

Milestones	43
Opinion	Special Section
Politics	10-12
Real Estate	13-15
Religion	19-28
Spare Time	Special Section
Sports	Special Section
Sunday Ride	Special Section

**HISTORIC SITE FILE: Cedar Run Bridge**  
**PRINCE WILLIAM PUBLIC LIBRARY SYSTEM**  
**RELIC/Bull Run Reg Lib, Manassas, VA**

STANDARD  
 PRESORT  
 U.S. Postage  
 PAID  
 Permit No. 3  
 Haymarket VA

ECRWSS  
 POSTAL CUSTOMER  
 Rt. 646

## Is the Aden Rd. bridge history?

By WENDY LANGFORD  
 Observer staff

The Aden Road bridge in Nokesville, a landmark in the local community, was closed by the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) on Aug. 30. A VDOT press release described the bridge as being "in a state of rapid deterioration" and said it will remain closed until all necessary repairs are completed.

Built in 1882, the bridge is on the National Register of Historic Places. The 125-year-old truss bridge crosses over railroad tracks and is owned by the Norfolk Southern Railroad. Truss bridges are among the oldest types of modern-day bridges in this country.

*continued on page 18*



Frank Comer IV / the Bull Run Observer  
 After visiting the Double O Good Alpaca Farm in Gainesville, 2007 Western Prince William County Farm Tour participants catch a hayride over to the Stoney Lonesome Farm. For more about the 2007 Farm Tour see Getting There special section.

PWC - Bridges  
 PRINCE WILLIAM PUBLIC LIBRARY SYSTEM  
 RELIC/Bull Run Reg Lib Manassas, VA



# Update: Railroad replaces Aden Rd. bridge timbers; VDOT to reinspect

continued from page 1

While VDOT is responsible for all bridge inspections, the railroad is responsible for all upkeep and maintenance on the Aden Road bridge, according to local sources.

The VDOT release said there is "advanced deterioration of the timber plank deck." All components of the bridge including superstructure, substructure and deck have "extensive deficiencies." Repair costs are estimated at \$830,000.

A traffic detour directs vehicles to Fitzwater Drive and VA 28, creating additional congestion at the intersection. The detour adds less than a mile for drivers in either direction. Detour signs are clearly marked and easy to follow.

Brentsville District Supervisor Wally Covington is unhappy about the bridge closure. He said a closure occurred about 10 years ago under similar circumstances, and he wants someone to take responsibility now.

He is working to determine why the bridge is not maintained by VDOT. Covington said there should have been an ongoing maintenance program in place by the railroad. He said Norfolk Southern has "let the community down repeatedly" by not maintaining the bridge.

Covington said VDOT would prefer to install a new bridge while local residents would prefer to restore this historic landmark. "We're going to keep digging," Covington said, into what can be done to maintain the bridge. He said preliminary work is being done to open the bridge to cars and light trucks.

With an update on the situation, VDOT's Northern Virginia bridge engineer Nick Roper said Norfolk Southern engineers are in the process of "developing a plan to repair or replace the deck." Barring any unforeseen developments, Roper estimated it would be a month or two before the bridge reopens. The bridge's 6-ton weight restriction will remain in effect, he noted.

Robin Chapman, spokesman for Norfolk Southern Corp., said in an e-mail that his company has already replaced "the six deck timbers that VDOT cited as the primary reason for closing the bridge, but the difference in thickness between the new timbers and some of the old ones created an uneven surface." He expects the railroad's work to be done in the next few weeks; then, VDOT representatives will inspect the bridge again.

Chapman said Norfolk Southern provides a cursory inspection of the bridge on an as-needed basis. He acknowledged the bridge's status on the historic registry throws a

wrinkle in the type of work the railroad can provide. He said Norfolk Southern's responsibility is to "maintain the bridge" in its current design and capacity.

Roper and Chapman said they are likely to discuss, along with Prince William County transportation officials, the possibility of replacing the bridge with a "modern structure," while relocating the current bridge to a recreational location within Prince William County.

Whatever the final outcome, safety is the top priority. According to the VDOT Web site, "The commonwealth has an aggressive bridge inspection and safety program." Almost 100 VDOT bridge inspectors conduct "between 11,000 and 12,000 inspections each year," the site said. All bridges are inspected within National Bridge Inspection standards.

The Aden Road closure "proves VDOT's inspection program in Virginia is working to ensure public safety," Roper said in the release. All Virginia bridges are inspected at least once every two years. Others, like the one on Aden Road, are inspected annually.

Because it's owned by the railroad and inspected by VDOT, the Aden Road bridge situation is unusually complex. All parties involved, including the railroad, VDOT and Prince William County, will likely work together towards an optimal solution. Preserving the bridge is important to the local community. Public safety is important to everyone. In a perfect world, the solution will incorporate both these ideals.



The bridge on Aden Road in Nokesville has been closed until further notice.

Wendy Langford / the Bull Run Observer

**"WHERE STYLE AND COMFORT GO TOGETHER"**

*Feeling the crisp in the air...*

**Warm up your tootsies in our New Fall Fashions!**

Accessories too...to update your whole look!

7356 ATLAS WALK WAY  
GAINESVILLE, VA 20155

**TOWN & COUNTRY SHOES**  
A Unique Shoe Boutique

**571-261-3151**

## What's The Last Thing On Your Mind When You Come Home To Unwind? **HOUSEWORK!**

**\$35 Off**  
Your First Cleaning

When you schedule weekly or bi-weekly service. Limited to new customers only. Please call when scheduling your cleaning service. Not valid with other specials.

**\$15 Off**  
Any Service

Limited to new customers only. Please call when scheduling your cleaning service. Not valid with other specials.

- Professional Team Cleaning
- Weekly, Bi-Weekly, Monthly, Special Occasion
- Locally Owned & Operated For 14 Years
- All Supplies & Equipment Furnished

- All Personnel Licensed, Bonded & Insured
- Consistent, Superior Service
- Reliable, Trustworthy & Affordable
- Customized Cleaning To Fit Your Needs

**SATISFACTION  
GUARANTEED**

**FREE PHONE  
ESTIMATES**



**Maid Brigade**

YOUR HOME. CLEANER.



"We guarantee your satisfaction. It's about the customer. Every time."

- Barbara A. Best, Owner

**PRINCE WILLIAM**  
**703-754-3635**

[www.maidbrigade.com](http://www.maidbrigade.com)

**FAUQUIER**  
**540-347-2400**

**House Cleaning The Way You Want It, Guaranteed!**