



Connections

The Newsletter of the Virginia Association of Counties

January 1, 2008

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Governor Unveils Budget

Gov. Kaine reiterated his August conversations with the joint money committees indicating that Virginia will experience a \$618.3 million shortfall in the 07/08 biennial budgets due to the slowdown in the national housing market.

The governor unveiled his proposed 2008 caboose budget and 2009-2010 biennial budgets on Dec. 17 in a presentation to the General Assembly's Joint Money Committees. The General Assembly will act on both measures during the 2008 legislative session.

The governor stated that his administration had a head start on identifying savings because of the work that was done to address the shortfall in fiscal year 2008. The budget carries nearly all of the 2008 reductions into 2009 and 2010, saving \$232 million in each year of the new biennium. An additional biennial savings of approximately \$137 million is realized by streamlining operations and reorganizations. The proposed budget also uses nongeneral funds wherever possible to cover costs and some services.

Gov. Kaine's budget proposal focuses primary attention on three critical services - health care access, mental health

reform, and educational improvement. Shortly after Kaine was elected, he appointed a Health Reform Commission that delivered recommendations in FY 2008 to advance a number of critical initiatives to expand the health care workforce. This year, the commission brings a series of recommendations that will expand health care access to vulnerable populations. The governor has focused many resources to support community mental health systems.

His budget proposals mirror recommendations made by the Virginia Tech Review Panel and the separate commission charged by Chief Justice Leroy Rountree Hassell, Sr. These recommendations attempt to serve as a guide to mental health reform. The governor is investing more than \$1 billion for K-12 education. His budget fully funds the rebenchmarking of the Standards of Quality, investing an additional \$943.4 million in K-12 education in the biennium.

VACo emailed a detailed summary of the budget to all VACo members on Dec. 18. The summary is also available on VACo's Web site at <http://www.vaco.org/PUBLICATIONS/Capitol%20Contact.php>.

Staff Contact: Dean Lynch ☚

Kaine Delivers Message on Drought Impacts

In a letter sent to all localities on Nov. 29, Gov. Timothy Kaine said that mandatory water use restrictions will be required in at least some areas of the Commonwealth in the spring of 2008 if long range weather predictions materialize.

To offset severe impacts caused by the drought, the governor asked localities to consider taking the following water supply actions:

- Review the drought water conservation and contingency plans associated with public waterworks in your respective locality and be prepared to implement those plans.

- Review applicable local ordinances requiring mandatory non-essential water use restrictions during declared emergencies and assure that these ordinances are consistent with the Virginia Drought Assessment and Response Plan. This plan is available on DEQ's Web site at: <http://www.deq.virginia.gov/waterresources/pdf/droughtresponseplan.pdf>.

Localities that have not adopted such local ordinances are asked to consider the development and adoption of these ordinances immediately.

- Citizens, whether served by public waterworks, private self-

supplied surface water sources or private wells, need to be encouraged by local officials to voluntarily restrict all non-essential water uses and practice water conservation practices in their homes and businesses. Such simple water conservation actions as limiting shower times, turning off water when brushing teeth, and only operating clothes washers and dish washers with full loads will result in significant water savings when practiced by all citizens. Water conservation tips are available at <http://deq.virginia.gov/waterresources/waterconservation.html>. ☞

Funds Available for Dam Rehabilitation Projects

The Department of Conservation and Recreation in cooperation with the Virginia Resources Authority is currently administering the Dam Safety, Flood Prevention and Protection Assistance Fund. Under this program, loans are available to local governments and private entities for qualifying dam rehabilitation projects. Loans may also be issued for dam break inundation zone mapping. All loans and grants are awarded on a competitive basis. Final approval of loans are also conditioned upon satisfaction of a financial capability analysis conducted by the Virginia Resources Authority.



