

COUNTY CONNECTIONS

The Newsletter of the
Virginia Association of Counties

May 15, 2009



Gochland selects
Rebecca T. Dickson
as County
administrator...
Page 3



In the Fast Lane
with Patrick
County...
Page 5



Counties signing
up for Go Green
Initiative...
Page 4



LOCHNER

VACo welcomes a new associate
member... Page 7

VACo seeks key issues for 2010 Legislative Program



The VACo Resolutions Committee convened for the first time this year on May 8 at the association's new building located at 1207 E. Main Street in the capital city.

The Resolutions Committee received reports on Virginia's federal stimulus funding from Dr. Patricia Wright, the state's superintendent for public instruction, and Betsey Daley, Virginia's Senate finance director.

Their presentations are available at www.vaco.org.

The Committee also initiated the process to identify key legislative issues to include in VACo's 2010 Legislative Program.

That process will continue when the eight steering committees convene on Aug. 14 in Richmond. At the annual conference Nov. 8-10, those committees and the Resolutions Committee will complete their work on the legislative program which will then be presented to the membership for final adoption.

Following the May 8 meeting, Robert R. Adkins of Wise County, VACo's First Vice President and the current Resolutions Committee Chair, released a memo to solicit key legislative and policy recommendations from county officials.

[Click here for the memo.](#)

More bad news: Another round of general fund cuts on the way

By Dean Lynch
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Local governments and state agencies need to brace for another round of state general fund cuts.

In anticipation of additional cuts of nearly \$225 million in FY 2009, the House Appropriations Committee on Tuesday, May 9, listened to bad news on state revenues from Ric Brown, Secretary of Finance.

Brown presented members with a revenue and budget update that indicated the economy remains in a deep recession; however, Brown stated that some national indicators suggest the rate of decline may be slowing.

"In Virginia, payroll employment fell by 2.4 percent in March, the largest monthly drop since September 1991. Northern Virginia posted a decline of 1.2 percent, Hampton Roads fell 0.9 percent, and employment in the Richmond-Petersburg area fell 3.5 percent in March. After rising for five consecutive months, the unemployment rate in Virginia held steady at 7 percent in March. In March of 2008, the unemployment rate was 3.6 percent."

Brown stated that April was a significant month for revenue collections. Final payments for tax year 2008 and the first estimated payment for tax year 2009 were due from corporations. Estimated and final payments from individuals, which were due May 1, are also typically received in April.

Members were told that April revenues fell 21.3 percent mainly due to a historic drop in individual estimated and final payments due May 1. On a

THE BUDGET



year-to-date basis, total revenue fell 8.8 percent, below the annual forecast of a 7.3 percent decline. The 8.8 percent decline in revenue collections through April represents the largest drop on record. Adjusted for transfers to the Commonwealth Transportation Fund, the year-to-date decline is 6.5 percent, nearly double the fiscal year 2002 decline. Brown stated that all major revenue sources are trailing their respective forecasts.

Year-to-date tax collection withholding growth is 2.3 percent, slightly behind the projected annual growth rate of 2.5 percent.

Through April (2009), non-withholding tax collections fell 18.6 percent compared with the annual estimate of a 17.9 percent decline.

Through April (2009), individual income tax refunds were up 9.9 percent

BUDGET

Continued on page 11

Save Money on Inmate Health Care Costs

Counties can save money on the billions of dollars spent each year to provide medical care to jail inmates. NACo has a medical insurance and medical claims management program that controls costs, diminishes the need for mid-year budget adjustments and reduces expenses.

Hickman County, TN, used the medical claims management program to save 59 percent on their offsite inmate medical claims. It submitted \$85,627 for 16 claims and was reimbursed \$50,922 through a discovery of billing and coding errors and application of PPO network discounts for medical care.

Medical claims management helps counties manage inmate offsite medical claims to monitor the necessity of medical treatment, audit medical charges to assure services were actually performed, and provide detailed claims reports. Medical claims are managed on a contingency fee basis and fees are paid only if savings are found.

Grainger County, TN, submitted \$65,365 for 18 claims and was reimbursed \$42,487, saving them 65 percent on medical claims.

"It takes the hassle out of billing issues. It cuts down on a lot of paperwork for us. It saves time and money" says Nurse Manager Tracy Titus of Vanderburgh County, IN.

The service also reviews medical charges to identify billing errors. In 2007, a coding error was discovered when the medical provider charged Pulaski County, AR for 102 body scans for one inmate. The medical charges were corrected to reflect the two body scans administered to the inmate and

PPO discounts were applied resulting in \$122,277 savings to the county.

The inmate excess medical insurance policy limits the county's liability for paying an inmate's off-site medical costs.

The policy is tailored to the county's needs and allows each county to set their own self-insurance levels. Even with a single claim of \$16,281.86, Lawrence County, TN, was able to save 30 percent with a reimbursement of \$4,884.55. Counties are thrilled with the benefits of the program. "It pays for itself after just one open heart surgery," said the County Mayor Greg Lynch of Unicoi County, TN.

Through a nationally awarded RPF by Dallas County, TX, NACo partners with Correctional Risk Services, Inc. (CRS) to control inmate healthcare costs by offering counties an insurance policy and medical claims management service. This program, coupled with national PPO buying power, assures discounts and saves counties money.

Because Dallas County bid for the services on behalf of all state and local governments, counties are able to piggyback onto the award and begin using the program right away without bidding the services themselves.

To learn more about the inmate medical claims management and excess medical insurance program, contact Jim Sawyer with NACo's Financial Services Center at 202/661-8868 or by e-mail at jsawyer@naco.org.

