

VIRGINIA REGIONAL TRANSIT

IN THE HEADLIGHTS



NOTE FROM THE CEO

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The summer season is upon us! The big question from many of our operators is "air conditioning". As we do every year, the agency has a specialist come in and go through every bus available. This is happening this weekend, so all of the air conditioning problems should be resolved or on their way to being resolved. Each year we deal with issues related to air. If you are on a route that has continual stops and frequent boarding and unloading, no system will keep up. Many of our buses have different controls to operate your system. Check them before you leave and get help from the mechanics if you do not remember or are unfamiliar with how your assigned bus works. We are just about through our budget process, and I regret to report that neither our Haymarket project nor the Ashland Virginia project was funded during this budget cycle. The tight budget issues in Richmond as well as

changes in how VDRPT chooses which projects get funded shut us out of these projects. The budget was not all bad news as our new service connecting Purcellville to Brunswick was funded and we are waiting to hear if local funds were approved. Our facility in Staunton is funded and several new buses will be purchased. We continue to struggle with funding the huge fuel price increases. Our compensation group is moving along nicely, and I want to thank all of the staff providing input in this process. While we await these proposals and decide what we can afford to implement, I have decided not to delay a cost of living adjustment in July. All staff will who have completed probation will receive a 2% cost of living adjustment commencing in the first full pay period in July. We are hoping to complete the compensation study this summer and decide what parts we can implement this fall. We are planning for our company-wide summer picnic and rodeo. The location of the picnic and rodeo will be announced within the next month. I also want to send a special thanks to those who participated in the state-wide rodeo.

\$50.00 Bonus
Train another employee to prepare for their CDL test.
(See your Transit Manager for details)

NEWSLETTER CONTEST



The Human Resources Department received submissions in response to the contest announced in the last issue of the newsletter. All submissions were entered into an election without divulging the name of employee who submitted the suggestion. The election was conducted among the administrative staff to select a winner. The title which received the highest number of votes is 'In the Headlights'. The winning idea was submitted by Charley Starliper. Charley will receive a \$50 gift certificate for his award-winning creativity.

COMPENSATION SURVEY

A committee of Loudoun Drivers led by the Administrative Manager, is in the process of completing a compensation study for the Loudoun district. The purpose of the study is to compare the employee's current wage and benefits to similar organizations. During the committee meetings, the group developed criteria to quantify Loudoun employee's wage and benefits to other employer's wage and benefits in the surrounding area. In order to collect comparable criteria, a survey was developed and distributed to 15 similar organizations to collect the results. Once the surveys are returned, the committee will review and analyze the results. Please see Mary Blood with any questions regarding the study.

UPDATE BY REGION

CENTRAL

Town of Culpeper

Virginia Regional Transit recently presented a proposal to the Town of Culpeper. The purpose of the proposal is to increase the funding to provide three additional hours of service per day on the County Express Route. Currently, the proposal is still being reviewed.

New Facility Phase II

The construction to complete the second phase of the Culpeper facility is scheduled to break ground early this Summer. After reviewing all contractor bids, Virginia Regional Transit chose Trinity Builders of Culpeper to complete the facility. The second phase of the facility will include a training room, kitchen, administrative offices, additional restrooms and a reception area. The construction is expected to be completed during the summer of 2009. A drawing of the expected facility is available for your viewing pleasure outside of Greg McGowan's office.

Bus Shelters

A sub-committee of the Public Transportation Advisory Committee (PTAC) entitled the Route Planning Committee is meeting to discuss additional bus shelters. The members of the Route Planning Committee plan to review locations in the Town of Culpeper for the installation of new bus shelters for the passengers.

MOUNTAIN

250 Connector

In April, the fixed route service was adjusted to include bus stops between Staunton and Waynesboro. Now the route includes stops to housing complexes such as the Valley View Apartment Complex.

Staunton HUB

The Staunton HUB was relocated from the Visitor's Center to the Lewis Street parking lot. In the future, bus shelters will be installed at the bus stops for the convenience of the passengers. Due to the HUB relocation, additional bus stops are offered to the passengers on the fixed route service. For example, the route now includes a bus stop at the Staunton Library in response to the passengers suggestions.

Employee Accomplishments

- Mickey Conner bowled a perfect game of 300! A prominent bowl company, Global 900, honored his accomplishment.
- Darlene Hiner became a Great Grandmother on February 22, 2008. Her great grand-daughter, weighted 6 pounds, 5 ounces at birth.

LOUDOUN

Reduce, Reuse, Recycle



The Purcellville location is "going green" in the near future. Employees can recycle cans in the break room and paper in the copy room. The appropriate items can be placed in designated recycling bins. Please take advantage of this opportunity to do your part for the environment.

Lovettsville

Virginia Regional Transit plans to begin service entitled Western Flyer this fall. The Lovettsville route will be in service Monday thru Friday for eight hours each day. The intention of the new route is to connect Purcellville, Round Hill, Hamilton, and Lovettsville.

Chesapeake Beach, MD

Virginia Regional Transit teamed with the Beach Trolley Association to provide service to the residents and tourists in Chesapeake Beach. The service will begin Memorial Day Weekend and continue through to Labor Day. The days of operation include every Friday, Saturday and Sunday.



Vision:
To be a multifaceted organization, providing high quality and affordable community transportation service solutions.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

June: 14: Training Session
Culpeper, VA

July 12: Training Session
Culpeper, VA

July 17: Annual Golf Classic
Front Royal, VA

Aug. 2: Company Picnic / Rodeo
TBD

Sept. 13: Training Session
Culpeper, VA

PLEASE WELCOME...