The current loan round opened on Dec. 1 with all applications due no later than Feb. 1. For this initial loan round, \$1 million will be made available for category 1; \$1.2 million will be made available for category 2; \$150,000 will be made available for category 4; and \$150,000 will be made available for category 5. All projects must apply according to, and will be considered based upon, criteria contained in the Virginia Dam Safety, Flood Prevention and Protection Assistance Fund Loan and Grant Manual and the loan underwriting requirements of the Virginia Resources Authority.

Additional details and a copy of the Loan and Grant Manual are posted online on the DCR Division of the Dam Safety's webpage at: http://www.dcr.virginia.gov/dam_safety_and_floodplains/index.shtml. For more information, contact DCR's Division of Dam Safety and Floodplain Management by phone at (804)786-1712, or by mail at:
Department of Conservation and Recreation
Attn: Dam Safety, Flood Prevention & Protection Assistance Fund
Division of Dam Safety and Floodplain Management
203 Governor Street, Suite 206
Richmond, VA 23219. ☞

Welcome New Supervisors!

VACo would like to extend a warm welcome to all newly elected supervisors and provide you with some important information about some of the services we provide.

The Virginia Association of Counties (VACo) exists to support county officials and to effectively represent, promote and protect the interests of counties to better serve the people of Virginia. VACo is an effective force representing local governments at the state and national levels in legislative and regulatory processes. It's also a valuable resource network for planning and implementing new ideas and technology.

Services

- Members are eligible to join a VACo Steering Committee to help shape the legislative program for upcoming General Assembly sessions. Committee interest forms are available at www.vaco.org
- This newsletter, *County Connections*, is mailed or emailed on the 1st and 15th of each month. County Connections serves as an up-to-date account of news that affects Virginia counties. It also serves as a bulletin board for counties and associate members to display job openings, conference or meeting dates, and to recognize promotions or new employees.
- During the General Assembly, VACo's Legislative Bulletin,

Capitol Contact, provides reports on legislative activities affecting county governments several times a week. This publication is only available by email so make sure we have your most recent email address in our database.



- At the end of each session, VACo's *Legislative Summary* is sent to all counties informing them of all legislation directly or indirectly affecting counties.
- The *VACo/VML Directory of Local Officials* provides an up-to-date listing of all locally elected officials throughout Virginia. It's an excellent resource to use for networking and sharing information.
- VACo offers Associate Memberships for area businesses in order to provide networking opportunities with county officials.
- The VACo staff is able to provide various types of legal and technical assistance upon request.
- The VACo Web site, www.vaco.org, is a valuable resource for members. The site is updated regularly and contains valuable information including publications, meeting information, press releases, employment opportunities, links to counties and more.
- VACo Risk Management Programs is the number one

provider to counties and county related agencies for all types of coverage. The primary objective is to provide rates in a manner that is equitable for all members. Participation is limited to counties, county school systems and county related agencies. Contact: Wayne Faddis,

wayne@vacoins.org
www.vacoins.org

- The VML/VACo Finance Program assists Virginia local governments in taking advantage of the economies of scale offered through pooled financing arrangements. The program allows local governments to pool their financings with other local borrowers. Call (804) 648-0635 for more information.
- The Certified County Supervisor educational program helps elected officials become more effective civic leaders. Through a series of courses, supervisors learn how to implement a framework for successful leadership. To complete the program, supervisors must complete five core courses and three electives.

We encourage your active participation in the association. Please don't hesitate to call if you have questions. A staff directory is available on the back of each issue of *County Connections* and on the Web site.



NACo's Deferred Compensation Program Exceeds Top Competitors

According to a study conducted by an independent consulting firm, NACo's deferred compensation program placed highest among its competitors for the 2006 return on the fixed annuity option.

The report was released at the fall meeting of NACo's Deferred Compensation Advisory Committee, held in Monterey County, Calif. This study has been conducted every year since 1989 and the NACo program has always come out on top.

"We are delighted that our 27-year partnership with NRS continues to deliver such a quality program that helps county employees save for a more comfortable retirement," NACo Executive Director Larry Naake said.

