



Connections

The Newsletter of the Virginia Association of Counties

January 15, 2008

In This Edition...

Kaine Delivers State of the Commonwealth Address	2
Stafford County Undertakes Organizational Changes	3
EPA to Award Funds for Cooperative Agreements	3
Mark Your Calendar...	4
'08 Supervisor Certification Class Schedule	4
VACo Remembers Clarence Johnson	5
Congratulations	5
Employment Opportunities	6
Deadline for the next issue: January 28	

 **Visit www.fundqualityschools.org to sign an online petition calling on the state to improve public schools!**

Join the Quality Schools Coalition

VACo urges local leaders to support and sign an online petition (www.fundqualityschools.org) calling on the state to improve public schools by increasing and sustaining state support through full funding of the Standards of Quality, as well as categorical, incentive and school facilities programs. The petition will be sent to the General Assembly.

The Quality Schools Coalition sponsoring the petition is composed of specific statewide organizations promoting sufficient state funding for public education. It includes the Parent Teachers Association of Virginia (PTA), Virginia Education Association (VEA), Virginia Association of School Superintendents (VASS), Virginia School Boards Association (VSBA), as well as VACo and VML.

The same organizations urged Gov. Timothy Kaine in November of last year to improve state funding for public education in his introduced budget. Greater state funding for public education helps to reduce local funding pressures.

According to *Congressional Quarterly State Fact Finder 2007*, Virginia ranked 32nd in the nation for state funding per pupil in average daily attendance dur-

ing 06/07. In addition, the coalition is concerned about the potential efforts to divert or diminish funding for at-risk students. Virginia needs to increase, not back away from, our commitment to education.



School Construction Survey due by Jan. 25

VACo and VML are undertaking a school construction survey to better understand county costs and obligations. The results will be used by VACo and VML to educate state leaders about the importance of the issue and the magnitude of the problem. The survey was emailed to county administrators and county liaisons on Jan. 14. Surveys must be received by Jan. 25. Please contact VACo staff member Wendy Jenkins at (804) 343-2502 or wjenkins@vaco.org to request additional copies of the survey.

Kaine's Education Budget

Gov. Kaine has proposed a public education funding increase of more than \$1 billion, the overwhelming majority (\$890 million) of which is targeted for updating state education costs through the biennial rebenchmarking process. State funding for categorical and

Continued on page 2

Kaine Delivers State of the Commonwealth Address

Gov. Timothy Kaine initiated the 2008 Legislative Session Jan. 9 by delivering the annual State of the Commonwealth address. He reviewed his top budget and policy priorities for the year and called for the repeal of the abusive driver fees that were part last year's 2007 transportation funding agreement.

The governor called for increased funding for mental health services to fund additional clinicians and case managers, and provide better treatment to jail inmates. He approached the subject of illegal immigration with caution, noting that illegal immigrants are already prohibited from receiving state or local benefits, except for education, emergency health care and care for contagious diseases.

"We should not punish law-abiding businesses or hinder their ability to grow and create jobs," Kaine said.

The full text, video or audio of the speech can be accessed on the governor's homepage at www.governor.virginia.gov. Stay tuned to *Capitol Contact*, VACo's legislative newsletter, for General Assembly updates. *Capitol Contact* is only available by email. ☞

Schools

Continued from page 1

incentive programs also are increased due to cost calculation updating. These increases do not reflect changes in policy, but adjust the cost of continuing current programs with the required data revisions.

The budget proposes the state share of a three percent pay raise for public school employees, with an additional one-half percent targeted for teachers and other instructional personnel, effective in the second year (July 1, 2009). This effective date would alter a long-standing practice of having state dollars for school employee pay raises made available during the middle of the fiscal (and school) year.

It includes \$80 million each year as the state's share of the cost of textbooks, based on a per pupil amount of \$119.39 in both FY09 and FY10. Recalculation of local composite indexes results in additional state funding of \$4.9 million in the first year and \$5.0 million in the second year. The budget also

anticipates an additional \$34 million in lottery proceeds over the biennium and \$45 million more in sales tax, part of which are shared with school divisions. Recall that at least half of lottery proceeds returned to local school divisions must be used on non-recurring expenses.

The spending plan proposes to expand the Virginia Pre-school Initiative to serve an additional 7,000 children. The proposal increases the maximum per pupil amount, caps the local match at 50 percent and requires more cooperation with private providers in creating preschool slots.

The budget decreases state funding for teacher fringe benefits by \$29.3 million in FY 09 and \$29.5 million in FY 2010 due to changes in rates. The change in rates saves the state and localities short-term costs. State funding is based on a contribution rate of 9.35 percent for retirement, a retiree health care credit rate of 1.12 percent, and an employer rate for group life of .36 percent, rates which all are lower than the current ones. The budget continues to grab Literary Fund dollars

(\$30 million over the two-year biennium) to help pay state costs for teacher retirement. Funding for the school construction grants program is maintained at \$27.5 million each year.

Other amendments include:

- \$2 million for the Virginia Early Childhood Foundation (VECF) to provide grants for communities to develop school readiness councils to address the comprehensive needs of children from birth to school entry.

