

COUNTY CONNECTIONS

The Newsletter of the
Virginia Association of Counties

August 1, 2008



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Rail may be a thing of the future



Mike Edwards
VACo Staff

The Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation has developed and released a proposed Statewide Rail Plan. The plan is intended to provide the Commonwealth with a clear vision and strategy for addressing passenger and freight rail needs.

The Commonwealth Transportation Board is charged with adopting the plan. The department is hosting a series of public meetings regarding the draft. Local officials are encouraged to review the plan. It includes specific projects, and comment.

Upon reviewing the public comments, the department will develop a proposed Rail Action Plan. The Rail Action Plan will provide specific funding strategies and more detailed implementation plans for the projects identified in the Statewide Rail Plan.

A public comment opportunity will be provided for the Rail Action Plan, and the results will be incorporated into the final Statewide Rail Plan.

The 2008 Statewide Rail Plan is an update to the 2004 Statewide Rail Plan. The plan reviews the current state of the Commonwealth's rail system and future challenges including the increasing demand for freight and passenger service, population growth, capacity limits and key economic and environmental factors including

Rail

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A look at the 2008 revenue data

Also an explanation of the state aid to localities budget reductions

Dean Lynch
VACo Staff

In a July 17 memorandum to Gov. Timothy M. Kaine, Jody M. Wagner, secretary of Finance, reported on 2008 year-end revenue data. Wagner wrote that Virginia made the general fund revenue and transfer estimates in the budget with a small surplus (+\$5.4 million).

Wagner believes that we must begin discussing the actions that should be taken to prudently manage a continued decline in general fund revenue growth based upon the circumstances of the current economy, recent revenue performance, and the implications of both on future revenues for the current biennium.

While the preliminary general fund revenue collections exceeded the forecast, the economic indicators for fiscal year 2008 revenues reflect a slowing economy.

Declining employment levels, slower income growth, lower consumer confidence, and the continued downward trends in the housing market drove shortfalls in withholding, sales, and recordation taxes.

The revenue losses from these areas were offset by a large surplus in corporate income tax collections due to strength in the defense and energy sectors. Wagner stated that it is still early and many states have not reported final revenue collections, but from those that have, it appears that a pattern of slower growth is occurring, especially in income and sales tax revenues.

The two general fund revenue sources most closely tied to current economic activity – payroll withholding and retail sales taxes – experienced a

Secretary of Finance Jody M. Wagner urges officials to discuss the continued decline in general fund revenue growth.



meaningful slowdown in the rate of growth during the second half of fiscal year 2008. As a result, significant downward adjustments to the revenue forecast for the current biennial budget cycle that started July 1 are to be expected during the upcoming fall revenue forecasting process.

State agencies are being advised to expect further budget adjustments to reflect any reductions in the general fund revenue forecast for the current fiscal year and the next fiscal year.

The final results of the fiscal year 2008 revenues will be released on Aug. 18 during a joint meeting of the House Appropriations Committee, the House Finance Committee, and the Senate Finance Committee.

Meanwhile, the Department of Planning and Budget (DPB) has issued final guidance to counties on mandatory budget reductions.

Guidance includes a listing of aid-to-localities (ATL) programs and

Budget

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*Virginia Freedom
of Information
Advisory Council*

VACo has e-mailed each county executive the survey of social security numbers use required by legislation adopted during the 2008 Session of the General Assembly.

A provision of the legislation, effective July 1, 2009, will prohibit state and local government entities from requiring an individual to furnish or disclose a social security number, unless furnishing or disclosing the number is authorized or required by law, and is essential to the performance of the agency's duties.

It is important to note that one of the reasons for the survey is to ensure that when the restrictions on collection go into effect on July 1, 2009, no locality is caught off-guard.

In addition, collection of the survey information and the submission to the FOIA Council and JCOTS will provide the opportunity to review the information, and to see if recommendations need to be made to the General Assembly to authorize continued collection of social security numbers in certain circumstances not currently authorized by law.

Localities are not required to collect information from schools or constitutional officers. Please submit your completed survey no later than Sept. 10 to:

Pricilla Wallace, Administrative Assistant
Virginia Association of Counties
1001 East Broad St. Suite LL20
Richmond, VA 23219
Phone: 804-343-2509
Fax: 804-788-0083
pwallace@vaco.org

VACo Notes



Ted McCormack, VACo's director of governmental affairs, recently spent two days working at the Richmond Metropolitan Habitat for Humanity's new 17 home subdivision on Angus Road in the City of Richmond.

McCormack, who has been volunteering annually with Habitat since 1988, was part of a nine-member team from Bon Air Presbyterian Church that was responsible for completing the installation of the exterior siding and the ceiling sheetrock on one home.

Did you know that the original six counties of VACo were all from the southwest region of Virginia?

Montgomery, Roanoke, Smyth, Pulaski, Giles and Craig counties joined on Sept. 12, 1930, to proclaim the need to unite "for the purpose of improving county government and promoting the general welfare of the people."

By Nov. 1, 1934, a total of 24 counties answered the roll call at the Virginian Hotel in Lynchburg to hear the report of the Organization Committee and elect Mr. J.A. Eller (Smyth) as President.

CORRECTION

In the July 15 issue, we left out King William County on the list of counties adopting transportation funding resolutions.

The list appeared with the story "Road Block!"

County Connections regrets the error.

