

COUNTY CONNECTIONS

The Newsletter of the
Virginia Association of Counties

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October 1, 2011



General Assembly report cautiously optimistic on the economy and revenue growth



Virginia Secretary of Finance Ric Brown

By Dean Lynch
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Virginia Secretary of Finance Ric Brown presented members of the General Assembly's money committees with an economic and revenue outlook for September 2011.

Brown stated that national and state indicators suggest that economic expansion has weakened and the labor market remains weak. The national unemployment rate remains at 9.1 percent through this quarter.

Contrasting the national economic conditions to the Commonwealth's, our economic outlook appears brighter. The Commonwealth added jobs in eight of the last 12 months and the unemployment rate fell 0.7 percent in July 2011 over the previous year (July 2010). The Commonwealth's current unemployment rate is 6.2 percent.

ECONOMY

Continued on page 9

Another year = more mandates



By Ted McCormack
tmccormack@vaco.org

The Commission on Local Government has just released its annual catalog of mandates, and the number of mandates on localities increased yet again.

The 2011 Catalog of State and Federal Mandates on Local Governments shows that the total number of mandates on Virginia local governments increased from 570 mandates in 2010 to 616 mandates in 2011, or by 8 percent. This additional burden comes at a time when counties continue to confront the twin problems of declining local revenues and major reductions in state aid.

The Commission's catalog identified 10 new mandates enacted by the 2011 General Assembly, 15 mandates newly identified through review of statutes and regulations, and 5 existing mandates with expanded requirements. On the positive side, the General Assembly eliminated five mandates, but the impact on localities is likely to be minimal.

What concerns counties the most, however, are the mandates classified in the catalog as Compulsory Orders

– those that require local government compliance regardless of state aid or other circumstances; in other words, unfunded mandates.

Between 2010 and 2011, the number of unfunded mandates grew from 322 mandates to 331 mandates, or by 3 percent. While that increase was less than in years past, it continues a troublesome trend.

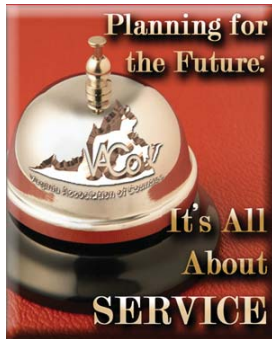
Counties continue to hope that real mandate relief is in the immediate future. Governor Robert F. McDonnell has just announced his appointments to the Task Force for Local Mandate Review, a body created when the 2011 General Assembly enacted SB 1452.

The task force is to review all state mandates on localities and to recommend which of those mandates should be suspended temporarily or repealed. The members of the new task force include Supervisor Pat Herrity of Fairfax County and Supervisor Shaun Kennedy, Fluvanna County's vice-chairman. Two municipal officials,

MANDATES

Continued on page 9

VACo 2011 Annual Conference Update



In addition to such popular events as the cooking demonstration and wine tasting, VACo's 2011 Annual Conference will feature these new programs for guests and spouses:

Spa Demonstration – This is a one-hour class using techniques on how to maintain healthy, radiant skin and in-home skin care. Each guest will be given the products to perform their own in-home facial. Names will be drawn for one guest to receive the facial in the spa during their stay. \$40

Hay Ride – Go on an old-fashioned hay ride aboard The Homestead's tractor-driven hay wagon along private trails. Your destination: a campfire complete with old-fashioned S'mores and plenty of fun! We'll share jokes, sing songs and tell tales in the campfire tradition. Weather permitting; one-hour duration. \$20 Adults, Children \$15 (ages 12 & under)

The programs for guests and spouses are open to everyone. Tickets for these events will be sold during the conference at the VACo's Registration desk.

Very shortly VACo will issue information that should help make arrival and departure from the Homestead a smoother process for conference attendees. For the most up-to-date information about VACo's 2011 Annual Conference please log onto VACo's website. Continual updates on the Annual Conference will also be provided in upcoming issues of County Connections.



VACo's Beau Blevins presents a 2011 Achievement Award to the Roanoke County Board of Supervisors. The award recognized the outstanding work of the county's public information office on an abduction case late last year. Pictured from left to right are Teresa Hamilton Hall, Roanoke County public information director; Penny Lloyd, marketing and information manager, Roanoke County Public Library; Gray Craig, Roanoke County web content manager; and Butch Church, supervisor and chairman of the Roanoke County Board of Supervisors.



VACo's Dean Lynch poses with members of the Botetourt County Board of Supervisors and department of parks and recreation. Lynch presented Botetourt County with a 2011 Achievement Award for its entry titled "Upper James River Water Trail. Pictured from left to right are Dean Lynch, VACo deputy executive director; Pete Peters, Botetourt County director of parks, recreation and tourism; Gerry Burgess, Botetourt County administrator; Don Assaid, supervisor and vice chair; Larry Ceola, supervisor; Terry Austin, supervisor; Stephen Clinton, supervisor.

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Roanoke Police Chief Lavinder announces retirement

Roanoke County Police Chief James R. "Ray" Lavinder recently announced his retirement effective Nov. 1. Chief Lavinder is well-known and respected for his professionalism, leadership, and dedication to the law enforcement profession. He is also one of the longest serving police chiefs in Virginia.

Chief Lavinder, 65, began his law enforcement career in 1972 when he was hired as an officer with the Arlington County Police Department. In 1979, Lavinder left Arlington to begin what would become a long and distinguished career with Roanoke County. His first seven years with the County were spent as a detective. In 1987, he was promoted to lieutenant where he supervised the Detective Bureau.

