

# The Voice and Vision for Pupil Transportation in Virginia



LoveTheBus.org

## EACH YEAR, SCHOOL BUS RIDERSHIP SAVES



...over 17 million cars from joining the daily commute. More cars than would span the distance from Miami to Seattle.



...more than 2.6 billion gallons of gasoline from being burned. Enough to fill about 330,000 tanker trucks.



...over 20 million tons of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions from entering the atmosphere. More than a 747 would emit during a century-long flight.

### Inside this issue:

<i>Virginia Bus News</i>	2
<i>Cell Phone Laws</i>	3
<i>Poster Contest</i>	4
<i>Nov Bus Accident</i>	
<i>In Memory of...</i>	5
<i>Spotlight On...</i>	
<i>VAPT Conference</i>	6
<i>Information</i>	
<i>Golf Tournament</i>	7
<i>Fauquier Congrats!</i>	8
<i>VA Beach Bus</i>	9
<i>Cameras</i>	

The State of Virginia loves the school bus. According to the American School Bus Council, "The school bus saves families about 62 billion miles of driving each year. That's a significant time and convenience benefit in the lives of busy parents. And, the millions of gallons of gas it saves means more room in family budgets. But, if you think that families of school-age children are the only ones who benefit from school bus ridership, think again. Students are about 70 times more likely to arrive to school safely if they take the school bus in stead of traveling by car. With teen drivers crashing at higher rates than adults, the school bus provides a much safer alternative. Its passengers can socialize, text and simply be children without the deadly risks involved with distracted or inexperienced driving—risks that affect everyone on the road." Source: <http://www.americanschoolbuscouncil.org/insights/community-impact/>

Since the first all-steel school bus was built in 1930, ridership has steadily grown. From the Virginia Department of Education website, "nearly one million Virginia students are transported to and from school and more than 15,000 school buses operated by the Commonwealth's School Divisions." And, this number is steadily growing.

How can we as an association encourage increased ridership among our students? How can we decrease traffic congestion in our school parking lots and help parents understand that the school bus is the best solution for their child to ride the bus?

School Transport Services states there are **"Six benefits to ride the school bus"**: 1) It keeps kids more active; 2) It's Sociable; 3) It encourages independence; 4) It's greener—reduces pollution; 5) It benefits the community—fewer cars on the road; 6) It's better for family harmony. **Virginia loves the School Bus!**

### VAPT Board Members

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February 2018

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### **Virginia School Bus News**

Newport News, Va. – A bus crash around 8:30 a.m. in Newport News caused minor injuries to two students who were on the way to Saunders Elementary School.

According to Newport News Police, the school bus was in the parking lot of a hotel in the 0 hundred block of Old Oyster Point Road (Believed to be InTown Suites) when an SUV came around the corner and ran into the front end of the school bus.

The parents of the two students with minor injuries were called to the scene.

Officials say the bus sustained minor damage and the rest of the students were transported to Saunders Elementary and are being assessed by the school's nurse.

In all, 22 students were on the bus and the bus driver was not injured.

Officials added that it is unknown at this time if the driver of the SUV received any citations or had any injuries as a result of the crash.

**Source:** <https://wtkr.com/2019/02/08/minor-injuries-after-newport-news-school-bus-crash/>

BUCKINGHAM COUNTY, Va. — A driver was killed when her car collided head-on with an Albemarle County School bus which occurred January 31, 2019; 4:30 pm. Police identified the deceased driver as 32-year-old Nicole E. Palmer of Dillwyn.

“A 2008 Acura was traveling south on Route 20 when it crossed the center line and struck head-on an Albemarle County School bus,” Virginia State Police spokeswoman Corinne Geller said. “The bus was traveling north and the driver swerved to the right in an attempt to avoid the oncoming Acura.”

There were no students on the bus at the time of the crash on Route 20 (near Route 651). The 55-year-old school bus driver was not hurt.

**Source:** <https://wtvr.com/2019/02/01/nicole-palmer-obit/>

By Andrew Gionfriddo  
Capital News Service

## **LAWMAKERS BAN HOLDING CELLPHONES WHILE DRIVING**



RICHMOND — The Virginia Senate and House of Delegates on Tuesday each passed bills prohibiting motorists from touching their cellphones while driving. The Senate approved SB 1341 on a vote of 34-6, and the House passed HB 1811, 69-27. The bills would explicitly ban using a hand-held communication device, unless it is in hands-free mode, while operating a vehicle.

State law currently prohibits only reading email or text messages or manually entering letters or text in a hand-held personal communications device while driving. The legislation would extend that ban to using the device for making phone calls, checking social media and other purposes. "It is unlawful for any person, while driving a moving motor vehicle on the highways in the Commonwealth, to hold a handheld personal communications device," the bills state.

