



Connections

The Newsletter of the Virginia Association of Counties

October 1, 2007

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Kaine Releases Budget Cuts, School Funding Spared

Gov. Timothy Kaine will protect K-12 funding from his FY 2008 budget cuts. The cuts stem from a \$640 million current-year revenue shortfall.

In addition to immediately implementing program cuts totaling \$300 million, including 74 state employee layoffs, the governor will propose carrying forward unexpended appropriations (\$100 million) and transferring Rainy Day Fund balances. In accordance with the law, the governor currently can propose a fund transfer of up to \$300 million. Kaine's proposed Rainy Day transfer will protect local governments from additional current-year cuts.

Local leaders are urged to review the specific cuts (<http://dpb.virginia.gov/>) released on Oct. 1.

Highlights of the governor's budget cuts include:

- Reducing HB 599 payments by five percent
- Withholding Compensation Board reimbursements for 90-days. The reimbursements affect vacant positions for clerks of the court, commissioners of the revenue and treasurers.
- Reducing Virginia Juvenile Community Crime Control Act

(VJCCCA) funding by 2.5 percent

- Reducing library aid by five percent

- Reducing non-state agencies by a minimum of five percent

- Reducing registrar funding by five percent

- Reducing planning district commission funding by five percent.

- Counties should expect ABC and wine profits to be capped or reduced.

In addition, savings include a re-negotiated Medicaid managed care contract (\$60 million) and federal TANF changes (\$8 million). The state also saves interest fund transfers of \$18 million to transportation. The FY 2008 budget includes a one-time General Fund transfer of \$500 million. The \$18 million savings occurs without cutting the principal.

The governor and General Assembly also must resolve an estimated \$1 billion FY 2009-2010 revenue shortfall. In addition to his FY 2008 proposals, including the Rainy Day Fund transfer, Kaine will release his proposed biennial budget and next round of cuts in mid-December. ☘

Governor, First Lady Among Speakers at 2007 Annual Conference

There's still time to register for VACo's 2007 Annual Conference, "Virginia-Where Local Government Began," Nov. 11-13 in Bath County.

Gov. Timothy Kaine and First Lady Anne Holton are scheduled to speak during the Opening General Session on Monday morning. The First Lady will discuss her initiatives on serving foster children.

This year's concurrent sessions will feature several timely topics including a discussion on Virginia's revenue outlook and what it means to counties. Two land use and planning sessions will be held to discuss urban development areas and road impact fees. Emergency management and energy efficiency sessions are also on the agenda.

Be sure to take a walk through the Exhibit Hall, which

will feature many organizations offering essential services to counties.

Several of VACo's partners, including VACo Risk Management Programs, the VML/VACo Finance Program, Nationwide Retirement Solutions and GovDeals, will have representatives available to speak with you.

This year, two additional guest programs will be offered. Tour the Greenbrier Bunker on Nov. 10 beginning at 12:30 p.m. This massive 112,544 square foot facility was constructed during the darkest days of the Cold War to house and protect hundreds of top U.S. government officials in case of a nuclear attack. This tour group is limited to the first 28 registrants so sign up soon!

A falconry demonstration will



take place on Nov. 12 at 1:30 p.m. This event will allow participants to interact with majestic birds of prey. A minimum of 21 participants is required for this event.

Registration and other conference-related information is available on the VACo Web site at www.vaco.org, click on "meetings." You can also contact VACo staff member Carol Huff at (804) 343-2507 or chuff@vaco.org.

The deadline to register at the regular rate is Nov. 1. Exhibitors must register by Oct. 5 in order for company information to appear in the conference program. ☘

CIT Launches Broadband Availability Survey

The Center for Innovative Technology (CIT) has created an online form for Virginia citizens to gauge broadband access across the state.

Virginians can fill out the form online providing information such as location, broadband availability in the area, main usage for the Internet and more. The information will help the Broadband Roundtable, announced earlier this year by Gov. Timothy Kaine, ensure broadband access throughout Virginia.

"Broadband connections enable citizens and businesses, making them more productive and efficient, and it is essential that Virginia continues to increase broadband adoption across the state," said Secretary of Technology Aneesh Chopra. "With this form, CIT has taken an important step towards an inventory of access in the Commonwealth."