When the Roanoke County Police Department was formed in 1990, Lavinder was promoted to Captain of the Criminal Investigations Division. In June 1997, Lavinder was selected as Roanoke County Police Chief.

County Administrator Clay

Goodman said Chief Lavinder's pride in the staff is evident. The department has 140 sworn officers and 13 civilian positions. "Under Chief Lavinder's leadership, the department has earned an outstanding reputation. Over the years, he has recruited and hired excellent people. He made training a priority and that emphasis is evident when you look at the department's success over the past 15 years." Some of the department's accomplishments under Chief Lavinder include:

- Construction of a firearms range and driver training center near Dixie Caverns
- Established the Roanoke County Criminal Justice Academy, the first independent training academy in Virginia in nearly 30 years
- Earned and maintained national accreditation from the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies (CALEA)
- Created the school resource officer program in Roanoke County
- Developed one of the best Animal Control programs in the state.



- Animal Control Officers are certified police officers, which is unusual in law enforcement
- Put into place programs to better address cases involving the mentally ill; implemented the first Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) program in Virginia
- Partnered with other local agencies to implement National Incident Management System (NIMS) guidelines
- Worked to improve the Computer

ROANOKE

Continued on page 9

Nissinen hired as Loudoun County's new public affairs and communications officer

Anna K. Nissinen is Loudoun County's new public affairs and communications officer, Loudoun County Administrator Tim Hemstreet recently announced. Nissinen comes to Loudoun from Fairfax County where she served as a senior public information officer.

"Anna is an expert in communications and government relations and has worked extensively with various stakeholders in the public and private sectors, both locally and nationally," Hemstreet said. "We look forward to using her expertise to help Loudoun reach the next level in engaging our residents, businesses and other stakeholders."

In her role with Fairfax County, Nissinen directed communications efforts of multiple county agencies as well as Board of Supervisors-appointed boards, authorities and commissions; served as a designated spokesperson on several countywide issues; supported the county's preparedness, response and

recovery efforts during emergencies; and directed the activities of countywide customer service staff.

Nissinen says she is eager to bring her experience to Loudoun. "As a resident of Loudoun, I am enthusiastic about the opportunity to help the county government better engage and connect with its constituents," she said. "Through effective two-way dialogue, we can provide relevant and timely information, and allow people to truly participate in the operations of their government."

Nissinen's prior experience includes work in communications, media relations, marketing and business development at the Embassy of Finland in Washington, D.C., Ford Motors and Afflink, LLC.

She holds a bachelor of business administration degree from the Helsinki School of Economics and a master of business administration degree from the University of Alabama.



Anna K. Nissinen, Loudoun County's new public affairs and communications officer. (Photo by Lorie Flading)

Statewide partnership with Microsoft providing high school training announced

By Beau Blevins and John Kandris
bblevins@vaco.org and jkandris@vaco.org

Gov. Bob McDonnell and Microsoft Corp announced Sept. 14 that Virginia would launch and implement the Microsoft IT Academy Program at all statewide public high schools. This program provides student and teachers with real-world technology skills and training.

Speaking about the program, Gov. McDonnell said, "In today's global economy, it is essential that our students are prepared for the skilled and technical jobs that are driving job growth and will continue to be important economic drivers in the future. He further stated that "the Microsoft Academy brings greater technology to the classroom and ensures that students in every corner of the Commonwealth have access to a quality technology education."

The Microsoft IT Academy is a comprehensive program that provides

technology education for students, teachers and other professionals. This program spans computer basics to high-level programming and information technology management.

Phase I of the Academy program and teacher-readiness plan is being managed through the Virginia Department of Education. This phase will begin with 30 high schools and nine regional and career technical centers this fall. By the end of the year all high schools are expected to be participating.

Henrico County Supervisor Pat O'Bannon said that "Gov. McDonnell's announcement speaks to the quality of education provided by school divisions all across the Commonwealth. The Microsoft IT Academy Program builds on our commitment to preparing students for the technological jobs and careers of the 21st century."

"I'm particularly proud that Deep Run High School, in my home district of Henrico County, was one of the schools chosen and this will



Microsoft®

complement the classes already being offered there at the Specialty Center for Information Technology," O'Bannon added.

Students will be able to earn certification by completing Microsoft IT Academy coursework and passing industry-recognized certification exams. By spring of 2012, the Virginia Department of Education is recommending that all high schools use the Microsoft IT Academy curriculum in various career and technical education courses.

Click here for a list of schools participating in the program.

Chesapeake Bay Locality Planning Assistance Grants

The Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) is soliciting proposals to establish grant agreements through competitive negotiation for the Chesapeake Bay Watershed Implementation Plan (WIP) Phase II Planning Assistance initiative.

As authorized in the 2010-2016 Commonwealth of Virginia Chesapeake Bay Regulatory and Accountability Program (CBRAP) Work Plan, DCR is making grant funding available in support of the Chesapeake Bay WIP Phase II planning efforts.