(Financial Services News was written by Jim Sawyer, director, NACo Financial Services Corp. NACo FSC intern Stephanie Raphael contributed to this article.)

VACo Notes



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Goochland picks Dickson as county administrator



After an extensive search that drew almost 60 applicants, Goochland County has named Rebecca

T. Dickson as its next administrator.

Dickson, who heads the Chesterfield County's human services division, assumes her new position on July 20.

The Goochland County Board of Supervisors made the announcement at its May 5 meeting.

"I can't tell you how thrilled and honored I am to be here," Dickson said to the Board. "I do feel like I'm leaving a family behind in Chesterfield, so it's a little bittersweet for me, but I hope to

become a part of the family here."

Dickson, 48, replaces interim Administrator Lane B. Ramsey. Dickson worked under Ramsey in Chesterfield where he was the county administrator for 20 years.

Ramsey took the job after 23-year Goochland leader Gregory K. Wolfrey stepped down in February.

"I commend the board for choosing Becky," Ramsey said. "She's a hard worker, and her qualifications match very well with this community."

As Goochland County administrator, Dickson will oversee a team of about 70 with a county budget of \$58 million.

She joined Chesterfield County in 1990 and was assumed various roles in



Rebecca T. Dickson

Photo courtesy of Chesterfield County

the budget and management office before becoming its director in 1997.

She held that position until her appointment as deputy county administrator in 2006.

Kelly E. Miller passes away at age 73

Kelly E. Miller, a two-term member of the Chesterfield County Board of Supervisors, died on May 10.

He was elected chairman of the Board in 2002 and 2004. Miller also served 18 years as a member of the Chesterfield Planning Commission, including several terms as chairman.

Miller lived in the county's Dale District for more than 30 years.

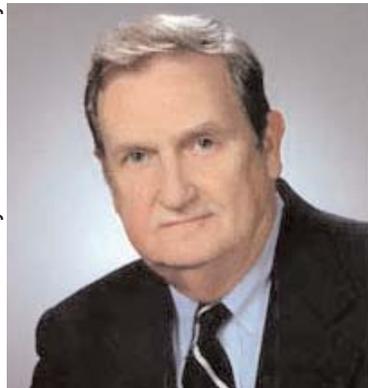
He was born in Georgia during the Great Depression. As a youngster growing up in North Carolina, he witnessed his parents lose their farm and hundreds of acres to the construction of the Fontana Lake and Dam, which was part of the Tennessee Valley Authority hydroelectric project.

Miller later received a bachelor's degree from Guilford College and law degree from Tulane University. He served as general attorney with the U.S. Defense Department and served four years as assistant attorney general for the Commonwealth of Virginia.

He started a private law practice in 1969 and maintained a law office in the district for more than 20 years.

Miller was a member of the

Photo courtesy of Chesterfield County



Kelly E. Miller

Chesterfield Republican Committee and was active in numerous civic organizations, including the Parent-Teacher Association. He was a member of Bethlehem Baptist Church. His wife, Edith, retired after 30 years as a teacher in Chesterfield County.

Miller was the father to two daughters, one of whom is a teacher in the county while the other is a certified public accountant.

Miller also served on the Richmond Regional Planning District Commission and the Capital Region Airport Commission.

DGS issues vehicle parts notice



The Commonwealth may soon receive a large quantity of vehicle parts. The Virginia Department of General Services (DGS) plans to make all these parts available to state and local entities for a handling fee and shipping costs.

The DGS asks interested localities to submit a contact person to whom the agency can send the parts inventory for review.

Please send the following to Brad Crawford at brad.crawford@dgs.virginia.gov:

- Contact name**
- E-mail address**
- Post office address**
- Phone number**

VACo encourages all its members to at least review the parts inventory and to consider submitting a contact person from your public school system.

'Embracing Change' to be focus of VACo's 2009 conference

By Larry Land
lland@vaco.org

The theme of VACo's 2009 Annual Conference scheduled for Nov. 8-10 at the Homestead will be "Embracing Change: New Partnerships for Sustainable Communities."

The theme was chosen by VACo's Conference Planning Committee when it met on May 8 in Richmond.

Chaired by Arlington County Board member Barbara Favola, the committee recognized the importance of developing a conference program that will help strengthen partnerships between local, state, and federal officials in the delivery of public services.

The committee also developed a tentative list of issues that should be addressed during the breakout sessions. Many of them emphasized sustainability, emergency preparedness, budgeting, public health, long-term financial planning, economic development and environmental protection.

Committee members also expressed



interest in attracting to the annual conference the highest-level officials possible from federal and state government.

With the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) and other important federal initiatives that have directly been affecting local governments in recent months, committee members agreed that VACo's 2009 Annual Conference will be an important time for representatives from Congress and federal agencies to be active participants.

More information about VACo's 2009 Annual Conference will be forthcoming.

Go Green Initiative: Counties signing up!



By Larry Land
lland@vaco.org

Ten counties have registered to participate in the Green Government Challenge, which is a component of the Go Green initiative. The program was created two years ago by the Virginia Municipal League to promote sustainability and improved energy efficiency among Virginia's local governments.

Earlier this year, VACo's Board of Directors voted to participate with VML in the Go Green initiative.

An additional feature of the Go Green initiative will be the awarding of cash prizes to counties compiling the highest number of points in the Go Green Challenge.

Moseley Architects has teamed up with Trane to offer cash awards of \$3,000, \$2,000, and \$1,000 respectively to counties ranking first, second and third within their assigned population brackets.