The form is available online at www.cit.org/broadband. The information will be used only as part of an aggregate report and

personal information will not be shared with any group or business.

CIT is a nonprofit corporation that accelerates the next generation of technology and technology companies. To facilitate national innovation leadership and accelerate the rate of technology adoption, CIT creates partnerships between innovative technology start-up companies and advanced technology consumers. ☘

Communications Tax Revenue Sees Growth

Two fairly large communications providers have been incorrectly filing their monthly returns. This recent discovery by the Virginia Department of Taxation results in an additional \$1.2 million per month in collections.

This welcomed news indicates that monthly distributions to localities from the Communications Tax Trust Fund should begin to exceed the average monthly amount localities received in FY 2006 from the now repealed local taxes and fees.

In addition to paying the correct amount going forward, the

two providers will reimburse the fund for the prior months of collections. The Department of Taxation advised VACo, VML and industry representatives of the finding at a meeting in Richmond on Sept. 21.

The 2006 restructuring was designed to guarantee local governments' future growth in communication tax revenues. The new assortment of statewide taxes and fees includes receipts from the five percent communications sales tax, right-of-way use fee on cable customers, and a 75 cents monthly E-911 fee. Local officials have been concerned because distributions from the

statewide collections initially have lagged behind FY 2006 collections. Distributions from January through June 2007 were about nine percent less than localities collected for the comparable period in 2006. Going forward, the additional \$1.2 million collected monthly should cause the monthly distribution to equal, if not exceed, the FY 2006 average statewide monthly amount.

Roger Wiley of Hefty & Wiley contributed to this report. VACo staff contact: Mike Edwards ☞

Comment on New Highway Access Management requirements Oct. 15-19

VDOT's proposed highway access management regulations and standards will be available for public comment from Oct. 15-19. A public hearing will be held on Oct. 22 in Richmond and video conferences are planned to VDOT's district offices. All public comments received will be available for review on VDOT's highway access management Web site at the address noted below.

On or about Oct. 2, two copies of the draft requirements will be available on VDOT's access management site at <http://www.virginiadot.org/projects/accessmgt/default.asp>. In addition, the draft regulations will be published in *The Virginia Register* on Oct. 15

(<http://legis.state.va.us/code-comm/register/regindex.htm>).

The Commonwealth Transportation Board will adopt these regulations and requirements by Dec. 31 and they will be effective on July 1, 2008. The delayed implementation will give the 2008 General Assembly time to review the new rules.

Counties are strongly encouraged to carefully review the two documents and to offer comments on them. While these regulations and standards will be a useful tool in land use control along major collector and arterial roads, they also have the potential to impact current and future commercial and large scale residential development in your locality.

Currently, counties that have adopted their own highway access management program will not be affected by the new requirements unless VDOT's standards are more stringent than the local requirements. That principal also applies to those counties that may adopt a highway access management program after July 1, 2008, but that is being contested by the development community.

Please direct questions about these new proposals to VACo staff member Ted McCormack. ☞

Panel of Biosolids Experts Holds First Meeting

On Sept. 18, a 25-member panel of experts held its first meeting to study the impact of the land application of biosolids on human health and the environment.

No money was appropriated by the General Assembly in support of the study. Nevertheless, the panel agreed to split into two subcommittees. One group will study the health-related impacts of land application of biosolids while the other will study environmental impacts. Most members of the panel expressed a desire to serve on both subcommittees. A plan will be developed to divide the panel into two workgroups.

Co-chaired by Secretary of Health and Human Resources Marilyn Tavenner and Secretary of Natural Resources Preston Bryant, the panel is required to issue an interim report by the end of this year, with a final report due for release in late 2008. More detailed information about the HJR 694 study panel (including panel membership and future meetings) is available at <http://www.deq.state.va.us/info/biosolidspanel.html>. VACo staff contact: Larry Land ☞

New Stormwater Regulations on Hold

At its Sept. 21 meeting, the Virginia Soil and Water Conservation Board decided not to go forward with a series of newly proposed stormwater management regulations.

