



Connections

The Newsletter of the Virginia Association of Counties

March 15, 2008

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Visit www.vaco.org for
detailed employment listings
and archived issues of
County Connections.

**Deadline for the next issue:
March 25**

New state budget includes \$100 million in local government cuts

The new FY 2009-2010 biennial budget includes \$100 million in new local government cuts. The reductions equate to \$50 million each year or 5 percent against a biennial state base of more than \$2 billion. The base excludes state aid for the car tax and public education.

The General Assembly adopted the new budgets on March 13. VACo will release a comprehensive budget report the week of March 17.

The following summary language is taken from the new budget. It explains how the state will achieve the \$100 million reductions:

The Department of Planning and Budget will provide each locality with an estimate of the general fund payments it will receive from the state. Localities will then choose whether to achieve their reductions from a single program, a percentage reduction in all state payments they receive, or reimburse the Commonwealth and forego any reductions to the general fund state payments they receive. Localities are to certify the method by which they wish to implement these reductions by August 30, 2008.

Adopted budget highlights (for FY 2009-2010 unless otherwise noted):

Rainy Day Fund

\$351.5 million is withdrawn from the Revenue Stabilization Fund in FY 2008 to help balance the current year's budget.

State agency cuts

\$35 million for the biennium is saved by mandating additional across-the-board cuts to state agencies. These cuts are in addition to the 5 percent cuts the governor previously mandated.

Employee compensation

A 2 percent salary increase is granted on Dec. 1 in both years for state-supported local employees. This includes Compensation Board funded positions.

Teacher compensation

A 2 percent salary increase is granted on July 1, 2009, for teachers and other Standards of Quality (SOQ) funded positions.

Public education

The budget conferees thankfully rejected two House proposed SOQ methodology changes totaling more than \$140 million in state reductions, including the

Budget

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Gov. holds town hall meetings: Local officials must be heard



Gov. Timothy M. Kaine continues to tour the state as he conducts a series of 10 town hall meetings, which started March 10 and goes on through the reconvened session. The governor already has held meetings in Staunton, Petersburg and Newport News.

The events allow the governor an opportunity to discuss budget and legislation passed during the 2008

General Assembly session. The governor also will field questions from the public.

Staff from the Unclaimed Property Division of the Virginia Department of Treasury will also be in attendance to help citizens check for money, stocks, bonds, dividends, utility deposits, insurance proceeds and tangible property being held by the state.

No signups are required to attend or ask questions.

VACo strongly encourages local officials to attend the meetings and voice their opinions on several pressing issues.

* State funding for public education.

* State funding for localities with police departments (HB 599 funding).

*The need for the state and local governments to protect core service funding through the economic downturn and for the foreseeable future.

It is of great importance that you attend and be heard.

Here's the town hall meetings schedule:

Monday, March 17

Roanoke

6:30 p.m.- 8 p.m.

Patrick Henry High School- Auditorium

Wednesday, March 19

Norfolk

6 p.m.-7:30 p.m.

Virginia Wesleyan College- Dining Center

Thursday, March 20

Front Royal

6 p.m.-7:30 p.m.

Skyline High School- Cafeteria

151 Skyline Vista Drive

Road impact fees saved – for now

A ruling by House Speaker William J. Howell in the closing days of the 2008 General Assembly session preserved county authority to adopt road impact fees enacted in HB 3202 last year.

Despite the setback, homebuilders vowed to seek a one-year bar on new road impact fees in any special transportation session this spring.

Last week, the speaker ruled that an amendment to HB 111 to prevent counties from adopting new road impact fees was not germane to the legislation. That amendment, added in the senate, was part of a “gentleman’s” agreement with the homebuilders. The agreement resulted in SB 768, the bill to repeal residential cash proffers, being carried over to the 2009 session.