There will be three population brackets. The first bracket is for counties with populations of at least 50,000 or more. The second bracket consists of counties with populations between 15,000 and 49,999. The third bracket will be for counties with populations of less than 15,000.

So far, the following counties have registered as participants in the 2009 Go Green Challenge: Campbell, Carroll, Clarke, Fairfax, Franklin, Frederick, Gloucester, Hanover, Isle of Wight, and Prince William.

Counties interested in participating in the Green Government Challenge need to register online at www.GoGreenVA.org.

Additional questions about VACo's participation in Go Green may be directed to Larry Land, VACo staff.

NACo seeks members for steering committees

VACo strongly encourages its members to get involved. All county staff members are eligible to serve.

If you are interested in joining one of many NACo steering committees, visit www.vaco.org to download the Steering Committee Nomination Form. You may write directly on the form and e-mail it back. Please submit the form to VACo executive director Jim Campbell by June 5.

Here are ways you can send the completed form to VACo:

- E-mail it to jcampbell@vaco.org
- Fill it out, print it and fax it to 804-788-0083
- Fill it out, print it and mail it to 1207 East Main Street, Suite 300, Richmond, VA 23219-3627.

If you become a NACo steering



committee member, you are responsible for debating and creating national policies and priorities affecting counties. Committees meet at the NACo legislative and annual conferences and one other time during the year. You will be responsible for your own travel.

After you send your form to Jim Campbell by June 5, your nomination will be forwarded to NACo for consideration by the organization president. All appointments will be announced in September.

Again, VACo encourages its members to get involved and join a NACo steering committee.

In the fast lane with Patrick County



It could be argued that no other state has a richer motorsports history than Virginia. The first documented auto race ever was recorded in Norfolk in 1904.

Today, the Commonwealth is home to more than 35 motorsports venues that include oval tracks, drag strips and road courses. Southwest Virginia has nine such venues and hosts four NASCAR events each year at the Martinsville Speedway and the Bristol Motor Speedway.

The Martinsville Speedway has an economic impact of between \$30-\$40 million on race day and local businesses of Martinsville and Henry and Patrick counties report up to a 30 percent increase in business during race weeks.

For racing fans and tourists, one place to visit in the area is the Virginia Motorsports Museum and Hall of Fame in Patrick County.

“Southwest Virginia has really increased its tourism over the last 10 years,” said Patrick County administrator Jay Scudder. “Not only does our county have a rich history in motorsports and its key players, but we also give visitors a taste of Appalachia culture.

“Anyone traveling through can’t leave the Blue Ridge Parkway without going through the county and experiencing a little bit of the culture. Motorsports and its relationship to moonshine and Appalachian music, it’s all found

here in Patrick County.”

The museum and hall of fame was commissioned in 1995 and was part of the Woods Brothers Racing Museum. It is dedicated to the men and women whose significant contributions in the early years of all forms of motorsports have led to the continued enjoyment fans share today.

The Virginia Motorsports Museum and Hall of Fame features a formal showroom with Bob McGinnis’ Dixie Sportsman No. 1 car that dates to the 1940s, Harold Smith’s No. 40 car and Tim Few’s beautiful No. 90 Ford Fairlane. Other cars include the famous No. 21 car of the Wood Brothers and the No. 71 car of Anthony Terry.



“We have a nice collection of cars on display,” said Pauline Williams, a volunteer at the facility. “Many people come just to look at the cars. We also have some old photos of the Martinsville Speedway that are very popular.”

The place also features a 150-seat auditorium that hosts numerous community events such as speakers.

It’s nearly impossible to talk about Patrick County and auto racing without mentioning the Wood Brothers.

Walter and Ada Wood owned a family farm between Woolwine and Stuart and raised five sons and one daughter. The racing team was formed in 1950 with Glen Wood as driver and the other brothers serving as mechanics.

The team evolved and has gone on to win 97 NASCAR races, which is second all-time, and has earned \$44.6 million. Of the 50 greatest NASCAR drivers in history, 20 of them drove for



the Wood Brother’s No. 21 car. The list includes Curtis Turner, Dale Jarrett, A.J. Foyt, Junior Johnson, Cale Yarborough, Neil Bonnett, Ricky Rudd, Mark Martin and Bill Elliott.

Pauline Williams said that she has known the Wood family her entire life.

“They helped put Patrick County on the map,” she said. “I used to sell flooring and if you said car 21 or the Wood Brothers and could talk racing, you were in the door of many businesses in this area.”

Williams added that the museum has a newspaper clipping of the Wood Brothers team doing the first fast pit stop at the Indianapolis Motor Speedway.

“It was so fast, nobody had ever seen anything like it,” Williams said.

There is no charge to visit the Virginia Motorsports Museum and Hall of Fame, but donations are appreciated. So if you’re ever in the area, stop by and enjoy the rich history of Virginia motorsports.



Mark Your Calendars

**Virginia Transit
Association
2009 Annual
Conference**



**June 8 – 9
Fredericksburg**

This two-day conference will be held at the Fredericksburg Expo and Conference Center in Fredericksburg, June 8–9. Open to all transportation professionals interested in learning more about sustainability, new federal legislation including re-authorization and ARRA and alternative fuel vehicles. Additional details can be found on the VTA Web site: www.vatransit.com

**Coalition of High
Growth
Communities -
June Meeting**

Coalition of
**HIGH GROWTH
Communities**

**June 29
Culpeper**

Registration Fee for CHGC Members (includes breakfast & lunch): \$35; \$40 after June 15.

