

COUNTY CONNECTIONS

The Newsletter of the
Virginia Association of Counties

February 15, 2009



Henrico County
broadcasts its
BOS meeting live
on the Web...
Page 3



The Wired
Road to
somewhere
great...Page 5



Bulova elected
chairman
of Fairfax
County... Page 3



Expanded
version of Mark
Your Calendar...
Page 6



Gov. Kaine unveils Web site for stimulus projects



Gov. Timothy M. Kaine launched Stimulus.Virginia.Gov, a unique Web portal to gather project ideas for potential funding from the federal stimulus package. Stimulus.Virginia.Gov will allow localities and citizens to contribute to the decision making process for the distribution of any federal funds that Virginia receives.

"While we wait to learn what conditions will be placed on the federal stimulus monies received by the states, we want to start collecting ideas from all over the Commonwealth to ensure the money is spent in a timely and effective manner," Gov. Kaine said. "Stimulus.Virginia.Gov will give everyone in the Commonwealth a forum to submit and exchange project ideas. Every locality and citizen has a stake in our economic recovery and should have a voice in deciding how this money is spent."

Stimulus.Virginia.Gov will be the central portal and repository for citizens, groups and localities to submit proposals. Citizens will be able to view proposals in a web table updated daily.

After the package becomes law, projects from Stimulus.Virginia.Gov will be identified that may qualify for funding. Projects will be evaluated and selected through a process similar to the way Virginia develops its biennial budget. In some cases, the information will

STIMULUS
Continued on page 9

VACo's updated summary of the House and Senate budgets

By Mike Edwards and Dean Lynch
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THE BUDGET



EDITOR'S NOTE:

To view the complete version of Mike and Dean's updated budget summary, visit www.vaco.org and read the Feb. 12 Capitol Contact.

(The following updates VACo's budget summary of Feb. 9.)

The Senate Finance Committee and the House Appropriations Committee released their respective budgets on Feb. 8.

The Senate Finance and House Appropriations plans amend Gov. Timothy M. Kaine's introduced budget. VACo summarized the governor's introduced budget in December. The governor previously forecasted a biennial revenue shortfall of \$2.9 billion.

The Senate and House budgets are "works in progress." The General Assembly is acting without the benefit of updated state revenue projections and without knowing the details of the pending federal stimulus package.

Gov. Kaine will finalize and release his revenue projection soon. VACo expects the current \$2.9 billion biennial revenue shortfall to grow; preliminary estimates suggest by as much as \$600 million.

The revised forecast will cause the House, Senate and governor to propose additional reductions. On Feb. 8, the budget committees reacted to Kaine's original shortfall projection of \$2.9 billion.

Significant revenue adjustments

Senate Finance and House Appropriations allocate \$490 million in FY 2009 from the Rainy Day Fund. The transfers help to buttress the general fund.

Both committees approve a state tax amnesty program netting \$43 million in FY 2010.

On a tie vote the week of Feb. 2, Senate Finance rejected the governor's proposed

cigarette tax increase. The proposal would have generated an additional \$150 million a year for Medicaid beginning in FY 2010. The committee apportioned the cut across the entire budget rather than force a \$150 million reduction only in health care.

Senate Finance rejected the governor's proposed repeal of the Dealer Discount on the sales and use tax - the annual \$64 million general fund compensation retailers retain for administering the tax. In place of the repeal, the committee adopted a one-time accelerated sales and use tax provision; the change nets the Senate an additional \$35 million for FY 2010.

House Appropriations scaled back the governor's Dealer Discount proposal, approximately by one-half.

BUDGET
Continued on page 8

Encroachment



U.S. Air Force photo/Senior Master Sgt. Keith Reed

An F-22 Raptor and an F-15 Eagle fly over Langley Air Force Base. The base is joining with the City of Hampton to perform a Joint Land Use Study that will look at civilian encroachment as well as noise and other concerns caused by jet training.

By Patrick Tremblay
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When the 2005 Defense Base Closure and Realignment (BRAC) Commission recommended that Naval Air Station Oceana be closed, it was a wake-up call for the Commonwealth. The Virginia Beach base, employing around 12,000 people with an annual payroll approaching \$1 billion, had become a poster-child for military-civilian encroachment nationwide.

Not all of Virginia's military communities have the same level of encroachment concern, but there is still much to be learned from Virginia Beach's experience. Fortunately, government and Department of Defense (DoD) resources are readily available to help prevent future encroachment and to mitigate existing problems.

Encroachment in regards to the military is most commonly thought of as civilian growth around an installation; however, the DoD recognizes eight issues, from urban growth and competition for radio frequency spectrum to endangered species and

protected marine resources.

These issues go both ways, of course, and while the military may be concerned over a new development or recreational boaters, the civilian community worries about louder jets and increased traffic. It can all add up to a complex set of problems, easier to avoid when possible than unravel once in place.

The greatest tool for encroachment mitigation is the Joint Land Use Study, or JLUS, a cooperative land use planning effort between affected local government and the military installation. Since 1985, the DoD's Office of Economic Adjustment (OEA) has managed community planning assistance grants to state and local government to perform these studies. Ultimately, the JLUS provides a framework, with buy-in from both local officials and military leaders, for development measures designed to prevent encroachment, safeguard the military mission and protect the public health, safety, and welfare.