The homebuilders also agreed not seek limits to voluntary cash proffers this year. Further, the speaker indicated that he would send a letter asking local governments to continue their negotiations on SB 768. The letter may also request local governments not to increase their voluntary cash proffer guidelines while negotiations are ongoing.

Local governments remain committed to negotiations with the homebuilders to develop an equitable impact fee bill for consideration by the 2009 General Assembly.

Counties work to 'Restore the Partnership' with Congress and the Administration

WASHINGTON, D.C. — More than 2,000 elected and appointed county officials brought the concerns of the nation's counties to the nation's capital as part of the National Association of Counties' (NACo) 2008 Legislative Conference March 1-5 in Washington, D.C.

The theme of this year's conference was "Restore the Partnership."

NACo President Eric Coleman, commissioner, Oakland County, Mich., led NACo members during the conference to help strengthen the voice of county government and "Restore the Partnership" with Congress and the administration.

VACo was represented by William B. Kyger (Rockingham County), executive committee president; **Jim Campbell**, executive director; **Mike Edwards**, deputy director for legislative affairs; and **Dean Lynch**, director of intergovernmental affairs. VACo's membership also had a strong showing.

"Virginia counties were definitely heard during this important conference," Campbell said. "We had about two dozens VACo members at the event to support NACo's mission."

For decades, the county and



federal governments have worked together to answer the challenges facing the nation. But in recent years, that partnership has begun to wane. To combat this, NACo has launched the 2008 Presidential Election Project to get each candidate to commit to restoring the federal—county partnership and to address the problems facing counties and their residents. During the 2008 Legislative Conference, participating county officials helped bring that message to Capitol Hill.

"I want to thank every elected and appointed county official who participated in this year's Legislative Conference in the nation's capital," Coleman said. "I am so proud of the men and women who represent county governments all across the country who came to Washington this week to help strengthen the voice of county government."

During the five-day conference, NACo members discussed legislative issues and programs important to counties and communities, met with members of Congress, attended professional development and educational

workshops, and heard from nationally prominent political leaders and commentators.

At its March 3 meeting, NACo's Board of Directors adopted more than 30 new policy positions, recommended by the association's steering committees. They run the gamut from opposition to cuts and eliminations to rural development programs in the administration's fiscal 2009 budget to support for federal efforts to ease the impact of the troubled mortgage industry on local communities to direct and immediate authority to remove debris in county rights-of-way after a natural disaster.

Special guest speakers at the conference included U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Ed Schafer, U.S. Commerce Secretary Carlos M. Gutierrez, Maryland Lieutenant Governor Anthony G. Brown, Washington, D.C. Mayor Adrian M. Fenty and Tom Siebel of the "Montana Meth Project," and Rep. James Clyburn (D-S.C.).

The primary purpose of the Legislative Conference is for county officials who sit on NACo's 11 steering committees to review and make recommendations on issues and legislation important to counties and communities.

Localities urged to form Civil War committees

Speaker of the House of Delegates Bill Howell wrote to each local government official last fall, urging them to establish local committees to begin planning for the statewide commemoration of the 150th anniversary of the Civil War (2011-2015).

Speaker Howell serves as chairman of the Virginia Sesquicentennial of the American Civil War Commission, created by the General Assembly in 2006 for the purpose of planning for and commemorating Virginia's participation in the Civil War.

The Civil War sesquicenten-

nial will be a national event and Virginia leads the states in planning for it. Not only was Virginia at the epicenter of the Civil War in the 1860s, but it is still the primary destination for visitors seeking to learn more about this time in history.

Far and away, Virginia has more Civil War sites and museums than any other state.

Each locality is asked to form a local committee to work with the state commission to provide an up-to-date inventory of Civil War destinations, and to plan events and activities that highlight the area's Civil War history.

To date, over 35 localities



have formed such committees and started planning.

Jim Campbell, executive director of VaCo, who serves on the Commission's Advisory Council, joins Speaker Howell and members of the Commission to urge all counties to begin planning now.

