

# Virginia Regional Transit NEWS AND VIEWS

Third Quarter 2007

## 2007 State Rodeo Recap

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Group Picture of State Rodeo Participants

This year's 2007 CTAV State Rodeo took place on Saturday April 28 in South Hill, Virginia. There were 72 drivers competing from all over the state of Virginia and this years event was the largest turn out ever. Virginia Regional Transit sent nine drivers in total and eleven judges.

The nine drivers representing Virginia Regional Transit were as follows: Russell Booker and David Lanham from the West Central Region. Marlin Washington, Cindy Ray and Barbara Bush from the Purcellville Region. Bill O'Connell,

Mickey Connors, Julia Perry and Bill Garrett from the Mountain Region. David Lanham, Jr. received a trophy for highest score in the written test.

Mike Barnes and Greg McGowan were judges for the wheel chair securement. Other judges for various categories were Jennifer Grooms Alice Nelson, Tiny Alston, Tara Tucker, Yvonne Lucas, Douglas Saturday, Donna Ferrell, Darlene Hiner and Nancy Thompson.

Following the Rodeo event participants were treated to a very fine dinner by Virginia Regional Transit CEO, Mark McGregor. Everyone who participated in this years Rodeo competition had a great time.



David Lanham, Jr. receives an award for having the highest score in the written test

# What's Happening?

## Congratulations Graduates!

On April 10, 2007, at the Pennsylvania Public Transportation Association Annual Convention and Expo held in Hershey, PA, Virginia Regional Transit Managers, Mike Barnes and John Maher, as well as Regional Manager Greg McGowan, received graduation diplomas for completing an intensive training course sponsored by Transit Score. They are now certified as transit instructors and are qualified to teach system safety, defensive driving, passenger assistance and ADA sensitivity, customer service, emergency egress, and wheelchair securement and lift operations.



Top Left: Regional Manager Greg McGowan

Bottom Left: Mountain District Transit Manager, John Maher

Top Right: West Central District Transit Manager, Mike Barnes

# West Central District

## Updates from West Central

The new multi-modal transit facility in Culpeper is continuing to come along at a rapid pace. We are hoping to move into our new facility sometime in August! This will be a tremendous asset to the West Central operations as the facility will be in a more centralized location for expanded operations. We are very excited about this!

The PTAC took a tour of the facility hosted by Bo Drenning, Virginia Regional Transit's Construction Manager. PTAC members were impressed

and pleased that we are getting closer to the facilities completion.



Architectural rendering of the Culpeper facility once it is complete

West Central is pleased to announce that Fauquier County

has agreed to increase funding. As a result, VRT is able to provide 25 hours of service per week for the counties. Demand/Response service. This came about through the diligent and concerted efforts of VRT and various community service agencies in the local area.

We have two new hires in the West Central region and would like to welcome them to the VRT team. Sandy Frazier is our new dispatcher and Hubert Large is a new driver in Front Royal.

# Mountain District

## A few words from Mountain

The Staunton Silver Trolley recently celebrated its One Year Anniversary March 30th. The Trolley has become a great asset to the area and numbers are continuing to grow. Just two weeks after its anniversary the Silver Trolley had its highest single daily total of 139 rides! During its first year, the Silver Trolley carried over 17,000 rides which is just great for a new route.

Linwood Wilkes has recently

left the company. Linwood was a part time driver for Mountain and is a full time minister. Linwood decided to retire from Virginia Regional Transit after six years of service to be able to spend more time with his congregation. Linwood will be greatly missed but we wish him all the best.



Mountain has recently hired two new drivers

who were recommended by Virginia Regional Transit employees, they are Frank Lockhart and Don Strother. Mountain is really excited to have these two as part of the team. Welcome Aboard!

The four Rodeo participants, Mickey Conner, Bill O'Connell, Bill Garrett and Julia Perry had a great time and continue to do better each year. Both Julia and Mickey scored over 700 for their overall scores. This was Julia's first competition, she is a natural!

# Purcellville

## 2007 Bowling Great Success

This years Annual Bowl-a-thon was a great success. Thank you to all those who came, participated, and got sponsors! Virginia Regional Transit took Village Lanes by storm and ended up filling up 25 lanes with nearly 100 participants! Bowlers were given 3 games, shoes, food, and the



Sylvia Trammel and special guest Juliette Rizzo take their turn

opportunity to win FABULOUS prizes. Through everyone's support Virginia Regional Transit brought in over \$3,500 for local transportation. The winner of the 50/50 took home \$265 and over 20 prizes were given out as well as \$150 cash. Heinz Laude won a prize for bringing the most participants and Al Pangan won a prize for raising the most



Mike Socha and Al Pangan at Bowl a Thon

amount of money! Congratulations to all the winners and thank you to every-

one who was a part of this great event.

## New Shelter Creating Buzz in Leesburg

A ribbon cutting ceremony was held April 9, 2007 in Leesburg for the new Morningside Bus Shelter project located at the corner of Depot Court and Harrison Street SE. Both Virginia Regional Transit and the Town are very excited about this beautiful new shelter.



