

VRTA NEWS AND VIEWS

Fall 2006

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Special points of interest:

- Update in Culpeper
- Holiday Parties Coming
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- Upcoming Events
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Update on the Culpeper Project



To the left: Updated picture of what the Culpeper facility currently looks like. Within the next month grading should be completed and steel should

15 Buses to Auction

As a constant attempt to improve our

The new Construction Manager, Bo Drenning, has been hard at work since he signed on with VRTA this past summer. Among his other jobs, the Culpeper project is Drenning's largest project. The Culpeper Facility is a two phase project. The first phase is said to be completed by 2007. Phase two to be completed by 2008. This site has presented a few problems to our builders such as off-site storm water, pond spillage, and marginal soils. Drenning is currently working through these issues and feels strongly that it should not slow down production. The site clearing was completed in late July which allowed Drenning to begin grading in mid September. The building pad is projected to be on grade in approximately two weeks, at that point foundation work and steel erection should commence.

fleet CEO Mark McGregor packed up 15 buses and took them to be auctioned on September 18, 2006. All buses were sold. In addition VRTA purchased 5 buses in the past 30 days!

Getting Ready for the Audit

VRTA's fiscal year ends on the last day of September each year. As a new fiscal year begins the first of each October, VRTA staff prepares for the big financial audit. Each year the audit is performed to insure VRTA is running smoothly and is keeping good accurate records. The accounting department has been experiencing their most busy time of the year preparing for the auditors by collecting receipts, collecting outstanding invoices and making sure everything is organized. The auditors; Mitchell and Company, look through all records to make sure VRTA

is in compliance with the IRS regulations. Some key items they evaluate are the Financial Statements and Budget, the Board of Directors minutes, receipts, journals, Grant Funds, Property purchase settlements, Vehicle listings, Payroll, Federal and State contracts, monthly fare totals per route showing passenger totals, and much more. At the end of their review the auditors compile their findings and give a formal presentation at the Annual Board of Directors Meeting and at the Awards Dinner. Keeping good records is crucial to running a successful business which is why there is so much importance put on employees to keep accurate records. It is just as important for drivers to pay attention to passengers and the fares as it is for the CFO, Kathy Finniff, to pay close attention to receipts for grants. VRTA is a team, and everyone's participation is needed to run this successful organization.

What's Happening?

Company Holiday Parties are Coming!

This year VRTA CEO Mark McGregor gave each district the opportunity to plan, organize, and put on their own Holiday Parties unique to each area. As most employees know there is great benefit in attending the Holiday Party. Not only is it a wonderful opportunity to spend time with your co-workers, but also the point at which Retention Checks are passed out. Retention Checks are available early at the party only. Should you miss the party, you must wait to receive your check.



Please mark your calendar now to make sure

to be in attendance. Don't miss these events!

West Central Holiday Party

West Central's gala event will be held Friday, December 8, 2006 from 7:00pm until 10:00pm. It will take place at the Legends Restaurant in Warrenton, Virginia. There will be Hors d'oeuvres served followed by a delicious Dinner Buffet. West Central will also be celebrating the Holiday Season with a festive atmosphere and a small gift exchange during the evening.

Mountain Holiday Party

The Mountain party will be held at the Clocktower Restaurant in Staunton on December 9, 2006. The event will begin at 5:30pm and will go until 8:00pm. All Employees are complementary. Should an employee like to bring one guest they

may do so for \$5.00. Every other extra person would be charged the full amount of the dinner at the estimated price of \$50.00.

Purcellville Loudoun's party will be held on December 2, 2006 at the Eagles Club in Purcellville from 6:00pm until 12:00 midnight. There will be a buffet style dinner featuring Italian food and Salad. There will be a DJ who will provide a fun and upbeat atmosphere to encourage employees and a guest to dance the night away and have a great time with other co-workers. Catering is being provided by Villa Roma of Leesburg. Employees may bring a guest if they choose, however to bring more than one guest the cost will be an additional \$10.00 per person. Being a transit service we do not provide an open bar, however there will be a cash bar available. Cokes, coffee and tea will be available.

West Central District

An Eye on West Central Training

West Central is pleased to announce that they had two drivers, Angela Richards and Russell Booker, complete training to upgrade to CDL's with School bus and Airbrake endorsements. As indicated in the previous issue there are incentives to obtaining these endorsements. Also Clarence Carter, a new driver completed his CDL and is now driving part time in Culpeper and Orange. Clarence is said to have a great attitude and is very willing to help out. Keep up the training!

Employee Cook-Out

Transit Manager, Mike Barnes, organized an employee cook out for the West Central District. The event took place at Mountain Run Lake Park on the 19th of September. There was a drivers meeting held at the same time. Everyone who attended had a very good time, if anyone walked away hungry it was their own fault because there was a lot of very good food.

