

# the Quarterly Commute

"Keeping you informed on a better way to get where you're going."

## Celebrate Your Clean Commute on Friday, May 2

### Give the Gas Pump the Boot- It's Time to Clean Commute!

Each day many of you take a step in keeping Virginia's air clean by carpooling, taking transit, teleworking, walking or biking to work. On Friday, May 2, 2008, RideShare and the Commuter Information Team are celebrating your clean commute on the east end of Charlottesville's Downtown Mall. Between 11:00 AM and 1:00 PM you will be able to learn about different commuting options while enjoying free lunch, entertainment from Hot 101.9 FM and entering to win great prizes.

May 2, 2008 | 11:00AM - 1:00PM

East End, Charlottesville Downtown Mall

Free Food and Great Prizes! | [CommuterInformation.com](http://CommuterInformation.com)



To kick off Clean Commute Day, you are invited to take the Clean Commute Pledge at [CommuterInformation.com](http://CommuterInformation.com).

### The Pledge is simple:

***I pledge to carpool, vanpool, ride Charlottesville Transit Service, ride University Transit Service, ride JAUNT, ride Greene County Transit, telework, walk or bike to work at least one day this spring.***

When you pledge on or before May 2, you will be entered to win one of many great prizes - including an eco-friendly trip for two to New York City aboard the Starlight Express! Other prizes include gift certificates to Whole Foods, the UVA Bookstore and John Paul Jones Arena. The grand prize winner will be announced live on Hot 101.9 FM during the evening commute on May 2nd.

Clean Commute Day is a great opportunity to try riding the bus or taking JAUNT. Charlottesville Transit Service is offering free bus rides all day on Friday, May 2nd. JAUNT is offering free rides on its commuter routes on April 28th through May 2nd when you board a bike. For more information on taking the bus or riding JAUNT, go to [CommuterInformation.com](http://CommuterInformation.com)!

With free pizza, amazing prizes, music, and gifts for the whole family, Clean Commute Day will be a fun way to spend your lunch hour. Show your kids how you ride to work and get them a free pedometer at the RideShare booth. Or find out how you can relax and read the newspaper on your way to work aboard one of JAUNT's commuter routes. Regardless of how you clean commute, you will be saving money, reducing pollution and relieving traffic congestion. Join the Commuter Information Team and the Charlottesville community on May 2nd for Clean Commute Day! •

### Inside this Issue:

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- Carpool vs. Vanpool
- Computing Carpool Costs
- All About the Kids!
- Employer Corner

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 **rideshare**

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### Keep Virginia's Air Clean: Reduce Your Pollution!

Clean air matters. Common pollution from cars, trucks, planes and other sources causes smog, acid rain, crop and ecosystem damage and health problems like asthma and allergies. Keep your region's quality of life high by considering some of the tips below:

- **Share a ride!** The more people in your carpool, the more you reduce your air pollution!
- **Start or join a vanpool!** One vanpool takes nine to fifteen cars off the road - reducing pollution and traffic congestion!
- **Combine errands into one trip:** create shopping lists and map your route to prevent redundant driving.
- **Shop local:** stay in town for shopping trips.
- **Take transit:** try the bus or JAUNT's commuter routes for inexpensive options.
- **Ride your bike or walk:** you pollute nothing and burn calories!
- **Telecommute:** work from home and avoid a stressful commute.
- **Flex-Schedule:** work four ten-hour shifts.
- **Care for your car,** keeping tires properly inflated and regularly changing the oil and air filter.



## When should I move from a Carpool to a Vanpool?

### Know when to make the switch

Have you ever pulled into a park and ride and wondered if all those other cars are going the same direction as your carpool? What if you could be splitting the cost between nine people instead of two or three? In addition to carpool matching, RideShare facilitates vanpool formation in the Charlottesville region and can help you potentially save even more money.