## PEOPLE IN THE NEWS

### April's Employee of the Month

#### Ray Milburn

This month Ray Milburn was chosen as the Employee of the Month. Ray drives Bus 115. Ray was nominated by Mike Socha and selected by the Transit Managers at their meeting in May. Ray was selected for his continued excellent service. During the months of January, February, and March Ray went every morning to the Warming Center for the homeless in Luckettes, Virginia. Regardless of the weather

Ray picked up the homeless men and took them into Leesburg. Ray did an outstanding job with these men, always being personable and respectful to them. They all grew to really love Ray. Keep up the great work!

#### Congratulations Jackie!

Jackie Swafford, from DMV has recently accepted the position of HR Clerk. Human Resources is very excited to have her on board!

#### New To Virginia Regional Transit

Larry Hurlock  
Constance Williams  
Glenn Hosby  
Greg Madden  
Toni Spahr

Stuart Lewis  
Luther Njwe-Ube  
Mary Ann Devlin  
Henry Alt  
Charles Wallace  
Norman Bryan Kayton  
David Cook  
Darnell Davis  
Idiatou Diallo  
Sandy Frazier  
Michael Genovese  
Hubert Large  
Thomas Williams  
Stacy Webster  
Lawrence F. Lockhart  
Archie Slaughter  
Donald Strother Sr.  
Nathaniel Butler  
Charles Day

## It's Coming!

### 9th Annual Golf Classic

Virginia Regional Transit will be holding it's 9th Annual Golf Classic on Thursday, July 26, 2007 at Bull Run Country Club. Last years Golf Classic brought in over \$18,000 for the Loudoun Youth Initiative. This year Virginia Regional Transit has partnered with the Babe Ruth World Series to provide transportation this summer. Trans/Air Manufacturing Corp has graciously agreed to be the event sponsor again this year. All those interested in golfing in the tournament should see Peggy Oates for a form. The fee for an individual golfer is \$135 and the fee for a foursome is \$500. Virginia Regional Transit will be looking for volunteers for this event. If you are interested in volunteering your time for this event please see Peggy Oates or Greg McGowan for information. If interested please note that you will be volunteering your time so there will be no pay, however you will receive points towards the Road to Rewards program.





**Your Access to Mobility**

*"Take a Ride on us!"*

### Driving Safety Tips

- Watch out for kids
- Check your mirrors
- Give driving your **FULL** attention!
- Do NOT use Cell phone while driving



**4,582 more riders in February and March 07 than February and March 06!**

February and March Totals:

	<u>2006</u>	<u>vs.</u>	<u>2007</u>
Purcellville District:	48,323		55,456
West Central District:	23,270		18,666
Mountain District:	17,609		19,662
<b>Totals:</b>	<b>89,202</b>		<b>93,784</b>



## Spotlight on Success

As a new feature to the quarterly Newsletter, one individual from the Virginia Regional Transit staff will be interviewed and featured in the Newsletter.



This quarter's featured employee is the wonderful Donna Ferrell. Donna worked for Virginia Regional Transit for five and a half years and then took an eleven month break. She returned to Virginia Regional Transit and has been here now for over five years.

Donna began her tenure as a driver. She was the fourth bus driver for the company which was then called Loudoun Ride-On. As she witnessed great change within the company she also watched herself change. After driving for a while she worked as a dispatcher.

Donna quickly became a Driver Supervisor after proving herself to be a great role model for other drivers. Always wanting to succeed, Donna has worked hard and was paid off when she became the Operations Manager. After two years of being the Operations Manager Donna was selected as the new Transit Manager for Purcellville. She accepted this new position and has continued to do a great job for the company.

Before coming to Virginia Regional Transit Donna worked in a restaurant and also in the construction industry. She has four children and four sisters. Donna says she gets all of her strength from her mother, Flossie. Virginia Regional Transit is proud to have Donna Ferrell as an employee and commend her on great successes.



## Celebrate Birthdays

*Happy Birthday wishes go out to all employees born in the months of July, August, September, and October as well as upcoming months November and December! Happy Birthday to you all!*

Month	Birthdays
<b>May</b>	1 James M. Conner 16 John S. Walker 19 Darlene B. Hiner 22 Kimberly A. Myers 24 John P. Maher 26 William E. O'Connell 26 Fred D. Williams 27 Clarence D. Wilkins
<b>June</b>	1 Charles Wallace 10 Douglas Saturday 14 Gregory Madden 21 Billy Good 22 Charles Brehm 24 Robert R. Kennedy
<b>July</b>	3 Russell Booker 4 Kathy Finniff 4 Larry Hurlock 6 Lael Alston 6 Lewis Bolen 10 Mark Draskovic 15 Bowen Drenning 16 Richard Lucas 16 Jeannie Puffenbarger 17 Debra Genovese 18 Toni Spahr 19 Thomas Thompson 24 Alberto Pangan
<b>March</b>	2 Heinz G. Laude 3 Norman Kayton 5 Sukhdeep Singh 11 Robert Charnley Jr. 16 Edward L. Eustler 16 John W. Matthews Jr. 18 William R. Coram 19 Sylvia A. Trammel 21 Charles H. Gibson 23 Cindy J. Ray 24 Sharon K. Kennedy 24 Jack C. Loesch 24 Julia E. Mitchell
<b>April</b>	1 Yvonne F. Lucas 7 Charles R. Starliper 8 Herbert M. Cockrell 15 Gary Puck 16 Gregory W. McGowan 17 Marlin D. Washington 21 Linwood G. Wilkes 28 Kassaye W. Demena 30 Felicia Finneran