Chesapeake Bay Watershed Model information and planning targets have been provided to localities in all planning district commission areas and these funds can be used to review the model information, compare it with data on those best management practices (BMPs) that currently exist and to identify BMP implementation



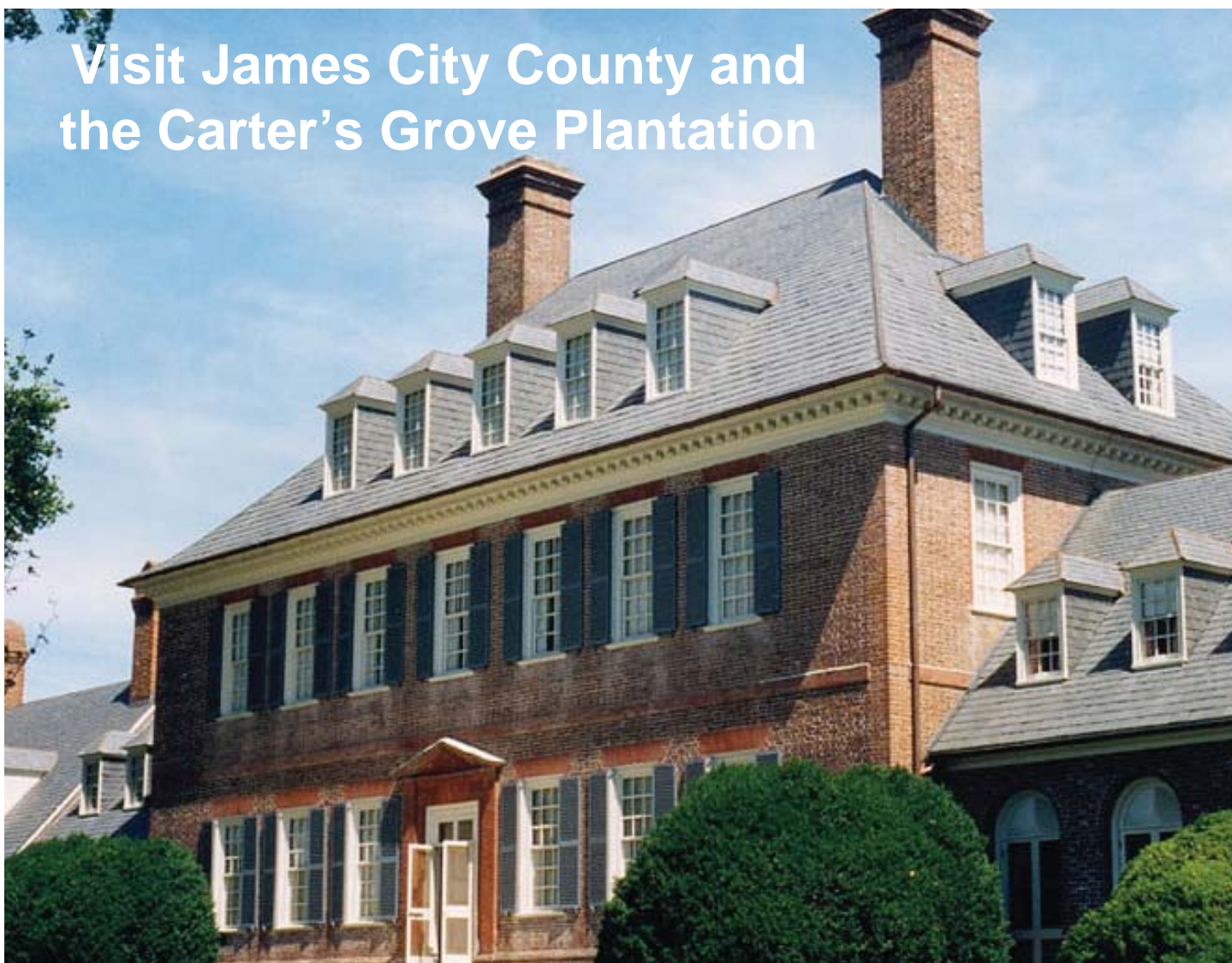
scenarios and local strategies to reduce pollutant loads.

Funding is available to regional planning district commissions, soil and water conservation districts and local government entities throughout Virginia's Chesapeake Bay Watershed.

Eligible activities included in this RFP reflect priorities of Virginia and the Chesapeake Bay Program partnership.

The RFP and guidelines are available here. For more information, contact Gary Waugh, PR manager, DCR, (804) 786-5045.

Visit James City County and the Carter's Grove Plantation



Carter's Grove, also known as Carter's Grove Plantation, is a 750 acre (3 km²) plantation located on the north shore of the James River in the Grove Community of southeastern James City County in the Virginia Peninsula area of the Hampton Roads region of Virginia in the US.

The plantation was built for Carter Burwell, grandson of Robert "King" Carter, and was completed in 1755. It was probably named for both the prominent and wealthy Carter family and nearby Grove Creek. Carter's Grove Plantation was built on the site of an earlier tract known as Martin's Hundred which had first been settled by the English colonists around 1620. In 1976, an archaeological project discovered the site of Wolstenholme Towne, a small settlement downstream a few miles from Jamestown which had been developed in the first 15 years of the Colony of Virginia. The population of the settlement was decimated during the Indian Massacre of 1622.

After hundreds of years of multiple owners and generations of families, and the death of its last resident in 1964, Carter's Grove was added to Colonial Williamsburg Foundation's (CW) properties through a gift from the Rockefeller Foundation in 1969.

