



# Connections

The Newsletter of the Virginia Association of Counties

March 1, 2007

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## General Assembly Adjourns After Passing Transportation Plan

The General Assembly adjourned on Feb. 24 after passing a transportation funding package that relies on significant annual general fund transfers totaling more than \$170 million a year, but does not mandate localities to maintain subdivision streets. VACo continues to oppose the sizable general fund transfers but is grateful for the repeal of the mandated devolution provision.

Gov. Timothy Kaine now has the option of signing the bill into law, offering amendments, or vetoing the bill. The bill also includes controversial regional funding packages for Hampton Roads and Northern Virginia. The governor said he remains committed to finding a solution that works for everyone. VACo expects the governor to offer several changes to the measure. The House and Senate will reconvene on April 4 to consider the governor's recommendations.

HB 3202 (Howell) passed the House on a 64-34 vote and the Senate on a vote of 21-18. Under this proposal, the state will continue to maintain all new subdivision roads that meet

VDOT's new secondary street standards. However, new subdivision street standards will be adopted by regulation within the next year. Additionally, the bill requires VDOT to re-assign roads by Jan. 1, 2009, based on a functional classification (VDOT currently relies on an administrative classification). These two provisions may alter the present responsibilities for maintenance and funding.

Up to \$180 million a year will be transferred from the general fund to retire existing transportation debt and issue new project debt totaling \$2.5 billion (twenty-year bonds). New fees, which will generate an additional \$200 million, will support road maintenance operations. The new fees include enhanced weight fines for trucks, increased vehicle registration fees for all vehicles, and increased abusive driver fees. In addition to the \$180 million in general funds for debt, another \$64 million a year from general fund surpluses and approximately \$150 million a year from one-third of insurance premium tax revenue (currently general funds) will flow to the Transportation



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## Complete the 2007 Salary Survey



On Feb. 28, VACo staff member Dean Lynch emailed the 2007 Salary Survey to all county administrators. The salary information is a valuable resource to counties that need salary comparison figures to complete their current budgeting process. If you have not already done so, please fax or reply to the email with the most current salary information. If you did not receive the email (county administrators only), please contact VACo staff member Wendy Jenkins with your current email address so you can be added to the email distribution list.

The survey asks the following questions: 1) county name; 2) county administrator salary; 3) board chair salary; 4) board member salary; and 5) name and telephone number of the person completing the survey. If your county has not already done so, please email or fax this information to Dean Lynch at [dlynch@vaco.org](mailto:dlynch@vaco.org) or (804) 788-0083. The results will be available after all counties have responded. ☞

### GA Adjourns Continued from page 1

Trust Fund (TTF). The TTF supports road construction.

The regional plan for Hampton Roads will generate more than \$200 million a year in new regional taxes and fees, including an add-on commercial real-estate tax. Northern Virginia's plan is expected to generate more than \$425 million a year and also includes an add-on commercial real estate tax.

### Land use provisions Urban Development Areas (UDA)

Only those counties located in the Northern Virginia, Richmond-Petersburg, and Winchester Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) with a population growth rate of 15 percent or more (from one ten-year census to the next) and a population of at least 20,000 must include one or more UDAs in their comprehensive plan. (This affects the counties

of Caroline, Chesterfield, Dinwiddie, Fairfax, Frederick, Hanover, Henrico, Loudoun, Louisa, Powhatan, Prince George, Prince William, Spotsylvania, Stafford and Warren.)

### Urban Transportation Service Districts (UTSD)

Urban Transportation Service Districts are only authorized for counties that had a population of more than 90,000 in the year 2000 and do not currently maintain their own roads (affects Chesterfield, Fairfax, Loudoun, Prince William, Spotsylvania and Stafford counties). Counties that establish a UTSD will be required to assume construction and maintenance of roads within the service district and may impose an additional real estate tax within the UTSD to pay for that service. Further, any county that creates a UTSD will receive from VDOT significant additional funds for road maintenance within the service district.

Moreover, the counties that establish UTSDs will have broad

impact fee authority for most all public services. Chesterfield County, however, can only impose impact fees for transportation facilities. Regardless, the impact fees may be imposed only outside of UTSDs on parcels zoned for agriculture that are being subdivided for by-right residential development. Thus, this new impact fee authority does not apply to "stale" residential zoning.