Entrepreneurial program creates over 400 jobs

By Gerald Goad
Carroll County

The Blue Ridge Crossroads region has suffered major job losses due to businesses closing their doors over the past five years. However, a new approach to Economic Development has emerged. Dr. Dallas Garrett has been successful in filling much of the void by providing assistance with the "Creation of Business" and enhancing entrepreneurship in the counties of Carroll and Grayson and the City of Galax.

"The way I see it, we've replaced one of the large industries that closed its doors," Garrett said.

Since the beginning of Carroll County's Business Development program, Garrett has assisted with the creation of 428 new jobs through entrepreneurial businesses with a capital investment of \$17 million.

His journey to Carroll County started in 2003 when he retired after serving 20 years in developing business incubator programs across the nation. When realizing he could not stay away from the business profession, Garrett became Carroll's first ever Business Development Specialist in 2006 - assisting with the creation of 19 new small businesses employing 95 new workers his first year. Gary Larowe, county administrator, said that the goal for 2006 was to work with 100 local companies and Dr. Garrett exceeded the mission and worked with 112.

The Business Development venture has been recognized as one of the best local entrepreneurial programs in the Commonwealth - receiving the Best Practices Award from The Center Council for Rural Virginia in 2007. This award is given annually by the Council for Rural Virginia to recognize outstanding individual commitment and service to the advancement of rural communities and/or issues in Virginia.

"The Council believes that entrepreneurial business has been the strength of rural Virginia for 400 years. Carroll County (and now that of the Blue Ridge Crossroads Region) is positioning her 'rural assets - her people' to step into a globally competitive market," said Glen Sink, executive director of the Center Council for Rural Virginia. "The Council recognized the forward progress of Carroll County at Virginia's 2007 Annual Rural Summit as a model for Rural Virginia."

"Beyond the results achieved, Carroll County's emphasis on an entrepreneurial strategy as one part of a comprehensive overall economic development plan is evidence of solid local leadership with a vision," said Liz Povar, director of business development for the Virginia Economic Development Partnership. "With Carroll and the Small Business Development Center implementing the vision by dedicating staff time, financial resources, and building partnerships create the opportunities for success today and in the future. This is a best practice example from which many other communities can learn."

Larowe added that the program is making a difference in not only the economy, but in the lives of families. "Most localities focus on the attraction of large 'Game,' however, our economic development strategy includes job creation through entrepreneurship and going after the backbone group of small business," Larowe said. "The work Dallas has done with Carroll's economic development and now the region has been tremendous in assisting with entrepreneurial businesses in our area."

Of the 428 new jobs created, a single business recently arrived in Carroll wishing to bring 125 jobs, however, they were missing a business plan. Garrett's task was to assist in writing the plan necessary to move the company's vision from a dream to a reality. As a result, the company made a recent announcement to be a Western Hemisphere Headquarters of a manufacturing facility.

Carroll's Business Development program has expanded as Garrett is now working in a more regional effort in providing his service to not only Carroll, but also in Grayson County and the City of Galax as Director of the Small Business Development Center of the Blue Ridge Crossroads Economic Development Authority (BRCEDA).

Even though Garrett is now being shared regionally, Carroll continued to expand their initial program by hiring a new Business Development Specialist, Mr. Bernie Deck.

"Why not support the things that are working?" Larowe said.

Carroll County Board of Supervisors member, Manus McMillan said, "I was hesitant in sharing the program with the region but it was the correct thing to do. We must help our friends in all aspects of life and here is another way we can support each other by sharing a great program to grow our local economy."



Photos by Gerald Goad/Carroll County

Dr. Dallas Garrett (left); Manus McMillian, Carroll County supervisor; and Gary Larowe, county administrator, attend a ribbon-cutting celebration at Cana Service Center. The new business was Garrett's 76th he helped fund.

Hearings scheduled for towing rules

Stormwater concerns arise during committee meeting



Virginia Board of Towing and Recovery Operators

Larry Land
VACo Staff

Under Section 46.2-2826 of the Code, the Virginia Board of Towing and Recovery Operators (BTRO) is required to establish regulations for "Class A" and "Class B" operators who provide "public safety towing and recovery services."

State law states "no operator shall provide public safety towing and recovery services unless they meet such criteria established" by BTRO. The law also requires that "such regulations shall establish minimum requirements, included qualifications, standards, necessary equipment, and public safety concerns necessary and appropriate to permit a Class A or Class B operator to provide public safety towing and recovery services."

Smaller "Class B" towing operators are concerned that if new safety rules are too strict they will be placed at a significant competitive disadvantage compared to larger "Class A" operators.

Since residents in rural areas often rely on the smaller operators for towing services, many local governments have a stake in this issue. Because of the possible effects the new rules may have upon smaller towing operators, the 2008 General Assembly passed SB 707 (Norment); a bill that, among its other provisions, prohibits BTRO from putting the new these new regulations into effect before July 1, 2010.

The purpose for this delay was to allow more time for the new rules to be reviewed. During the legislative session, State Police testified that if BTRO's newly proposed regulations were put into effect about 70 percent of towing operators would not be qualified to perform tows upon the request of local law enforcement agencies.

Additional information about the proposed regulation is available at www.townhall.state.va.us/L/ViewChapter.cfm?ChapterID=2458.

Schedule of public hearings

Aug. 21

6 p.m.

Fairfax County Government
Center
12000 Government Center
Parkway
Fairfax, VA 22035-0011
703-324-2055

Aug. 28

6 p.m.

Department of Motor Vehicles
2300 West Broad Street
Cafeteria
Richmond, VA 23269

Oct. 16

6 p.m.