Drivers would still be able to operate their phones if they are lawfully parked or stopped or are reporting an emergency. The legislation passed five days after Bartley King, severely injured in a 2017 distracted driving accident when he was a senior at Virginia Commonwealth University, spoke to senators in favor of the proposals. In a Facebook post, Mr. King recalled his car hitting a tree at 55 mph while he was texting. The crash put him in the VCU Medical Center and left him in a coma for 28 days. He then spent 16 months in a wheelchair relearning to walk. "I can't give up and allow others to be hurt as badly as I was," Mr. King wrote. "I made my beloved mother cry and I owe it to her to protect all the other mothers from having to cry for their babies the way that mine did."

The chief sponsors of the House bill were Republican Dels. Christopher Collins of Frederick County and Michael Webert of Fauquier County and Democratic Del. Michael Mullin of Newport News. Speaking as a former police officer, Mr. Collins said the existing law needed improvements. "Our current texting while driving statute has just not been enforced," he said. "The enforcement numbers went way down during the last several years."

The penalty for a first offense is a \$125 fine that rises to \$250 for a second or subsequent violation. "This is going to be straight up — if you have your phone in your hand, you are in violation of a law," Mr. Collins said. The Senate bill was sponsored by Republican Sens. Richard Stuart of King George County and Frank Wagner of Virginia Beach and Democratic Sen. Scott Surovell of Fairfax. Under the legislation, the ban on using hand-held devices would not apply to citizens band radios. The bills also would exempt hand-held communication devices that are physically connected to the vehicle and used for navigation or audio transmissions. Although the House and Senate bills are identical, the legislation still hasn't cleared the final hurdles. Now, the House must pass the Senate bill, or the Senate must pass the House bill, and then the governor must sign the legislation.

Senate votes: YEAS — Barker, Boysko, Carrico, Chase, Cosgrove, Dance, Deeds, DeSteph, Dunnavant, Ebbin, Edwards, Favola, Hanger, Howell, Lewis, Locke, Lucas, Marsden, Mason, McClellan, McDougale, McPike, Norment, Peake, Petersen, Reeves, Saslaw, Spruill, Stanley, Stuart, Sturtevant, Surovell, Vogel, Wagner — 34.

NAYS — Black, Chafin, Newman, Obenshain, Ruff, Suetterlein — 6.

House votes YEAS — Adams, D.M., Adams, L.R., Ayala, Bagby, Bell, John J., Bell, Robert B., Bourne, Brewer, Bulova, Byron, Carr, Carter, Cole, Collins, Convis-Fowler, Delaney, Filler-Corn, Fowler, Gooditis, Guzman, Head, Heretick, Herring, Hope, Hugo, Hurst, Ingram, James, Jones, J.C., Jones, S.C., Keam, Knight, Kory, Krizek, Landes, Leftwich, Levine, Lopez, McQuinn, Miyares, Mullin, Murphy, Orrock, Peace, Plum, Poindexter, Price, Ransone, Rasoul, Reid, Robinson, Rodman, Roem, Sickles, Simon, Sullivan, Thomas, Torian, Toscano, Tran, Turpin, Tyler, VanValkenburg, Ward, Ware, Watts, Webert, Wilt, Yancey — 69.

NAYS — Austin, Bell, Richard P., Bloxom, Campbell, J.L., Campbell, R.R., Davis, Edmunds, Fariss, Freitas, Garrett, Gilbert, Hayes, Helsel, Hodges, Kilgore, LaRock, Lindsey, McGuire, McNamara, Morefield, O'Quinn, Pillion, Pogge, Rush, Stolle, Wright, Speaker Cox — 27.

# VAPT Poster Contest 2019 REMINDER!

**Who May Enter** - Anyone enrolled in a public school. Five winning divisions that include: Division #1-Grades K-2; Division #2-Grades 3-5; Division #3-Grades 6-8; Division #4-Special Education; and Division #5-Computer Aided Drawing (CAD). The first place winner from each division will be entered in the national poster contest. This year's theme: Red lights mean "STOP"!

**Deadline Date** - Watch for the DEADLINE—April 2019

**Poster Specifications** - Completed poster size must be 12" by 18" only, with a one-inch (1") blank border completely across the bottom of the poster. This space must be available due to printing requirements. If not provided, poster will be disqualified. Poster may be illustrated on the vertical or horizontal axis.