### Funding note

The bill does not fix the state's road maintenance deficit. VDOT will transfer more than \$400 million this year from construction to maintenance. The deficit is growing by \$50 million a year. HB 3202 dedicates less than \$200 million a year to maintenance. Counties will not receive a fair or growing share of annual construction dollars for secondary roads until such time that the maintenance deficit is eliminated.

VACo staff contacts: Mike Edwards and Ted McCormack

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## Update on Eminent Domain

The Senate, on a vote of 18-20-2, rejected a constitutional amendment that would have severely restricted eminent domain authority for local governments and housing authorities. In the end, however, both the Senate and the House approved statutory changes contained in three identical bills that rewrite the eminent domain rules for all condemning entities.

The conference version of the three bills, HB 2954 (Bell), SB

781 (Cuccinelli) and SB 1296 (Newman), redefines the term “public use” and lists the types of projects that are appropriate for the use of eminent domain authority. The bills also restrict condemnation authority over blighted property requiring the structure be beyond repair or unfit for habitation or use. For blight condemnation of unimproved land, the land must be vacant and must constitute a public nuisance. This definition is much stricter than existing lan-

guage in Title 36 pertaining to housing and redevelopment authorities.

While the new language is not favorable to housing and redevelopment authorities, the conference version provides an exemption for any property in a redevelopment or conservation plan that was filed prior to Jan. 1 so long as the property is acquired by July 1, 2010. This gives a three-year window to acquire properties as part of an existing plan. Contact: Randy Cook ☞

## VDOT to Hold Information Sessions on New Regulations for Traffic Impact Analyses

The Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) is holding information sessions about new regulations that establish uniform statewide standards for traffic impact analyses for land-use proposals that will substantially impact the state-controlled transportation network. The intent of the regulations is to improve the coordination between land-use and transportation planning decisions by providing information to local government officials and citizens.

Implementation of the regulations will begin July 1 in VDOT’s Northern Virginia, Richmond and Salem districts. Implementation in VDOT’s Fredericksburg, Culpeper and Staunton districts will start Jan. 1, 2008 and in the Hampton Roads, Lynchburg and Bristol districts on July 1, 2008.

Details about the regulations, the draft guidelines for traffic analysis, implementation schedule and more can be found at <http://www.vdot.virginia.gov/projects/chapter527/>.

The first information sessions are as follows:

### March 9 – Northern Virginia District info sessions #1 & 2

- 9 a.m. to noon – Prince William County Government Center, Dr. A.J. Ferlazzo Building Auditorium
- 2 to 5 p.m. – Fairfax County Government Center, Rooms 9 & 10

### March 13 – Northern Virginia District info session #3

- 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. – Loudoun County Government Center Board Room

### March 20 – Salem District info session #1

- 2 – 5 p.m. – W. E. Skelton 4-H Educational Conference Center at Smith Mountain Lake

### March 21 – Salem District info session #2

- 9 a.m. – noon – New River Valley Community College Rooker Hall, Richardson Auditorium

### March 28 – Richmond District info sessions #1 & 2

- 9 a.m. – noon – Board of Supervisors Board Room Hanover County Administration Building
- 2 – 5 p.m. – Union Train Station, 103 River Street (in Olde Town area) Petersburg

Contact: Donna Purcell Mayes, Acting Chief of Communications, VDOT, Donna.Mayes@VDOT.Virginia.gov, (804) 786-2717 ☞

# Chesapeake Bay Watershed Awards Programs

## Low Impact Development Awards Program

Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 3 and the Low Impact Development Center are seeking entries for a new Low Impact Development Awards program. Deadline for submission is March 9. The primary goal of this effort is to establish a forum in which innovative and sustainable stormwater management planning, design, and program management efforts receive recognition. This model will provide the opportunity for a diverse group of organizations to present and promote their programs to a variety of audiences.