NAS Oceana has already performed a JLUS, a critical part of its post-BRAC relationship with Virginia Beach, and the study has helped the city rework

VACo Notes

Sheila Minor joins the VML/VACo Finance team



Sheila S. Minor has accepted the position of Comptroller for VML/VACo Finance, the local government financing arm of the Virginia Municipal League and Virginia Association of Counties.

Minor previously served as director of financial services for Prince George County where she oversaw the accounting, budget, procurement and related functions.

Minor is a Certified Public Accountant and holds B.S. and M.P.A. degrees from Virginia Tech.

As Comptroller, Minor is responsible for financial reporting and administration of the VML/VACo financing programs and Pooled OPEB Trust Fund.

Since its first bond issue in December 2003, VML/VACo Finance has financed over \$600 million in projects and equipment for Virginia localities.

VML/VACo Finance offers the Direct Loan Program for fixed-rate financing and the Commercial Paper Program for short- and intermediate-term financing.

In addition, the program administers one of the largest pooled OPEB trust funds in the nation dedicated to investing retirement health care benefit contributions.

ENCROACHMENT
Continued on page 9

Henrico County broadcasts its BOS meeting live on the Web

The Feb. 10 meeting of Henrico's Board of Supervisors was a first: The initial live video broadcast of a meeting of the county's governing body.



On that Tuesday, Henrico began the live web-streaming of the regular meetings of the board of supervisors. The public can now view the meetings - held on the second and fourth Tuesday of each month - through a link on the home page of the county Web site, www.co.henrico.va.us. Renovations to install web-streaming broadcast equipment in the Government Center Board Room, under way since the fall, were completed earlier this year.

The Feb. 10 meeting marked the first time in the board's 75-year history that a meeting was broadcast live to the public.

"This is a significant moment for the Board of Supervisors and for Henrico residents," said Three Chopt District Supervisor and Board

Chairman David A. Kaechele. "We hope that it makes the activities and decisions of this board available to more of our constituents."

In addition to watching live webcasts of meetings, residents and others can also see past meetings. Videos will be stored in an online archive, which will allow viewers to search individual agenda items from a particular meeting or watch a meeting in its entirety.

To facilitate the webcasts, the board room was renovated to accommodate new wall-mounted cameras, control room equipment and other audiovisual accessories. In-house staff from Public Relations & Media Services will produce the live streaming.

"Henrico County strives to be responsive and provide the best service possible to our residents," said County Manager Virgil R. Hazelett, P.E. "The live streaming of



Members of the Henrico County Board of Supervisors.

meetings will further expand residents' access to their government. We are excited to offer that opportunity."



Fairfax County Board of Supervisors member Sharon Bulova (right) chaired her first meeting on Feb. 9 since her election as chairman on Feb. 3. At the meeting, Supervisor Penelope A. Gross, Mason District, was chosen by the board as vice chairman, which is a one-year term.

Bulova elected chairman of Fairfax County

Fairfax County Board of Supervisors Vice Chairman Sharon Bulova, Braddock District, was elected chairman in a special election held Tuesday, Feb. 3.

She was sworn in at a ceremony on Friday, Feb. 6.

She replaces Gerry Connolly, who was elected to the U.S. House of Representatives in November.

Bulova was first elected to the Board of Supervisors in 1987 and began her sixth term on Jan. 1, 2008. She also chairs the board's Budget Committee. Bulova is a founder of the Virginia Railway Express and helped establish a statewide Rail Advisory Board, which recommends funding for rail projects that have significant public benefit.

Supervisor Penelope A. Gross, Mason District, was chosen by the board as vice chairman, which is a one-year term.

The Braddock District supervisor position is currently vacant; a special election will be held March 10 to fill the seat.

Bulova and Gross serve on the VACo Board of Directors while Gross also sits on VACo's administration of government steering committee.

Hilton Hotels Corporation moving headquarters to Fairfax County



Gov. Timothy M. Kaine recently announced Hilton Hotels Corporation will invest at least \$17 million to relocate its headquarters from Beverly Hills, CA, to Fairfax County.

The project will create more than 300 permanent, full-time jobs in Fairfax County within the next 36 months. Virginia successfully competed with Maryland and the District of Columbia for the project.

"Hilton is a globally recognized brand that will be a great corporate addition to Fairfax County," Gov. Kaine said. "Adding this hospitality industry leader to the Commonwealth's list of corporate headquarters is a major coup for Virginia. I commend everyone involved in bringing Hilton to the Commonwealth."

Hilton Hotels Corporation is the world's leading hospitality company, with more than 3,200 hotels and 545,000 rooms in 77 countries and territories, including 135,000 team members worldwide.

"We are pleased to announce that

our global headquarters will be located in Fairfax County, Virginia, and are grateful to the Commonwealth and County for their efforts to create such compelling economic incentives for Hilton," said Christopher J. Nassetta, President and Chief Executive Officer of Hilton Hotels Corporation. "Virginia offers a more central location from which to operate a global organization and will ease coordination across our business, help us to better execute on strategic opportunities and allow us to significantly reduce our costs. The cost and quality of living in the area are also tremendously appealing."

The Virginia Economic Development Partnership worked with Fairfax County to secure the project for Virginia. Governor Kaine approved a \$1 million grant from the Governor's Opportunity Fund to assist Fairfax County with the project.

The governor also approved \$2.5 million in funds from the Virginia Economic Development Incentive Grant (VEDIG).

The Hilton relocation is the latest in a series of prominent moves by major corporations to the Commonwealth.