**Prizes** - Prizes will be awarded for the first, second, and third places in each division as follows:

1st Place Winner for each division	\$100.00 Check and Blue Ribbon
2nd Place Winner of each division	\$ 75.00 Check and Red Ribbon
3rd Place Winner of each division	\$ 50.00 Check and White Ribbon

For complete instructions and entry form go to the VAPT website at [www.vapt.org](http://www.vapt.org)

## Lunenburg County Public Schools November School Bus Accident

About 80 miles southwest of Richmond, a Lunenburg County Public School Bus was involved in an accident on Tuesday, November 13, 2018. According to the ABC8, "Authorities are investigating a crash involving a school bus and dump truck. Virginia State Police responded to the scene, located at Route 40 and Fletcher Chapel Road, at 3:25 p.m. According to State Police, the crash occurred after a Kenston Forest School bus, traveling southbound on Route 40, slowed down to make a left turn onto Fletcher Chapel Road. A truck hit the bus from behind after the driver of the truck failed to stop in time. This impact caused the bus to spin around and then overturn onto its side.

According to Virginia State Police, 13 "elementary school-aged students" were on board at the time of the crash. VSP said five children with minor injuries were taken to VCU Health Community Hospital in South Hill. As a precautionary measure, the bus driver was also taken to the hospital. The first release from State Police stated six children were hurt and one had serious injuries but according to Virginia State Police spokesperson Corinne Geller, that was based on "preliminary information."

The truck's driver, identified as 38-year old John R. Grizzard, was charged with failure to maintain control of the vehicle. Grizzard, who was transporting a dumpster at the time, was not injured in the crash. Headmaster Paul Zanolowski told 8News Wednesday afternoon that five of the students and bus driver were treated and released from the hospital Tuesday night, and one student remains hospitalized, "undergoing further testing and treatment." Zanolowski shared a letter to 8News he sent to parents Tuesday night informing them about what occurred and the latest conditions of the students and bus driver.

Photos sent by an 8News viewer show several people, some children, near the overturned bus.

Source: <https://www.wric.com/news/virginia-news/1-student-remains-hospitalized-after-school-bus-crash-in-lunenburg-county/1594697143>



## Life Celebration

*This is my comfort, in my affliction that your promise gives me life.  
Psalms 119:50*

Gary Lillie was born on November 5, 1958 to Phillip Carter and Billie Blue Lillie in Ennis, Texas. He departed this life on October 13, 2018 at VCU Medical Center, Richmond, Virginia.

Gary graduated from high school in Ennis, Texas. He retired as a Chief Petty Officer, honorably serving our country for 21 years; 4 of those years in the United States Army and 17 years in the United States Navy. After retiring from the military, Gary made his home in Suffolk, Virginia where he lived with his wife of 28 years, Rhonda Lillie, until her death.

Gary was a pillar in his community. He enjoyed coaching boys' basketball and served as a father figure to many of the youth in his community. He tirelessly served his last 13 years with Portsmouth Public Schools where he served as Service Crew Supervisor, Supply Supervisor and culminating as Coordinator of Transportation.

Gary was well known in the community. He has left a lasting impression on many. His generosity and willingness to help in any way he could is a tribute to the legacy he leaves behind. He has lived a life of dedication, commitment and tireless effort to improve whatever task put before him.

Gary was preceded in death by father, Phillip Carter; mother, Billie Blue Lillie; brother, Paul Farmer and sister, Marcia Carter. He leaves to cherish his memory; son, Gary Abra Sr.; grandson, Gary Abra Jr. of Raleigh, North Carolina; god-daughter, Veronica Boyd of Fort Drum, NY; six sisters and three brothers, Viola Jordan (Larry) of Dallas, TX, Sharon Edwards (Don) of Dallas, TX, Vickie Lillie of Ennis, TX, Pamela Lillie of Ennis, TX, Karen Daniels (Tommy) of Ennis, TX, Stephanie Lillie of Ennis, TX, Charles Carter (Lillie Mae) of Ennis, TX, Joe Wilkerson of Ennis, TX, Robert Lillie of Ennis, TX and a host of nieces, nephews, cousins, and friends.



*In Memory*

*Coordinator of Pupil Transportation  
Portsmouth, Virginia*

*Gary Lillie*

*November 5, 1958—October 13, 2018*



**Spotlight on—**

TELL  
us  
about  
You!

**Tell us about your County/City Public Schools!**

Tell us who your Transportation Director is, how many buses your county has, how many students, and some interesting facts about YOUR county/city! We want to learn about the various places in Virginia and how each locale is operating! Tell us more about YOU!