Looking to Adjust routes and Add Stops

West Central is currently looking to adjust routes and add new stops in Orange County. New routes have been designed

and tested, more modifications are still being considered. The route has been modified to accommodate the new one-way street on Bellevue Ave and plans are in the works to eliminate Colonial Square and adding PMI as a stop. West Central is also working with Orange Officials to reprint brochures and to install signs.

Presentation is Scheduled

Transit Manager, Mike Barnes, is scheduled to give a presentation to the Front Royal Rotary Club. It will be a brief introduction to Virginia Regional Transit and an update on the status of the FRAT bus service.

Mountain District

Six Months No Reported accidents

In keeping with the goal of being a safe and reliable means of transportation the Mountain District proves to continue to strive for this goal. There has been no reported accidents in the Mountain District for six months. Good Job to all drivers, and please continue to keep up the good, safe driving!

Senior Committee Meeting

Transit Manager, John Maher, re-

cently attended the Senior Committee meeting and gave an update on the Silver Trolley. The Trolley continues to do well in Staunton showing a strong 1,376 rides in the September. One of the stops along the route and contributor to the service, Baldwin Park, gave the Silver Trolley an excellent grade. Continued growth is expected.

Continuing to be a part of VAIL

Transit Manager, John Maher, recently attended the VAIL luncheon in Harrisonburg. Also in attendance at this event was State Senator Obenshain, State delegate Matt Lohr as well as rep-

resentatives from other delegates. Adequate funding for Public Transportation was one of the key topics discussed. Maher, also had a meeting with VAIL to discuss a possible partnership.

Article in the AMC publication "Today"

There was a meeting held with the editor of the AMC publication "Today" to do an article on the Mountain transportation services. A follow up meeting has been scheduled with in the next few weeks. Articles have proven to be very beneficial to VRTA as it increases ridership following publication.

Purcellville District

Air and Space Continues to Boom

With the Air and Space museum stop being added just two and a half months ago, this very popular route has seen significant ridership. So far the route has given over 2,397 rides, with 1,037 of those in September alone! Should numbers continue to be strong, the one year trail contract will surely be renewed.

VRTA to go to Harris Teeter

Transit Manager, Greg McGowan has

been hard at work recently finalizing the Ashburn routes. Service to the Harris Teeter shopping center on the Ashburn Village run will begin by the middle of October. The addition should produce additional ridership. Timing will be done on both routes this week and presented to the county so they can make the announcements and produce new bus schedules.

Shortage in Loudoun

Loudoun County is experiencing a

driver shortage at this time. Remember that there are incentives to recruiting new drivers. You can earn \$500 just for recruiting a friend who is hard working like you who stay's more than 90 days.

That new driver receives a \$1000 sign on bonus after 90 days in Loudoun County. Thanks to those drivers who are going above and beyond to help!



Piedmont District

Piedmont District Running Well

As the newest district added to Virginia Regional Transit, PAT is already making headway. PAT has scheduled to install 30 new bus route signs along the route. PAT is

also working hard and looking to the future by having VRAT staff from the region obtain CDL license in anticipation of larger vehicles one day running the PAT routes. PAT is also continuing communication with the Farmville Area Bus system regarding connections along their existing

routes. There will be no free transfers to this service, however, fares are nominal at \$0.25 per ride on the FAB. GAM is currently working on the bus schedule which is expected to be completed within the month. VRTA looks forward to hearing more about the Piedmont Area Transit.

PEOPLE IN THE NEWS

Transit Managers Attend Training

Transit Managers, Greg McGowan, Mike Barnes, and John Maher recently attended Penn Score Training in Frederick, Maryland. This was a four day long training that focused on the managers learning about hiring, security, and emergency egress from buses. Mike Barnes says that he has the bruises to prove how much he participated in the emergency egress from buses! VRTA believes our employees are our greatest asset, so there is a huge focus on training. All men gained valuable information from this training session and are ready to put there training to the test.

Senator Allen to Visit VRTA

VRTA will open its door to a very special visitor and media Friday October 13, 2006. Senator Allen asked several people with whom he should talk to in regards to transportation in the Commonwealth.



review reports, and to ask questions about transportation. Senator Allen's right hand man, Christopher West, said that the Senator wanted to hear from VRTA what they could do to help transportation because VRTA is truly on the front line when it comes to transporta-

All sources directed the Senator to VRTA CEO, Mark McGregor. The Senator will be visiting the facility to take a tour,

tion. Local media has been invited to VRTA's Purcellville facility to tour with the Senator, listen to the discussion and then if time is available ask their transportation related questions.