Since Gov. Kaine took office companies including Phillip Morris, Volkswagen, Rolls Royce, and AREVA, among others, have contributed significant investment to Virginia. In the last year alone, Virginia has drawn more than \$5 billion in investments that created more than 20,000 new jobs.

"It is a great day for Fairfax County and the Commonwealth of Virginia when we can add a corporate headquarters to our business community, and it is a rare day when we can add a corporate name and a good corporate citizen such as Hilton to our business community," said Gerald L. Gordon, Ph.D., president and CEO of the Fairfax County Economic Development Authority. "Hilton will further diversify the local economy and gives further credence to the many advantages of doing business in Fairfax County and the Commonwealth."

Ramsey takes over in Goochland

Lane Ramsey became Goochland County administrator last Thursday after agreeing to serve as an interim for at least three months.

Ramsey, a former Chesterfield County administrator for 20 years, replaces Gregory Wolfrey, who served 23 years at the top job.

Ramsey, 63, said in the Richmond Times-Dispatch that he's "looked at Goochland from across the river for



many years and you have a great reputation here."

Just last year, Ramsey was interim administrator for Gloucester County for a brief period. Brenda Garton was eventually hired as administrator.

Ramsey told the Board of Supervisors that he would work three months but would consider an extension if necessary.

The search for a new administrator continues. The Goochland County administrator job advertisement is on Page 11.



Thank you to everyone who participated in Legislative Day. It was a resounding success.



The future of broadband in southwest Virginia.

It was the summer of 2006 when the officials in the Blue Ridge Crossroads Region of Carroll and Grayson counties along with the City of Galax decided to do something revolutionary.

For several years, the community had been hit hard from the continuous decline of the textile and furniture industries. But as county officials met during that time to formulate a solution, the talk was not about woe, but rather about opportunity.

“What were we going to do to survive economically?” was the question most asked according to Board of Supervisors chair Mike Maynard. “It was decided that we needed to transform ourselves from a traditional manufacturing area to an entrepreneurial small business environment.”

That marquee decision was spurred by conversations that access to broadband was the key economic priority for the county. It just so happened that neighboring Carroll County and the City of Galax determined similar stances.

“To have such an entrepreneurial environment, you need to have some enabling technology,” Maynard said. “That technology was world-class broadband service.”

But bringing such an economic tool to rural areas had long been a major issue throughout the Commonwealth. There were virtually no successful programs to emulate.

Many service providers balked at the idea of penetrating rural markets because of the cost to construct networks. This forced local businesses, residents and even government agencies to continue to use dial-up or the slightly faster satellite options. At any rate, the technologies did not match what folks in urban areas were receiving.

“It is very difficult for large telcom providers to make a business case to serve small rural areas when they can invest in

dense populations with the potential of more revenue,” said Gary Larrowe, Carroll County administrator.

Enter Design Nine, a broadband architectural and engineering firm out of Blacksburg. The company presented Grayson, Carroll and Galax with a business model to build their own broadband network and then sell the rights to use it to internet service providers who would directly deal with customers.

“When Andrew Cohill (Design Nine) brought the concept to us, we jumped at the chance to build our own! Larrowe said. “Local citizens and businesses are currently limited with regard to high-speed services by location as well as true

high-speed services; the Wired Road will give us a new interstate of broadband.”

One of the first steps recommended by Design Nine was to reach out to the

Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development, which loved the idea and presented the localities with seed money and organizational support to start the project.

The three communities formed the Wired Road Authority and named Maynard board chair. Construction started in September 2007. The first customer was the Carroll County Public Schools, which was connected to high-speed internet in October 2007. The first business and residential customers enjoyed the service early last year.

Maynard said the project has spent \$2 million of the \$40 million budget. The plan is to have 80 percent of the area covered by 2012.

The Wired Road, as it is called, is one-of-a-kind. Only a few communities in the United States and Europe are building their own network. The Wired Road uses fully integrated fiber rather than copper. That decision allows enough bandwidth to accommodate future technologies.

“The community and businesses are so excited because of the opportunity to

allow them to compete in the global market and the ability to work from home if needed,” said Debbie Bolen, marketing manager of the Wired Road. “It will open up another world of opportunities.”

The business model does not rely on public money for its long-term success. Eventually, through a revenue sharing process, the project will be completely funded with business capital. The Authority has received sizable chunks of money from the Appalachian Regional Commission (\$325,000), the Virginia Tobacco Commission (\$970,000) and the local governments (\$600,000). One citizen gave an anonymous donation of \$30,000.

“Not only is the Wired Road going to sustain itself, there’s another twist that we think will make it more innovative,” Maynard said. “When the Authority was formed, we agreed that once the Authority paid its operating, maintenance and service costs, funds would go back

to the region in three ways. One, money would be reinvested back into the Authority. Two, funds would go to the entrepreneurial institute. And three, it would come back to the general fund of all three local governments.”

Maynard added that Grayson County is building a new school that will include The Wired Road. “It makes our \$9 million investment that much more productive,” he said.

There’s been an interest from other Virginia counties as well as those from around the nation. In fact, a New Hampshire contingent of several counties and towns recently visited the area to better understand the project.

And everywhere Maynard and his colleagues go in the community, citizens have a prevailing question.

“I was in a meeting the other night,” Maynard said. “We were discussing the status of the network. Hands started flying up all over the room. They wanted to know when is it going to be in my area? When is it going to be in my neighborhood? They can’t wait to have access.”