Registration Fee for nonmembers (includes breakfast & lunch): \$40; \$45 after June 15

Please make your reservations now.

Send an e-mail to dbailey@capitol-square.com or fax 804-497-3151.

**2009 Virginia Rural
Summit**



**Sept. 14-15
Lynchburg**

More information coming soon.

Contact the Staff:

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276-223-4805--Wytheville/WCC

**Virginia Forum
on Age Wave
Planning**

**May 20
Piedmont Virginia
Community College
Charlottesville**



There aren't many social crises you can see bearing down on you five to 15 years before they arrive, but the age wave is one of them.

We know that the over-65 population will double in Virginia to 1.8 million citizens by 2030, and we know that Baby Boomers have very different expectations of aging than members of the Silent Generation do.

We also know that many local governments and community services organizations aren't prepared for what's coming.

Acting on the premise that being forewarned is being forearmed, the Older Dominion Partnership is partnering with other aging-related groups to host the "Virginia Forum on Age Wave Planning," on May 20, at Piedmont Virginia Community College in Charlottesville.

"Although current economic challenges are at the top of all our agendas today, we can't ignore another significant change headed for Virginia," said Gov. Timothy M. Kaine. "The Old Dominion is getting older – fast. This is one change we can clearly see coming as the huge number of baby boomers begin to reach traditional retirement age. I encourage all communities to actively plan now for the challenges and the opportunities this future will bring. The strength of local economies and the quality of life for young and old alike will depend on it."

The forum is designed to educate elected officials, municipal administrators, regional planners, and other community organizations.

Introducing a new associate member

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The Lochner tradition of excellence and stability rests firmly on our nearly seven decades of accomplishments – ranging from planning and environmental studies, through design, and construction engineering and inspection services.

Lochner was founded in Chicago in 1944 by Harry W. Lochner, Sr., who established the firm by conducting some of the nation's first comprehensive transportation and land use studies. With a long history of impressive firsts, Lochner continues to be recognized as an innovator in transportation solutions. From the United States' longest span cable-stayed bridge to the nation's busiest airport, Lochner continues to help our clients solve the most complex transportation demands.

The local branch office of Lochner located in Henrico County, Virginia, has provided services to municipal, state, and federal agencies since 1986. Lochner's Virginia office has designed all functional classifications of roadways in both urban and rural environments and in all types of terrain. Our expertise includes all of the supporting disciplines such as traffic engineering, traffic signal design, pedestrian routing, hydraulics, stormwater

design, roadway signing, and lighting. The projects range in size from major projects such as interstate access, to minor projects including pavement rehabilitation, widening, and operational and capacity improvements. Through projects such as the Route 50 Traffic Calming Study, Lochner's experience includes innovative concepts - roundabouts, speed tables, traffic calming, and context sensitive solutions.

Lochner also provides planning and environmental support services, having built a reputation in Virginia and elsewhere as a leader in the completion of location and environmental studies for transportation projects in compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). Examples include EIS's/EA's for the Coalfields Expressway, Southeastern Parkway and Greenbelt, and the Route 460 Connector. Lochner's staff has in-depth experience in wetland and water resources, protected species, noise abatement, air quality and stormwater management.

Working with Talented Professionals

Our talented team includes civil engineers, environmental planners, and construction engineering and inspection specialists that represent decades of valuable and practical experience.

John Stuart, PE oversees Lochner's Henrico County office and brings 20 years of experience in transportation and civil engineering design and construction for local governments, state and federal agencies, and private entities.

John is supported with an engineering staff that includes Susan Keen, PE and Bill Stagg, PE. Susan and Bill bring over 14 years and 10 years of experience respectively in all aspects of civil/roadway engineering design, traffic analysis, signal design, and the

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- Utility Coordination and Relocation
- Design Build Services
- P3 Services
- Americans with Disabilities Act Services
- Construction Management & CEI Services

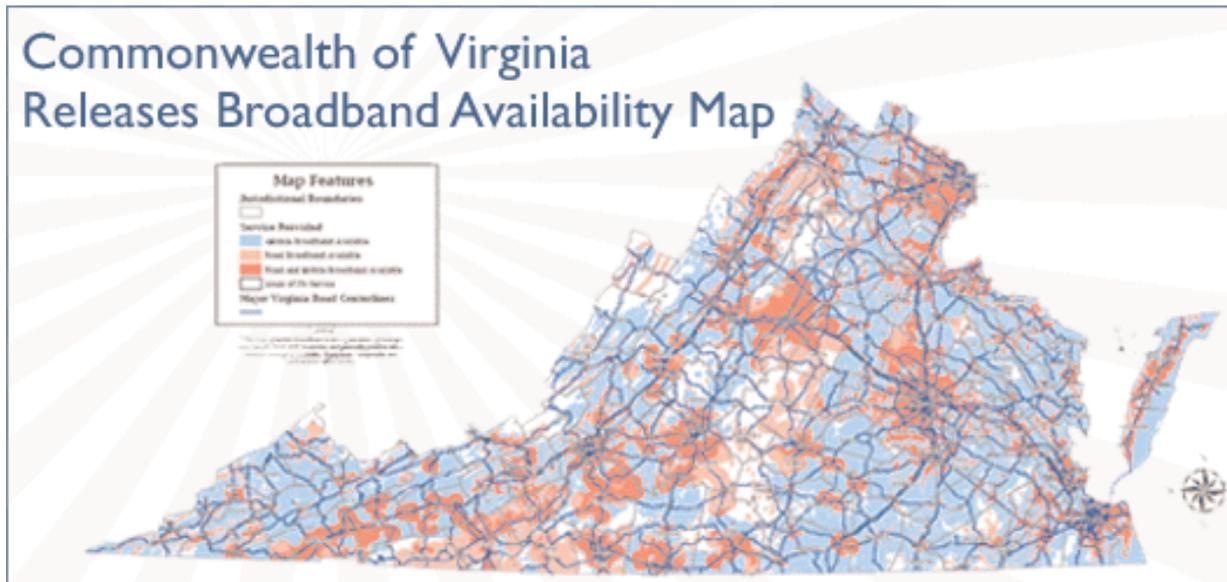
development of construction plans and estimates for roadway and land development projects in Virginia.