NACo's deferred compensation program, administered by Nationwide Retirement Solutions, is a voluntary pro-

gram that gives county employees the opportunity to save regularly for their retirement on a pre-tax basis. One of the investment options available to participants is a fixed annuity that offers county employees the opportunity to earn an investment return at a fixed rate that is established quarterly by Nationwide. In addition, on an annual basis, Nationwide sets an investment rate minimum (or floor) for the year.

The competitive interest rate test concluded that Nationwide met its contractual requirement to equal or exceed the top one-third of its competitors. This study reviewed the fixed annuity option offered by Nationwide and its nine largest competitors.

In addition to evaluating the competitiveness of the fixed option offered to county employees, the consultants also reviewed the creditworthiness of Nationwide Insurance and con-

cluded that it is a strong, stable insurer. This part of the analysis provides assurance that participants' funds are being managed by a financially sound organization. The consultant study is only one feature of NACo's deferred compensation program that distinguishes it from others. As a result of NACo's Deferred Compensation Advisory Committee, the NACo program is the only one in the country that receives oversight and is advised by county participants. It also benefits from the oversight and endorsement of 41 state associations of counties.

For more information on NACo's Deferred Compensation program, please contact Lisa Cole at NACo at (202) 942-4270 or lcole@naco.org or NRS at (877) 677-3678 or www.nrs-foru.com. ☞

Board Chairs' Institute Scheduled for Feb. 7-9

Are you a county board chair or vice chair? If so, VACo's Chair Institute, scheduled for Feb. 7-9 at the Richmond Marriott, is for you. The Institute offers a professional learning experience that is carefully tailored to the needs of county board chairs. Our uncertain times require county leaders who are prepared for every eventuality, and balancing a tight budget is only the beginning. To succeed, board chairs must be active leaders who know how to encourage teamwork and manage conflict. They must be confident problem solvers as well as visionary leaders.

What you learn at the Chairs' Institute: The Chairpersons' Institute was developed with the cooperation of an ad hoc committee of county board chairs. It gives chairs a chance to learn practical strategies in critical areas including the duties, powers and responsibilities of board chairs. This program provides details on the structure and functions of county government, active leadership, communication, meeting management, decision making, working strategically to achieve important goals, building partnerships with local staff, board colleagues, the media and other governments.

A registration form with hotel information for the Chairs' Institute is available on page 9 and on VACo's Web site at www.vaco.org, click on "meetings." ☞



Mark Your Calendar...

Baldrige Criteria for Performance Excellence Workshop

Jan. 14-15, Richmond
This two-day workshop will give an in-depth introduction to performance excellence terminology, as well as the criteria and core values that drive high performance in organizations. Presenters will discuss the seven criteria categories in detail and help attendees learn to identify critical success factors for their organizations and the importance of aligning work and resources to achieve desired results. For details and to register, visit www.spqa-va.org.

Free Energy Star Training Sessions for Local Governments

To register for any of the following sessions please visit <https://energystar.webex.com>. Space is limited so register today!

ENERGY STAR Challenge: Getting Started
Jan. 15, 2-3 p.m.

Improving Your Own Facilities: Measuring and Tracking Your Energy Use
Jan. 23, 2-3 p.m.

Promoting Energy Efficiency to Your Community
Jan. 29, 2-3 p.m.

VAPDC Winter Conference: 40 Years of Regional Planning
Jan. 28-29, Omni Richmond
For more information call (757) 599-1006.

Public Space Recycling: New Challenges for Collecting Recyclables (Free Webinar)

Jan. 17, 1-2:30 p.m.
Register online at www.epa.gov/region1/RCCedu.
This EPA-sponsored webinar features three experts who will discuss how to overcome public space recycling obstacles at special events and other away from home venues. In addition, the National Park Service will describe the Climate Friendly Parks Initiative and how recycling and waste reduction can help reduce their carbon footprint.