For more information, visit: www.VirginiaCivilWar.org, or contact **Cheryl Jackson**, Project Manager at (804) 786-3591.

Budget

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most costly (re-calculating teacher and other SOQ-funded positions). However, the legislature adopts a new inflationary cap for specific teachers and school employee benefits.

While the adopted change aligns SOQ positions with other, non-SOQ VRS personnel, the change costs local governments more than \$20 million in the next biennium.

The budget increases the Pre-K per-pupil amount to the state's share of \$6,000, and effective in FY 2010, caps the local match/composite index at no greater than .50.

Health and Human Services
\$41.6 million is appropriated for 600 new Mental

Retardation (MR) waivers in FY 2009.

\$41.6 million is appropriated to fund emergency mental health services as well jail diversion and children's mental health services.

\$13.4 million is appropriated for Foster Care including a 23 percent rate increase, specific recruitment and retention initiatives as well as social worker training.

Public Safety

HB 599 funding--the budget retains the dollar amount introduced by the governor (\$205 million each year including FY 2008 as well as FY 2009-2010).

Transportation

The conferees saved approximately \$180 million by converting a previously approved general fund transfer for transportation projects to debt.

The General Assembly is scheduled to reconvene on April 23 to act on the governor's recommendations.

In accordance with the constitution the governor acts on all legislation including the budget. The governor may veto specific budget line-items and offer specific budget amendments to line-items.

The legislature acts on vetoes and amendments.

Vetoes are overridden with a two-thirds vote, while amendments are adopted by a simple majority vote.

VACo contacts: Mike Edwards and Dean Lynch.

Read the Conference Report at the Senate Finance Web site: sfc.state.va.us/



Cumberland proud to call Hickman one of its own

Aaron Hickman wants a Ukrop's grocery store. Then his life would be perfect.

Hickman works as IT manager for Cumberland County, the rural paradise about 50 miles west of Richmond on U.S. Route 60. He's a transplant, having grown up in Virginia Beach and having worked in Philadelphia and Richmond.

"A Ukrop's would be nice," Hickman said with a laugh. "But the one thing I can say about Cumberland is I love it. The land is beautiful. The people are great.

"The first thing I noticed, coming from large cities is the community spirit. People do things for other people. They devote themselves to the community. It's like going back in time, but in a positive way."

That community spirit, the love and devotion for community, struck a chord in Hickman and he has been giving back ever since.

Hickman is credited with upgrading the county's radio system that now connects all agencies. The comprehensive communications project took two years and the finished product rivaled other systems costing several million dollars.



"Aaron is a tremendous asset to Cumberland County and we are fortunate to have such a capable and dedicated employee."
--Judy Ownby, CAO

Hickman completed his for less than \$1 million.

That's important for a county with a population of 9,000 and a small tax base.

Hickman helped county officials find alternative funding sources like grants, he researched innovative ways to complete tasks and he provided guidance and leadership on a technical problem that required a special analytical mind.

"I think the biggest thing to come from the radio project is that Cumberland agencies were disparate," Hickman said. "But now, they have a wonderful working relationship. I couldn't applaud the Emergency Services Committee (ESC) enough. They worked together to make the radio project a success. I'm not at the heart of that committee, there are many great people driving it."

The ESC was formed by the

Cumberland Board of Supervisors four years ago. The committee's purpose was to discuss ways of improving radio communications among the emergency services agencies.

"We clearly realize that we're stronger together and we're better off when we pool our efforts," said Kelly Hale, ESC chairperson.

Besides the radio communications project, Hickman has implemented a geographic information system that is tying many of the county's databases together and presents the records visually.

For example, when the sheriff's office receives a 911 call, the dispatcher can instantly locate the residence and obtain a wealth of information pertaining to the location that assists responding agencies.

Hickman also encouraged the purchase of GPS units for emergency service vehicles for quicker response, and recommended to the Board that the county establish wireless access throughout its borders.