Mark Your Calendars

NACo Hearing on US Health Reform, Wake County

February 19
North Carolina



NACo's Health System Reform Working Group will hear testimony on the draft white paper "Restoring the Partnership for American Health: Counties in a 21st Century Health System" at its second Hearing on Health Reform in Wake County, N.C. on Feb. 19.

Oral presentations will be 3-5 minutes and will offer specific suggestions for improving NACo's health reform priorities.

Speakers will also give, where possible, specific local examples to support policy recommendations.

One purpose of the hearing is to help enhance NACo's policy agenda, but the other purpose is to publicize the contributions of counties to America's health system and raise county officials' profile as stakeholders in this debate.

For more information, visit the mark your calendar section of VACo's Web site.

EPA Asset Management Workshop

March 10-11
Virginia Tech



If you are involved in asset management, then you won't want to miss Advancing Asset Management in Your Utility: A "Hands-On" Workshop for managing your facility for long-term sustainability.

The course will be held March 10-11 on the campus of Virginia Tech in Blacksburg.

The workshop focuses on demonstrating, step-by-step, how an agency would select and deploy appropriate asset management practices best suited for the agency.

Registrations after Feb. 10 will be \$225.

For full schedule and registration, visit www.cpe.vt.edu/epaam or contact: Sunil Sinha, workshop coordinator, at ssinha@vt.edu or 540-231-9420

Sunshine Week

March 15-21



Sunshine Week is a national initiative to open a dialogue about the importance of open government and freedom of information. Participants include print, broadcast and online news media, civic groups, libraries, nonprofits, schools and others interested in the public's right to know.

Sunshine Week is led by the American Society of Newspaper Editors and is funded primarily by a challenge grant from the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation of Miami.

Though spearheaded by journalists, Sunshine Week is about the public's right to know what its government is doing, and why. Sunshine Week seeks to enlighten and empower people to play an active role in their government at all levels, and to give them access to information that makes their lives better and their communities stronger.

Sunshine Week is a non-partisan initiative whose supporters are conservative, liberal and in between.

Visit www.sunshineweek.org for more information.

Engineering Unplugged

Tuesday March 17
8 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Ted Constant Convocation Center
ODU Norfolk Campus



What is Engineering Unplugged?

The Premier Green Event in Hampton Roads. Presented by the Professional Development Center of Old Dominion University, Engineering Unplugged is the first green conference of its kind in Hampton Roads, providing a unique opportunity to expand your understanding of Green Building, Green Manufacturing and Green Research.

Register early and save!

- Between Feb. 6 and March 3 — \$295 per person
- After March 3 — \$495 per person

Visit www.vatpdc.com/pdc/engineering_unplugged for more information and to register now.

**Ecosystem Services:
Marketing
Environmental
Solutions**

**March 12-13
Charlottesville**



Balancing economic and environmental sustainability is the challenge for the 21st Century. This two-day conference at the Charlottesville Omni Hotel will explore the design and implementation of ecosystem service markets and the development of tools to enhance landowner participation in these markets.

Humankind impacts to the natural environment greatly influence our quality of life. New mechanisms such as ecosystem service markets are emerging as a pragmatic market-based option to manage growth and yet mitigate the environmental impacts of such growth in a cost-effective manner.

The first day will feature a series of speakers giving a broad, national level overview of ecosystem service market considerations and initiatives. The second day will feature a series of three panels: carbon, water quality (nutrient trading), and mitigation banking. An interactive question and answer session will follow the panel presentations.

Industry, government, non-governmental organizations, academia, and landowners will all benefit from the information presented.

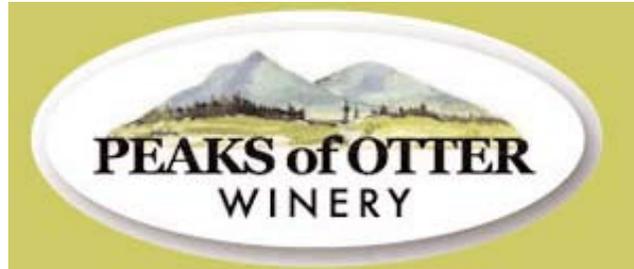
For More Information Contact:

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**Saint Patrick's Day
at Peaks of Otter Winery**

**March 14-17
Bedford County**



Saint Patrick's Day at Peaks of Otter Winery - Noon to 5 p.m.
Visit our winery wearing green and receive an extra discount on wines.

We call it the "Luck of the Irish".

Peaks of Otter Winery
2122 Sheep Creek Road, Bedford

Free
540-586-3707

www.peaksofotterwinery.com

**The Harrisonburg Rockingham
Metropolitan Planning Organization**

Harrisonburg-Rockingham Metropolitan Planning Organization

Serving the City of Harrisonburg and Rockingham County and the
Towns of Bridgewater, Dayton, and Mt. Crawford, Virginia

HRMPO

HRMPO is requesting proposals from qualified firms to prepare a comprehensive transportation corridor study for the Route 11 corridor. The study area is located within the City of Harrisonburg, Towns of Bridgewater, Dayton and Mount Crawford and Rockingham County paralleling the Route 11 South Corridor.