Keeping The Best! Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Retention Training for 2008

Tidewater Emergency Medical Services (TEMS) Regional Council office, Norfolk
Feb. 1- Maximizing Your EMS Retention Efforts, 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Feb. 2- Keeping the Best! How to Use EMS Retention Principles, 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.
Both classes are designed for career and volunteer fire and EMS leaders and are \$25 each. The registration deadline is Jan. 18. For more information and to register, visit www.vaems.org/retention or email emstechasst@vdh.virginia.gov.

Grant Writing Workshop
Feb. 4-5, Virginia Beach
Tuition is \$425 and includes all materials: workbook and accompanying 220MB resource CD that's packed full of tools and

more than 200 sample grant proposals. Seating is limited, online reservations are necessary, walk-ins are not allowed. For more information visit <http://GrantWritingUSA.com>. Contact: Cathy Rittenhouse, Grant Writing USA, (800) 814-8191, cathy@grantwritingusa.com

VACo/VML Legislative Day

Feb. 7, Richmond Convention Center
Registration forms are available at www.vaco.org, click on "meetings."

VACo Board of Directors Meeting

Feb. 7, Richmond Convention Center

Chairman's Institute

Feb. 7-9, Richmond Marriott
A Registration form is available on page 9 or visit www.vaco.org, click on "meetings."

7th Annual New Partners for Smart Growth: Building Safe, Healthy and Livable Communities

Feb. 7-9, Marriott Wardman Park Hotel, Washington, DC
www.newpartners.org

NACo's Legislative Conference

March 1-5, Hilton Washington & Towers, Washington, D.C.
⌘

Congratulations!

Fairfax and Arlington

Counties were recognized by the National Association of Counties (NACo) and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for their leading efforts in promoting energy efficiency among residents. NACo announced that Fairfax and Arlington Counties were the winners in the large and medium population categories, respectively, in the national campaign to encourage residents to pledge to replace one or more incandescent bulbs in their homes with compact fluorescent light bulbs that have earned the government's ENERGY STAR label.

Henrico County Manager

Virgil R. Hazelett, P.E., announces the appointment of John Vithoulkas as director of finance, effective Jan. 5. Vithoulkas, who has been serving as interim director, will succeed former director Reta Busher, who resigned from the position in September.

Henrico County Manager

Virgil R. Hazelett, P.E., also announces the appointment of Randall Silber as deputy county manager for community development, effective Jan. 5. Silber, who currently serves as Planning director, will succeed Harvey Hinson, who is retiring from the position on Dec. 31.

The Center for Innovative Technology (CIT)

has announced that CIT GAP Funds is investing \$100,000 in NexGenVS, LLC, a peer-to-peer (P2P) data sharing company with a patented architecture. NexGenVS, headquartered in Blacksburg, Va., will use the investment to complete and launch its software and service, build its team, implement partner channels and market its product. CIT GAP Funds is a family of venture funds designed to bridge the gap between "family and friends" funding and early-stage equity investments for Virginia-based technology and life science companies.

Filtration Specialties, Inc., a designer and manufacturer of high-performance filtration media for high temperature applications, will invest \$1.5 million to open a facility in **Mecklenburg County**. The company will manufacture fiberglass felt for the filtration industry, creating 10 jobs.☞

New Report Shows Local Governments Labor Under Increasing Mandate Burden

A recently released report by the Commission on Local Government clearly demonstrated that over the past two years the state and federal mandates imposed on Virginia's localities increased by more than six percent, from 521 mandates to 553.

The commission's *Catalog of State and Federal Mandates on Local Governments* included the results of a survey of 49 state agencies as well as any new mandates resulting from the 2006 and 2007 General Assembly sessions. The 2007 edition of the catalog will be the last published before significant revisions to the method by which state agencies assess the impact of mandates on local governments. (See the Nov. 1 issue of County Connections.)