Loudoun

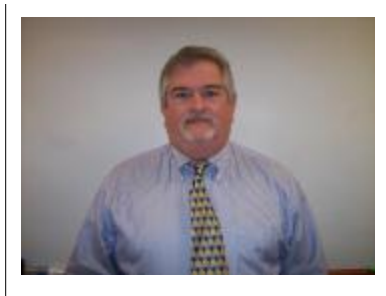
Gary Schulz.....Driver
Heather Domanski.....DMV Customer Service Rep.
Howard Willis.....Demand Response/ADA Supervisor
Iris Kotmel..Network & Communications Administrator
Jennifer McGrane.....Driver
Jessica Brown.....Administrative Receptionist
Jim O'Brien.....Driver
Joe Delia.....Driver
Joni Givens.....Driver
Marlene Lush.....Driver
Norman Sulton.....Driver
Pam Forshee.....Transit Manager
Stuart Atkins.....Operations Supervisor

Central

James Smithlin.....Driver
Lon Fugate.....Driver
Robert White.....Driver

EMPLOYEE of the MONTH

February



Greg McGowan
Central Transit Manager

March



Richard Cooper
Mountain Driver

Mission:

As a non-profit organization, Virginia Regional Transit's mission is to create access to mobility through direct passenger service, transit system management, and contracted transit related services for public and private organizations.

BIRTHDAYS

<u>May</u>	<u>June</u>	<u>July</u>
1- James Conner	6- Chaudhry Abbas	3- Russell Booker
4- James Puckett	10- Douglas Saturday	4- Kathy Finniff
8- Robert Morse	18- Beth Raudabaugh	4- Larry Hurlock
12- Robert White	21- Billy Good	6- Lael Alston
15- Ronald Myers	22- Charles Brehm	6- Lewis Bolen
19- Darlene Hiner	22- Luther Njwe Ube	15- Bowen Drenning
24- John Maher	23- Norman Sulton	16- Jeannie Puffenbarger
26- William O'Connell	24- Julia Perry	17- James Goad
26- Fred Williams	29- Earl Loughlin	17- James Smithlin
27- Clarence Wilkins		19- Thomas Thompson
		31- Terri Rotenberry
		31- Courtney Settle

REMINDERS

- Take a quick moment to be sure your DOT Medical Card is current. If not, please see your Transit Manager
- Summer is a wonderful time to add P and S endorsements to your CDL license
- Wear your ID Badge in a place that is visible to the passengers

VIRGINIA REGIONAL TRANSIT

109 North Bailey Lane
Purcellville, VA 20132

Phone: 540-338-1610
Fax: 540-338-0690

Reminder:
\$500 Recruitment Bonus for every new driver you refer!
(See HR. for details)

Any topics, stories, or articles are welcome for the newsletter.
(See H.R. For details)

PASSENGER SPOTLIGHT

We have all heard the phrase, "Dog is man's best friend". But in the case of Margaret (pictured on the right), a regular passenger, Luna is woman's best friend. Luna is a 9 year-old black Labrador Retriever that graduated from the Guiding Eyes for the Blind School in New York. Margaret relies on Luna's assistance for almost everything including riding our buses due to her loss of sight.

Margaret to safely stop, climb several become seated for the six years, Margaret an excellent system to service, which in fact transportation. Luna

Please avoid touching a seeing eye dog while they are at work

Luna's skills allow for approach the bus steps, and safely trip. Over the past and Luna developed utilize our bus is her only means of is alerted by Margaret as to her plans to ride the bus. Margaret will say "bus" and Luna knows to be sure that Margaret is ready to enter the bus. Once Margaret is seated, Luna will lay underneath Margaret's seat to stay clear of other passengers. When Margaret is ready to exit the bus, Luna will turn her head and touch Margaret's leg to make her aware of the step. Margaret and Luna are a joy to have as passengers on our buses. We look forward to future rides with Margaret and her best friend Luna.



2008 VIRGINIA STATE PARATRANSIT ROADEO

On your mark...get set...DRIVE!

The competition occurred on April 26th near Williamsburg, Virginia with Virginia Regional Transit employees competing in the categories of body on chassis and 15-passenger van. Employees gathered to compete against other transportation companies throughout Virginia.



The first place winner in each division will be sent to the Community Transportation Association of Virginia (CTAA) National ROADdeo to be held in New Orleans.

After a warm day in the sun, Virginia Regional Transit returned home with two individual event winners from the Mountain Region. Mickey Conner won in the category of judgment stop and Richard Cooper won in the category of right turn. Please congratulate Mickey and Richard on their accomplishments. Thank you to all employees who participated in the 2008 Virginia State ROADdeo.

6TH ANNUAL BOWL-A-THON

Virginia Regional Transit partnered with the Leesburg Daybreak Rotary Club for the 6th Annual Bowl-A-Thon held on March 29, 2008. In the past, this event was solely hosted by Virginia Regional Transit, however the partnership with the Rotary Club this year resulted in a successful fundraiser with 116 bowlers. The proceeds from the fundraiser will benefit youth transportation and scholarships for Loudoun High School students. After an evening of cosmic bowling at Village Lanes Bowling Alley, the fund raiser generated a profit of \$6,055.07. Once the profits were divided, Virginia Regional Transit received \$3,027.53 towards youth transportation. Thank you to everyone for your participation to make this event a true success.



Pictured above (left to right): Felicia Finneran, Richard Simpson, Paul Kern, Charley Starliper, Matthew Pierce, and Jayce Pierce