



County Connections

The Newsletter of the Virginia Association of Counties

April 1, 2008

In This Edition...

Local officials participating in town hall meetings 2

Clarke County vows to reject VDOT road plan 3

CTB to cut secondary road funding by 45 percent 3

Get Ready to Celebrate! 4

VACo's Achievement Awards Program 4

Rural Safety Innovation 4

Volunteers enrich counties 5

Mark your calendars 6

Congratulations! 7

Employment Opportunities 8

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

Deadline for the next issue: April 10

E-mail your feature story ideas to gharter@vaco.org

Biennial Budget Highlights

The General Assembly adopted amendments on March 13 to the "caboose" budget for the remainder of FY 2008, as well as the new biennial budget for FY 2009-2010. The following are VACo's highlights of some significant issues of the new biennial budget for FY 2009-2010.



Revenue Shortfall

The national economic downturn is impacting Virginia. Gov. Timothy M. Kaine announced on Feb. 12 the revised revenue forecast for FY 2008 through FY 2010. The shortfall totals \$1.39 billion.

Reversion Clearing House Reductions

The report includes \$100 million in new local government reductions. The cuts equate to \$50 million each year or approximately 5 percent against a biennial state base of more than \$2 billion. These new across-the-board cuts are in addition to reductions embedded in the budget.

State agency reductions

The report requires an additional \$35 million in biennial state agency reductions. VACo estimates that a majority of state agencies have experienced more

Visit www.vaco.org and click on publications and Capitol Contact to view VACo's Adopted State Budget Summary in its entirety.

than 8 percent in current year reductions. Additionally, the FY 2008 budget captures \$14 million in FY 2007 agency balances.

Rainy Day and Capital Funds

The report withdraws \$351.5 million from the Revenue Stabilization Fund in FY 2008, which represents about 30 percent of the total fund balance, and approximately \$100 million less than the allowable transfer. The report converts \$300 million of cash for capital projects to debt, and captures an additional \$100 million in cash for capital projects.

Budget

Continued on page 11

Local officials participating in Kaine's town hall meetings

VACo staff and local elected officials have attended town hall meetings conducted by Gov. Timothy M. Kaine over the past few weeks. The series of meetings began March 10 and will continue through the reconvened session.

The meetings highlight Gov. Kaine's initiatives during the 2008 General Assembly and gives him an opportunity to discuss the budget and legislation passed during the Session. The governor also answers questions from the public at each meeting.

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

No sign-in is required to attend or ask questions. All town hall meetings are open to the public and media.

Here are a few of Gov. Kaine's initiatives that have been discussed:

- * Campaigns and Elections (servicemen and women voting absentee overseas, campaign finance reform – original donor reporting)
- * Consumer Protections (foreclosure – requiring additional



Gov. Kaine speaks to local officials and citizens in Wytheville.

(Photo courtesy of Governor's Office)



Gov. Kaine listens to a question from a citizen in Petersburg.

(Photo courtesy of Governor's Office)

notice from sub-prime lenders, payday lending, credit check freezes)

* Preventing and responding to sexual and domestic violence (recognizing victims of crime safeguards)

* Protecting the environment (funding for Chesapeake Bay and Water Quality Improvement Fund, bond package for Bay open space)

* Virginia Tech shootings (increased funding of \$40 million in the introduced budget for mental health services)

* Public Safety ("move over" legislation to safeguard police during traffic stops, no automatic

parole revocation for technical violations)

* Child services (funding for increased services foster care services)

* Education (K-12 funding and pre-K)

* Workforce Issues (consolidation of activities)

* Abusive driver fees (repeal of legislation)

Clarke County vows to reject VDOT Secondary Road Plan

The Clarke County Board of Supervisors heard bad news from VDOT just prior to the recent Public Hearing on the County's Six-Year Secondary Road Plan.

VDOT officials presented a revised set of figures indicating that state funding of secondary road would have to be cut by an additional 28 percent unless the General Assembly came up with new funds in the next few weeks.