The environmental planning group in Virginia is led by Karin Ertl, AICP, who brings 20 years of experience in planning and all phases of environmental review for roadway, rail, transit and trail projects. She has completed numerous feasibility studies, master plans, NEPA documents, and permit applications throughout Virginia.

Christine Fix, AICP, previously a planner for the City of Richmond and the Richmond Planning District Commission, brings expertise in comprehensive planning, area-specific land use planning, and environmental planning for roadway and rail/transit projects.

Tom Daniel, PE leads the Construction Management and Construction Engineering Inspection Group from Lochner's Blackstone, Va., location and brings more than 46 years of experience overseeing a wide range of projects including roadway, airport and utility infrastructure construction.

Gov. Kaine releases broadband availability map



On May 14, Gov. Timothy M. Kaine unveiled the Commonwealth’s first broadband availability map, located online through the Office of Telework Promotion and Broadband Assistance.

The map is an important resource that will give policy makers, local government leaders, and service providers a more detailed picture of broadband coverage in Virginia as they work to provide “last-mile” broadband in their communities.

This snapshot of availability will help deploy resources to areas with the greatest need, particularly rural areas. Gov. Kaine also announced that he will convene the Governor’s Broadband Advisory Council in time to advise him on the most effective usage of potential funding from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA).

The Council was created by legislation in the 2009 General Assembly Session and amended by Gov. Kaine to include an emergency clause, allowing the Council to begin its work immediately.

“Affordable high-speed telecommunication services for all

citizens are essential to Virginia’s success in the 21st century economy,” Gov. Kaine said. “The data presented on this map provides a baseline of broadband availability in the Commonwealth, and will guide our efforts to areas with the greatest need.”

The new state coverage map, the only one in the nation developed at no cost to the state, fulfills one of the chief recommendations of the Broadband Roundtable, convened by Gov. Kaine in 2007 to develop a “last-mile” telecommunications blueprint. The map is the product of a collaborative effort between the Center for Innovative Technology (CIT), the Virginia Information Technology Agency (VITA), the Office of Telework Promotion and Broadband Assistance, and the voluntary participation of more than 25 broadband providers throughout the Commonwealth.

“Last-mile” broadband is the final distance of infrastructure that is needed to give broadband access to businesses and homes. Rural communities often are underserved by broadband because of low population density and high

costs to service providers to construct infrastructure. Connecting Virginia’s rural communities to high-speed internet service will allow its citizens and businesses to compete globally in the 21st century economy.

The Governor’s Broadband Advisory Council was created through legislation sponsored by Senator Philip Puckett and Delegate Joe May, and amended by Governor Kaine to include an emergency clause. The group will advise the Governor on policy and funding priorities related to broadband access in the Commonwealth, including opportunities for ARRA funding.

In late summer, the ARRA will begin \$7.2 billion of competitive grant programs related to broadband initiatives including deployment services to areas that are underserved or not served, broadband mapping and creation of sustainable broadband demand. Commonwealth officials are actively monitoring the funding opportunities and working to position Virginia projects for broadband funding opportunities. Membership on the Council is currently being finalized.

County comment on mandate impact needed



VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
Partners for Better Communities

By Ted McCormack
tmccormack@vaco.org

This is a reminder that the Commission on Local Government has established a website where counties can log on and provide fiscal data and comment on state mandates. Each year, the Commission, in consultation with state agencies, VACo, and VML, selects certain state programs to be assessed by localities.

To be selected for assessment, however, the mandate must have been in effect for two years or be previously unidentified.

The information that is provided by local governments through the website is used by state agencies to determine whether a particular mandate should be retained, altered or eliminated. A description of the Commission's assessment process is found at the

following Web site: www.dhcd.virginia.gov/CommissiononLocalGovernment/pages/mandates.htm.

The Commission has just posted on their website the assessment schedule for 10 mandates that are scheduled to be assessed over a period from July 1, 2009, and ending June 30, 2010. For example, over the next six months beginning July 1, the mandates on localities to be assessed include teacher severance benefits, control of dangerous dogs, domestic violence victim grants, local road project environmental impact reports, and four VDOT mandates.

Each month, a different set of mandates will be available for comment, so counties need to check the assessment site frequently.

The complete schedule and how to

post a comment are found at the following Web site www.dhcd.virginia.gov/CommissiononLocalGovernment/pages/programs.htm

It is important that counties take full advantage of this opportunity to comment both positively and negatively on the fiscal and other impacts of the state mandates being assessed.

State agencies are required to report all comments as well as to note that no information was received from localities. The success or failure of this process depends entirely on participation by local governments.

If you have any questions concerning this new program, contact Matthew Bolster at the Commission on Local Government – (804) 371-8010.