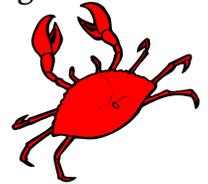
The program is being developed to serve as a leadership model for Low Impact Development (LID) recognition programs across the country by creating an expert review panel to review and recognize LID projects/programs and installations. This model will be useful to stakeholders in EPA regions across the country including local and state governments, universities, private industry, non-profits, and individuals. The chosen projects/programs will be showcased across the EPA agency and other panel member Web sites. More information may be found at: <http://lowimpactdevelopment.org/recognition>. Contact: Reggie Parrish (410) 267-5772

## 2007 Chesapeake Bay Partner Community Awards Program

Apply today for a Chesapeake Bay Partner Community Award and get the credit you deserve for taking action to protect your local watershed and the Chesapeake Bay! The application deadline is May 31. Go to [www.baylogin.org](http://www.baylogin.org) for a Partner Award application.

Local governments play a critical role in helping to restore the Chesapeake Bay and the many local streams and rivers that drain into the Bay. Counties, towns, boroughs, cities and townships throughout the watershed are taking action at the local level to protect water quality, use land wisely, and provide for natural habitats. That's why the Chesapeake Bay Program's Local Government Advisory Committee created the Bay Partner Community Awards program – to recognize many of the more than 1,650 local governments that are doing their part to be good stewards of their land and water resources.

Recipients of the Bay Partner Community Awards receive local and regional recognition through media exposure, recognition by the Chesapeake Bay Executive Council, a framed Bay Partner Community citation, and a roadside sign identifying them as a Chesapeake Bay Partner Community. For more information contact Pat Devlin at [pdevlin@acb-online.org](mailto:pdevlin@acb-online.org) or (717) 737-8622. ☞



## Stormwater Guide Available

**S**now melt and rainwater keep gardens green, streams and rivers full, and wells from running dry. However, stormwater problems can occur when there is too much of a good thing or when excessive pollution and changes in land use prevent natural infiltration and filtering processes from taking place.

*Maintaining Stormwater Systems: A Guidebook for Private Owners and Operators in Northern Virginia* provides a list of simple things that can be done to help protect the downstream aquatic environment and ensure stormwater facilities function properly. In addition, information is provided on various stormwater systems such as vegetated rooftops and permeable paving materials, as well as maintenance and other “best practices”.

While the Guide is targeted at owners and operators of stormwater systems, useful information for residents is also included. For more information about the guide, check the NVRC Web site at <http://www.novaregion.org/> or contact Doug Pickford, Director of Environmental Services, [dpickford@novaregion.org](mailto:dpickford@novaregion.org) or (703) 642.4623. ☞



## Mark Your Calendar...

### Bioenergy Research Symposium

March 8, 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Cumberland County High School-L.P. Jackson Adult Center

Speakers will discuss the current situation of bio-energy in Virginia as well as its status across the United States.

This workshop is free but registration is required by March 2. Contact David Smith at (804) 492-4390 or email [dsmith57@vt.edu](mailto:dsmith57@vt.edu).

### Forum for Rural Innovation

March 9, Winchester

8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Best Western Lee-Jackson Motor Inn & Conference Center

The forum will feature a series of presentations with an emphasis on farming for high profitability by using innovative and sound business approaches particularly suited to the Mid-Atlantic region. A \$35 registration fee includes the forum program, morning refreshments, and a buffet lunch. Registration information is available online at [www.LoudounFarms.org](http://www.LoudounFarms.org) or by calling (703) 777-0426. Pre-registration by March 2 is required.

### The 2007 City and County Technology Summit

March 12-14, Las Vegas, NV

Hosted by The Performance Institute, the 2007 City & County Technology Summit is the most comprehensive event offered to educate and train

local professionals to improve performance in information technology. VACo members will receive 25 percent off tuition. Please mention code T560-VAC when registering.

Contact: Melvin Hall  
[Hall@PerformanceWeb.org](mailto:Hall@PerformanceWeb.org)  
 (703) 894-0481  
<http://www.cityandcounty.org/>

### Agritourism: It's More Than a Farm Tour

March 13, 1 - 4 p.m., Southside Virginia Community College Workforce Development Center  
March 14, 8:30 a.m. - noon, Southside Virginia Community College Workforce Development Center

March 15, 8:30- noon- Paul D. Camp Community College Regional Workforce Development Center  
 The event is free but registration is required by March 9. Call Pam Patterson at (434) 766-6761 or email [ppatter@vt.edu](mailto:ppatter@vt.edu).