These jurisdictions will be active participants in the planning process. This is a unique partnership between the City of Harrisonburg, Towns of Bridgewater, Dayton and Mount Crawford, Rockingham County and the HRMPO, thus allowing coordinated regional multimodal transportation planning to take place for the benefit of the citizens of all jurisdictions.

This project will address congestion mitigation, innovative financing techniques, corridor overlay district development and access management. The study limits of this regional study are Interstate 81 to the east, Port Republic Road to the north, US 257 to the south and US 42 to the west. The study area north-south distance is about five miles and the east-west distance of the study area is approximately four miles.

All proposals must be submitted by 3 p.m., Tuesday, March 10.

RFP and scope of work are available at www.hrvampo.org. All questions concerning the RFP should be directed to Jennifer Hibbert of the Central Shenandoah Planning District Commission, 112 MacTanly Place, Staunton, VA 24401, 540-885-5174, Jennifer@cspdc.org.

The HRMPO reserves the right to reject any or all proposals and to waive informalities or irregularities in the best interest of the HRMPO.

BUDGET

Continued from page 1

It caps the per vendor compensation at not greater than \$800 per month. Additionally, House Appropriations adopted a new sales and use tax collection process. The changes net the House an additional \$124 million for FY 2010.

House Appropriations gained \$149 million in cash by converting the Water Quality Improvement Fund (WQIF) balances to debt or pending federal stimulus funding. VACo opposes this action; the fund supports active projects. Moreover, most of the balances are obligated to be released this spring. VACo members must contact their legislators to oppose the measure.

Talking points

- * The transfer sweeps all of the cash in the WQIF to the General Fund.
- * The risk of finding adequate replacement funds for the WQIF is too great: the cash is needed this spring and it is to be coupled with previously approved state debt to assist local projects.
- * Federal stimulus funds may well include "strings" precluding their use as WQIF replacement funds (e.g. federal dollars typically cannot be used for projects already started or obligated).

Public Education

The governor's introduced budget capped state funding for administrative support positions. This action reduces FY 2010 funding by \$340 million. In the final analysis the governor would fund one support position for every 4.03 instructional positions. The governor's budget includes a FY 2010 "stop-loss" provision: over \$60 million in one-time Lottery Funds to prevent localities from falling below \$403.90 per pupil.

Additionally, the governor's FY 2010 budget mandates \$252.4 million in net technical adjustments to reflect economic conditions-including the updated triennial school census data, new sales and use tax revenue estimates, and new Lottery Fund revenue estimates.

Additional technical adjustments

VDOT creates technology to monitor Chapter 527 reviews progress



Ted McCormack
tmccormack@vaco.org

VDOT has created a Web-based, electronic database to track the status of Chapter 527 reviews of land development proposals and local plan and ordinance amendments.

As part of developing the Chapter 527 regulations, the LandTrack system was created on VDOT's Web site and can be found by accessing this link: landtrx.vdot.virginia.gov.

The features of the LandTrack system allow counties and the public to monitor the status of VDOT's review, examine the traffic impact analysis report on development proposals and local comprehensive plans, and read VDOT's official advisory comments.

Chapter 527 of the 2006 Acts of Assembly established procedures by which counties submit proposals that will affect the state-controlled

transportation network to VDOT for review and comment. (www.virginiadot.org/projects/chapter527/default.asp).

Those procedures are also intended to improve how land-use and transportation planning decisions are coordinated by establishing standardized methodologies for analyzing transportation impacts of land use decisions.

The Chapter 527 regulations require that certain comprehensive plans and plan amendments and rezonings and site plan approvals be submitted for VDOT review and comment.

While counties can take no action until VDOT's advisory comments are received, the state's reviews are to be completed within a fixed timeframe.

will result from the forthcoming downward revenue projections.

- * Approved participants will not be subject to early retirement penalties.
- * Approved participants also may elect to participate in a school division's official early retirement incentive program.
- * Repayment will be made to VRS in equal annual installments.

Compensation Board/Public Safety

The governor's introduced budget created a \$43.4 million in savings to the General Fund in FY 2010 by implementing across-the-board reductions of 7 percent for offices of the sheriff and commonwealth's attorney, and 10 percent for offices of the commissioners of the revenue, treasurers, directors of finance and circuit court clerks.

* Senate Finance accepts the governor's recommendations but includes language allowing the Clerk of the Circuit Court to petition the chief judge for relief from statutory deadlines in cases where insufficient staff is available due to budget reductions.

* House Appropriations mitigates the governor's reductions for the sheriff offices and local and regional jails from 7 percent to 5 percent (\$8.25 million). Additionally the House restores: 5 percent of the 10 percent reduction proposed for the offices of the Commissioner of the Revenue (\$.5 million), restores 2 percent of the 7 percent reduction proposed for the offices of the Commonwealth's

BUDGET

Continued on page 9

STIMULUS

Continued from page 1

be sent to localities and other appropriate governmental entities because they will be responsible for prioritizing projects.

The Commonwealth will be accepting proposals submitted through the web site beginning today with an end date to be determined and announced when conditions and stipulations of the final economic stimulus package are known.

BUDGET

Continued from page 8

Attorney (\$1 million); restores 5 percent of the ten percent reduction proposed for the offices of the Clerk of Circuit Court (\$1.3 million); and restores 5 percent of the 10 percent reduction proposed for the offices of the Treasurer (\$.5 million).