Advisory committee considers swine flu issues

By Larry Land
[lland@vaco.org](mailto:liland@vaco.org)

Although the H1N1 (a.k.a. swine flu) influenza virus does not now appear as dangerous as once feared, this is not time for complacency to set in. That was the advice of public health professionals who gathered at the May 13 meeting of the state Pandemic Flu Advisory Committee in Richmond.

Historically, influenza viruses generating pandemics have sometimes manifested themselves in waves. For the 2009 H1N1 influenza virus, a first wave may have begun in April. This wave appears to be dissipating. But experts at Virginia Department of Health (VDH) are warning that a second wave of the virus could surface again this fall, and possibly in a mutated form that might be more virulent than the spring version

... or maybe not. No one knows for sure, but as experts all agree, there's wisdom in preparing for the worst while hoping for the best.

The mild spring pandemic of 2009 is now largely regarded as a wake-up call. Although Virginia appears to have escaped from the swine flu outbreak with only 18 confirmed cases (as of May 13), Dr. Mark J. Levine who heads the VDH's pandemic flu program told members of the 65 member advisory committee that over the next few months "we're going to operate as if we'll have the most severe flu season imaginable."

Committee members were also told that local and regional health offices will need to evaluate their recent performance and identify areas where improvements can be made. In response to high absentee rates, travel restrictions

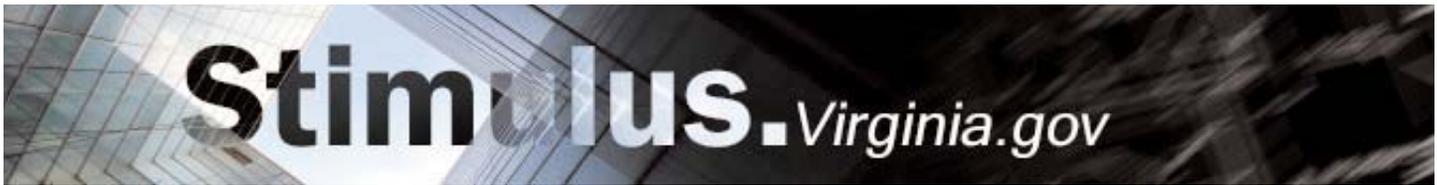
and other problems a serious pandemic could cause, committee members agreed that state and local government agencies need to review and improve their continuity of operations and continuity of government plans.

To prepare for a serious pandemic, it will be also be especially critical to review and improve channels of communications across all state agencies and between all levels of government.

Over the next few months, VACo will be communicating with the VDH, the Department of Emergency Management and other agencies to help with the dissemination of important information for county officials.

(VACo's Larry Land is a member of the State Pandemic Flu Advisory Committee)

Stimulus Funds being appropriated throughout Virginia



By Dean Lynch
dlynch@vaco.org

On Tuesday, May 9, Barbara Reese, Deputy Policy Director for Gov. Timothy M. Kaine, presented an update on stimulus (ARRA-American Recovery and Reinvestment Act) funding for House Appropriations Committee members.

Reese stated, Gov. Kaine has implemented a process focused on three key activities:

- Transparency and communication
- Understanding the provisions of the ARRA and individual programs
- Implementation of the provisions and programs

The General Assembly took action as part of its final budget to appropriate \$4.8 billion in anticipated ARRA funding. This has allowed Virginia to move quickly into implementation. Reese stated that federal rulemaking and guidance has been done incrementally by programs.

ARRA funding falls into three categories:

- Tax and finance actions (which are not appropriated);
- Adjustments in payroll withholding and other personal income tax provisions
- First-time homebuyer and new car purchase tax credits
- Energy incentives and credits
- Unemployment
- COBRA
- Debt Instruments

Competitive programs

- Almost every functional area has competitive grant programs that federal

agencies are implementing

- Weekly updates on new solicitations are posted to the www.stimulus.virginia.gov Web site – “Competitive Grants”
- Competition is open to a variety of entities and depends on the program. Increased funding to existing federal programs (the \$4.8 billion) SEE THE CHART FOR DETAILED LOCALITY FUNDING

Medicaid reimbursement from the increased federal share is close to \$300 million as of May 6, 2009.

- o Drinking Water State Revolving Fund
 - \$20.1 million available
 - 240 project applications were scored using approved EPA criteria;
 - 20 top scoring projects totaling \$23.7 million have been posted for 30-day public comment period

o State Clean Water Revolving Loan Fund - \$77 million available for projects approved by Water Control Board on April 27

o Weatherization Program - \$32.7 million available for allocation to existing local agency providers around the state

o Transportation – CTB (Commonwealth Transportation Board) scheduled to approve next round of projects on May 21

o K-12 Education receives approximately \$1.3 billion of the \$4.8 billion

*More than \$500 million is directly sent

to local school districts following a variety of federal formulas including Title 1 and special education

*The remainder, \$984 million, is part of the Fiscal Stabilization Fund, the “flexible spending” account in the ARRA that must be directed to education

*Appropriation Act directs that the \$984 million be used to restore \$365.0 million in FY 2010 for K-12 education and like amount in FY 2011; remainder is to higher education (\$126.7 million each year)

*ARRA authorizes Virginia to receive \$20 million in additional Qualified Zone Academy Bond Program (QZAB) – used for renovation and repair, not new construction

Distribution to local school divisions will follow existing policy

– Economically distressed areas and free lunch program participation of more than 50 percent

– Localities must find issuer who receives tax credits instead of interest payments; must be private involvement

*ARRA authorizes Virginia to receive close to \$190 million in Qualified School Construction Bonds

– Will provide no interest debt to local school divisions

– Do not require private involvement and can be used for new construction

– Reviewing Literary Fund 1st Priority Waiting List projects to determine eligibility – current list includes \$191 million of approved projects

BUDGET

Continued from page 1

from the same period last year, ahead of the 7.4 percent annual forecast. April refunds surged 21 percent as 11 percent more refunds were processed with an average refund check increasing 10 percent.