### The Lobby School

March 13-14, Alexandria Hampton Inn Alexandria South  
 Registration and information is available at <http://www.lobbyschool.com>. 501(c)(3), IRC groups receive a 20 percent discount. Register for one or both days.

### Recycling: It's More than Trash

March 22, 9 a.m.-2 p.m.  
 Riverstone Technology Park, Route 58, Halifax County  
 The Halifax County Improvement Council and the Virginia Cooperative Extension

will host this knowledge-packed discussion. Participants will have the opportunity to learn about recycling business models implemented in both Bedford and Spotsylvania counties as well as to hear Nathaniel Townley from Fauquier County discuss the economic impact of recycling. The event is free but registration is required by March 16. Call Pam Patterson at (434) 766-6761 or email [ppatter@vt.edu](mailto:ppatter@vt.edu).

### Virginia Government Communicators Spring Conference

April 17, Fairfax County Government Center  
 For more information visit <http://www.vgconline.net/> or call Barbara Gordon at (703) 642-4635.

### VACo Board of Directors Meeting

April 28, location TBA

### VACo Supervisor Certification Course

April 29-30, location TBA  
 Closing session on June 29  
*Inventing Your County's Future: The Role of Community Planning*

### America's Anniversary Weekend

May 11-13, Historic Jamestowne, Jamestown Settlement and Anniversary Park  
 Tickets are available by calling (866) 400-1607 or at [www.americas400thanniversary.com](http://www.americas400thanniversary.com). ☼

## Comment on Water Cleanup Plan

During the 2006 session, the General Assembly passed legislation (HB 1150) requiring the Secretary of Natural Resources to develop a plan for the cleanup of the Chesapeake Bay and Virginia's waters.

By statute, the plan is required to address both point and non point sources of pollution as well as measurable and attainable objectives for water cleanup, possible funding sources and reasonable deadlines.

Last summer Secretary of Natural Resources Preston Bryant, in coordination with several state agencies, assembled a stakeholder group (including VACo) to help guide the initial development of the plan. The first edition of the Chesapeake Bay and Virginia Waters Cleanup plan is available at <http://www.naturalresources.virginia.gov/Initiatives/WaterCleanupPlan/>. Secretary Bryant will receive public comment on the plan until March 15. ☞

## Virginia Coast Data Available Online

Coastal GEMS, developed by the Virginia Coastal Zone Management Program, is a "Geospatial and Educational Mapping System" that provides a gateway to Virginia's coastal resource data and maps; coastal laws, regulations and policies; downloadable facts on coastal resource values; and direct links to agencies responsible for the most up-to-date data. A major goal of Coastal GEMS is to foster stronger understanding of how activities on the land and in the water affect each other. The purpose of Coastal GEMS is to create a stronger link among local land use plans and state and federal water use policies. To access Coastal GEMS visit: [www.deq.virginia.gov/coastal/coastalgems.html](http://www.deq.virginia.gov/coastal/coastalgems.html). ☞

## Wind Energy Guide Available

The *Wind Energy Guide* is designed to provide county administrators, planners and other local county government officials with a practical overview of information required to successfully implement commercial wind energy projects in their county. To access the guide, visit [www.naco.org/techassistance](http://www.naco.org/techassistance) and click on Energy Management. ☞



Look for VACo's *Short Legislative Summary* next week in *Capitol Contact*. This summary will highlight bills of interest to counties. The *Short Summary* is a prequel to VACo's *2007 Legislative Summary*, which will be compiled after the governor's veto session.

## Congratulations!

VACo staff member **Dean Lynch**, CAE, has completed the requirements for recertification as a Certified Association Executive through the American Society of Association Executives and has been accepted in the LEAD Virginia Program. LEAD Virginia is a competitive program for future state and community leaders. Participants take courses around the state to learn the meaning and importance of building social capital in our communities.

Asha Sharma, Transportation Engineer for **Draper Aden Associates**, has been named one of the New Faces of Engineering for 2007 by the National Engineers Week Foundation. Sharma was one of 15 young men and women honored annually in the engineering field for showing outstanding abilities and leadership at the beginning of their careers.

Wellborn Cabinet, Inc. will invest \$3 million to open a cabinet manufacturing operation in **Smyth County**. The company, which will occupy the former Vaughan-Bassett facility, will create 100 new jobs for the region.