Carter's Grove was open to tourists for many years but closed its doors to the public in 2003 while its mission and role in CW's programs were redefined. Later that year, Hurricane Isabel rendered serious damage to Carter's Grove Country Road, which had linked the estate directly to the Historic Area, a distance of 8 miles (13 km), bypassing commercial and public roadways. In an efficiency move, Colonial Williamsburg shifted some of the interpretive programs to locations contiguous to the Historic Area in Williamsburg. The foundation announced in late 2006 that it would be offered for sale, under specific restrictive conditions.

In December 2007, the Georgian style mansion and 476 acres (1.93 km²) were acquired for \$15.3 million by CNET founder Halsey Minor, who has announced plans to use the property as a private residence and a center for a thoroughbred horse breeding program with the Phipps family. A conservation easement on the mansion and 400 of the 476 acres (1.93 km²) is co-held by the Virginia Outdoors Foundation and the Virginia Department of Historic Resources.

Mark Your Calendars



16th Annual Virginia Occupational Safety and Health Conference

Oct. 5-7
 Renaissance Portsmouth Hotel and Waterfront Conference Center
 Portsmouth, VA

At the Virginia Department of Labor and Industry's VOSH Conference you'll discover powerful educational sessions, learn from expert knowledgeable speakers in specialized career fields, explore innovative products and services and connect with other professionals in your field.

Whether you are an industry newcomer, a seasoned professional or somewhere in between, the VOSH Conference can help you reach new heights of knowledge and empowerment for long term success by providing affordable safety and health training opportunities to employers, employees and safety and health professionals.

[Click here for information flyer.](#)

**Virginia Municipal Clerks Association
 34th Annual Municipal Clerk Institute and Academy**



Certified Municipal Clerk Institute
 Oct. 16-21 * \$600

Master Municipal Clerk Academy
 Oct. 18-21 * \$450

Location for both sessions: Sheraton Oceanfront Hotel, for reservations call 1-800-325-3535 and reference Municipal Clerk Institute & Academy.

For both sessions a continental Breakfast will be provided with mid-morning and afternoon breaks. A Thursday recognition luncheon will be available, all other lunches are self-provided. There will be an evening reception on Wednesday.

Municipal Clerk Institute and Academy Data Form

The Governor's Conference on Energy



Wednesday, Oct. 19
9 a.m. - noon
Science Museum of Virginia, Richmond

SPECIAL WORKSHOP FOR Local Government Officials, Waste Management Operations, Project Developers, Investors and Regulators

Industry experts and local government officials will explore and describe the financial and practical drivers that can support waste-to-energy projects and the different types of projects that might be available. Participants will also learn about different technologies coming into the marketplace and what will be necessary for successful commercialization.

Visit the Conference website to register for:

- Waste to Energy Projects Workshop Only (listed as Wednesday Post Conference Workshops - \$30)
- Full Conference Registration (\$175/Government - \$275/Private Corporation)

[View Full Conference Agenda](#)

Biosolids rule approved by State Water Control Board

By Larry Land
lland@vaco.org

At a Sept. 22 meeting, the State Water Control Board approved final regulations pertaining to the land application of biosolids.

The amendments affect three regulations: the Virginia Pollution Abatement Permit Regulation, the Virginia Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Permit Regulation and the Fees for Permits and Certificates Regulation.

This regulatory action was begun in 2008 after transfer of the biosolids regulations from the Department of Health to the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ), and addressed numer-

ous issues of concern to both the regulated community and general public.

DEQ staff had made changes to the proposed regulation to address additional concerns raised during the public comment period held in March and April 2011.

The Board approved the recommended staff changes and also made two additional modifications in the final rule: 1) adding a requirement for a physician's note when an extended setback from an occupied dwelling or property line is requested; and 2) requiring that notification signs posted at land application sites not be removed for 30 days after land application concludes at permitted sites.

The final regulation now enters



the executive branch approval phase, requiring review by the Department of Planning and Budget, the Secretary of Natural Resources, and the governor.

Following Executive Branch approval, the final regulations will be published in the Virginia Register and become effective after a 30-day final adoption period.

A more detailed summary of the biosolids regulation will be forthcoming in future issues of County Connections.

Aid to locality reductions



By Dean Lynch
dlynch@vaco.org

All counties be aware that Oct. 1 is the deadline for localities to submit their planned reductions in Aid to Localities to the Department of Planning and Budget.

Effective October 1, the State Comptroller will begin withholding your locality's rolling stock and recordation tax distributions if you have not notified DPB of your reduction option.

Please contact Dean Lynch with questions and concerns.

October 10 is the deadline for submitting Go Green Scores!



By Larry Land
lland@vaco.org

Fifteen counties have now registered to participate in the Green Government Challenge!

They are the counties of Albemarle, Arlington, Augusta, Charles City, Clarke, Culpeper, Fairfax, Frederick, Hanover, Henrico, Isle of Wight, Prince George, Prince William, Roanoke and Wythe.

This is VACo's third year in participating with the Virginia Municipal League as partner in the Go Green Program.

In 2010, 8 counties compiled the 100 points necessary on the Go Green

Scorecard to achieve certification, and were recognized last year at VACo's Annual Conference.

This year's deadline for submitting Go Green score sheets has been extended to Oct. 10.

To participate in the Go Green Government Challenge and obtain a copy of the scorecard, counties need to register online at www.GoGreenVA.org.

The website is structured to make the process easy for applicants.

The Go Green Initiative was first created by VML for the purpose of promoting sustainability and improving energy efficiency for all local governments.