Net individual income tax is down 4.9 percent through April (2009), behind the annual forecast of a 4.1 percent decline.

Sales tax collections declined 10.0 percent compared to last April (2008). On a year-to-date basis, collections have fallen 4.9 percent, behind the annual estimate of a 3.7 percent decline.

Through April (2009), collections

in corporate income taxes have fallen 22.7 percent from the same period last year, trailing expectations of a 15.2 percent decline. April collections declined only 4.3 percent; however, a large drop in gross payments from retailers in February and March is dampening year-to-date growth.

Collections of wills, suits, deeds, and contracts – mainly recordation tax collections – fell 21.8 percent in April (2009), and are 33.0 percent down on a year-to-date basis, close to the annual forecast of a 34.7 percent decline.

Brown told members that through April (2009), total general fund revenues have declined 8.8 percent, near the projected annual decline of 7.3 percent. To attain the annual estimate, total

revenues can only decline 1 percent over the last two months of FY 2009.

May and June are important months for revenue collections. The May 1 due date for individual estimated and final payments requires April and May collections to be analyzed together in order to accurately assess growth in non-withholding. In June, the second estimated payment for individuals, corporations, and insurance companies are due.

State agencies have been notified of the ability to generate FY 2009 balances to carry forward to address potential FY 2010 reductions. Agencies will be asked to prepare plans to reduce appropriations for FY 2010 while reducing base budgets for FY 2011 and FY 2012.



2009 Achievement Awards

Recognizing the Best in County Government Programs!

Applications for the 2009 Achievement Awards Program are available now at www.vaco.org. County administrators should have also received the application form by mail.

Any county department is eligible to apply! Visit www.vaco.org for this year's application. Award plaques will be presented at VACo's Annual Business Meeting on Nov. 10 in Bath County.

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

The competition is divided into five population categories so that projects compete with other localities of comparable size. There are 10 program categories. Entries must be postmarked by June 1.

The judges for the 2009 event are Katherine Hanley, secretary of the Commonwealth and former chairman of the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors; Elmer Hodge, former Roanoke County administrator; and Tedd Povar, associate director, Virginia Institute of Government.

VACo received 34 entries last year and recognized 12 winners.

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.

Human Resources Director/Northern Neck Regional Jail

Are you looking for a exciting and challenging career with great advancement opportunities? The Northern Neck Regional Jail, in Warsaw, is looking for a dynamic leader with outstanding communication skills to fill the position of Human Resources Director. Salary range is \$46,021 to \$73,571 with a comprehensive benefit package. Deadline for Application & Resume is June 30.

See our Web site for more information at www.nnrj.state.va.us/index.htm or call (804) 333-6010 Monday through Thursday.

County Engineer/Goochland County

Goochland County seeks an experienced professional to serve under the direction of the Community Development Director. Excellent benefits package includes participation in the Virginia Retirement System, vacation, sick leave, group life insurance and medical insurance. Position open until filled.

Salary Range - \$63,420 - \$95,366. A Goochland County Employment Application is required for consideration of this position and is available at (804) 556-5831 and online at www.co.goochland.va.us. All applications are to be submitted to Goochland County Human Resource Office, 1800 Sandy Hook Rd., P. O. Box 10, Goochland, Va., 23063. For more information, please call Donald L. Charles, Director of Community Development at (804) 556-5861. EOE. countyadmin@co.goochland.va.us.

Director of Finance/Fauquier County

This position is responsible for management and supervision of the County Government and Schools consolidated Finance Department in the areas of

general ledger, payroll, accounts receivable, accounts payable and procurement. Qualified applicants must possess Bachelor's Degree in Accounting, Public Finance or related field supplemented by six years experience and/or training that includes government accounting/finance and supervisory experience. CPA certification or related Master's Degree is preferred. Salary range \$84,805-\$110,253 with excellent benefits. Contact Information: Submit online application at <http://apply.fauquier-county.gov>.

Programmer Analyst/Fauquier County

Qualified individuals will have any combination of education, training and experience equivalent to an Associate's Degree in Computer Science or related field with a minimum of 5 years experience in a complex information systems environment. A Bachelor's Degree in Computer Science and knowledge of .NET computing environment is preferred. Starting salary range is \$33,579 to \$67,684. For complete job description and to submit an online application, visit our Web site at <http://apply.fauquiercounty.gov>.

Human Resources Director/City of Manassas Park

SALARY: Hiring range \$77,699 – \$90,000 DOQ, full time. Successful candidate will be responsible for a Human Resources Department covering 170 full time employees in 9 departments and a total of 13 functional areas. Minimum requirements: Bachelor's Degree. Minimum 8-10 years of progressively responsible human resources management experience in the public sector. Valid driver license and criminal background check required. A Motor Vehicle Record (MVR) check will be made to determine acceptance of past driving record. Must submit cover letter, resume and application to: Julia Drake, City Manager's Office, 1 Park Center Court, Manassas Park, VA. 20111. Application and addendum available on City's Web site at

www.cityofmanassaspark.us or call Julia Drake at 703-530-0393. Will post through Friday, May 29; open until filled.