Virginia Beach Convention
Center
1000 19th Street
Virginia Beach, VA 23451
757-385-2000

Anyone wishing to submit written comments may do so at one of the public meetings or by email or fax to Benjamin Foster, Executive Director, Board of Towing and Recovery Operators, c/o Department of Motor Vehicles, Post Office Box 27412, Richmond, VA 23269, 804-367-0714 (telephone), 804-367-0718 (FAX), BTRO@btro.virginia.gov.

Larry Land
VACo Staff

A technical advisory committee (TAC) has held two meetings to consult



with the Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) on the development of the new Virginia Stormwater Management Program (VSMP) regulations. Two future TAC meetings are scheduled on Aug. 14 and Aug. 26.

Appointed by DCR, the TAC is comprised of a sizeable number of professionals with responsibility for managing local stormwater programs.

Concerns of local professionals include the cost of more extensive plan review, the cost of additional inspectors and achievability. For example, what is the cost to reduce the content of phosphorus in a discharge from a land disturbance to a limit of .28 pounds per acre per year?

Another chief concern pertains to fees localities with "qualifying programs" may impose in order to pay for the administration of their respective programs.

Larger economic concerns associated with community development also come to the forefront. DCR has engaged Professor Kurt Stephenson of Virginia Tech to perform an economic analysis of the proposed VSMP regulations. The report on economic impacts is due for release some time in mid-October.

By the end of September, DCR hopes the new VSMP rules will receive preliminary approval by the Soil and Water Conservation Board as "proposed regulations." (The Board is scheduled to take up the new VSMP rules when it meets in Richmond on Sept. 24-25.) This stage of approval triggers a formal administrative review and public commenting processes

Stormwater

Continued on page 11

Photos by Jeff Carr/Carr Photography



Just the other day, on his way home from work as Bland County administrator, Jonathan Sweet noticed something just off Exit 52 (I-77) at the local Dairy Queen.

"I saw four vehicles, full of folks, loading up their road bikes on the back of their SUVs," Sweet said.

Not that he needed any justification, but it was a welcome and inspiring sight. You see, it is confirmation that soon, Bland County will be known as one of the premier cycling destinations within the Commonwealth.

The picturesque area, already blessed with undisturbed vistas and views, is launching a one-of-a-kind cycling trail system that is sure to enhance its reputation as a place to experience nature.

A third of the county is Jefferson National Forest, and it's easy to get swallowed up by the striking scenery and virgin surroundings. Simply put, Bland County can take your breath away.

"We don't need to create new things to attract tourists," Sweet said. "We just need to build on and capitalize on our existing assets. There are a lot of gems in Bland County and we are looking to polish them."

The idea for a signature trail system evolved when Dr. Lee Willis, a local chiropractor, told Sweet about Frederico Morini, a former professional cyclist who had a successful racing career including a stage victory at the Tour de Austria.

"You have to meet him," said Willis, who is an avid cyclist.

An introduction was made. Morini mesmerized Sweet with talk of cycling, competition, and how that area of Virginia reminded the Italian of European courses and the international potential of road racing in Bland County. "Light bulbs went off above all our heads," Sweet said.

Bland County has always tried to do things right, to be the first and the best. So when an opportunity presents itself, there's very little hesitation by the local government leadership.



The principals of the cycling trail system take time out to pose for a photo during the sponsorship agreement signing. Sitting are David Dillow, chairman of the EDA (left), and Frederico Morini, professional cyclist. Standing are Jonathan Sweet, county administrator, and Lee Willis, associate.

Top photo shows Morini flashing a smile as he passes the Bland County Courthouse.

"When you involve someone who is one of the best in a project, like Fred, you elevate that project to another level," Sweet said. "Fred instantly gives the system international prestige and credibility."

It was decided that the county needed to utilize its natural setting as a destination spot for all levels of cyclists.

The County's Economic Development Authority (EDA) took the first steps in establishing the system in mid-June.

"This Signature Trail System will

Cycling

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VEPGA seminar sheds light on energy savings

Growing local government concerns about rising fuel and energy costs were underscored on July 11 when 110 representatives, mostly of local governments, attended a day-long seminar sponsored by the Virginia Energy Purchasing Governmental Association (VEPGA) at Dominion's Technical Center in Innsbrook.

The seminar provided information on strategies local government managers should consider as they strive to cut energy costs. Presentations featured case studies providing examples of actions taken by several local governments. Alexandria city schools has been able to achieve a 15 percent energy savings by:

- *Installing new double pane windows in most buildings;
- *Retrofitting lighting systems or replaced systems with current electronic ballast/T8 technology;
- *Installing energy-efficient roofing with



- 4 inches of insulation and reflective white surfaces;
- *Replacing two electric heating/cooling systems with high-efficiency gas heating and electric cooling systems;
- *Replacing several boiler systems with energy-efficient boilers;
- *Replacing the energy management system with a modern HVAC automation system; and
- *Educating building engineers on proper HVAC energy management and indoor air quality monitoring.

The seminar also provided information about the following web sites local officials may find helpful in their efforts

- to improve energy efficiencies within their operations:
- *Federal Energy Management Program - www.eere.energy.gov/femp
- *Alliance to save Energy - www.ase.org
- *Energy Star Website - www.energystar.gov
- *American Council for an Energy Efficient Economy - www.aceee.org
- *American Public Power Association - www.appanet.org
- *VA Energy Purchasers Governmental Association (VEPGA) - www.vepga.org
- *VA Department of Mines, Minerals and Energy (DMME) - www.mme.state.va.us/DE/StateAgencyProgs/performancecontracting.shtml.