- \$4.6 million to implement a voluntary quality rating and improvement system (QRIS) to assess, rate, and support improvement in the quality of early childhood programs.

- \$2.1 million (second year) to fund data coordinators in the 54 high schools currently not fully accredited by the state. Language encourages school divisions to use any new at-risk add-on funding that exceeds the amounts received in FY08 to place data coordinators in at-risk schools throughout the school division. ☞

Stafford County Undertakes Organizational Changes

Effective Jan. 1, Anthony Romanello became Stafford's county administrator. Romanello was one of Stafford's two deputy county administrators. There are now three deputy county administrator positions.

Current Deputy County Administrator Mike Neuhard remained in his position, with a focus on community development. Economic Development Director Tim Baroody was promoted to a deputy county administrator with oversight on economic development and legislative issues. Baroody will also continue in his position as director of economic development and legislative affairs. Tammi Ellis, director of human resources, is serving as acting deputy county administrator to fill Anthony Romanello's former position for the next several months. Ellis oversees the Budget Office, and the departments of Finance, Human Resources, Information

Technology, Landfill/Solid Waste and Public Services. Joe Gilkerson, who was the assistant director of human resources, is serving as acting human resources director.

In addition to this reorganization, the following staffing appointments have taken place:

- Rachel Hudson, who has been acting zoning administrator, was named zoning administrator in the Department of Code Administration. She was previously the deputy zoning administrator.
- Chris Hoppe, assistant director of parks and recreation, is now the acting director of parks and recreation. Hoppe replaces Greg Sager, who resigned from the county.
- Nancy Collins is now the acting director of the Budget Office. Collins was the financial manager for utilities. She replaces Cheryl Beagle, who resigned in September.
- Keith Dayton, former assistant director of utilities, became the director of code administration.

He replaces Dan Schardein, who took a new position with the Department of Economic Development.

- Donna Krauss, administrator of the Comprehensive Services Act Office, has taken on additional responsibilities as assistant to the county administrator for human services. While continuing as CSA administrator, Krauss is the liaison to and coordinator of human services efforts for the county. She will work with the community's non-profit agencies, the Department of Social Services, and other agencies and offices that are dedicated to helping those individuals in Stafford who are least able to help themselves.
- Andrew Mikel, superintendent of the Stafford Regional Landfill, will manage the county's recycling and litter control efforts. Mikel will be the lead staff person on the regional and Stafford County solid waste programs. ☘

EPA to Award Funds for Cooperative Agreements

Around \$3 million will be available in 2008 to support community-based partnerships to reduce pollution at the local level through the Community Action for a Renewed Environment (CARE) program.

The 2008 U.S. Environmental Protection Agency CARE Cooperative Agreement Request for Proposals (RFP) is now available online at http://www.epa.gov/air/grants_funding.html#0802. This year, the application timeline has been extended to three months. The deadline is March 17. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) anticipates awarding CARE cooperative agreements in two levels. The CARE Web site has additional information related to the RFP, including EPA's upcoming Q&A webcasts, so be sure to also visit <http://www.epa.gov/CARE>.

EPA anticipates awarding CARE cooperative agreements in two levels. Level I cooperative agreements range from \$75,000 to \$100,000, and Level II awards range from \$150,000 to \$300,000 each. In 2007, \$3.4 million in cooperative agreements were made available to more than 20 communities through the CARE program, a community-based, community-driven program that builds partnerships to help the public understand and reduce toxic risks from numerous sources. ☘



Mark Your Calendar...

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.

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!

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.

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
Registration forms are available at 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.

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'08 Supervisor Certification Class Schedule

Managing While Leading: understanding Your Powers, Duties and Responsibilities

May 4-5, Charlottesville
Closing session- June 30 in Charlottesville

Governance in the 21st Century: Making a Leadership Difference

Sept. 7-8, Charlottesville
Closing session- Nov. 8 at The Homestead

Each course is \$450 per person. ⌘

Congratulations!

RTI International Metals, Inc., a leading U.S. producer of titanium mill products and fabricated metal components for the global market, will invest \$100 million to open a manufacturing facility in the Patriot Centre, an industrial park jointly developed by the city of Martinsville and **Henry County**. The company will manufacture titanium for the aerospace industry, creating 150 new jobs.

Timmons Group, a Richmond-based full service engineering and design firm, has developed a new, interactive Geographic Information System (GIS) product, Site LoGISTics, aimed at enhancing economic development business attraction and retention programs. The product provides critical site information, demographics and extensive mapping features, which are key factors in the site selection process. The **Hanover County** Department of Economic Development is the pilot community utilizing and assisting with the development of this new Web-based product. Site LoGISTics has been a significant asset to their program. To see Site LoGISTics and test its search and reporting capabilities, please go to the Hanover County Economic Development Web site at www.hanovercounty.biz or contact Timmons Group at www.timmons.com.