In past years, Clarke County Supervisors either dropped projects or agreed to delays as Secondary Road funds were cut, but this year the Supervisors vowed that they would no longer endorse any VDOT plan that did not meet the minimum safety needs of their citizens.

"We would be sending a confusing message to our

citizens if we complained about a lack of state transportation funding and then immediately turned around and endorsed a pared down Secondary Road Plan," **Chairman John Staelin** said. "The projects that are being postponed deal with safety rather than congestion. If the Plan does not meet our County's minimum safety needs we simply cannot endorse it."

Regional VDOT officials attending the meeting asked the Supervisors to put off any vote on the plan until the new figures could be officially added to the document. VDOT also expressed hope that the General Assembly might increase transportation funding prior to the Supervisors' next meeting.

However, the Supervisors expressed that they would likely vote against any Six-Year

Secondary Road Plan unless it met the safety needs of citizens.

When asked about the impact such a vote would have on Clarke County's level of state transportation funding, county officials stated that the Commonwealth Transportation Board (CTB) sets the ultimate funding figures in conformance with state law. The county will make sure the CTB is aware of the its priorities so that state funds will be spent the best way. It will endorse the priorities but not the final plan.

VDOT recently decided that it will not reduce FY 2008 revenues to counties. The department is rolling current year cuts forward rather than instituting mid-year recessions. Localities are facing 45 percent reductions in FY 2009 and beyond; **please see the story below.**

CTB to cut secondary road funding by 45 percent

A slumping economy is one factor that will require the Commonwealth Transportation Board (CTB) to reduce six-year plan secondary road construction spending by at least \$1.1 billion. Other reasons include increased construction and maintenance costs, the continued transfer of state construction funds to maintenance and the repeal of the abuser driver's fees. VDOT must transfer interstate, primary, urban and secondary construction funds to support required maintenance activities.

VDOT provided the CTB

with its revised revenue forecast in February. The reductions require cuts of approximately 45 percent in FY 2009. Transit funding will be reduced by a 10 percent average.

As previously reported by VACo, despite the transportation funding package of 2007 and the loss of the abusive driver fee funds programmed as of FY 2009, VDOT will transfer more than \$280 million in the current year from state construction funds to support maintenance activities. VACo has learned that VDOT also is transferring federal dollars in the current year to sup-

port maintenance activities. All told, VDOT will transfer approximately \$400 million this year from state and federal construction funds to support maintenance. The statewide maintenance deficit, however, will continue to mount.

The abusive driver fees of 2008 were estimated to generate \$60 million a year. The dollars were intended to support road maintenance activities beginning in FY 2009. VDOT programmed the new funds into the

CTB

Continued on page 10



Get Ready to Celebrate!

April 6-12

In 2008, the National County Government Week's theme is **"Protecting Our Children."** Counties can show their residents the many ways they work to protect and enhance the health, welfare and safety of children in sensible and cost-effective ways.

National County Government Week (NCGW) is an annual celebration of county government. First held in 1991, the goal of county government week is to raise public awareness and understanding about the roles and responsibilities of the nation's counties.

There are activities at the national, state and local levels during county government week. More than 1,000 counties annually participate in NCGW by holding a variety of programs and events.

These include tours of county facilities, presentations in schools, meetings with business and community leaders, recognition programs for volunteers, briefings on environmental projects, and adoption of proclamations.

Visit NACo.org for more information.



The Rural Safety Innovation

The Rural Safety Innovation program was announced recently in the Federal Register and is a \$15 million program aimed at local rural road owners, including counties, who want federal assistance to improve rural road safety. The National Association of Counties encourages you to apply for this program and assist in publicizing it by sharing this information with other county officials. Applications must be received by April 14. Information about this program can be accessed at: a257.g.akamaitech.net/7/257/2422/01jan20081800/edocket.access.gpo.gov/2008/pdf/E8-3716.pdf

The program is an opportunity for local rural road owners to improve rural road safety through infrastructure and technological approaches using up to \$15 million in available funds. It is geared toward entities responsible for rural roads and highways such as counties, towns, townships and tribal governments partnering with the State Departments of Transportation to submit applications for rural safety projects. Those applicants selected will be invited to submit more detailed project proposals.