Chesterfield administrative professionals shine at conference



The International Association of Administrative Professionals (IAAP) presented its 2008 Corporate Award of Excellence to Chesterfield County at the IAAP Virginia Division Conference banquet June 28 at The Inn at Virginia Tech and Skelton Conference Center in Blacksburg.

Deputy County Administrator for Management Services William Johnson, center, accepted the award with IAAP members Juanita Wolfe-Cersley, Mental Health Support Services; Amber Cary, Utilities; Carol Blair, Building Inspection; Bonnie Bowles, Purchasing; and Judith Proper, General Services.

Chesterfield County was selected for the award based on its fulfillment of IAAP's criteria, including the use of state-of-the-art technology; providing employees with in-house education, training and development opportunities; recognizing the contributions of office professionals in a public arena and other actions that reflect an appreciation of the value that administrative professionals bring to an organization.

Mark Your Calendars

The Climate Change Challenge

Sept. 17-19
Greater Richmond Convention Center



The 2008 Commonwealth of Virginia Energy and Sustainability Conference (COVES) will focus on "Meeting the Climate Change

Challenge." The Conference takes place Sept. 17-19 at the Greater Richmond Convention Center.

The Climate Change Challenge, which is facing the state and the nation, provides opportunities for policy solutions, technological innovation, and economic development. The conference will bring forth information on the actions that public and private organizations in Virginia and across the country are taking to meet the most pressing environmental issue of this century.

Nationally recognized speakers, as well as regional representatives from business, institutions, and government, will address the opportunities to reduce energy use and carbon emissions while keeping the economy and our communities strong.

www.vsbnc.org/coves2008

PanFlu Exercise

Nov. 18-19



The Virginia Department of Health will sponsor an exercise on Nov. 18 -19 designed to challenge the state on issues surrounding the arrival of a flu pandemic.

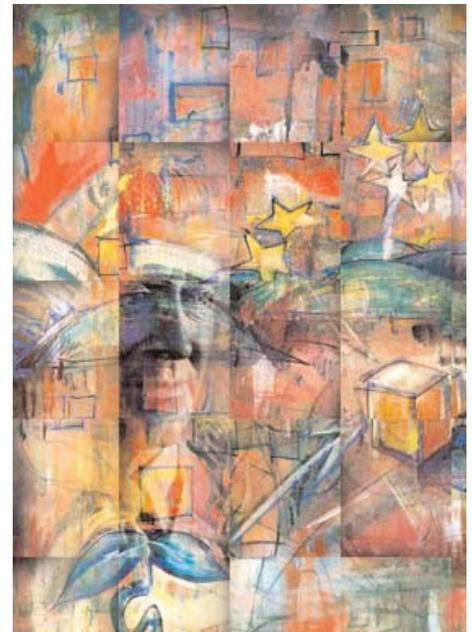
This exercise, FluEx '08, will provide the framework for government agencies and non-governmental organizations (private, not-for profit and volunteer) to participate in an interactive, function-based learning opportunity addressing a pandemic influenza scenario.

FluEx '08 will focus on preparation, response and recovery actions and will involve coordination among health, hospital, emergency management, law enforcement and critical infrastructure/key resources compromised by widespread illness, while simultaneously maintaining continuity of government, continuity of private and public sector operations, supply chain management and essential services.

Contact your local health department to begin planning for this event.

2008 Virginia Highlands Festival

Aug. 1-10
Washington County



The festival began in 1948, and over the years, has grown to one of the top 100 tourist events in North America and one of the top 20 in the Southeast (National Geographic Traveler, April 2005).

For more information, call 276-623-5266 or 888-489-4230.

Third Annual Blue Ridge Mountain Music Fest at Wintergreen Resort



Larry Alan Smith, Artistic and Executive Director



Purchase Tickets online or call: 434 325 8292

Aug. 16 (11 a.m. - 7 p.m.)
Nelson County

Wintergreen Performing Arts is a not-for-profit music organization located in Nelson County's Blue Ridge Mountains bringing a year-round program of education and entertainment to Central Virginia. www.wintergreenperformingarts.org.

Congratulations**Loudoun County receives award for excellence in financial reporting**

Loudoun County has been awarded the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting by the Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada (GFOA).

Loudoun County was praised for its Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR), which was judged to have met the high standards of the awards program for governmental accounting and financial reporting. The report was cited for demonstrating a constructive "spirit of full disclosure" to clearly communicate the county's financial story.

In addition, three individuals in the Department of Management and Financial Services have each received an Award for Financial Reporting Achievement for their roles in preparing the CAFR. They are Eileen Nguyen, Lynn Ruths and Mark Withdraw.

The Loudoun County CAFR is available online on the Loudoun County Government Web site at www.loudoun.gov/cafr.

The GFOA is a nonprofit professional association serving approximately 17,000 government finance professionals in the United States and Canada.

**Aden accepts high honor**

Bill Aden receives a copy of the resolution from Del. Jim Shuler.



William A. (Bill) Aden, PE, CEO and founding member of Draper Aden Associates, has been honored by Virginia's General Assembly with House Joint Resolution 378 on his outstanding service and numerous contributions to his community and the Commonwealth. Del. Jim Shuler presented recently Bill with a copy of the resolution at an interoffice management meeting.

"Bill has worked tirelessly in projects that have improved the welfare across the Commonwealth and given generously of his time in many, many civic organizations," Del. Schuler said. "This resolution is a fitting tribute."