Barr Laboratories, Inc., a subsidiary of Barr Pharmaceuticals, Inc., plans to invest \$62 million to add production and packaging capacity at its facility in **Bedford County** to augment its current line of products. In addition, Barr plans to add equipment to incorporate a new timed-released technology for solid dosage pharmaceuticals. This new technology will allow the company to enhance its current product line as well as add new products to the marketplace. The project is expected to create 220 new jobs.

Argonaut BioFuels, a wood pellet manufacturer, will invest \$16 million to begin operations in **Louisa County**. The company, which purchased an existing wood chip mill, will expand the plant to manufacture wood pellets for fuel, animal bedding and paper mills. The project will create 65 new jobs.

For the third time, **Draper Aden Associates** has been named among the Top 50 Trenchless Technology Design Firms in the nation. The 2007 list was recently announced by Trenchless Technology News.

Additionally, Draper Aden Associates is pleased to announce they have named Douglas R. Wilson in Blacksburg, and Sheryl S. Stephens and Charles H. King in Richmond, as the firm's newest associates. ☞

VACo Remembers Clarence O. Johnson

Former Mecklenburg County Supervisor Clarence O. Johnson, 90, died Jan. 11 at his Clarksville home.

Johnson served 26 years on the board of supervisors from 1961 to 1987.

Mecklenburg Supervisor Bill Blalock, who served on the board with Johnson for many years, said that he lived the kind of life that everyone should use as an example.

“He never said a lot,” Blalock said, “but when he did it was worth listening to. He always used his best judgement.”

Johnson served as president of the Mecklenburg County Farm Bureau and treasurer of the United Methodists’ West Mecklenburg Charge, which included four churches. He was a former master of the Twin Rivers Masonic Lodge and worked for the Mecklenburg Electric Cooperative before retiring in 1982.

Survivors include his wife Mildred; two sons, W. Thomas and Curtis; two sisters, Ethel West and Ann Sangston; 11 grandchildren and 17 great-grandchildren. ☞

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 range: \$70,000- \$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

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. The position will remain open until filled. www.rockinghamcountyva.gov

Civil Engineer/Bedford County

Starting salary range: \$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. Applications will be accepted until the position is 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.

County Administrator/Patrick County

Salary is negotiable dependent upon qualifications and experience, supplemented by an excellent benefits package. To apply, submit a letter of interest and detailed resume with salary history and work-related references to: Tom Rose, Post Office Box 466, Stuart, Virginia 24171. Applicants are to submit their information no later than March 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

Salary DOQ/DOE (+) benefits. Applications and complete job description may be obtained in the County Administration Office, 40 E. Court St. Rocky Mount, VA 24151 or online at <http://www.franklincountyva.org>. Initial application review begins Jan. 9, position is open until filled.

Emergency Services Coordinator/City of Lynchburg

Interested candidates may view a full job description and apply at our website, www.lynchburgva.gov. For additional information, please contact Beth S. McDaniel, Senior Human Resources Manager at beth.mcdaniel@lynchburgva.gov or (434) 455-4204.

Environmental Planner/Accomack County

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

Erosion and Sediment Control Administrator/Isle of Wight County

Salary \$41,286- \$51,607 DOQ Applicants with ability to obtain certification as an administrator within 6 months will be considered. Position open until filled. Interested candidates should submit a County application and resume to: HR Department, P.O. Box 80, Isle of Wight, VA 23397. Visit our website at www.iwus.net or call 757-365-6263.

Executive Director/Region 2000 Economic Development Council

Must be highly motivated and self-directed with a demonstrated record of project success. Send resume, application form

Continued on page 7

Employment

Continued from page 6

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 e-mail to mail@region2000.org. Application and information are available at www.region2000.org.

GIS Analyst/Goochland County

Position open until filled. Salary range: \$35,694-\$53,674. A Goochland County Employment Application is required for consideration of this position and is available at (804)556-5831 and online at 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.

Planner/Accomack-Northampton Planning District Commission

Regional planning agency seeks Regional Planner to manage a Natural Resources program. Duties include staffing the Eastern Shore of Virginia Groundwater Committee, and managing projects to protect and enhance the Eastern Shore's unique environment. Master's degree in planning or bachelor's degree in planning or natural

resources plus two years of planning experience required. Verbal and written communication skills, as well as analytical skills are essential. Experience with GIS preferred. \$30,000 - \$40,000 DOQ. Resume to Accomack-Northampton Planning District Commission, P.O. Box 417, Accomac, VA 23301, 757-787-2936. Open Until Filled.

Town Manager/Town of Vinton

Salary: \$75,000 - \$90,000 DOQ/DOE (+) benefits. Town residency required within 12 months. Send cover letter, resume, salary history, and 3 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 www.rivanna.org for a complete job description, the required employment application and a benefit package listing. Any combination of education and experience equivalent to graduation from high school, and at least five years of increasingly responsible experience in directing and operating treatment facilities and working knowledge of the electrical and mechanical systems necessary for water treatment including the chemical and physical processes involved. 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. This position will remain open until filled. To be considered for this position, a completed County application must be completed. For an application or additional information, contact the King and Queen County Administrator's Office at (804) 785-5975. ☞

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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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