New to VRTA

Bowen (Bo) Drenning- Construction MGR
Pauranoit Singh- Driver, Loudoun
Calvin Dade- Driver, Loudoun
Robert Wemm- Driver, Loudoun
Jeannie Puffenberger- Driver, Mountain
Ruth Conway- Driver, Loudoun
Marian Unger- Driver, Loudoun
Douglas Saturday- Driver, Loudoun
Clarence Carter- Driver, West Central
David Corey
Robert Charnley
Nelvin Saavedra
Gamil Mosleh
Sukhdeep Singh
Sharon Kennedy

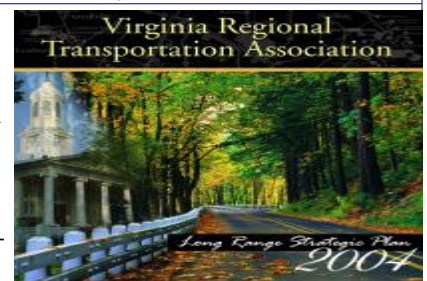
It's Coming!

New Strategic Plan

The Board Members are currently underway coming up with a new Long Range Strategic Plan. Board Members have been teamed up with Office Personnel to rewrite the VRTA Long Range Strategic Plan that will be in place for the next 3-5 years. This plan is redone every few years to evaluate the company goals and to establish new goals for the five key categories; Service Delivery, Human Resources, Capital Asset Management, Fiscal Resources, and Outreach Services. During the Boards Retreat, they came up with new Vision and Mission statements.

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

Mission: As a non-profit organization, VRTA'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.



2006 VISION—TO BE A MULTIPURPOSE ORGANIZATION,
PROVIDING TRANSIT SERVICE SOLUTIONS THROUGHOUT
THE COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA

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WWW.VATRANSIT.ORG



Your Access to Mobility

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

Driving Safety Tips

- Winter is coming, drivers need to let buses warm up before starting routes
 - Be very careful for Black Ice
- **NEVER** under any circumstance use you cell phone while driving!



**27,646 More Riders In
July—September 2006
than in July—September
2005!**

April, May, June, and July Totals:

	<u>2005</u>	vs.	<u>2006</u>
Purcellville District:	71,236		90,704
West Central District:	33,338		35,558
Mountain District:	39,262		45,220
Totals:	143,836		171,482



Employees of the Month

Each month a VRTA employee will be chosen from each district as "employee of the month." Each "employee of the month" satisfies the criterion of consistent attendance and sustaining no accidents for the month that he or she is chosen. "Employees of the month" from each district are selected by their peers via ballots.

Remember to fill out "employee of the month" ballots each month so that you can help select your region's next employee of the month!

June:



Cindy Ray
(Purcellville)

No
Photo
Avail-

Edward Martin
(West Central)



Wilkie Wilkins
(Mountain)

July:



Yvonne Lucas
(Purcellville)



Dennis Bridgett
(West Central)



Lewis Bolen
(Mountain)

August:



Scott Walker
(Purcellville)



David Lanham
(West Central)



Mickie Conner
(Mountain)

September:



Steven Brown
(Purcellville)



Joan Runion
(West Central)



Billy Good
(Mountain)



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!

July

- Russell Booker
- Kathy Finniff
- Lael Alston
- Lewis V. Bolen
- David A. Huff
- Mark A. Draskovic
- Philip Ernst
- Richard L. Lucas, Sr.
- Debra Genovese
- Thomas L. Thompson
- Kathleen E. Carrasquillo
- Florence E. St. John

August

- Peggy Oates
- Lou Ann Soper
- Michael J. Socha
- Grace H. Wallace
- Yale H. Wolfe
- Anita L. Porter
- Joseph Laduca
- Elena V. Yeger
- Edward N. Waalewyn
- Shields Warren III
- Daniel F. Dovel

September

- Paul Brooks

October

- Mark McGregor
- Joyce Robinson
- Donna L. Ferrell
- Jeff Bailey
- Jefferey R. Wood
- Edward J. Martin
- Karen S. Wimer
- Dennis G. Brazil
- Arthur W. Curry
- Tony S. Padmore
- Steven P. Brown
- Dana Decker
- Aden HaJimumin-A
- David J. Lanham
- Mohammed H. Khan
- Tara S. Tucker
- Michael T. Barnes
- Victoria E. Bryant

November

- Ilyas A. Yusuf
- William A. Brill
- Clarence Carter
- Jennifer R. Grooms
- Felix Martinez
- Ray M. Milburn
- Allan E. Rinaca

December

- Alice M. Nelson
- Douglas Bowman
- Richard A. Cooper
- Puranjit Singh
- Wonza Bell
- Paul W. Barbour
- Angela M. Richards
- William Garret