NACo recognizes Henrico County

Henrico County has received 18 Achievement awards from the National Association of Counties (NACo), more than any other Virginia locality. The awards were presented at the 2008 NACo annual conference, held July 11-15 in Kansas City, Mo.

The NACo Achievement Award Program recognizes groundbreaking county government programs annually in a broad range of service areas, including education, administration, parks and recreation, health and human services.

NACo honored Henrico programs developed and implemented by 11 county agencies. The awards continue the county's tradition of providing cutting-edge programs to residents. Henrico programs have received 108 NACo Achievement awards since 2000.

For more information, visit www.co.henrico.va.us/manager/Naco/index.html or www.co.henrico.va.us/pr/newsrel.htm to read the press release.

**DAA promotes Weber**

Draper Aden Associates is pleased to announce that Karen Weber, P.G., has been promoted to Project Geologist on the Environmental Team in the Blacksburg office.



She will assume additional project management duties with an increased focus on proposal preparation and report writing while continuing to expand her skills in developing soil and groundwater sampling plans, evaluating geologic and hydrogeologic data, and performing environmental site assessments.

Weber holds a B.S. in Geological Sciences from Virginia Tech and has been with the firm for five years.

Pulaski County Law Firm Honored

The law firm of Gilmer, Sadler, Ingram, Sutherland and Hutton, which represents the Pulaski County Board of Supervisors and School Board, has been honored as a recipient of the 2008 Chancellor's Award for Leadership in Philanthropy.

At an awards luncheon held in Richmond, keynote speaker and First Lady of Virginia Anne Holton saluted members of the firm and other recipients for their dedication and leadership in supporting the state's community colleges.

Thomas J. McCarthy, Jr., partner in the law firm, has served as Pulaski county attorney for the Board of Supervisors for more than 20 years.



U.S. Communities

"Green" is Gold at GSV/AstroTurf USA



In this day and age when everyone wants to use more natural green products, minimize their impact on the environment and reduce their costs, a bit of an irony is developing for people building athletic fields.

The greenest and most cost effective product is actually synthetic turf instead of natural sod.

Synthetic turf requires no water, mowing or fertilizer which helps with water conservation efforts and reduces carbon emissions and phosphorus run off. Although upfront costs for installation are higher for artificial turf, maintenance expenses over the life of the field are significantly lower. There is no need for expensive sprinkler systems or mowing equipment and labor and maintenance costs are drastically lower than with natural sod.

To help school districts, higher education, states, cities, nonprofits and counties replace or start from scratch grass fields or parks and playgrounds, Fairfax County Public Schools, Virginia has awarded General Sports Venue/ AstroTurf USA the contract for Synthetic Turf, Athletic Surfaces and Related Products. This new contract is offered through the U.S. Communities Government Purchasing Alliance.

U.S. Communities is a nonprofit instrumentality of government founded in 1999 and comprised of more than 30,000 public agencies across the country. Participating agencies, whose numbers increase by about 400 each month, spend more than \$1 billion a year on products and services via contracts and suppliers of U.S. Communities.

GSV/AstroTurf USA is committed to utilizing green components in manufacturing their product whenever possible while maintaining the highest possible quality and durability standards.

Veteran supervisor Dickie Abbott remembered

Halifax County supervisor Richard E. "Dickie" Abbott died recently at his home after years of declining health. He was 79.

Abbott served on the county's Board for 40 years after being elected in November 1967. He took his seat on Jan. 1, 1968.

"He represented all the people of Halifax County," Supervisor Lottie Nunn told the South Boston Gazette Virginian. Nunn served with Abbott for eight years. "Everyone could identify with him because he represented the average person in the county. They all appreciated what he did and loved him."

Abbott's passion was farming and many times defended agriculture and the agrarian way of life in Halifax County.

He also was an accomplished baseball player, who suited up for the Volens and was the first person inducted in the Halifax County-South Boston Sports Hall of Fame.

As a supervisor, he often was the dissenting vote on issues. "I know I only have the one vote, but as I have done all these many years, I will continue to use that one vote to best represent the people of my district and the county," he once said.

County administrator Bryan Foster said the Board has 45 days to appoint a replacement.

A special election will be held in November 2009. The elected official will complete the final two years on Abbott's term.



"Mr. Abbott loved this county tremendously, and to faithfully serve on the board of supervisors for over 40 years is remarkable," Foster said in the South Boston Gazette Virginian. "I've enjoyed working with him and getting to know him better these last few years. He will be missed."

Abbott often received calls from constituents, but was happy to listen to any citizen of the county.

"He leaves a legacy of leadership behind, his experience and knowledge were invaluable to the board of supervisors," Supervisor James Edmunds told the South Boston Gazette Virginian. "I feel privileged to have

"He represented all the people of Halifax County."

--Supervisor Lottie Nunn

served with him."

Abbott began his service with very little experience in business or management. He did however, know the value of money. That understanding led him to a role as watchdog of the Halifax County treasury.

Abbott also spoke against heavy tax burdens on the citizens of the county. "My stand on tax rates is and always has been to make it more suitable to the people's incomes," he said last October. "The only rate changes would have to be a decrease in rates. If taxes continue to rise, you are going to see more and more people lose what they have worked hard for all their life."

The funeral service for Dickie Abbott was held July 17 at Henderson Funeral Home Chapel in Brookneal.

Rail

Continued from page 1

increasing fuel prices and improving air quality.

The plan proposes several projects to address rail needs in the Commonwealth.