Copies of the 2007 mandates catalog are available on the commission Web site:

<http://www.dhcd.virginia.gov/CommissiononLocalGovernment/pages/newcatalog.htm>. ☞

Employment Opportunities

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

Administrator/Bedford County Public Service Authority

Salary \$70,000 to \$102,000. Please send resume marked "Confidential," to be received by 5 p.m. on Jan. 31 to: Glenn Feldman, Darby & Goodlatte, Attn: H.M. Darby, Jr. (Search Committee), 210 1st Street S.W., Suite 200 (24011), P. O. Box 2887, Roanoke, Virginia 24001.

Assistant Director of Budget and Finance/Isle of Wight County

Salary \$51,588-\$64,735. 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 (757) 365-6263. Open until filled.

Building Official/Powhatan County

Salary Range \$55,000 - \$85,000. Applications and a complete job description may be obtained at the Powhatan County Administration Office or at www.powhatanva.gov. Position is open until filled.

Building Official/Rockingham County

You may apply in person at the Rockingham County Administration Center or mail

your resume, completed application and references to the Department of Human Resources, Rockingham County, P.O. Box 1252 Harrisonburg, VA 22803. Open until filled. www.rockinghamcountyva.gov

Civil Engineer/Bedford County

Starting salary \$45,634 - \$50,197. Applications and job descriptions are available at www.co.bedford.va.us and are also available from the Bedford County Human Resources Department. Open until filled. (540) 586-7601

Civil Engineer, Senior #780-2/James City County

\$60,328 or higher. Applications will be accepted until the position is filled. To apply visit www.jccegov.com/JOBS or call (757) 253-6736.

Clerk to the County Board/Arlington County

Salary \$56,139-\$115,544. The position is open until filled and we encourage you to apply early to assure consideration. Online application required: www.arlingtonva.us/pers. Have questions? Call (703) 228-3500.

County Attorney/Augusta County

Hiring range: \$90,000-\$100,000. Send inquires and resumes (seven originals) to Augusta County Personnel Office, Attention: Faith Souder, Personnel Director, County of Augusta, P. O. Box 590, Verona, VA 24482-0590, Tel: (540) 245-5617; Fax: (540) 245-5175, no later than Tuesday, Jan. 15.

Deputy City Manager/Manassas Park

Salary \$87,752 - \$141,183. Obtain more information and learn how to apply at <http://www.cityofmanassas-park.us>, click on "Job Opportunities." First review of applications Jan. 18. Open until filled.

Deputy Director of Planning and Community Development/Franklin County

Applications and complete job description may be obtained in the County Administration Office, 40 E. Court St., Rocky Mount, VA 24151 or online at: www.franklincountyva.org. Initial application review begins Jan. 9, open until filled.

Director/Engineer/Dept. of Public Works/Alleghany County

Hiring Range: Mid to upper \$50s. 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.

Director of Community Development and Planning/City of Bristol

Hiring Range: \$50,000-\$60,000. Submit letter of application, detailed resume with salary history and work related references to: John A. Anzivino, Senior Vice President,

Continued on page 8

Employment

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Springsted Incorporated, 1564 East Parham Road, Richmond, VA 23228-2360; Fax (804) 726-9752 or e-mail

Richmond@springsted.com by Jan. 7. For more information visit www.springsted.com.

Director of Public Works/City of Bristol

Submit letter of application, detailed resume with salary history and work related references to: John A. Anzivino, Senior Vice President, Springsted Incorporated, 1564 East Parham Road, Richmond, VA 23228-2360; Fax (804) 726-9752 or e-mail Richmond@springsted.com by Jan. 7. For more information visit www.springsted.com.

Emergency Services Coordinator/City of Lynchburg

www.lynchburgva.gov. For additional information, please contact Beth S. McDaniel at beth.mcdaniel@lynchburgva.gov or (434) 455-4204.

Environmental Planner/Accomack County

Salary range \$33,096 to \$47,988. For an application packet, contact the Accomack County Administration Office, P.O. Box 388, Accomac, VA 23301, (757) 787-5700. This position is open until filled.