The Department of Conservation and Recreation, (DCR) along with the conservation board, determined that refinements to proposed regulations need to be made before they are published in *The Virginia Register*, an action that would trigger the 60-day public comment period required under

the Administrative Process Act. Prior to being released for public comment, most regulations proposed by state agencies are also required to undergo state and local fiscal impact analyses by the Department of Planning and Budget.

In refining the stormwater management regulations, DCR's staff will issue another Notice of Intended Regulatory Action (NOIRA) for publication and then continue to work with technical experts, many of whom will represent local governments.

The stormwater regulations under development deal with such issues as water quality and quantity technical criteria, local program criteria, and state/local fee structures to pay for administrative costs associated with Virginia's newly consolidated Stormwater Management Program.

The estimated completion time for the new stormwater management regulations is late summer or early fall of 2008. ☞



Comment on Proposed Dam Safety Regulations

Virginia's Soil and Water Conservation Board has approved for public comment amendments to Virginia's rules that regulate the safety of dams. The proposed regulations are available at <http://legis.state.va.us/codecomm/register/vol23/iss25/v23i25-2.pdf>.

Public comments on the proposed regulations may be submitted until Oct. 19 to David C. Dowling, policy, planning and budget director of the Department of Conservation and Recreation, 203 Governor Street, Suite 302, Richmond, VA 23219. Telephone: (804)786-2291. FAX: (804)786-6141. Email: david.dowling@dcr.virginia.gov.

DCR has also scheduled five public hearings that will begin at 7 pm.; Oct. 4, Roanoke City County Chambers; Oct. 9, Hampton City Hall; Oct. 10, Henrico County Government Complex; Oct. 11, Augusta County Government Center; and Oct. 16, City of Manassas Council Chambers. ☞

Funding Proposal to Assist Localities with School Construction Costs

The leadership of the General Assembly is proposing a new school construction revolving loan fund to assist localities. The proposal calls on VACo and VML working through the existing VML/VACo Finance Program to explore the development of the new initiative, which would require enabling legislation and new state dollars.

The VML/VACo Finance Program has financed more than \$412 million in capital projects and equipment since

2003 for 70 local governments and governmental entities. It offers flexible financing suitable for both highly rated and non-rated localities. Projects are combined from different localities across the Commonwealth, financing costs are shared, volume discounts are achieved, and participants save money. The VML/VACo Finance Program is managed by local government leaders; it is not a state program.

As envisioned by the drafters, the state would establish the new

revolving loan fund by appropriating capital to a non-state entity, such as the VML/VACo Finance Program. The combination of state funding and pooling of administrative and issuance costs would reduce members' overall borrowing costs.

The VACo leadership has agreed to explore the initiative with the caveat that state funding should not be derived from existing core services, including public education. ☘

Panel to Finalize Incentives for Volunteer Emergency Services Personnel

At the Sept. 24 meeting of the Joint Subcommittee to Study Incentives for Fire and Rescue Squad Volunteers (HJR743), the members gave tentative approval to four recommendations designed to improve the recruitment and retention of volunteer emergency services personnel. Three of the proposals, however, will require additional state funding, which make their final endorsement by the committee uncertain.

Only four of several suggestions were given provisional endorsement for inclusion in the final report.

The first proposal would provide up to \$3,000 in state income tax credit for volunteers based on participation, training, certification and length of serv-

ice. An estimate placed the biennial cost of the tax credit at approximately \$200 million. The second recommendation would have the Commonwealth reimburse volunteer firefighters and rescue squad members for mandated training taken through state institutions of higher education and other accredited providers. There was no cost estimate available for this recommendation.

The third suggestion called for the appropriation of \$250,000 in the upcoming biennium for the Volunteer Firefighters' and Rescue Squad Workers' Service Award Program (VOLSAP). If those funds were ultimately appropriated, that would be the first state contribution to the program since its inception in 1999. Finally, the committee approved

a recommendation to increase from \$4 to \$6 the emergency services component of the motor vehicle



registration fee (i.e., "Four For Life"), with the additional funds earmarked for any new volunteer recruiting and retention initiatives ultimately enacted by the 2008 General Assembly.