The projects identified in the plan are arranged into four categories (Class I and Shortline Railroad, Port of Hampton Roads, Passenger Rail initiatives and High-Speed Rail initiatives) and represent \$4.9 billion in potential rail investments.

In addition to the comment period, a Statewide Rail Plan Survey has been created as another tool to gather feedback regarding priority projects for inclusion in the plan and potential policy changes necessary to improve the Commonwealth's rail system. Please print the survey and mail responses to the address above by Aug. 25.

Schedule of public meetings for the Statewide Rail Plan (the public comment period will remain open until Aug. 25):

Visit the department's web site to review the plans and projects and the survey: DRPTPR@DRPT.Virginia.gov.



Carroll County

Continued from page 3

Garrett said, "We assist people through whatever process is necessary. After explaining the services we provide to local entrepreneurs who are interested in starting or expanding their own business, assistance is given. 'Blue Ridge Crossroads Region' has many citizens with a multitude of wonderful business ideas as well as a willingness to invest time, energy and effort into making the business a success. Our office will do anything necessary to help them complete a business plan successfully as well as helping them find funding sources."

Some of the SBDC services include developing a business plan, providing financial connections and conducting several follow-up visits in making sure plans for new businesses go as smoothly as possible.

Garrett has assisted with a huge variety of new businesses - from the opening of an automotive service center to an embroidery service to now a large manufacturing business.

"Dallas did a great job in helping to develop our business," said Dennis Isom, co-owner of Isom Collision and Custom Paint, one of many businesses Garrett assisted. "He brought us in the right direction and it would have taken us a lot longer in getting the business up and running if we had to do it without him."

"Dallas was a huge asset in getting my business getting started," said Greg Dickerson, owner of Dickerson's Farm Equipment, another company Garrett helped. "He worked really good with us and he offered a flexible time schedule in which we could conveniently meet with him on a regular basis."

(County Administrator Gary Larrowe contributed to this article.)

Cycling

Continued from page 5



Frederico Morini shares a moment with members of a cycling camp that was sponsored by the Bland County Economic Development Authority (EDA) on July 3.

be the centerpiece of the County's tourism initiative and will play a large role in our long-term economic development efforts," said David Dillow, EDA chairman.

The trail, which is partly open now and will be completely marked by winter, will gracefully wind along state secondary roads and challenge even the most accomplished of riders. Morini certifies the trails, much like a professional golfer's signature on the design of a golf course.

"This partnership with Bland County to advance tourism with cycling is one of my most exciting ventures yet," Morini said. "Bland County is one of my favorite places in the world to ride."

And that's no line. Morini lives in Italy, but loves the Commonwealth so much that he named a recently-born daughter Virginia.

The trails have low traffic volumes, no traffic lights, and little technological distractions. Riders will feel at one with the great outdoors on this world-class trail system.

Sweet believes the majority of riders visiting Bland County will be of the intermediate level. He also wants to develop a badge of honor award for those who successfully complete all the treks of difficulty.

"I think when people experience the trail, they will come back often," Sweet said. "From the spring, when everything is blooming, to the fall, when the leaves change color, it's going to be a different encounter every time."

Stormwater

Continued from page 4

required under the Administrative Process Act (APA). Typically, when new regulations are formally proposed by a citizens' regulatory board (like the Soil and Water Conservation Board), they are sent to the Governor's office for an analysis.

After the Governor's administrative review, the proposed regulations will undergo a sixty-day comment period that will begin on the day they are published in the Virginia Register. This means the new VSMP regulations may receive final approval by the Soil and Water Conservation Board by spring of 2009.

Because of the major administrative and economic impacts the new VSMP regulations potentially represent to local governments, VACo is continuing to monitor this process.

VACo is also working closely with the Virginia Association of Municipal Stormwater Agencies (VAMSA), a coalition of local government representatives who have major concerns about the way in which Virginia's stormwater regulatory programs are structured.

Part of what makes Virginia's emerging stormwater regulatory framework increasingly complex is the series of relatively new "General Permit" programs introduced to the state over the past twenty years. Many of these newer programs have been driven by federal Clean Water Act requirements that have gradually been phased in.

These federal permit regimes, to which local governments are subject, have been "overlaid" on programs that have existed in Virginia for decades. For example, a separate General Permit is now being developed that will apply to sites where construction activities are taking place. Meanwhile, for more than thirty years Virginia's localities have been subject to the state's Erosion and Sediment Control Law that is also intended to control runoff from construction sites. At this time, it is difficult to determine how these two programs, designed for similar purposes, will be streamlined and structured to cause as little confusion for local government officials as possible.

Budget

Continued from page 1

reduction amounts for each county. These documents along with sample instructions can be found at the Department of Planning and Budget Web site dpb.virginia.gov/budget/localities.cfm.

VACo and VML have developed a certification template for review. (see below for template)

As previously reported Item 475.20, Chapter 879 of the 2008 Acts of Assembly (2008 Appropriation Act) requires a \$50 million reduction in state aid to local governments in both FY 2009 and FY 2010.

The Appropriation Act further requires the Director of the Department of Planning and Budget to provide localities a list of the state aid to local government programs which serve as the basis for calculating each locality's share of the \$50 million reduction.

Your locality may carry out these reductions using one of the following methods:

- 1) a county may take these reductions out of one or more of the programs in the list provided by the Department of Planning and Budget,
- 2) a county may make a reimbursement payment directly to the Commonwealth for all of your locality's reductions, and
- 3) a county may choose a combination of program reductions and reimbursement payment. The election of which

option your locality will use along with the corresponding reduction amounts for each program must be submitted to the Department of Planning and Budget by Aug. 30.