The governor's introduced budget eliminated state support for the constitutional officers' retiree health care credit. State support was reduced from 100 percent to 50 percent in the 2008 Session. The introduced budget swept the remaining 50 percent in FY 2010. This creates a state savings of \$402,725 in FY 2010.
* Senate Finance and House Appropriations accept the governor's proposal.

The governor's introduced budget changes the distribution of excess fees collected by Clerks of the Circuit Courts. Currently, localities retain two-thirds of the fees and the Commonwealth receives one-third. The proposal flips the distribution for FY 2010 by giving two-thirds of the fees to the state and one-third to localities.

Health and Human Resources

Comprehensive Services Act (CSA)

The governor's introduced budget reduced funding by \$500,000 in FY 2009 and \$500,000 in FY 2010 for grants to localities intended to encourage localities to create community based services.

* Senate Finance and House Appropriations accept the governor's proposal.

ENCROACHMENT

Continued from page 2

zoning policies to ensure the long term viability of the base. Langley Air Force Base and the City of Hampton are now in the process of conducting a JLUS. A review of Commonwealth installations performed last year by the Virginia National Defense Industrial Authority (VNDIA) suggests that other communities, in particular growing communities like Fort Belvoir (Fairfax County), Fort Lee (Prince George County) and Marine Corps Base Quantico (Prince William and Stafford counties) areas, would benefit from a JLUS.

Other federal programs exist to help avoid encroachment problems. For example, DoD Readiness and Environmental Protection Initiative (REPI) programs provide funding for the military to work with state and local governments and non-governmental organizations to promoting compatible land use. Through the Army's version of this, the Army Compatible Use Buffer or ACUB program, Fort Pickett (Nottaway, Dinwiddie and Brunswick counties) recently partnered with the

The governor's introduced budget recovers unused funding of \$5 million in FY 2009 and \$5 million in FY 2010 for specific children services - accessing services through parental agreements. The number of children qualifying under a parental agreement is significantly less than previously anticipated.
* Senate Finance and House Appropriations reduce the anticipated saving to \$2 million in FY 2009 and \$1 million in FY 2010.

The governor's introduced budget reduces funding by \$700,000 in FY 2009 and \$1.3 million in FY 2010 for the number of children placed in out-of-state residential facilities.

Natural Resources

* House Appropriations gained \$149 million in cash by converting the Water Quality Improvement Fund balances to debt or pending federal stimulus funding.

VACo opposes this action; the fund supports active projects. Moreover, most of the balances are obligated for release

Ward Burton Wildlife Foundation and Virginia Tech to close on its first conservation easement, a 112-acre site, and has letters of intent on an additional 2,000 acres. Similar success is being seen at Fort A.P. Hill (Caroline County) and MCB Quantico.

For local leaders, the National Governors Association's Center for Best Practices website is a terrific resource. While primarily a state-level perspective, the Center has publications and studies that are relevant to all communities neighboring a military installation. The Association of Defense Communities is another organization with information and best practices for encroachment mitigation.

NAS Oceana is still a vital part of the Virginia economy, but it has taken a lot of work by state and Hampton Roads leaders. It has also cost a great deal, with the Commonwealth and the City of Virginia Beach each contributing \$7.5 million annually to land purchase programs to reverse the tide of encroachment. As Virginia continues to grow, military communities are well served to tackle the issue before it's an expensive, or impossible, problem to fix.

this spring. VACo members must contact their legislators to oppose the measure.

Talking points

* The transfer sweeps all of the cash in the WQIF to the General Fund.

* The risk of finding adequate replacement funds for the WQIF is too great: the cash is needed this spring and it is to be coupled with previously approved state debt to assist local projects.

* Federal stimulus funds may well include "strings" precluding their use as WQIF replacement funds (e.g. federal dollars typically cannot be used for projects already started or obligated).

Transportation

Local leaders are more than aware of the Commonwealth Transportation Board's pending mid-year revisions to the Six-Year Improvement Program. The board will act on the changes at its scheduled Feb. 19 meeting. VACo summarized the revised transportation revenue projections and resulting impact in the Jan. 27 issue of Capitol Contact.

VRA VIRGINIA RESOURCES AUTHORITY

25 years financing Virginia's future

The Virginia Resources Authority's (VRA) primary role is to create, or facilitate the creation of innovative financing solutions to build the infrastructure in Virginia's local communities. Since its inception, through its various financing avenues, VRA has funded more than 800 critical projects across the Commonwealth exceeding \$3.75 billion of investment in Virginia's communities.

During these very tough economic times, the VRA is pleased to have the wherewithal to assist in the public financing of various public projects that will improve the quality of life in local communities. The VRA staff operates with the mindset that the continued investment in infrastructure is important to the Commonwealth's economic vitality.

"Bricks and mortar mean jobs and income and in today's climate, that's more important than ever," said Sheryl D. Bailey, VRA executive director.

The VRA has been impacting the lives of Virginia's citizens for 25 years. Established by the Virginia General Assembly in 1984, VRA's initial scope included water and wastewater projects.

However, in recent years VRA's reach has expanded and the organization now provides low-interest loans to localities in 14 project areas.

They include public safety, transportation, wastewater, flood prevention and dam safety, solid waste, water, federal facility development, brownfield remediation and redevelopment, airports, land conservation and preservation, broadband, parks and recreation, local government buildings, and energy.

Just a few months ago, VRA invested more than \$200 million in loans to localities across the

Commonwealth including York County, Southampton County, Loudon County, Waynesboro, Winchester, Alexandria, King George, Suffolk and Roanoke. The funding was made possible through infrastructure revenue bonds sold in November in VRA's pooled financing program.