**DJG, Inc.** Engineers Architects & Planners announces that staff members Matthew G. Burton, AIA; Donald F. Booth, AIA; and J. Adam Mickiewicz, PE, have been named Principals. ☞

## Employment Opportunities

Employment ads have been edited due to space considerations. To view the full versions, visit [www.vaco.org](http://www.vaco.org).

### **Building Inspector/King and Queen County**

Salary \$28,000 to \$30,000. Open until filled. For additional information, contact the King and Queen County Administrator's Office at (804) 785-5975.

### **Chief Internal Auditor/Stafford Count**

Salary: \$91,102 - \$141,208  
Deadline: March 23.  
Qualified applicants should apply on-line at [www.co.stafford.va.us](http://www.co.stafford.va.us).

### **City Manager/City of Portsmouth**

Submit letter of application, detailed resume with salary and references to: John T. Maxwell or Roger M. Scott, Senior Vice President, Springsted Incorporated, 4698 Honeygrove Road, Suite 4, Virginia Beach, VA 23455 by March 23. Fax (757) 422-6617 or email: [jmaxwell@springsted.com](mailto:jmaxwell@springsted.com). For a full profile describing the City of Portsmouth and the position please visit [www.springsted.com](http://www.springsted.com).

### **County Administrator/Prince Edward County**

County residency is required after appointment. Salary commensurate with experience. A complete community and position profile is available by con-

tacting the Prince Edward County Administrator's Office at (434) 392-8837. Interested applicants should send a letter of interest, resume and salary history to: Chairman, Board of Supervisors, P. O. Box 382, Farmville, VA 23901.

Application deadline is 5 p.m., March 16.

### **County Attorney/Prince Edward County**

Deadline: March 9. Please submit letter/resume to: County of Prince Edward, ATTN: Sarah Elam Puckett, Acting County Administrator, P.O. Box 382, Farmville, VA 23901. (434) 392-8837. [spuckett@co.prince-edward.va.us](mailto:spuckett@co.prince-edward.va.us)

### **Director of Information Technology/Fluvanna County**

Salary \$60,000. Please submit your resume and a state application with a cover letter stating your salary expectations by 5 p.m. March 9 to Barbara Wall-Magee, Fluvanna County Human Resources, PO Box 540, Palmyra, VA 22963. This position will remain open until filled.

### **Human Resources Coordinator/Northampton County**

Salary Range: \$38,979 - \$58,468  
Submit resume and detailed cover letter outlining qualifications and three professional references to Glenda Miller, Director of Finance, P.O. Box 66, Eastville, VA 23347. Fax: (757) 678-0483. Email: [gmliller@co.northampton.va.us](mailto:gmliller@co.northampton.va.us)  
Position open until filled.

### **Principal Planner/Goochland County**

Salary range - \$49,690 - \$74,722  
A Goochland County Employment Application is required and is available at (804) 556-5831 and online at [www.co.goochland.va.us](http://www.co.goochland.va.us). All applications are to be submitted to the Goochland County HR Office, 1800 Sandy Hook Rd., P. O. Box 10, Goochland, Virginia 23063 by Tuesday, March 20, at 2 p.m. For more information, please call Donald L. Charles, Director of Community Development at (804) 556-5861. Email: [countyadmin@co.goochland.va.us](mailto:countyadmin@co.goochland.va.us).

### **Town Manager/Colonial Beach**

Town residency required. Submit letter of application, detailed resume with salary history and work related references to: John A. Anzivino, Senior Vice President, Springsted Incorporated, 8790 Park Central Drive, Suite B, Richmond, VA 23227; Fax (804) 726-9752 or email [richmond@springsted.com](mailto:richmond@springsted.com) by March 9. For a full community position profile visit [www.springsted.com](http://www.springsted.com).

### **Zoning Administrator/Pulaski County**

Send resume, cover letter and references to the Virginia Employment Commission, 206 Third Street, Radford, VA 24141 or to Peter M. Huber, County Administrator, 143 Third Street, N. W., Suite 1, Pulaski, VA 24301. The County will begin review of all Applications on Feb. 23. ☿

1001 E. Broad St., Suite LL 20  
Richmond, VA 23219



### **Executive Committee**

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Administrator, (888) 822-6772

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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