"Aaron is a tremendous asset to Cumberland County and we are fortunate to have such a capable and dedicated employee," said Judy Ownby, county administrator. "Not only does he have the knowledge and ability to keep our network and communications systems operating smoothly, he has

Hickman

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Mark Your Calendar...

Regional Courthouse Meetings Schedule

VACo Region 7 Culpeper County

March 28
3 p.m.-5 p.m.
Locust Grove campus of GCC
Steven L. Walker, director
Contact Info:
Debbie Hoffman
(540) 727-3427
dhoffman@culpepercounty.gov

of Virginia Tech
Blackstone
Harrison A. Moody, director
Contact Info:
Wanda Nester
wnester@dinwiddieva.us
(804) 469-4500 x103

VACo Region 1 Isle of Wight County

March 31
6 p.m.
4-H Conference Center
Wakefield
Judy S. Lyttle, director
Contact Info:
Judy Winslow
(757) 357-5182
jwinslow@isleofwightus.net
or Don Robertson
(757) 365-6202
droberts@isleofwightus.net

VACo Region 11 Roanoke County

April 7
5:30 p.m.-7:30 p.m.
Roanoke County Administration
Center
4th Floor Training Room
Richard C. Flora, director
Contact Info:
Mary V. Brandt
Assistant Deputy Clerk
(540) 772-2005
mbrandt@roanokecountyva.gov

VACo Region 4 Dinwiddie County

March 31
7 p.m.
Southern Piedmont Area
Research & Extension Center

VACo Region 5 Fluvanna County

April 29 or 30 (TBD)
6:30 p.m.-8 p.m.
Fluvanna County Courthouse
Palmyra
Constance Brennan, director
Contact Info:
Connie Brennan
(434) 263-4690

Sign up for coaching and mentoring training session

The Virginia Institute of Government is sponsoring a coaching and mentoring training session April 9 at the UVA Richmond Center.

The event runs from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

This training session will provide strategies to help you enable your employees to perform their jobs at a level that benefits the individual, team and organization.

Designed for supervisors, team leaders, managers and directors.

Registration: \$100 (includes lunch). Group discounts are available.

Contact:

Jessica Smith

804-371-0202

jessicasmith@virginia.edu

www.VaInstituteofGovernment.org

NACo awards applications available

NACo is now accepting applications for the 2008 County Courthouse Awards.

Winners receive a plaque, recognition at the 2008 NACo Annual Conference in Jackson County, Mo., and a \$5,000 college scholarship to present to a graduating high school senior.

Applications and information about the awards are now available on the NACo Web site at www.naco.org under "awards". Applications must be postmarked by May 9 to be considered.

CORRECTION

In the March 1 issue of County Connections, there was an error in the chairman/vice chairman listing for the Nottoway Board of Supervisors. For 2008, Sherman Vaughn is the chairman and Clarence Simpson is the vice chairman.

County Connections regrets the error.

Congratulations!

Henrico County promotes Emerson

Henrico County Manager Virgil R. Hazelett, P.E. announces the appointment of Ralph J. "Joe" Emerson as director of planning, effective March 15.

Emerson, who has been serving as acting director, will succeed former director Randall R. Silber, who was appointed deputy county manager for community development in January.

As director, Emerson will oversee the operations of a department with 50 employees and a current budget of \$4.2 million. The Planning Department is responsible for developing Henrico's long-range plans and other proposals regarding the physical development of the county. It also provides staff support to the Planning Commission, Board of Zoning Appeals and Board of Supervisors relating to county land-development activities. The department consists of the divisions of comprehensive planning, development review and design, code administration and administrative support.

Emerson, a Henrico employee since 2002, previously served as the county's assistant director of Planning and has 23 years of local-government experience. He earned a bachelor's degree from Radford University and received a certificate of public administration from Virginia Commonwealth University.



Ralph J. Emerson

DAA hires two talented engineers

Draper Aden Associates is pleased to announce the hiring of two engineers.