Chairman Tom Rust directed the staff to draft suggested language for each of the tentative recommendations and to estimate their fiscal impact by the next meeting, which will be held after Nov. 6. The committee's final report will be completed by Nov. 30 and contain recommendations for any new legislation. ☘



Mark Your Calendar...

Virginia Environmental Assembly

"Bright Ideas for a Brighter Future"

Oct. 6, College of William and Mary

<http://www.vcnva.org/2007veassembly.php>

Business Writing Basics

Oct. 10, 9 am-12 pm, U.Va. Richmond Center

Sponsored by the Virginia Institute of Government.

This training seminar will focus on the eight basic steps to writing effectively, including organizing your thoughts, analyzing your audience, and enlivening your message using simple, clear language to get the results you want. \$75 fee, Group discounts. Contact: Jessica Smith at (804) 371-0202 or jessicasmith@virginia.edu, or visit www.VaInstituteofGovernment.org.

VML Annual Conference

Oct. 14-16, James City County www.vml.org

Keeping The Best! Emergency Medical Services (EMS)

Retention Training

Roanoke Valley Regional Fire-EMS Training Center, Salem
Friday, Oct. 12- Maximizing Your EMS Retention Efforts, 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Saturday, October 13- Keeping the Best! How to Use EMS Retention Principles, 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Both classes designed for career and volunteer fire and EMS

leaders and are \$20 each. Registration deadline is Oct. 1. For more information and to register, visit www.vaems.org/retention or email emstechasst@vdh.virginia.gov.

Innovations in American Government Awards

Applications due Oct. 15. Each winner of the 2008 Innovations Award will receive a \$100,000 grant to support replication and dissemination activities. Applications and additional information are available at www.innovationsaward.harvard.edu

Commonwealth of Virginia Energy and Sustainability Conference

Oct. 16 – 18, Virginia Military Institute: Cocks Hall
Lexington, www.covesva.org

VACo's 2007 Annual Conference

Nov. 11-13, The Homestead, Bath County
Online and print registration is available at www.vaco.org. Click on "meetings."

2007 Virginia Transportation Conference

Nov. 7-9, Hotel Roanoke & Conference Center
"The Changing Face of Transportation in Virginia"
Explore how investments in Virginia's transportation system can produce economic benefits for the state, the nation and the world. www.vatransconf.org

2007 Virginia/West Virginia Water Research Symposium

"Connecting Management to Aquatic Communities"
Nov. 26-30, The Inn at Virginia Tech and Skelton Conference Center, Blacksburg
Topics will span a wide range of water quality and water supply issues. <http://www.vwrrc.vt.edu/symposium2007/default.html>

Virginia Agriculture Summit

Dec. 11-12, The Southwest Virginia Higher Education Center, Abingdon
Earlybird registration deadline is Dec. 1. <http://www.agsummit.com/>

Local Government Academy at Germanna Community College

The Academy offers nine classes designed for local government professionals on a variety of topics, including Customer Service, Employment Law Basics, Spanish for City & County Government, and Land Use Law. Classes will be held October through December on the Fredericksburg campus. In partnership with the Virginia Institute of Government. Registration fees range from \$79 - \$179. Call (540) 891-3012 or visit www.VaInstituteofGovernment.org to download a brochure. ☘

VACo Remembers Kathy Rae Frahm

Kathy Rae Frahm, chief liaison for intergovernmental affairs for the Department of Environmental Quality, passed away suddenly on Sept. 14. Frahm, 40, was a well respected environmental attorney who was always available whenever she was asked to participate in VACo conferences and meetings. As a highly responsive and reliable source of information on environmental issues, she was deeply appreciated by the VACo staff. Kathy will be dearly missed for her courtesy, warmth, kindness and her quick-ready laugh that will always ring in the ears of those who had the good fortune of working with her. Online condolence messages can be sent to her family at www.riffes.com. ☞

Virginia Regulatory Information Available Online

Virginia Regulatory Town Hall is a comprehensive source of information about regulatory changes under consideration in the Commonwealth. The Town Hall allows you to find regulations and track proposed changes, as well as to submit online comments about regulatory changes. For more information, or for help in signing up for Town Hall, please contact Amy Wostenholme at the Commonwealth of Virginia's Department of Planning and Budget at amy.wolstenholme@dpm.virginia.gov or (804) 786-5024. ☞

Online Climate Forum Announced

More than 100 people participated in NACo's first-ever County Climate Protection Forum in Washington, D.C, Sept. 20 and 21. The two-day dialogue and peer-to-peer networking forum provided county officials and staff from across the country the opportunity to discuss and learn best practices, tools and resources to assist them in developing and implementing successful climate change programs at home.