The program and application process are fully described in the Federal Register notice. Contact for questions is John Dewar in the Office of Safety, 202-366-2218 (john.dewar2@dot.gov).

VACo's Achievement Awards Program

Applications for the 2008 Achievement Awards Program are available now at www.vaco.org. County administrators and public information officers will receive copies of the application form by mail. Any county department is eligible to apply!

Award plaques will be presented at VACo's Annual Business Meeting on Nov. 11 in Bath County.

The winning entries will be recognized on the VACo Web site and in a news release sent to statewide media outlets.

The competition is divided into five population categories so that projects compete with other localities of comparable size. Entries must be post-marked by June 1.

GO GREEN!

Please plan to attend one of the four Virginia Municipal League-sponsored regional environmental forums that will be held across the state in April.

Tuesday, April 15

Virginia Beach Convention Center \$45
1000 19th Street
Virginia Beach, VA 23451
Please respond by April 4

Thursday, April 17

Fairfax Marriott at Fair Oaks Mall \$45
11787 Lee Jackson Memorial Hwy
Fairfax, VA 22033
Please respond by April 7

Tuesday, April 22

Southwest Virginia Higher Education Center \$45
One Partnership Circle
Abingdon, VA 24210
Please respond by April 10

Tuesday, April 29

James River Conference Center \$45
400 Court Street
Lynchburg, VA 23504
Please respond by April 15
For more information, visit gogreen-va.org



David Sawyer's photo of a renovated Fort Huger complete with cannons. Sawyer sports a blue cap as he donates time as an Isle of Wight volunteer.

David Sawyer had heard of the old fort that lay in ruins along the James River. But like many Isle of Wight locals, he never explored Fort Huger (pronounced Hewjee) because it was assumed the historical Civil War site was swallowed by the expanding river.

However, Sawyer trekked to the location one day long ago, stomping on overgrown weeds and brush, and imagined the fort as it stood more than 100 years in the past.

"I could almost see the Union ships coming up the James River," Sawyer said of the time he looked out from Hardy's Bluff.

Flash forward to Dec. 30 and nearly 44 years later, Sawyer now stands among the proud citizens and leaders of the county as Fort Huger is opened to the public. No longer is the site a vegetation junkyard but rather a tourist destination after a two-year restoration effort.

Today, Fort Huger defends the James River and Richmond like it would have in 1861 with cannons on platforms among tall thin trees. It's easy to envision a captain raising his saber and giving the command to fire in defense of the Confederacy.

All of this would not be possible without the tireless efforts of Sawyer and other volunteers, who helped research



VOLUNTEERS ENRICH COUNTIES



and initiate every phase of the restoration project. Sawyer was part of an advisory committee made up of local historians.

"I can't say enough about the county staff and leadership," Sawyer said. "We gave them recommendations and they were always willing to compromise or do exactly what we suggested."

It's not surprising that folks like Sawyer exist in Virginia counties to improve their communities. What is inspirational is that Sawyer is a volunteer. He donated between 300-400 hours to the Fort Huger project.

"Isle of Wight County is very

proud to have citizens like David Sawyer who lend their time and energy to important projects like Fort Huger," said **Don Robertson**, county director of information services and legislative affairs. "Our citizens have a wonderful commitment to volunteerism in everything from emergency services to tourism. Their sense of community, their love of Isle of Wight history and their desire to make a positive impact on the county's future make this a

Sawyer

Continued on page 10



Mark Your Calendar...

Public Hearing Notice

**Help Shape Virginia Transportation Future
FY2009-2014 six-year improvement program
Working draft final public hearings**

The Commonwealth Transportation Board (CTB) invites your comments about essential rail, public transportation, commuter services, bicycle, pedestrian and highway projects to be approved in June.