DeWayne A. Craddock, E.I.T. will report to the Site Planning and Engineering Team in the Hampton Roads office.

Craddock has engineering experience as a project engineer for site design, stormwater management and public and private utility system design.

"We are happy to add to our strength in site design especially in the areas of stormwater management and utility design," said Tim Dean, PE, Hampton Roads Office Manager. "DeWayne brings quality experience in both disciplines and this will help us to continue to establish a solid basis for growth here in Hampton Roads."

Craddock is a 2002 graduate of Old Dominion University with a Bachelor's of Science in Civil Engineering.

Draper Aden Associates is also pleased to announce the hiring of Gregory A. Brazeau, E.I.T. to the Site Planning and Engineering Team in the Blacksburg office.

Brazeau has seven years of engineering experience in site design for commercial and industrial facilities.

He is a 2002 graduate of Virginia Tech with a B.S. in Civil Engineering.

County official appointed to national post

George Braunstein, Chesterfield County CSB executive director, was appointed by Michael Leavitt, Secretary of Health and Human Services, to the National Advisory Council for Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA).

This prestigious appointment is for a three-year term. Braunstein's role on the Council will include providing input into policy, planning, and strategy regarding national programs for people who have substance abuse and mental health problems as well as prevention programs.

The National Advisory Council will report directly to the organizations administrator and to Secretary Leavitt. SAMHSA is the federal agency that plans, develops, implements and funds substance abuse and mental health treatment programs for the entire nation.

Employment Opportunities

Employment ads are edited due to space considerations.

To view the full versions, visit www.vaco.org.

Human Resources-Assistant Director/Leesburg

\$62,216-\$104,426 plus excellent benefits

Closing Date: May 9 at 5 pm
TO APPLY: Visit www.leesburg-va.gov or request an application from the HR Dept. at 703-737-7177. Mail application and resume in confidence to: Attn.: Nancy Fixx, HR Director, Town of Leesburg, 25 W. Market St., PO Box 88, Leesburg, VA 20178. Applications may be faxed to the HR Dept. at 703-737-7190. Resumes may be submitted as supplemental only.

Director of Public Utilities/Caroline County

Relocation allowance provided. Submit letter of application, detailed resume with salary history and work related references and a Caroline County application for employment 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 April 15, 2008. Official Caroline County applications can be downloaded and printed from the County's website www.visitcaroline.com. For further information visit www.springsted.com.

Director of Finance/Caroline County

Relocation allowance negotiable. Submit letter of application, detailed resume with salary history and work related references and a Caroline County application for employment 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 April 15, 2008. Official Caroline County applications can be downloaded and printed from the County's website www.visitcaroline.com. For more information visit www.springsted.com.

Director of Planning and Development/Fluvanna County

Salary DOQ. To apply please submit resume, a County Application found at www.co.fluvanna.va.us. Also submit a cover letter stating salary expectations to: Fluvanna County Human Resources, PO Box 540, Palmyra, VA 22963. Review of applications will begin on March 24. This position will remain open until filled. EOE

Demographer, Prince William County

\$51,002-\$81,604 full range plus benefits. Applications submitted through Prince William County Web site at www.pwcgov.org/jobs/. Open until filled. EOE.

County Attorney/Louisa County

The position requires a Juris Doctor from an accredited school of law and 5-7 years of experi-

ence. Must also be licensed to practice law in the Commonwealth of Virginia. For complete details, please visit www.louisacounty.com

Asst. County Administrator/Grayson County

Salary commensurate based on education and experience. Applications are available by contacting the Grayson County Administrator's Office at 276-773-2471. Position open until filled.

Events and Fair Coordinator/Isle of Wight County

Salary \$32,912-\$41,141
Position open until filled. Interested candidates should submit an application and resume to: Human Resources, P.O. Box 80, Isle of Wight, VA 23397. Visit www.iwus.net or call 757-365-6263.