### How Do You Calculate Your Transportation Costs?

Determining when a vanpool is cheaper than a carpool depends on how you calculate your commute costs. Carpool drivers and riders can choose to split costs a number of ways: gas costs alone, flat mileage rates allowing for insurance and repairs, or by sharing driving duties. The U.S. Government Services Administration (GSA) reimburses mileage at \$0.505 per mile, a standard nationwide rate also used by the Commonwealth of Virginia. According to GasBuddy.com on April 14, 2008, the average price of regular unleaded gasoline in Charlottesville was \$3.297 per gallon. At 25 miles per gallon, that makes the cost of gasoline alone \$0.13 per mile. Vanpool costs take all maintenance, repairs and insurance into account, splitting that among 9, 12 or 15 passengers. Per passenger costs range between \$0.05 and \$0.18 per mile, with the vanpool becoming more efficient with more passengers or on longer routes. If a carpool driver chooses to take other costs into account on top of gasoline, then a vanpool quickly becomes the cheaper alternative.

The chart located at the top of page 3 demonstrates the difference in cost between carpooling at \$0.505 per mile, splitting gasoline costs only and vanpooling. The vanpool cost estimates were provided by VPSI, RideShare's vanpool partner.

### Other Vanpool Benefits

Vanpooling provides both the driver and riders with a number of incentives that makes the program easy and enjoyable. The driver often is able to commute for free while the riders can enjoy the extra time to catch up on sleep, read the morning newspaper or chat with friends in the van. Commuters can work with their car insurance companies to lower their rates, moving their vehicle from commute status to recreational status. Some employers offer vanpool incentives, ranging from preferred parking to subsidy programs. Besides personal benefits, vanpools are a greener option to carpooling. One vanpool can take between 2 and 5 carpools off the road, reducing greenhouse gas emissions. Fewer vehicles means less traffic congestion, saving you time and gas on your way to work!

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*Do you live in Staunton, Waynesboro or Lake Monticello? You could save in a vanpool!*

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### So Should I Vanpool?

If vanpooling interests you and would save you money, think about what it would take to form a vanpool.

- Are there other commuters in your neighborhood or at your employer that would want to ride?
- How busy is the local park & ride?
- Would you or someone you know be willing to drive?
- Would your employer be willing to help market or subsidize a vanpool?

Communities that could benefit from vanpooling include Staunton/Waynesboro, Lake Monticello/Zion Crossroads and Stanardsville/Ruckersville. If you live in one of these areas and would like more information on forming a vanpool, contact a RideShare Outreach Specialist at [rideassistant@tjpd.org](mailto:rideassistant@tjpd.org) or (434) 295-6165. •

# How Do You Compute Your Carpool Costs?

## RideShare wants to know!

You already know carpooling saves money. But how much money are you saving? RideShare provides a commuting calculator at [www.rideshareinfo.org](http://www.rideshareinfo.org) to find the cost of your drive-alone commute. However, many of you share the carpool costs in different ways: switching out drivers, splitting gas bills or paying based on mileage. RideShare wants to know how you split the cost and how much you are saving. E-mail us with your stories at [rideassistant@tjpd.org](mailto:rideassistant@tjpd.org). Each person who sends a story will get a fun prize and the best stories will be featured in our next newsletter! •

| Could You Save Money in a Vanpool?   |                              |                         |                                       |                  |                  |                   |
|--|------------------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------------------|------------------|------------------|-------------------|
| Costs are per month, based on \$0.505 per mile vehicle operating costs (gas, maintenance, insurance, depreciation) |                              |                         |                                       |                  |                  |                   |
| If You Are Coming From:  | You Are Spending:            |                         | You Could Be Saving By Spending Just: |                  |                  |                   |
|  | Driving Alone, All Inclusive | Driving Alone, Gas Only | 2-Person Carpool                      | 4-Person Carpool | 9-Person Vanpool | 12-Person Vanpool |
| Lake Monticello or Ruckersville  | \$333.30                     | \$87.12                 | \$166.65                              | \$83.33          | \$116.13         | \$87.97           |
| Waynesboro   | \$555.50                     | \$145.20                | \$277.75                              | \$138.88         | \$143.56         | \$109.12          |
| Staunton or Lovingston   | \$777.70                     | \$203.28                | \$388.85                              | \$194.43         | \$159.87         | \$121.93          |
| Gum Spring   | \$999.90                     | \$261.36                | \$499.95                              | \$249.98         | \$176.18         | \$134.74          |
| Amherst  | \$1222.10                    | \$319.44                | \$611.05                              | \$305.53         | \$192.49         | \$147.55          |
| Richmond   | \$1444.30                    | \$377.52                | \$722.15                              | \$361.08         | \$208.80         | \$160.37          |