Executive Director/Region 2000 Economic Development Council

Send resume, application form and cover letter to "Executive

Director Search - ED", Virginia's Region 2000 Partnership, 828 Main Street, 12th Floor, Lynchburg, VA 24504 by Jan. 31 or by email to mail@region2000.org. www.region2000.org.

GIS Analyst/Goochland County

Position open until filled. Salary range: \$35,694-\$53,674 County Employment Application required and is available at (804) 556-5831 or www.co.goochland.va.us. All applications are to be submitted to the Human Resource Office, 1800 Sandy Hook Rd., P. O. Box 10, Goochland, Virginia 23063 . For more information, please call Qiana Foote @ (804) 556-5834 or email programmer@co.goochland.va.us.

Utilities Engineer/ Powhatan County

Salary Range \$50,340 - \$78,530. Applications and a complete job description may be obtained at the Powhatan County Administration Office or at www.powhatanva.gov. Deadline Jan. 11 at 5 p.m.

Real Estate Appraiser (I, II or Senior)/Gloucester County

Real Estate Appraiser I - entry level
Real Estate Appraiser II - journey level
Senior Real Estate Appraiser - assesses complex land & residential, commercial & industrial buildings. Detailed list of qualifications and job descriptions are available online. Submit cover letter and resume with Gloucester County Application by 4:30 p.m., Jan. 15 to Human

Resource Department, 6467 Main St. Gloucester, VA 23061. Call (804) 693-5690 or visit us online at www.gloucesterva.info

Town Manager/Town of Vinton

Salary: \$75,000 - \$90,000. Send cover letter, resume, salary history, and three professional references to Beth Austin, Human Resource Director, 311 S. Pollard Street, Vinton, VA 24179. Job description available at www.vintonva.gov. Extended deadline is Jan. 28 by 5 p.m.

Water Department Assistant Manager/Rivanna Water and Sewer Authority

Visit our website at www.rivanna.org for a complete job description, the required employment application and a benefit package listing. Must have a Virginia Class 1 Water Operator's License and a valid Virginia Driver's License.

Zoning Administrator/Planner King and Queen County

Annual salary \$32,000-\$35,000. Open until filled. County application required. For an application or additional information, call (804) 785-5975.

Zoning Administrator/ Powhatan County

Grade 15 (\$45,820 - \$58,650). Position is open until filled. County job application and one writing sample required. Open until filled. www.powhatanva.gov ☼

Virginia County Board Chairpersons' Institute

February 7-9, 2008
Richmond Marriott

Lodging

The room rates are \$119 for a single or double room. To reserve a hotel room, call 1-800-228-9290 **by January 7, 2008** with the following code: LEGLEGA.

Enrollment

Institute enrollment will be limited to approximately 25 participants.

Institute Fee: \$275

The fee covers course materials, coffee breaks and meals. Spouses and guests that plan to attend may register for \$100, which covers those meals. Lodging costs are not included in this fee. There will be no part-day registrations.

Registration

To register, complete and return the registration form below along with the institute fee of \$275, made payable to VACo. **The registration deadline is January 25, 2008.** Advance registration is required and enrollment is not guaranteed until the registration fee is paid.

Refund Policy

Requests for registration refunds are honored if received by January 25, 2008. However, substitutions are accepted at any time. For questions about registration, call VACo at (804) 788-6652.

Name _____
Guest's Name _____
County _____ Phone _____ Email _____
Home Address _____
State _____ Zip _____ Fax _____
Signature _____

Payment Method: Check___ MasterCard___ Visa___ Amex___

Card # _____ Exp. Date _____
Name on Card _____

Please return to VACo with payment by January 25, 2008: 1001 E. Broad St. Ste. LL20, Richmond, VA, 23219. Credit card payments may be faxed to (804) 788-0083.

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



Executive Committee

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President-Elect: Donald L. Hart Jr., Accomack County
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VACo Risk Management Programs: Wayne A. Faddis, ARM,
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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