McDonnell addresses State Board of Education

By Beau Blevins
bblevins@vaco.org

Gov. Bob McDonnell addressed the Virginia State Board of Education on Sept. 22 in Richmond.

Gov. McDonnell advised the board that the Commonwealth still faces “significant budget challenges” but assured that K-12 education would be among the top priorities in spending plan.

This was the governor’s first appearance before the board since taking office. Gov. McDonnell highlighted many of Virginia’s educational achievements since he took office and stated that he looks to include education priorities when he presents his two-year budget in December.

Gov. McDonnell, however, warned the board, “I can only be honest with you and say that we have significant budget challenges.”

He stated that unfunded pension liabilities, infrastructure needs and

several federal mandates would add up to billions of dollars over the next couple years.

The governor charged the board to continue to look for efficiencies.

He called for a greater emphasis on science, math, and technology education over the next two years. Further, Gov. McDonnell stressed the importance of incorporating basic “life skills” classes in high school such as personal finance and financial literacy.

Gov. McDonnell also discussed that he’d like the board to counsel him on ideas such as year-round schooling and allowing local school boards to set their own calendars.

“I know there’s been some discussion in the General Assembly about the Labor Day opening or about the possibility of flexibility for year-round schools,” Gov. McDonnell said. “I’d like your counsel and your advice on that.”

State law allows local school



divisions to open before Labor Day only if they obtain a waiver from the Virginia Department of Education.

Waivers, however, are typically granted to those schools that experience several weather-related closings. Currently, there are 77 school divisions with waivers.

Since more than half of the state’s school systems already have waivers allowing them to open before Labor Day, Gov. McDonnell said, “the exception has now become the rule, so to speak.”

Staying Afloat in the Stormwater Surge

Understanding the New TMDL and Stormwater Requirements in Virginia

Join us for two free webinars covering the new stormwater requirements under the Chesapeake Bay TMDL and the recently amended Virginia Stormwater Regulations. Hear from a cross-section of professionals, local government advisors and representatives of the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation who will explain what changes are coming, when you need to respond, what you may need to do and how you can pay for it all.

Session 1: Oct. 19, 10 a.m. - noon

Local Government Involvement under the New Bay TMDL

Session 2: Nov. 30, 10 a.m. - noon

Virginia Stormwater Regulations

Click here for the flyer for more information or to register.

**Staying Afloat
in the Stormwater Surge**

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Sponsors:
SANDS ANDERSON, WCOY, VML, JOYCE PlanVirginia

Both webinars are intended for Virginia localities and other public entities, as well as local planners and professionals seeking to understand the requirements of the recently Chesapeake Bay TMDL and amended Stormwater Regulations. The webinars are sponsored by Sands Anderson, P.C., and Joyce Engineering and co-sponsored by the Virginia Association of Counties, Virginia Municipal League and PlanVirginia.

Session 1: October 19, 10:00 a.m. - noon
Local Government Involvement under the New Bay TMDL

- Background and overview of Bay restoration efforts and how we got to the TMDL
- Review of Phase I of the Virginia Watershed Implementation Plan
- Discussion of implementation of Phase II of the Virginia WIP
 - Who has to do what and by when
 - What is being asked of local governments right now
 - Potential costs

Session 2: November 30, 10:00 a.m. - noon
Virginia's Stormwater Regulations

- Background and overview of amendments to Virginia Stormwater Regulations
- Local plan requirements and costs
- Potential changes for regulated localities and potential costs of compliance
- Potential funding options

Leaders and panelists:

- M. Ann-Neil Cosby, Esq., Sands Anderson PC
- L.E. "Butch" Joyce, P.E., Joyce Engineering, Inc.
- Lee Hill, Joyce Engineering, Inc.
- Joseph H. Maroon, Maroon Consulting, LLC
- Joan K. Salwell, Division Director, Division of Chesapeake Bay Local Assistance, Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation
- James Davis-Martin, Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation
- Edward "Ted" F. Cole, III, Senior Vice President, Davenport & Company, LLC

The webinar will be broadcast over the internet and log in instructions will be sent to all registrants the week of each session.

THIS IS A FREE SESSION, YOU WILL NOT NEED TO ENTER YOUR CREDIT CARD DATA. WE RESPECT YOUR PRIVACY AND YOUR EMAIL AND ADDRESS ARE NEVER SHARED.

Register here:
https://secure.sandsanderson.com/register_for/stormwater-webinars2011.html

MANDATES

Continued from page 1

as well as a member of a local school board, are also on the panel.

Local officials also recall the governor’s pledge during his campaign that he would veto or amend any bill that placed an unfunded mandate on localities. While no significant unfunded mandate enacted during his term has been vetoed or amended, his legislative initiative for the 2011 session included the successful elimination of five relatively minor mandates. Further, his Commission on Government Reform and Restructuring has proposed some steps toward mandate relief, but

they remain to be implemented.

Counties have the opportunity to provide input to the Commission on Local Government on the fiscal impact of selected mandates each year. State agencies are required to post certain mandates for local government comment annually.

The mandates are selected according to a process posted on the Commission’s website, which includes the ability for VACo and VML to assist in the selection process.

While your county’s most onerous mandate may not be one designated for assessment, it is important that localities use the process to document any concerns.