In the event that a submission is not made by a locality by Oct. 1, the Department of Planning and Budget is authorized to withhold the locality's reduction amount from the program deemed as most discretionary by the Department.

All counties received an e-mail from DPB containing the form that your locality must use to make the reduction elections.

If you are electing to reimburse the Commonwealth for all or a portion of your locality's share of the reduction, there is a row in the form where you should enter this amount. The FY 2009 reimbursement amount must be paid prior to Jan. 9, 2009.

Once you have completed the form, e-mail an electronic copy to budget@dpb.virginia.gov and mail a hard copy along with a memo certifying your locality's reduction elections signed by the city or county administrator, or equivalent approval authority to the following address:

**Aid To Locality Reductions
Virginia Department of Planning and Budget
1111 E. Broad St. Room 5040
Richmond, VA 23219-1922**

Your elections will not be considered complete until both the electronic and hardcopy versions have been submitted.

ATL Certification Template

In accordance with the direction included in the Instructions for Submitting Aid to Local Government Reduction Elections issued by the Department of Planning and Budget during July, 2008, I am writing to certify (County's or City's name) reduction election and transmit the required hardcopy of the Reduction Election Form.

The General Assembly chose to respond to shrinking revenue growth anticipated in the 2008 -2010 biennium by shifting to local governments the responsibility for reducing \$100 million of core services. This action was approved by the Governor without identifying the programs to be reduced. These reductions are in addition to those made by the General Assembly, and approved by the Governor, affecting law enforcement, elementary and secondary education, profits from the Alcoholic Beverage Control tax collections, cons titutional offices, the upgrade of wastewater treatment, and farmland preservation to name but a few. (County's or City's Name) is very concerned that this \$100.0 million reduction will be carried forward into future biennia forcing city and county govern ments to either raise taxes or reduce services.

(County's or City's Name) has elected (Choose one of the following and delete the others)

- 1) To make a reimbursement payment directly to the Commonwealth for all of the locality's share of the reductions. This transaction will be reflected in the locality's records as negative revenue under the heading, **Local Aid to the Commonwealth Contra Revenue.**
- 2) To take the reductions out of one or more of the programs in the list provided by DPB.
- 3) To take make the reductions through a combination of program reductions and a reimbursement payment as indicated on the attached Reduction Election Form. The portion included in the reimbursement payment will be reflected in the locality's records as negative revenue under the heading, **Local Aid to the Commonwealth Contra Revenue.**

Certified By:

County Administrator/City Manager

Employment Opportunities

Employment ads are edited due to space considerations.

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

Director of Finance/Montgomery County, N.C.

The salary for the position is negotiable, based on qualifications and experience. Relocation allowance negotiable. A letter of interest and resume including, employment and salary history, relevant experience related to the position, academic background and at least three job related references must be submitted by Aug. 22 to: John A. Anzivino, Springsted Incorporated, 1564 East Parham Road, Richmond, VA 23228, phone: 804-726-9750, fax: 804-726-9752, richmond@springsted.com.

Deputy County Attorney/Stafford County

\$93,662-\$145,163/DOQ
OPEN UNTIL FILLED

Apply online @www.co.stafford.va.us. A Resume will not be accepted in lieu of County application. Performs difficult professional and responsible administrative work in rendering of legal services to the County; does related work as required. Work is performed under the general supervision of the County Attorney. Limited supervision is exercised over office staff. Candidate selected will be required to successfully complete a criminal history and fingerprint check and will be required to satisfactorily complete a post-offer, pre-employment medical exam, alcohol and controlled substance tests at the County's expense unless this requirement has been completed for current County position. EOE

Assistant County Attorney/Stafford County

\$76,086-\$117,956/DOQ
OPEN UNTIL FILLED

Apply online at www.co.stafford.va.us. A Resume will not be accepted in lieu of County application. Performs difficult professional work in

rendering of legal services to the County; does related work as required. Work is performed under the general supervision of the County Attorney. Candidate selected will be required to successfully complete a criminal history and fingerprint check and will be required to satisfactorily complete a post-offer, pre-employment medical exam, alcohol and controlled substance tests at the County's expense unless this requirement has been completed for current County position.

Recreation Director/Highland County

This is a full-time position requiring variable day, night, and weekend hours. A complete job description and salary and benefit package is available from the Office of the County Administrator, Roberta Lambert at 540-468-2347. Resumes will be accepted by mail until Aug. 15 at PO Box 428, Monterey, VA 24465.

Utilities Director/Gloucester County

Competitive salary based on qualifications with an excellent benefits package. Visit us online at www.gloucesterva.info to review complete job description and download employment application. Submit Gloucester County application with cover letter and resume by 4:30 p.m., Aug. 29 to Gloucester County Human Resources, 6467 Main St., Gloucester VA 23061.

Executive Director/Thomas Jefferson Planning District Commission

Salary range between \$90,000 - \$120,000, 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 East Parham Road, Richmond, VA 23228; Fax 804-726-9752 or e-mail Richmond@Springsted.com by Aug. 23. For a full profile describing the region and the position, please visit www.springsted.com.

Emergency Management Coordinator/Pulaski County

Beginning salary is \$43,220 annually. Interested applicants may apply directly to Robert Hiss, Assistant County Administrator, 143 3rd St, NW, Pulaski, VA 24301 or through the Virginia Employment Commission Office, 206 3rd Ave., Radford, VA, 24141, Mon. through Fri., 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Please submit a cover letter, resume, and completed county application which is available at the county Web site: www.pulaskicounty.org Application review to begin Aug. 1, position open until filled.