The unique structure of the Virginia Pooled Financing Program provides value added benefits including "AAA/AA" interest rates, custom tailored loans, no bond insurance premiums or individual rating agency review, and loan terms up to 30 years.

Bonds are issued at least twice a year and since the VFP's inception in 2003, 64 different cities, towns, counties, and service authorities have utilized the program to finance over \$862 million.

An example of a project financed through this program is York County which received a loan to fund a 13-field athletic complex that will include five youth baseball fields, one adult baseball field, one adult softball field, four regulation soccer fields and three instructional soccer fields.

Parks and Recreation is one of the newer project areas for VRA.

"It's a win-win situation for all of us," said Carol White, York County's Director of Financial and Management Services. "It's going to fill a need that we've had for some time for youth and adult league play. In addition there will be walking trails, so it will be a park for everyone to enjoy."

VRA also offers loans through Revolving Loan Funds including the Clean Water Revolving Loan Fund, the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund, and the Virginia Airports Revolving Fund.

The Virginia Clean Water

Revolving Loan Fund (CWRLF) reduces interest rates for local governments for projects that improve water quality or prevent future problems.

Since 1987, more than \$1.5 billion has been invested in 274 projects throughout the Commonwealth.

Virginia Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF) provides low interest loans, as well as some grants, for drinking water projects to local governments and privately organized water suppliers.

Since 1998, nearly \$150 million has been funded for critical water projects. In just the last five years, the fund has been instrumental in connecting 70,000 Virginians to safe, reliable water supplies.

The Virginia Airports Revolving Fund (VARF) was created in 2000 with an appropriation of \$25 million from the General Assembly.

From this \$25 million, VRA has maximized its resources and invested over \$83 million in below market interest rate loans to assist with 27 projects at 18 airports. The economic impact of the 67 public use airports in Virginia is \$14 billion annually.

The third area of loans offered by VRA is Equipment Term Financing, which enables localities to take advantage of enhanced financing options for one to 15 year terms.

They are able to reap the benefits of attractive fixed rates, minimal transaction costs, as well as the option to purchase in advance as a hedge against inflation. These loans are available year-round.

Localities interested in looking into options for funding projects should call Virginia Resources Authority at 804-644-3100.

Employment Opportunities

Employment ads are edited due to space considerations.

To view the full versions, visit www.vaco.org and click the man at the typewriter on the right rail of the page.

**Code Enforcement Officer/
Cumberland County**

This position serves as the county's Erosion & Sediment Control Program Administrator and is required to be certified as such through the Va. Soil and Water Conservation Board. Those holding certifications as an inspector and/or plan reviewer are preferred and familiarity with Virginia Erosion & Sediment Control laws is desired. For complete job description and application contact Jill Matthews at 804-492-3562 or visit our Web site at www.cumberlandcounty.virginia.gov. Salary commensurate with experience. Submit completed application to Cumberland County, Attn: Jill Matthews, P.O. Box 110, Cumberland, VA 23040 no later than 2 p.m. on Feb. 20.

Public Utilities Director/Cumberland County

Full-time Public Utilities Director to oversee maintenance and operation of the County sewer and waterworks systems. Applicant must possess or immediately pursue both Class II Waterworks Operator's license and Class II Wastewater license. For complete job description and application contact Jill Matthews at 804-492-3562 or visit our Web site at www.cumberlandcounty.virginia.gov. Salary commensurate with experience. Submit completed application to Cumberland County, Attn: Jill Matthews, P.O. Box 110, Cumberland, VA 23040 no later than 2 p.m. on Feb. 20.

**Director of Economic Development/
King George County**

King George County seeks applications for the position of Director of Economic Development. Position requirements and applications are

available at www.king-george.va.us/job-opportunities/job-opportunities. Salary range: \$61,372 to \$100,036, DOQ with a competitive benefits package. Position is open until filled; application review process will begin Monday, March 2.

Transportation Planner/Town of Leesburg

Grade 13 (\$55,390 –\$92,969)
Closing Date: March 13
Extensive Benefits Package
The Town of Leesburg in Virginia seeks a Transportation Planner to maintain and run a travel demand transportation model which is used for policy development and to assess transportation impacts associated with land development cases. Request required application from Human Resources Department, Town of Leesburg, 25 West Market Street, Leesburg, VA 20176. 703-737-7177 or www.leesburg-va.gov. Applications will be accepted via mail, fax (703-737-7190) and must be received in the Human Resources Dept. by 5 p.m. on March 13.

Associate Director/University of Georgia

The Carl Vinson Institute of Government at the University of Georgia invites applications and nominations for a public service faculty position as Associate Director of its Governmental Training, Education, and Development Division (GTED). The position will be available June 1. For a complete position description, qualifications, deadlines, and contact information please visit our Web site at: www.hr.uga.edu/ad-gted.pdf. Application review will begin immediately. Candidates will be considered for the position until it is filled. Application materials should include a cover letter, a curriculum vita, and three letters of recommendation. E-mail submissions with attachments are preferred. Please send to: executivesearch@uga.edu
In lieu of email submission, written application materials may be directed to:

University of Georgia, Human Resources
Search Committee, GTED Associate Director
C/o Executive and Faculty Search Group
215 S. Jackson Street
Athens, GA 30602
Confidential requests for information should be directed to the primary consultant, Lindsey Van Note, Executive & Faculty Search Group, University of Georgia, 706-542-6240.