ROANOKE

Continued from page 3

Aided Dispatch (CAD) system and related reporting programs

- Aided in the transition to a digital radio communications system
- Advocated for in-car cameras and computers for patrol cars

During the December 2010 search for 12-year-old Brittany Smith, the normally media-shy Lavinder became the public face of the investigation recognizing the importance of enlisting the media’s help to find the abducted child.

After the girl was safely returned, Chief Lavinder received praise for his leadership during the crisis.

George Austin, a captain with the Virginia State Police, has known Lavinder for nearly 30 years. “He’s a real leader and he certainly was in that case. He ran the show but gave the credit to everyone else. That’s Ray, he’s a Police Chief and also a gentleman. And while he’s real quiet, everyone respects Ray Lavinder. When he talks, people listen. He will be hard to replace.”

Chief Lavinder is active in the Virginia Association of Police Chiefs and served as President from 2007-2008.

He has served on the Board of

the Roanoke Valley Mental Health Association for eight years. For his work in this area, he was recognized by Gov. Mark Warner and appointed to serve on a state-wide committee to study the transportation of mentally ill persons. He has served on the Board for Court Community Corrections for 14 years and was appointed to serve on the Board of the Virginia Department of Criminal Justice Services in 2006.

Chief Lavinder served one tour in Vietnam with the US Army. From 1966-67, he served with the 716 MP Battalion - one of the most decorated units in the Military Police Corps.

He has a Bachelor of Science degree in Social Science from Virginia Commonwealth University and a Master of Science degree in Forensic Science from George Washington University. He is a graduate of the 155th session of the FBI National Academy.

The Chief and his wife have one grown son. They plan to continue to live in Roanoke County. Assistant Chief Terrell Holbrook will become acting chief upon Lavinder’s retirement. It is uncertain how long the search will take until a permanent replacement is named.

ECONOMY

Continued from page 1

activity declined 33 percent in August 2011 compared to the previous year (August 2010).

The Commonwealth’s total general fund revenue collections increased 4.7 percent through August 2011, which is ahead of the economic based forecast of 3.5 percent revenue growth (adjusted for the AST-accelerated sales tax).

On a year to date basis, collections increased 8.4 percent ahead of the annual estimate of a 3.4 percent increase in revenue collections. Adjusting for AST-accelerated sales tax, sales tax collections grew a meager 0.1 percent through August, lagging the economic based forecast of 2.5 percent.

Brown summarized that total FY 2012 revenue collections from July 2011 through August 2011 grew 6.7 percent (adjusted for the AST-accelerated sales tax) while the annual estimate is 3.5 percent, reflecting a variance of 3.2 percent.

VACo will continue to keep our counties comprised of quarterly changes to the revenue growth.



“Virginia—An Emerging Leader in the Nation’s Local Food Movement”

The September issue of The Virginia News Letter features an article on the local food movement in Virginia.

The author, Tanya Denckla Cobb, Associate Director of U.Va.’s Institute for Environmental Negotiation, is an expert on the local food movement and has recently published Reclaiming Our Food: How the Grass Roots Movement is Changing What We Eat.

Her newsletter article, which is well documented, contains a wealth of examples of ongoing programs in Virginia and references to people involved.

[Click here to see the article.](#)

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E-mail gharter@vaco.org.**

King School of Medicine moving forward

By Debra McCown
Bristol Herald Courier
(Reprinted with Permission)

Medical students will likely begin attending classes here in 2013 or 2014, King College President Greg Jordan said Friday.

That's when the new King School of Medicine and Health Sciences Center is expected to open in the Stone Mill business park off Interstate 81's Exit 14 in Abingdon.

Officials from the college, Washington County and the town of Abingdon gathered Friday to sign an agreement detailing their commitment to the project, which, according to the college, could ultimately have an annual economic impact of \$1 billion.

The announcement that the project is moving forward comes two years after Jordan first articulated his vision for a medical school in Southwest Virginia – and about a year after the town and county offered financial support if Abingdon was chosen as its location.

Deal signed

On Friday, the town and county formally committed to help fund the project, which is also expected to receive \$25 million from the Virginia Tobacco Commission.

The county and town each agreed to commit \$7.5 million to the project, with the county's contribution being given in cash and the town's coming in the form of 36 acres of land and \$3.5 million.

King College also has an option to purchase 15 adjoining acres from Highlands Union Bank.

When the Washington County Board of Supervisors voted to approve the agreement Friday, Chairman Dulcie Mumpower responded with one word: "Hallelujah."

"There's been a lot of challenges along the way that have been dealt with," she said. "It's kind of been like a



roller-coaster ride."

When the Abingdon Town Council followed with its unanimous approval, the vote was met by applause.

"It's been a long two years," said Town Councilman Jason Berry, "but a great day."

County Attorney Lucy Phillips said the deal includes requirements that the college must meet before any public money is released – including a seven-year operating budget, updated as it goes forward, and meeting necessary milestones in the accreditation process. Jordan said the former Johnston Memorial Hospital in downtown Abingdon will not be used for the project.

Food City recently announced plans to use the old hospital site for its new corporate headquarters, and Food City President and CEO Steve Smith said Friday that the new office building will likely open in 2013. Smith said progress will probably start next month to prepare the old hospital building for demolition, with construction of Food City's new building to begin in early 2012.

Economic impact

Mayor Ed Morgan said the

medical school announcement marked the start of "a new era in the history of Southwestern Virginia."

Two years ago, he said, he was as shocked as everyone else when the Tobacco Commission endorsed the project, which then seemed like "pie in the sky."