Director of Real Property/Henrico County

Position number 0116-0001. Plans and supervises the administration of real estate (acquisition and disposal) of the County of Henrico, including general government and schools and directs the operations of the Real Property Department. For a more specific description of duties and qualifications and to apply, visit our Job Opportunity Source for Henrico (JOSH) on the Internet at www.henricojobs.com. Deadline Aug. 17.

Systems Administrator/Botetourt County

SALARY: to high 40s DOQ, with growth potential to high 60s
Apply online at www.botetourt.org. Accompany resume with County application. Botetourt County offers a great benefits package. Open until filled. Send County application and resume to MIS Department, Attn: Scott Hamilton, 1 West Main St., Number 1, Fincastle, VA 24090.

Public Information Officer/Stafford County

\$41,496-\$49,192/DOQ
Closing Date: Aug. 1.
Apply online at www.co.stafford.va.us

Employment

Continued from page 12

Resumes will not be accepted in lieu of County application.

Candidate selected will be required to satisfactorily complete a criminal history and fingerprint check, post-offer, pre-employment medical exam, alcohol and controlled substance tests at the County's expense unless this requirement has been completed for current County position.

County Administrator/Wise County

Salary: DOQ

The position will be considered open until filled. To apply, mail a letter of interest with a resume, list of references and a salary history (no emails, faxes, or phone calls, please) in a sealed envelope marked "Confidential" to: Mr. Robert Adkins, (Chairman) P.O. Box 659, Wise, VA 24293. Do not submit a photograph with your resume.

Glen A. Skinner

County Administrator
(276) 328-2321

County Administrator/Roanoke County

The salary for the position is negotiable based on the candidate's qualifications and experience and is supplemented by an excellent benefits package. Please submit a 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. Fax 804-726-9752 or Richmond@springsted.com by Aug. 18. For a complete community/position profile related to the position please visit www.springsted.com.

County Administrator/Essex County

To apply, please submit a detailed resume with salary history and references as well as a letter of application to Edwin Smith, Chairman, Essex County Board of Supervisors, P.O. Box 1079, Tappahannock, VA 22560. Applications are due by Aug. 15 at 3 p.m.

This opportunity is available due to the

retirement of the present administrator. Call the Essex County Administration Office, 804-443-4331, for information.

Principal Planner/City of Portsmouth

Education: Bachelor's Degree in Urban or Regional Planning, or a closely related field, Master's Degree preferred; and 5 to 9 years of progressively responsible experience in comprehensive planning; or any equivalent combination of training and experience which provide the required knowledge, skills and abilities. AICP certification is preferred. Salary: \$46,409 Closing Date: Aug. 1. Please submit a City of Portsmouth application to: City of Portsmouth, Department of Human Resource Management, 801 Crawford Street, Portsmouth, VA 23704. www.portsmouthva.gov.

Assistant Director of Finance/ Brunswick County

Qualifications include a Bachelor's degree in accounting or related field. Salary range for the position is \$41,570-\$60,560, plus County benefits. A complete job description is available at the Office of the County Administrator. Submit resume' to the Office of the County Administrator, 102 Tobacco Street, Lawrenceville, VA 23868 no later than 1 p.m. Friday, Aug. 8. Telephone 434-848-3107.

Executive Director/Young Professionals of Central Virginia

Application and job prospectus are available at www.region2000.org/jobs. \$40,000+ starting salary, DOQ. Send resume, application and cover letter addressing your contributions, ideas and leadership style to "Executive Director Search - YPCV, Virginia's Region 2000 Partnership, 828 Main Street, 12th Floor, Lynchburg, VA 24504 or mail@region2000.org. Consideration of applications begins Aug. 15. Region 2000 is a VRS and an Equal Opportunity Employer.

Environmental Compliance and Safety Manager/Virginia Region 2000

Position salary: \$39,540 - \$58,302. A VRS employer. Application and

position information is available at www.region2000.org/jobs. Send application to "Environmental Compliance and Safety Manager", Virginia's Region 2000 Local Government Council, 828 Main Street, 12th Floor, Lynchburg, VA 24504. Applications will be considered beginning Aug. 15; position is open until filled.

Planner I (Development Facilitator)/ York County

Base salary \$38,720 or higher, commensurate with experience, qualifications; excellent benefits.

A York County application is required and may be obtained from the Human Resources Office, 120 Alexander Hamilton Boulevard, Second Floor, Yorktown, Virginia; from the County's Web site www.yorkcounty.gov; or by calling 757-890-3690. Hearing impaired only call TDD 757-890-3300.

Applications will be accepted until the position is filled.

Associate Director of Administration/ Virginia Tech

Salary: DOQ/DOE.

For more information on the position, a complete list of required qualifications, and to submit an application, access our Web site at www.jobs.vt.edu (resume, cover letter, and contact information for 3 professional references required).

Search on posting number #080663.

Individuals desiring assistance or accommodation in the application/interview process should contact us at 540-231-9331.

General Accountant/Stafford County

\$45,636 - \$54,121/yr. DOQ

Closing Date: Aug. 1

Apply online at www.co.stafford.va.us. Performs general accounting duties to include balancing and reconciling various general ledger accounts for a variety of fund types; preparing and maintaining various financial schedules; (maintaining capital asset database and reporting system); assisting with accounts payable operations.

A resume will not be accepted in lieu of a County application.



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

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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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County Connections is a semimonthly publication.

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