County Administrator/Grayson County

The Grayson County Board of Supervisors currently seeks qualified applicants for the position of County Administrator. Applicants must have a four year degree and/or relevant experience. Prior experience in a county/city administration or leadership is preferred. Applications are available online at www.graysonvirginia.com or in the County Administrator's Office. Please call 276-773-2471 for an application or any questions you may have. Applications accepted through Feb. 20 or until position is filled.

**Senior Water Resources Engineer/
Northern Virginia Regional Commission**

SALARY: mid-\$70's to mid-\$80's, DOQ, + benefits.
Manage and administer nationally acclaimed Four Mile Run watershed mgmt. plan and Cameron Run watershed programs. Involves diverse mgmt. activities including modeling, stakeholder coordination, research, outreach and project mgmt. Position provides resources and technical ass't. on regional issues associated with protection of water resources. Cover letter & resume to NVRC, 3060 Williams Drive, Suite 510, Fairfax, VA 22031, e-mail to info@novaregion.org.
Deadline: March 15.

EMPLOYMENT

Continued from page 11

**Shared Services Accounting
Manager/King and Queen County**

King and Queen County seeks a qualified and experienced professional to serve as the Shared Services Accounting Manager for the County. This is a senior level professional position responsible for management and delivery of Financial, Procurement, and Human Resource Services to the County and Constitutional Officers' Departments that constitute the Government of King and Queen County. Inquiries and application can be made to the County Administrator at P.O. Box 177 King & Queen C.H. Virginia 23085. The closing date for applications will be Feb. 20.

**County Administrator/Montgomery
County**

Requires comprehensive knowledge of principles and practices of public administration, high levels of performance in the areas of finance and budget, long range and strategic planning, capital improvement projects, policy development and implementation, and written and verbal communication. Bachelor's degree in business or public administration, finance or related field, extensive public management experience in a chief or assistant chief administrative capacity in state or local government; master's degree preferred. Salary \$125,000 to \$150,000 DOQ; excellent benefits. Please submit county application available at www.montgomerycountyva.gov, confidential letter of interest, detailed resume and salary history by March 16 to Annette Perkins, Chair, Montgomery County Board of Supervisors, 1407 Valley View Dr., Blacksburg VA 24060.

**Director, Economic
Development/Pittsylvania County**

Salary - DOQ

The Board of Supervisors of Pittsylvania County seeks an experienced, successful, assertive and energetic economic development executive with credentials and leadership skills to redirect the County's

economic development program to the next level. The successful candidate will be responsible for leading and developing economic development initiatives to create jobs, investments and promote economic growth by recruiting new businesses, expanding existing industries and growing small businesses. Send a confidential resume with letter of interest by March 13 to: County Administrator, P.O. Box 426, Chatham, VA 24531, marked "Economic Development Director."

**County Administrator/Goochland
County**

Population 20,440. The County of Goochland invites applications from highly skilled candidates to replace its retiring County Administrator who has served the County since 1986. At least eight (8) years of public management experience as a Chief Executive/Administrator or Deputy Chief Executive/Administrator in a high performing, comparably sized, growing community with a wide range of duties in operation and management is desired.

The salary for the position is negotiable within a range of \$120,000 to \$150,000 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 e-mail Richmond@springsted.com by Feb. 16. For a complete community/position profile related to the position please visit www.springsted.com.

County Manager/Onslow, N.C.

Seeking a proven leader for Onslow County, N.C., population 160,000. Manager reports to a five-member Board of Commissioners and serves as the county's chief administrator for 1,170 employees in 26 departments with a total annual operating budget in excess of \$161 million. Salary and benefits package commensurate with qualifications and experience.

Employment applications may be found at www.onslowcountync.gov (employment drop down). Application form, resume with three professional references, and cover letter identifying the applicant's strengths and salary history must be mailed or faxed to Ron vonLembke, Onslow County Attorney, 10 Dewitt Street, Jacksonville, NC 28540 (Fax: 910-577-7888) by Feb. 16. Position will remain open until filled.

Town Manager/Appomattox

SALARY: DOQ/DOE (+) benefits. The Town of Appomattox (pop. 1,761) seeks to fill the full-time position of Town Manager. Responsible for performing complex technical and administrative work serving as the chief operations officer of the Town with responsibility for the planning and administration of the various functions of government and directing the activities of the Department of Public Works. Must be capable of being bonded, have a valid VA Driver's License and Criminal/Credit Background Checks. Town application required. Call 434-352-8268, e-mail fguill@appomattoxva.gov. Submit application, along with resume and cover letter to: Town of Appomattox, P.O. Box 705, Appomattox, VA 24522. Open until filled.

**County Administrator/Halifax
County**

Salary & benefits \$115,000 - \$140,000 DOQ; reports to 8 member Board of Supervisors elected by districts; \$97.4 million budget. Requires bachelor's degree and minimum 5 years in public sector experience as a County Administrator, City Manager or assistant, or a senior level position in a successful local government operation. Candidate should process considerable skills in leadership & motivation, staff & public relations, policy development & implementation, budget, capital improvement planning, & written & verbal communication. Send a confidential cover letter and resume to Jerry L. Gwaltney, Search Consultant, P. O. Box 699, Halifax, VA 24558 by Feb. 20.



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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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