You can review the working draft FY2009-2014 SYIP on VirginiaDOT.org and at VDOT district and residency offices after April 16. For information on statewide rail and transit plans, visit www.drpt.virginia.gov.

(Public hearings for local/secondary/municipality-maintained roads are held in other forums)



Wednesday, April 16
5 p.m.
Holiday Inn Select Downtown
601 Main St.
Lynchburg, VA 24504

Monday, April 21
6 p.m.
VDOT Bristol District Office Auditorium
870 Bonham Rd.
Bristol, VA 24201

Wednesday, April 23
6 p.m.
VDOT Central Office Auditorium
1221 E. Broad St.
Richmond, VA 23219

Thursday, April 24
6 p.m.
Hampton Roads Planning District Regional Building
723 Woodlake Dr.
Chesapeake, VA 23320

Wednesday, April 30
6 p.m.
Rockingham County Administration Center
20 East Gay St.
Harrisonburg, VA 22802

Wednesday, May 14
7:30 p.m.
Northern Virginia CC
Ernst Cultural Center
8333 Little River Turnpike
Annandale, VA 22003
(free parking student B lots 1-17)

VACo Summer Meeting

Aug. 22 Charlottesville OMNI Hotel
Four steering committee meetings, 10 a.m.-11:30 a.m.
Lunch available, 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.
Four additional steering committee meetings, 12:30 p.m.-2 p.m.
VACo Board of Directors Meeting, 2 p.m.-5 p.m.
**A small block of rooms will be reserved for those who may need them Thursday or Friday night.*

Regional VACo Meetings Schedule

**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 5
Fluvanna County**
April 29/6:30 p.m.-8 p.m.
Fluvanna County Courthouse
Palmyra
Constance Brennan, director
Contact Info:
Connie Brennan
(434) 263-4690

**VACo Region 12
Wythe County**
April 29/6:30 p.m.
Southwest Virginia Higher Education Center, Room 240
Abingdon, VA
Danny McDaniel, director
Contact Info:
Danny McDaniel
(276) 620-0087

Virginia Government Communicators Annual Meeting

Wednesday, June 18
Virginia Housing Center
Virginia Housing Development Authority
Glen Allen, VA
For information contact
Barbara Gordon, director of Communications, Northern Virginia Regional Commission,
bgordon@novaregion.org
or 703.642.4635
Further information will be posted at <http://www.vagovcom.org/>

Congratulations!

VACo proudly welcomes two new associate members

Siemens Building Technologies Inc

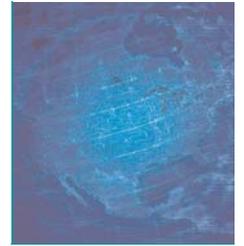
Siemens Building Technologies is a leading provider of energy and environmental solutions and makes buildings comfortable, safe and less costly to operate.

Siemens Building Technologies has four locations in Virginia—Richmond, Virginia Beach, Chantilly and Roanoke. With U.S. headquarters in Buffalo Grove, Ill., the company employs 7,500 people

and provides a full range of services and solutions from more than 100 locations coast-to-coast. Worldwide, the company has 29,000 employees and operates in more than 42 countries.

“Siemens Building Technologies has a long and successful track record of accomplishment in Virginia,” said Lou Hrkman, Siemens Building Technologies general manager, energy and environmental solutions for the Highland District. “For over 50 years Siemens has been helping Virginia counties, cities and

school districts lower their energy bills and help improve the environment.” Siemens



Building Technologies is part of Siemens AG, a global network of innovation that is comprised of more than 430,000 employees, millions of customers, and hundreds of thousands of partners and suppliers in over 190 countries. Annual sales are \$96 billion.

Cost Control Associates

Cost Control Associates (CCA) came to VACo’s attention through its national contract with NACO, providing contingency fee based reviews of various utility bills including gas, electric, street lighting and telephone bills.