But with the potential to impact the region even a century into the future, town and county officials started talking about how they could attract the medical school.

"Given the scale of this venture, it's probably remarkable that it came together in just two years," he said. Morgan said the town could expect to see some 200 jobs and \$1.3 million in annual revenue from the project. He expressed pride in local leaders for thinking far into the future.

According to the college, the town will realize a \$27 million economic impact to the town from construction alone.

"In challenging economic times, it is tempting for community leaders to think small," he said, referencing the fast-food restaurants, big-box stores and

MEDICAL SCHOOL

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MEDICAL SCHOOL

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truck stops that have presented themselves as controversial economic development projects in recent years.

“What is far more difficult and far more productive is for community leadership to not be an ordinary place.”

With the medical school project, he said, town and county leaders have boldly taken hold of their destiny and resolved to make it a place defined by the arts, science, technology and medicine.

Mumpower said the medical school is the latest positive announcement for the community after the openings of a new hospital and regional artisan center along with the announcement that Food City will build its new headquarters in Abingdon.

“Through this agreement we are forever linked with Abingdon in making perhaps the most significant decision either of us has made in the history of our county and our town,” Mumpower said.

She said construction of the medical school is likely to bring \$91 million into the county and 661 jobs. When the school is up and running, she said, the county is likely to see the addition of 250 jobs and, within seven years, a \$26 million annual impact.

According to the college, in 10 years the county could see 489 direct and indirect jobs created by the medical school, with 108 jobs created for Abingdon.

“Studies show that potential economic impact for the region increases to as much as \$1 billion once the school, an affiliated research campus and a medical corridor that is likely to develop around the medical school reach their full productivity by 2035,” according to a statement from the college. “Other benefits include new neighborhoods, schools, retail, banking and commercial opportunities to support the anticipated increase in population.”

Improving access

Jordan said part of the school’s purpose will be to help address the anticipated shortage of 6,500 doctors by



DEBRA MCCOWN/BRISTOL HERALD COURIER - King College President Greg Jordan speaks about the new medical school coming to Washington County.

2020 in the southern highlands region of Central Appalachia.

That region includes more than 40 medically underserved counties and communities in Southwest Virginia, Northeast Tennessee, Eastern Kentucky, Western North Carolina and Southern West Virginia.

The vision, Jordan said, includes the chance to train medical providers committed to serving in rural areas.

“Our goal is to complement what the Quillen College of Medicine [in Johnson City, Tenn.] is doing ... and to bring even more students to the region and to encourage them to practice medicine when they graduate in the region,” he said.

He said a part of the planning process also includes a network of clinics, operated on a not-for-profit model, to both train students and improve health-care access.

These, he said, will work with existing clinics and health-care providers to improve medical care access in areas with an expressed need.

Rachel Fowlkes, executive director of the Southwest Virginia Higher Education Center, said her facility will partner with King and Virginia Highlands Community College to create a unique educational opportunity.

Students in the region will have the ability to graduate from high school, attend the community college, finish their bachelor’s degree through the education center and then go on to medical school, all within the same complex, she said.

“I believe things happen for a reason,” said VHCC President Ron Proffitt, echoing Fowlkes’ commitment to the way the three educational institutions might work together. “The importance of education has never been more critical than it is now, and the value of community members working together has never been more vital to our growth than it is today.”

“And right here in our region, the spotlight on medical education and the future of health care is brighter than it ever has been because of King College and what it is accomplishing in its move today.”

Local Cooperation

The medical school project also marks a new moment in town-county relations, after a planned joint project not so far in the past – the development of a joint sports complex – ended in a lawsuit when negotiations fell apart.

“I think the future is bright for our working relationship between the town and county,” said Mumpower. “We all need each other in order to survive.” Morgan said town officials never could have predicted a decade ago when they invested in the Stone Mill park – primarily as a place to locate a small business incubator – that it would some day be home to a medical school. “I do believe the town is going to be developing an additional business and technology park in the immediate future,” he said.

Click here for an update (Sept. 29) to the story.

Employment Opportunities

Employment ads are edited due to space considerations.

To view the full versions, visit www.vaco.org and click on the employment link on the top left corner.

Director of Public Works/City of Lexington

This position oversees the street maintenance, storm drainage, refuse collection, equipment maintenance, water distribution, sewer collection, engineering, cemetery and related operations of a City Of 7,000 residents, with a department consisting of 42 employees. The starting salary for this position is from \$53,000-\$65,000 DOQ/DOE (+) benefits. Application forms are available in the Human Resource Office, City Hall, 300 East Washington Street, Lexington, VA 24450, or at www.ci.lexington.va.us. Applications must be returned to the Human Resource Office by 5 p.m. on Friday, Oct. 28.

**Regional Special Needs Planner/
Hampton Roads Planning District
Commission**

Starting salary range: \$41,000 – \$50,000, DOQ.
The HRPDC, one of 21 Planning District Commissions in the Commonwealth of Virginia, is a regional organization representing the area's local governments in the Hampton Roads region of Virginia and serves over 1.6 million people in 16 jurisdictions. Full description is available at www.hrpdcva.gov/Employment.asp. Resumes should be sent to Kelli Peterson, Human Resources Administrator, Hampton Roads Planning District Commission, 723 Woodlake Drive, Chesapeake, Virginia 23320 or by e-mail to kpeterson@hrpd-cva.gov. Closing date: Oct. 14.