**Email your Transportation Department  
Information to Beth Brown at:  
[brownel@fcpsk12.net](mailto:brownel@fcpsk12.net)**

# 2019 VAPT Conference

June 16 – 20, 2019

Downtown Richmond Marriott



## Trade Show will be held at the Richmond Convention Center

Why Attend the VAPT Conference in June? According to [www.takeflyte.com](http://www.takeflyte.com), 12 Reasons YOU Should Attend Conferences, "There are so many great ways to learn and sharpen your skills these days: you can read blogs, listen to podcasts, watch how-to videos on YouTube, and attend webinars, just to name a few. Why bother with the time and expense of an in-person conference or workshop? If that's your attitude, then you may be missing out on one of the best opportunities to take your game to the next level. Live events—conferences, workshops, lunch and learns—provide unique learning and career building opportunities that you just can't find anywhere else. Twelve reasons why you should attend and consider sending your employee to conferences, as well:"

- 1) Sharpen the Saw: ...take a break from the "work" of your work to sharpen your skills.
- 2) Meet Experts and Influencers Face-to-Face
- 3) Networking Opportunities: mix and mingle with others and strengthen and form new relationships.
- 4) New Tools: learn about new product innovations that could possibly assist you in your work.
- 5) Learning in a NEW Space—could keep us from being in a rut and allow us to spark new approaches that will grow our business!
- 6) Break Out of Your Comfort Zone
- 7) New Tips & Tactics
- 8) Having a Great Focus
- 9) The energy of Like-Minded Individuals
- 10) The Serendipity of the Random Workshop
- 11) INVEST IN YOURSELF!
- 12) Have Fun! Don't miss out on the opportunities to grow in your work!

Source: <https://www.takeflyte.com/reasons-to-attend-conferences>



# 2019 Bryan W. Morris, Sr. Memorial Golf Tournament



## Virginia Association For Pupil Transportation

**WHO** - - - All Pupil Transportation Golfers  
(Administrators, Drivers, Technicians, Vendors, Secretaries, Suppliers, etc.)

**WHEN** --- Monday, June 17, 2019                      8 AM Shot Gun

**WHERE** --- **Birkdale Golf Club**  
8511 Royal Birkdale Drive  
Chesterfield, VA 23832

**Cost** --- \$40 (\$35 for golf, \$5 for prizes)

**REGISTRATION DEADLINE** --- June 5, 2019

**COORDINATOR** --- David Pace, Virginia Beach Public Schools

**PRIZES: First, Second, Third place teams**

**Trophies provided by GCR Tire and Service: First, second, third place teams**

**Lunch provided by Kingmor Supply, Inc.**

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Please provide the following information if you wish to play in the golf tournament.

Make check for \$40 (per player) payable to VAPT.

\_\_\_\_\_ Please check if payment is included with Request for Tradeshow Display Space, Line E.

Send payment to:                      David Pace, 2669 Hartley Street, Virginia Beach, VA 23456

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NAME(s): \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

SCHOOL SYSTEM/OR VENDOR: \_\_\_\_\_

HANDICAP(s): \_\_\_\_\_

***NOTE: IF YOU ARE ENTERING A TEAM, please list all players on the form.***





***Alice Curtis, CSPT***



***Stephanie Butler, CSPT***

Congratulations to Alice Curtis and Stephanie Butler of Fauquier County Public Schools in Virginia. The National Association for Pupil Transportation (NAPT) has certified both Alice Curtis and Stephanie Butler as Supervisors of Pupil Transportation. Alice and Stephanie are both Lead Trainers for Fauquier County Public Schools and have built a remarkable safety and training program over the past 10 years. To earn the NAPT Certification, they underwent a peer review of education, career experience and achievements in the field of transportation. Other requirements for the program include taking professional development courses and attending NAPT Conferences and passing a very comprehensive written test.

***Congratulations Alice & Stephanie!***





Virginia Beach School Buses could get cameras on the outside of their buses in an effort to curb illegal passing by motorists. In a recent television segment on WAVY Channel 10, newscaster Deanna Bettineschi stated that “while it’s ok to pass school buses on the road when the bus is in motion, it’s not OK when that school bus is stopped with it’s crossing arm out. In fact, it’s the law. A witness named Kerstin Brooks says, “I witnessed it like two days ago on VA Beach Blvd, someone went right passed a stopped school bus”. The school system says it is working on something that could help keep students safe—by putting cameras on the buses. While the city and the school system is still in discussions, the City Spokeswoman, Julie Hill says, “the cameras could be installed within the next week or two” and is planning on obtaining more information.

Picture: David Pace, Virginia Beach County Public Schools.

Source: <https://www.wavy.com/news/local-news/virginia-beach/vb-school-buses-could-get-cameras-on-outside-in-effort-to-curb-illegal-passing/1701841100>

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# Virginia LOVES the School Bus!