CCA reviews organization’s current and historic bills for possible billing errors on the part of vendors, and files refund claims for these billing errors. In addition to the recovery of

refunds, CCA also reviews existing bills and plans for possible cost saving alternate rates that may be available from existing vendors. CCA receives a percentage of the refund or savings, and there is no charge if there is no cost savings.

CCA provides a dedicated representative who covers the Virginia region. In addition to its county clients through NACO, CCA is currently working with City of Newport News, City of Roanoke, City of Lynchburg and SunTrust Bank in Richmond.

Here are some examples of CCA's results with other municipal clients:

* Rensselaer County, N.Y., received a refund of nearly \$400,000 from its local energy provider when it underwent a complete utility bill audit.

* Grand Traverse County, Mich., realized benefits from a thorough review of energy and telecom costs that resulted in the identification of taxes billed in error and unused telephone lines that were eliminated.

* The City of Cleveland, Ohio, utilized the cost saving program for its telecom and utility costs and realized refunds in excess of \$300,000 and an additional \$300,000 in annual savings.

Two join Draper Aden Associates in Richmond

Draper Aden Associates is pleased to announce that Deborah L. Wilson has joined the firm as administrative support for the Environmental Team in the Richmond office. Wilson has experience in accounting, data entry and administrative support. She attended J. Sargeant Reynolds CC.

Draper Aden Associates also proudly introduces Michael J. McFadden as field engineer on the Geotechnical Team in the Richmond office. McFadden’s work experience includes geotechnical engineering, drilling and QA/QC responsibilities.

Employment Opportunities

Employment ads are edited due to space considerations.

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

Director of Planning, zoning and development/Leesburg

\$79,689-\$133,752 plus excellent benefits package; closing date is May 16 at 5 p.m. TO APPLY:

See www.leesburgva.gov or request an application from the HR Dept. at 703-737-7177.

Mail application and resume in confidence to: Nancy Fixx, HR Director, Town of Leesburg, 25 W. Market St., P. O. 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 Parks & Recreation/Northampton County

Please refer to Northampton County's website online at www.co.northampton.va.us/jobs.html for further job description, requirements and county's application form. Resume, completed application form and cover letter can be submitted to Human Resources, P. O. Box 66, Eastville, VA 23347 no later than April 25.

Senior Planners (2 openings)/Leesburg

\$52,752-\$88,542 plus excellent benefits; closing date is May 9. A Town of Leesburg application for employment is required. See

www.leesburgva.gov or request an application from the HR Dept. at 703-737-7177. Resumes may be submitted as supplemental only. Applications must be received by 5 p.m. on the closing date. Mail application to: Town of Leesburg, HR Dept., 25 West Market Street, Leesburg, VA 20176. Applications and resumes may be faxed to the HR Dept. at 703-737-7190. EOE/ADA

EDA Executive Director/Henrico County

An online Henrico County application form must be completed in order to be considered for this position. To apply, visit www.henricojobs.com. Deadline for completed online application is April 13. Visit www.henrico.com for the EDA Web site. Questions can be directed to S.F. Mays at (804) 501-7654 or via e-mail at info@henrico.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 April 21. For further information visit www.springsted.com.

Long-Range Planner/Northampton County

\$41,754 -\$62,631 plus benefits. Detailed job description and county's application form may be

obtained online at www.co.northampton.va.us. Resume, completed application form and cover letter should be submitted to Human Resources, P. O. Box 66, Eastville, VA 23347 no later than Monday, April 21.

Executive Director/Richmond Regional Planning District Commission

\$120,000-\$140,000 DOQ plus excellent benefits. Submit letter of application, detailed resume with employment and salary history and work related references to: John A. Anzivino, Senior Vice President, Springsted Incorporated, 1564 Parham Road, Richmond, VA 23228; Fax 804-726-9752 or e-mail Richmond@Springsted.com by April 20. For a full profile describing the region and the position please visit www.springsted.com.

