Vice President of the Board. At the May Board Meeting, Ann was presented with an award of recognition for her service. Thank you Ann, for all you have done!



Anne Kavanagh receives an Award of Recognition of service from Charles Grant.

Purcellville Happenings

Mr. John Bennick joined the VRTA staff on April 26 as the new Purcellville area Transit Manager. John has been working daily with his immediate staff as they engage new projects such as special events, scheduling, safety and training and accident investigations. The Purcellville staff has continued to work toward developing a strong base and guide for utilization throughout

the organization. In late May, Donna Ferrell, Elena Yeger and John Maher attended an FTA Drug and Alcohol training course and they received



Transit Manager, John Bennick works daily with staff to engage and complete new tasks.

certification for completing this course. The completion of this course also marked Donna's transition to taking on her new responsibility as Safety and Training coordinator. In April and May efforts were made to expand prospects for employment from other regions of the area by advertising in both the *Winchester Star* and *Blue Ridge Leader* newspapers.

MISCELLANEOUS

- Congratulations to Mr. Kassaye Demena, who won the contest for our newsletter name: **VRTA NEWS AND VIEWS**. Thanks Kassaye!
- Have you been waiting for new bus brochures? Have you been waiting for new route maps? The wait will soon be over! There is a work in progress to develop and produce new maps and brochures. The new maps and brochures will help passengers become more acquainted with fixed route services, which will in turn help out drivers. The new materials will be out by October 1!

DID YOU KNOW?

- Contracts were renewed with both Notre Dame Academy and the Wakefield School for 2004-2005.
- VRTA and AOL are working together to establish a new AOL route.
- Page County Transit hit its goal of 30 riders for one day.
- The first Apollo bus should be delivered by the end of July.

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Your access to mobility



Employee Spotlight

Bob Kennedy



Position: Building Maintenance. Robert has been working with VRTA for 26 months.

Background: Bob was in the Marine Corps from 1955 to 1967. In the Marine Corps he learned the printing profession and later started a printing career. In the Marine Corps Robert visited Hawaii, Japan, Okinawa. Bob also served a 13 month tour in Vietnam.

Family: 4 children, 8 grandchildren, 5 great grand children. Bob has been married to his wife Sharon for 28 years. Sharon has worked with VRTA for almost 2 years now.

Interests: Bob enjoys sightseeing in his jeep and does so almost every weekend. Bob is still involved in the printing industry part-time.

We the Team

don't spin your wheels—leave the driving to us

Rider-ship continues to grow in April, May and June:

2nd Quarter:	2003	2004	%Dif
Loudoun County	22,854	40,502	+17,648
Clarke County	747	917	+170
Warrenton Area	19,686	27,933	+8,247
Augusta County	11,319	26,697	+15,648

41,713 more riders than last year's second quarter!

Celebrate Birthdays

April

3 Shirley Cockrill

4 Joan Runion

8 Buzzy Cockrill

19 Alma Rector

28 Kassaye Demena

29 John Ross

June

24 Donald E. Campbell

26 Bob Kennedy

May

7 David McMurren

18 Donald Beall

19 Darlene Hiner