To help continue and broaden the county dialogue on climate protection, an online discussion forum has been established for counties to ask questions, discuss progress and suggest ideas to others. Begin interacting with counties across the country today at www.naco.org/climatediscussion.

Additional information on NACo's County Climate Protection Program and PowerPoint presentations from the County Climate Protection Forum are available at www.naco.org/climateprotection.

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Congratulations!

Frederick County

Administrator John Riley has received the Public Service Award for Local Government from the Shenandoah University Institute for Government and Public Service.

Virginia Geotechnical Services (VGS), which has for the past year been operating as a division of the southeastern regional firm S&ME, Inc., will formally begin using the sole name **S&ME** this month. S&ME was established in 1973. The firm has won 60 Engineering Excellence awards and is included in Engineering News-Record magazines top 100 "Pure Design" firms.

Neal Menkes, a longtime state finance expert, was named director of fiscal policy for **VML** effective Sept. 4. Menkes worked for the past 14 years as a legislative fiscal analyst for the Senate Finance Committee where he was responsible for issues related to transportation, economic development and natural resources.

Virginia retained its highest possible ranking as a Tier 1 state in the 2007 Moody's U.S. States Credit Scorecard. The report also noted that Virginia retained its Triple-A bond rating. Standard & Poor's and Fitch reaffirmed Virginia's Triple-A bond rating earlier this summer.

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Employment Opportunities

Employment ads have been edited due to space considerations. To view the full versions, visit www.vaco.org.

Administrative Assistant/ VACo

Entry level position requires basic computer skills and office operations knowledge. Will be responsible for receptionist duties, answering phones, ordering supplies, responding to client questions, tracking information and assisting with meeting planning. Assist with billings and banking. Self-motivated individual with MS Office skills needed. Data base skills a plus. Must be a team player and willing to learn and assist in all areas of operation. Please submit a resume including salary requirements to: VACo Personnel Manager, 1001 East Broad St, Suite LL20, Richmond, VA 23219.

Building Inspector/King William County

Hiring range \$28,000 to \$31,000. DOQ plus competitive benefits. Position to remain open until filled. Send resume and county application to Director of Community Development, King William County, P.O. Box 215, King William, Virginia 23086. www.kingwilliamcounty.us

Chief Internal Auditor #1348/Stafford County

Salary Range: \$93,662-\$145,663

Starting salary dependent on qualifications.

Application Deadline: Nov. 2. Qualified applicants should apply on-line at www.co.stafford.va.us. A resume will not be accepted in lieu of a County application.

Chief of Police/Colonial Beach

Salary: \$49,700 to \$68,700. Must establish residence in town and obtain VA law enforcement certification within six months. Background investigation may include physical, polygraph and psychological examinations. To apply send resume and at least three references by Oct. 12 at 5 p.m. to: Barbara Goff, Town Clerk, 18 North Irving Street, Colonial Beach, VA 24433, (804) 224-7181, bgoff@colonialbeach-va.org.

County Attorney/Frederick County

Graduation from a law school of recognized standing and a minimum of 10 years experience as a practicing attorney. Considerable experience in local government law. Open until filled. www.co.frederick.va.us

County Engineer/Washington County

Salary: \$60,000 - \$63,500. Position open until filled. www.washcovva.com

Deputy County Administrator for Management Services/ Chesterfield County

Deadline: Oct. 4. Interested applicants should submit a confidential resume with cover letter and salary requirements to: Karla J. Gerner, Director, Chesterfield

County Human Resource Management, P.O. Box 40, Chesterfield, VA 23832, Email: executivesearch@chesterfield.gov

Deputy Code Official/King William County

Experience with code interpretation or enforcement preferred. High school diploma and current driver's license required. Hiring range \$32,000 to \$35,000. Position open until filled. Send resume and county application to Director of Community Development, King William County, P.O. Box 215, King William, Virginia 23086. www.kingwilliamcounty.us

Director of Finance #0001/ Henrico County

Salary: \$102,999 - \$180,794. Deadline Oct. 14. Apply at www.henricojobs.com.