City Events

Coordinator/Hopewell

Open Until Filled
A City of Hopewell Application is required for all job vacancies. You may access a city application @ www.ci.hopewell.va.us Submit application to Human Resources, City of Hopewell, Municipal Building, Room 221, 300 N. Main Street, Hopewell, VA 23860. 804-541-2211.

County Administrator/Patrick County

Salary is negotiable dependent

Employment

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Employment

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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, PO Box 466, Stuart, VA 24171. Applicants are to submit their information no later than March 15.

Community Development Specialist/Henry County

Planning, Zoning and Inspection Office. Starting salary: \$32,277. Applications will be accepted until position is filled. Send letter of application and detailed resume to: Susan Reynolds, Human Resources Director, County of Henry, PO Box 7, Collinsville, VA 24078.

Historic Resources Manager/Isle of Wight County

\$36,139-\$46,077 DOQ
Interested candidates should submit an application and resume to: Human Resources, PO Box 80, Isle of Wight, VA 23397. Visit our website at

www.iwus.net or call 757-365-6263. Position open until filled.

Chief of Police/City of Lynchburg

Residency within the City of Lynchburg is required. Market competitive salary dependent on qualifications and excellent benefits. For full recruitment profile, candidates should visit www.lynchburgva.gov/Index.aspx?page=4256.

Interested, qualified parties are encouraged to submit a City of Lynchburg employment application, including a cover letter and confidential resume with salary history and professional references, online at www.lynchburgva.gov or via mail, e-mail or fax by March 17 to: Margaret M. Schmitt, SPHR, Director of Human Resources, 900 Church St., Lynchburg, VA 24504; Fax: 434-845-4304 or margaret.schmitt@lynchburgva.gov.

Planner/Accomack-Northampton Planning District Commission

\$30,000 - \$40,000 DOQ. Regional planning agency seeks

Regional Planner to manage a Natural Resources program. Send resume to Accomack-Northampton Planning District Commission, PO Box 417, Accomac, VA 23301. 757-787-2936. Open until filled.

Planner/Mathews County

Starting salary \$32K or higher DOQ. Submit Mathews County Application and resume w/ cover letter to Planning & Zoning, PO Box 839, Mathews, VA 23109.

Application may be obtained at www.co.mathews.va.us. Or call 804-725-4034. Position open until filled.

Senior Engineer/Leesburg

Salary Range: \$52,752-\$88,542 plus excellent benefits package
Closing Date: Open until filled. See www.leesburgva.gov or request an application from the HR Dept. at 703-737-7177.

Applications are accepted by mail, fax 703-737-7190 or hand-delivered to the Human Resources Dept. (Town of Leesburg, 25 W. Market St., Leesburg, VA 20176).

Hickman

Continued from page 5

brought his progressive ideas and vision to the Board. In addition, Aaron has saved the county a lot of money due to his expertise in evaluating proposals for equipment and services."

Hale added, "We might tell him that we want A to talk

with B. He'll tell us that he can do that but also have A and B talk with C as well."

All of this is not too shabby for someone who earned a bachelor's in chemistry from Virginia Military Institute and a master's in analytical chemistry from Northern Arizona.

"I came here at the right time when Cumberland was starting to grow," Hickman said.

"I believe the current thought pattern for that growth is right. Cumberland wants to grow under control and think about the long-term."

And what about that community spirit? Hickman recently became an EMT to serve the residents in another way.

"We never called Aaron 'city slicker,'" Hale said. "He's always been one of us."

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



Executive Committee

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President-Elect: Donald L. Hart Jr., Accomack County
1st Vice President: Phillip A. Bradshaw, Isle of Wight County
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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.

1001 E. Broad St.
Suite LL 20
Richmond, VA 23219
(804) 788-6652
Fax: (804) 788-0083
www.vaco.org

County Connections is a semimonthly publication.

Editor: Gage Harter
(804) 343-2502