Stormwater Chief/York County

Base salary \$61,833 or higher commensurate with experience, qualifications; excellent benefits. A York County application is required and may be obtained from the H. R. Office, 120 Alexander Hamilton Blvd, 2nd Floor, Yorktown, VA; at www.yorkcounty.gov; or call (757) 890-3690. Hearing impaired TDD (757) 890-3300. Open until filled.

Employment

Continued on page 9

Employment

Continued from page 8

Building Official/Carroll County

A full position description found at: www.CarrollCountyVA.org/employment.

All candidates for this position must provide a Resume' along with a completed Virginia State Application to the Carroll County Administrator's Office at 605-1 Pine Street, Hillsville, VA 24343. This position will remain open until filled.

Human Resources-Assistant Director/Leesburg

\$62,216-\$104,426 plus excellent benefits. Closing Date: May 9 at 5 pm TO APPLY: Visit www.leesburgva.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

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. This position will remain open until filled.

Demographer, Prince William County

\$51,002-\$81,604 full range plus benefits. Applications submitted through Prince William County

Web site www.pwcgov.org/jobs. Open until filled. EOE.

County Attorney/Louisa County

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 our Web site at www.iwus.net or call 757-365-6263 for more information.

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,

Employment

Continued on page 10

Employment

Continued from page 9

Room 221, 300 N. Main Street, Hopewell, VA 23860. Call 804-541-2211 for information.

Community Development Specialist/Henry County

Planning, Zoning and Inspection Office. Starting salary: \$32,277. Applications 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 www.iwus.net or call 757-365-6263. The position is open until filled.

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.

Sawyer

Continued from page 5

very special place to live.”

Sawyer graduated from Smithfield High and has lived in the Moonfield area for many lunar rotations. He worked as a shipbuilder in Newport News for 42 years, starting as a steam fitter and progressing to production controller and project leader.

Sawyer is a man of many interests. He held craft shows displaying his Indian relics. He made airplanes from bullets. He even worked as a wedding DJ for nine years—spinning “Unchained Melody” upon request.

But once he retired, he jumped into volunteering almost full-time.

“Like I told my wife, ‘I sat behind a wire fence for 42

years,’” Sawyer said. “‘I worked in a compound. There were lots of things I wanted to be involved with but couldn’t because of time and the commitment to my job. Now I can do those things.’”

Sawyer volunteers as county photographer. He has shot the Isle of Wight County Fair for the past 15 years and his work is used in promotional materials. He has served on Smithfield’s Planning Commission for 14 years and the Board of Zoning Appeals for 15 years. He’s chaired both for nine years.

He helped establish the Isle of Wight County Museum, which outgrew its facility in two years and was moved into a larger building.

“Mr. Sawyer loves the county,” said **Terry Thompson**, Isle of Wight special events coordinator. “He’s very dedicated. It’s like he’s part of the staff here.”

CTB

Continued from page 2

current six-year plan. The repeal of the abusive driver fees leaves a \$300 million hole in the transportation program.

During the 2008 session the Senate sent the House a 5 cent increase in the state motor fuels tax rate. The House rejected the proposal. SB 713 (Saslaw) dedicated the new dollars to road maintenance and phased in the increase at 1 cent per gallon in each of the next five fiscal years. The Commonwealth’s current gas tax is 1.75 cents per gallon; the federal rate is just under 1.8 cents per gallon. A 1 cent increase in the state motor fuels tax equals approximately \$55 million in new revenue.

Gov. Timothy M. Kaine may call a special session later this year to address the transportation funding issue.

Budget

Continued from page 1

Comprehensive Services Act (CSA)

The report adds language and funding modifying the local share of funding for community and residential services provided through CSA. Report language also requires the Secretary of Health and Human Resources to establish a work group to assist with the implementation of a system of financial incentives to localities to use community-based services in lieu of residential services for children in CSA.