Director of Information Technology/Roanoke County

Salary : \$92,300 to \$110,140. Submit a Roanoke County application and resume to County of Roanoke, Department of Human Resources, P.O. Box 29800, Roanoke, VA 24018-0798. Deadline: Open until filled (540) 772-2018, www.roanoke-countyva.gov/jobs.

Director of Parks and Recreation (#1446)/Stafford County

Salary Range: \$93,662 - \$124,092. Closing Date: Oct. 5. Apply on-line at www.co.

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Employment

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stafford.va.us. A resume will not be accepted in lieu of a county application.

Director of Public Utilities/Caroline County

Starting salary up to \$108,782. Submit a completed county application and cover letter to County Administrator Percy Ashcraft at P.O. Box 447, Bowling Green, Virginia 22427, (804) 633-5380. Applications and a position description may be obtained from the County Administrator's Office or online at www.visitcaroline.com. Position is open until filled.

Economic Development Director/Greene County

Salary \$65,000-75,000
CEcD or related certification is preferred. Send a resume, professional references and a writing sample by Oct. 12 to: Greene County EDA, PO Box 852, Stanardsville, VA 22973, or email greenewaeda@greeneva.com. Phone: (434) 985-6663, FAX: (434) 985-3414. See website for details: greeneva.com.

Litter Control Worker #1454-Stafford County

Salary: \$24,377-\$40,22
Closing Date: Oct. 8
Performs responsible semiskilled work for the Stafford County Landfill in the cleaning of county roads and public property. Apply online at www.co.stafford.va.us. A resume will not be accepted in lieu of a County application.

Museum Curator/Isle of Wight County

Salary: \$36,862-\$46,077
Requires a bachelor's degree and 1-3 years of experience or equivalent. Position open until filled. Interested candidates should submit an application and resume to: HR, P.O. Box 80, Isle of Wight, VA 23397. Visit our website at www.iwus.net or call us at (757) 365-6263.

Public Works Director/Engineer/Alleghany County

Starting Salary range: Mid to upper \$50's. Apply by cover letter, resume, (include salary history) and county application to: Alleghany County Administrators Office, Attn: John Strutner, 9212 Winterberry Avenue, Covington, Virginia 24426. Open until filled.

Recreation Manager/Isle of Wight County

Salary: \$41,286-\$61,928
Requires 3-5 years experience and a BA/BS degree in Recreation Mgmt. or related field. Submit an application and resume to: HR, P.O. Box 80, Isle of Wight, VA 23397. Visit www.iwus.net or call (757) 365-6263. Position open until filled.

Regulatory Compliance Specialist/Accomack County
Pay Grade 21 (\$37,498 - \$54,371)

This is a professional position responsible for monitoring compliance with environmental regulations. Application packets may be obtained by calling (757) 787-1468. Applications will be accepted until 5 p.m. on Oct. 26.

Transportation Engineer/Roanoke County

For more information and to apply, visit www.RoanokeCountyVA.gov/jobs. Deadline: Open Until Filled. Starting salary range: \$41,430 - \$45,573. Roanoke County application required. Department of Human Resources, 5204 Bernard Drive, SW, P. O. Box 29800, Roanoke, VA. 24018-0798, (540) 772-2018

Zoning Enforcement Officer/King George County

This position reports directly to the Director of Community Development. Position is opened until filled. Hiring range \$33,895 to \$35,000 DOQ. Submit required county application to County Administrator's Office, 10459 Courthouse Drive, Suite 200, King George, Virginia, 22485. Applications are available by calling (540) 775-9181 or visiting www.king-george.va.us. ☞

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VACo exists to support county officials and to effectively represent, promote and protect the interests of counties to better serve the people of Virginia.

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