

# Bus service ends commuter runs

BY SCOTT SHENK / THE FREE LANCE-STAR | Posted: Friday, July 12, 2013 2:35 pm

Some D.C.-bound commuters are going to have to find another ride to work soon. Quick's Commuter and Charter will stop its service next month.

Ellen Crum, a longtime rider of the bus service, contacted The Free Lance-Star after getting a notice letter Tuesday as she boarded her bus.

Many other riders got the letters Monday, but Crum was teleworking from her Spotsylvania County home that day.

Crum said she is distraught because the bus ride makes the commute to Washington "tolerable."

"I'm not happy about it," she said.

Efforts to reach the Staunton-based Quick's for comment this week were unsuccessful.

Dave Snyder, general manager with Martz National Coach Bus Co. and National Coach Works, said on Friday that his bus company will take over the Quick's runs.

He figures the four runs will carry between 140 and 200 area commuters.

He said the Spotsylvania bus company will take over the routes on Monday, Aug. 5.

In Quick's letter to riders, Robbie Quick, who has a Fredericksburg office, wrote that the service would end Aug. 2 and that the cost of carrying commuters up north "is no longer feasible."

Crum, who has used Quick's for 10 years to commute to her Federal Aviation Administration in downtown D.C., said the change will have a big impact on her and other commuters.

"I loved it; it's been great," she said of Quick's, which ran routes that allowed her to work longer shifts.

Those shifts allow her to take off every other Friday, which she said is the only way she can catch up with things at home after spending so much time commuting and working.

She's not sure if Martz will be able to handle her schedule.

"I'm just very disturbed," she said, "so was everybody."

Snyder said Martz offers five ticket options for commuters, from daily to monthly and 32-punch tickets geared toward commuters whose schedules include four-day workweeks.

The riders will pay a little more, though. A monthly ticket for Martz will cost \$30 more than what Quick's charged. Federal commuters who use mass transit get a \$245 monthly stipend to cover the costs.

Quick's started running buses in 1946, carrying commuters in school buses from Staunton to Waynesboro, according to the company's website.

In 1991, Quick's bought D&J Bus Service's Fredericksburg division, taking over its commuter routes.

The company also provides charter bus service.

**Scott Shenk: 540/374-5436**

[sshenk@freelancestar.com](mailto:sshenk@freelancestar.com)