Director of Economic Development/Augusta County

The Director of Economic Development directs the County's economic development program; encourages new industry investment and creation of new job opportunities within the County; coordinates and executes County's marketing effort. The Director of Economic Development performs professional and administrative work in directing the industrial, economic development and tourism activity of the County. This is an appointive position that serves at the pleasure of the Board of Supervisors. The salary range is from \$69,347 to \$97,986; salary is negotiable depending upon qualifications. Benefits are excellent.

Visit www.co.augusta.va.us for complete job advertisement and recruitment profile. Send inquires and resumes (three originals) to Augusta County Personnel Office, Attention: Faith Souder, Personnel Director, County of Augusta, P. O. Box 590, Verona, VA 24482-0590, Tel: 540-245-5617; Fax: 540-245-5175, no later than Friday, May 29.

Budget & Finance Director/Isle of Wight

Isle of Wight County seeks an experienced professional to fill the role of Budget & Finance Director. The successful candidate will have comprehensive knowledge of laws and policies governing county financial operations and will oversee accounting, procurement, grants, and payroll activities. Monitors the County's financial position and reports financial status information to the Board of Supervisors. Responsible for preparing and advising the Board of Supervisors

EMPLOYMENT

Continued from page 12

on the overall operating budget. Salary DOQ. Interested candidates should submit an application and resume by 5 p.m. on June 5 to: Human Resources, P.O. Box 80, Isle of Wight, VA 23397. Visit our Web site at www.iwus.net or call us at 757-365-6263.

County Administrator/Amherst County

The County of Amherst is accepting applications for the position of County Administrator. This position serves an elected 5-member Board of Supervisors. The essential functions of this position involve planning, directing and coordinating the overall operation of Amherst County's government as its Chief Administrative Officer and assisting the Board of Supervisors on operations and governance matters. Salary: Depending on qualifications along with a comprehensive and competitive benefits package. A complete job description and an Amherst County application form are available from the Office of the County Administrator, 434.946.9400 or www.countyofamherst.com. Submit a letter of interest, resume, professional references, salary history and a completed Amherst County application to Amherst County Board of Supervisors, P.O. Box 390, 153 Washington Street, Amherst, Va. 24521 by Monday, June 1. Amherst County reserves the right to consider applications received after this date.

Assistant Director of General Services/Isle of Wight County

Isle of Wight County seeks an experienced professional to fill the role of Assistant Director of General Services. The successful candidate will manage the County's Engineering and Public Utilities divisions, including County-owned water systems, sewer systems, construction administration, and engineering functions. Salary DOQ. Interested candidates should submit an application and resume by May 29 to: HR, P.O. Box 80, Isle of

Wight, VA 23397. Visit our Web site at www.iwus.net or 757-365-6263.

Information Technology Director/Isle of Wight County

Isle of Wight County seeks an individual to provide leadership, direction, and oversight to the IT Department. This position manages departmental staff, prepares annual budget, oversees the acquisition of new systems, develops and implements procedures, manages software systems and determines software and hardware needs, and provides comprehensive IT planning and training. The position requires a BS or equivalent in computer science or related field and 5-8 years of progressively responsible experience. Salary DOQ. Interested candidates should submit an application and resume by May 29 to: HR, P.O. Box 80, Isle of Wight, VA 23397. Visit our Web site at www.iwus.net or 757-365-6263.

Social Services Director I/Nelson County Department of Social Services

The duties of the Director include, but are not limited to, planning, organizing, setting objectives, formulating policies, directing and evaluating benefits programs and service programs according to federal and state legislation and local policies; preparing and justifying an operating budget; hiring, promoting, transferring, disciplining, and dismissing employees; working with the local social services board to keep it informed and seek necessary approvals. Minimum starting salary \$41,456, negotiable DOQ. A completed VA Application for Employment must be received by noon Friday, May 29, at PO Box 357, 203 Front Street, Lovingson, VA 22949. A resume may be submitted with the required application. Applications are available at the agency or online at www.dss.virginia.gov. Please indicate the position title on the application. The Nelson County Department of Social Services is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

Director of Community Development/Bedford County

The Director of Community Development will perform difficult

professional and administrative work in directing the activities of the county's Community Development Department, which includes Building Codes Enforcement, Zoning, Natural Resources, Planning and GIS. The Director will be responsible for planning and developing short and long range planning and community development activities, services, and programs. Application, the recruitment package, and job description are available at www.co.bedford.va.us and are also available from the Bedford County Human Resources Office, Bedford County Administration Building, 122 East Main Street, 2nd Floor, Bedford, VA 24523, (540) 586-7601, ext. 1221. Review of applications will begin June 1. Applications will be accepted until position is filled. Annual salary is competitive DOQ.

Fire-EMS Chief/Caroline County

The successful candidate must possess excellent leadership ability, management skills, communication skills and the ability to foster success in a combined system. Must hold and maintain various emergency services related certifications. For further information visit www.visitcaroline.com/employment.html. Salary negotiable, based on qualifications and experience. Excellent benefit package includes participation in the Virginia Retirement System (LEOS), vacation and sick leave, group life insurance, medical insurance, professional dues and conference expenses. Submit completed county application, detailed resume, copies of relevant fire and EMS certifications, copy of driving record, salary history and work related references to County Administrator Percy Ashcraft, P.O. Box 447, Bowling Green, Virginia 22427, (804) 633-5380 or e-mail at pashcraft@co.caroline.va.us. Position open until filled with interviews expected in June. Official Caroline County applications can be downloaded and printed from the County's Web site at www.visitcaroline.com/employment.html.



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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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