Report language lowers the local share of funding for community-based services by 50 percent beginning in FY 2009 as an incentive for localities to provide services to children who can be appropriately cared for in the community. In addition, report language raises the local share of funding for residential services by 15 percent beginning Jan. 1, 2009, and by 25 percent beginning in fiscal year 2010, after the first \$200,000 in annual residential care expenditures.

Public Education

The report includes approximately one billion new dollars resulting from the required rebenchmarking of the Standards of Quality (SOQ). The new budget appropriates more than \$14.5 billion for direct aid including federal and state funding.

SOQ supported personnel to receive a 2 percent raise in FY

2010 (July 1, 2009). The governor recommended this action. The report also specifies that the annual Teacher Salary Survey shall also include information on starting salaries and average salaries by school.

VRS contribution rates in the report for SOQ as well as state and local personnel are: 8 percent investment return, 3 percent inflation, and a 30-year amortization period for the unfunded liability.

The report revises one part of the SOQ methodology resulting in a state biennial “savings” of more than \$20 million (i.e., localities must absorb the cut).

The state adopts a “hard cap” to the inflation adjustment for non-personnel and health insurance costs. The current policy reflects a “soft cap” with full credit for the first 5 percent of inflation, and 35 percent of any inflation increase above 5 percent. With the change, full credit is given for the first 3 percent and 50 percent of inflation increases between 3-7 percent.

The report states that the above change is consistent with state payments for Virginia Retirement System (VRS) post-retirement supplements for non-SOQ supported personnel (§ 51.1-166 B, Code of Virginia.). The new SOQ change applies to more than VRS recognized costs and, therefore, captures all SOQ recognized adjustments including for example fuel costs.

Compensation Board

Constitutional officers receive a 2 percent salary increase on Dec. 1, 2008, and Dec. 1, 2009.

Beginning in FY 2009 the report institutes a 90-day hiring freeze and a separate restriction on the use of accrued vacancy savings of Constitutional officers, including Sheriffs and Commonwealth’s Attorneys. The governor mandated the above actions in October 2007 for Constitutional offices exempting Sheriffs and Commonwealth’s Attorneys.

Compensation and Retirement

Funding is provided in the report for a 2 percent salary increase in each year of the biennium for state employees and state supported local employees. State employees will receive a 2 percent increase each year on Nov. 25, and state supported local employees will receive a 2 percent salary increase each year on Dec. 1. The introduced budget included a 3 percent salary increase in the first year of the biennium for both classes.

These highlights are only intended to capture some significant provisions affecting Virginia’s counties. Again, go to www.vaco.org to review VACO’s detailed Adopted State Budget Summary. County officials also should review the General Assembly’s budget conference report. When doing so, please remember to read the report in concert with Gov. Timothy M. Kaine’s introduced budget – HB 30. The report amends the governor’s introduced budget bill.

The General Assembly will reconvene April 23 to consider Gov. Kaine’s recommendations.

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



Executive Committee

President: William B. Kyger, Jr., Rockingham County
President-Elect: Donald L. Hart Jr., Accomack County
1st Vice President: Phillip A. Bradshaw, Isle of Wight County
2nd Vice President: Robert R. Adkins, Wise County
Secretary Treasurer: Barbara A. Favola, Arlington County
Immediate Past President: Teresa L. Altemus, Gloucester County

Staff

Executive Director: James D. Campbell, AICP, CAE
General Counsel: Phyllis A. Errico, Esq.
Deputy Director for Legislative Affairs: Michael L. Edwards
Director of Policy Development: Larry J. Land, CAE
Director of Intergovernmental Affairs: Dean A. Lynch, CAE
Director of Governmental Affairs: Ted McCormack, AICP
Director of Administration: Vicky D. Steinruck, CPA
Director of Technical Services: John N. Kandris, A+, ACT, CCA
Director of Member Services: Carol I. Huff
Director of Communications: Gage Harter
Administrative Assistant: Pricilla Wallace
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.

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