## All about the kids!

### Kids Count Their Steps With RideShare at KidVenton

On March 29th, the Charlottesville Pavilion was flooded with hundreds of children learning about the environment, beekeeping, physics and RideShare. KidVenton, sponsored by the Virginia Discovery Museum, featured numerous exhibits from local organizations. RideShare showcased its *A Day on the Go* program, a workbook that teaches children about transportation choices. Kids received a workbook and pedometer to track their steps, while their parents learned about different commuting options. *A Day on the Go* will be detailed in next season's newsletter as RideShare prepares for its official debut in August. •




*Will Sowers, RideShare's Outreach Coordinator works with kids at KidVenton*


*Your Place. Your Community. Your Choices*

Plan to attend the

# Regional Summit



visit  
[UnJAM.ORG](http://UnJAM.ORG)




## UnJAM 2035 Regional Transportation Summit

**Saturday, May 10, 2008** | 8:30 a.m. - 12:00 noon


**It's time for us to make some tough choices** – and we need your help. Five years ago we asked you to help create a long-range plan for the region's transportation needs called UnJAM (United Jefferson Area Mobility Plan). It is now time to update that plan to reflect your current needs and concerns for the future. The Thomas Jefferson Planning District Commission (TJPD) and the Charlottesville/Albemarle Metropolitan Planning Organization (CA-AMPO) are asking for residents from around the region to attend the Regional Transportation Summit and help shape the future of our region.

**In addition to the Regional Summit** we have launched [UnJAM.org](http://UnJAM.org). Even if you can't attend the Summit, you can still participate in the update process by filling out our online survey, and sharing your comments. You can also review related transportation and land use studies, and learn more about the upcoming UnJAM 2035 Regional Summit. We invite you to take advantage of this opportunity to contribute to this important regional transportation plan.



**Mark Your Calendar!**  
**Saturday, May 10, 2008**  
 8:30 a.m. -12:00 noon  
**Monticello High School**  
 1400 Independence Way,  
 Charlottesville, VA

**Need a ride?** Contact  
**JAUNT** (434) 296-3184  
 or **Greene County Transit**  
 (434) 985-5205  
 by **May 2nd** to arrange free  
 transportation to the Summit.



**For questions:**  
 email [info@tjpd.org](mailto:info@tjpd.org)  
 or call 434 979 7310

# ~ The Employer Corner ~

## Help Your Employees Save Big Bucks

Gas prices have surpassed \$3.50 per gallon and are still on the rise. Workers in Charlottesville commute an average of 18 miles one-way each day. That means many of your employees are spending \$8 to \$10 or more each day just to get from home to work and back. As an employer, you can help relieve your employees' commuting costs in several easy, inexpensive ways with RideShare's help.

### Encourage Your Employees to Share a Ride

Many of your employees may not know their commuting options. By working with RideShare, you can present these options to your employees and save them hundreds of dollars each month.

### RideShare can:

- Provide customized outreach programs with RideShare and area transit services
- Produce employee density maps to determine how many employees live near each other

- Print flyers and other materials for new employee benefit packets
- Custom match carpools and vanpools
- Advise on creating a telework program

### Want to Do More?

If you want to do even more to help your employees, RideShare has solutions for comprehensive commuter benefits. Employers can:

- Provide preferential carpool and vanpool parking
- Subsidize vanpool costs
- Participate in Commuter Choice
- Allow employees to work flexible schedules
- Encourage employees to telework several times per week

Not only will these programs reduce your employees' commuting costs, they will reduce your parking costs, enhance worker productivity and free up parking for customers or future expansion. Contact RideShare today for more information at (434) 295-6165 or at [rideassistant@tjpd.org](mailto:rideassistant@tjpd.org)!



RideShare is a program of the  
Thomas Jefferson Planning District Commission.

RideShare is a member of the Commuter Information Team (CIT)\*, a partnership that works to enhance the quality of life and mobility of people in the region.

*\*The CIT is RideShare, CTS, JAUNT, UTS, and Greene County Transit*



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