**Director of Finance and Personnel/
New River Valley Planning District
Commission**

This position leads the financial management program and assists with the Human Resource duties of a regional

planning agency that serves 12 governments and two universities in the New River Valley of Virginia. Hiring range is \$34,600 to \$54,000 depending on qualifications. Excellent benefits package. For consideration please submit a cover letter and resume by 5 p.m. on Oct. 21 to Executive Director at 6580 Valley Center Drive, Suite 124, Radford, VA 24141 or by e-mail to kbyrd@nrpdc.org. E.O.E. For full job announcement and to learn more about the Planning District Commission and the region please visit www.nrpdc.org and www.explorenewrivervalley.com.

Chief of Police/Town of Herndon

Department head position responsible for leading a nationally accredited, modern department consisting of 55 sworn and 15 support personnel with a \$8.6M budget. Herndon is a progressive, ethnically diverse jurisdiction, population 23,600, 4.28 square miles, located near Dulles International Airport in a growing, high-tech area of western Fairfax County. Requirements include: A bachelor's degree (master's preferred) in criminal justice, police administration, business management or closely related field and graduate of the FBI National Academy, Southern Police Institute or equivalent; minimum of five years of progressively responsible professional law enforcement administration experience in a jurisdiction of a similar or larger size, with 10+ years preferred; or an equivalent combination of education, training and experience. Town application required. Salary \$125,000-137,000 DOQ. Closing date: Oct. 28. For additional information and application, call 703/481-1185, e-mail jobs@herndon-va.gov or visit www.herndon-va.gov.

**Purchasing Agent (Part-Time)/
Caroline County**

High school diploma or equivalent required (bachelor's degree in business, public administration or related field preferred) with at least two (2) years' governmental or industrial purchasing experience preferred and certification

in public or private purchasing (CPPO, CPPB or C.P.M.) desired – OR – Any equivalent combination of education, experience and/or training sufficient to demonstrate the knowledge, skills and abilities is acceptable. Position pay range is \$22-\$23/hr, DOQ. Average 24-32 hrs/wk. To obtain an application, contact HR Manager, Lesley Moore at 804/633-2427 or at 212 North Main Street, Bowling Green, VA 22427 or visit the County's web site at www.visitcaroline.com/employment.html. A completed County application must be submitted to the County Administrator's Office, P.O. Box 447, Bowling Green, VA 22427 no later than 5 pm on Oct. 21.

City Manager/City of Salisbury, N.C.

The historic City of Salisbury, located 35 miles northeast of Charlotte in the Piedmont region of North Carolina, invites applications from highly skilled candidates to serve as the City's next City Manager. The City operates with an approved FY 2012 budget of \$69 million and a workforce of 470. Vacancy created by retirement of long-term Manager. The salary for the position is negotiable within a range of \$135,000 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 five (5) 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 Oct. 16. For a complete community/position profile related to the position please visit www.springsted.com.

**Purchasing Director/James City
County**

James City County #125
\$71,145 or higher, DOQ + benefits
Financial and Management Services

EMPLOYMENT

Continued from page 12

seeking individual to perform advanced professional and administrative work planning, organizing, and directing all phases of the procurement, contracts, and inventory control functions for James City County, Williamsburg/James City County Public Schools and other agencies, including James City Service Authority. Position directs and manages staff and all phases of centralized purchasing operation to include the acquisition of all supplies, materials, equipment, contractual and professional services; develops, implements, and maintains policies, procedures, and communication with stakeholders to ensure the purchasing function is carried out legally, efficiently, and professionally; promotes communication and good will among stakeholders by maintaining relationships that foster and prove a timely flow of information among staff, management and users. To download required application visit www.jccgov.com. Accepting applications until 5 p.m. on Oct. 14.

Law Clerk/Tazewell County

Under the direction of the County Attorney, the law clerk will provide legal services on a broad range of matters related to County business. Compensation will depend on experience, starting at \$32,000.00/year for approximately 32 hours/week. The clerkship will expire and the position will be eliminated at the end of December 2012. Send resume, writing sample, and a cover letter to County Attorney, 108 East Main Street, Tazewell, VA 24651. Applications will be processed immediately and accepted until the position is filled. Disclosure of disciplinary record and background check are required.

Purchasing Agent/City of Falls Church

The City of Falls Church is recruiting for a Purchasing Agent. This position is responsible for directing the City's centralized purchasing activity for the procurement and disposal

of all of the commodities; acquisition of professional, consultant, and other contractual services. Salary or Salary & Benefits: \$59,447 +, depending on qualifications. Includes comprehensive benefits package including health insurance, dental insurance, pension plan, deferred compensation plan, flexible spending account, college savings plan, life and long-term disability insurance, paid holidays, vacation and sick leave, free parking, credit union membership, and more. See www.fallschurchva.gov for additional information. To Apply: Submit a resume or application to the City of Falls Church, Human Resources Division, 300 Park Avenue, Falls Church, VA 22046, or via e-mail at hr@fallschurchva.gov.

City Manager/City of Manassas

The historic City of Manassas (pop 37,821), located approximately thirty miles southwest of Washington, D.C., invites applications from highly skilled candidates to fill the position of City Manager. The salary for the position is negotiable within a range of \$160,000 to \$175,000 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 five (5) 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 Oct. 15. Interviews will begin in late October with a mid-December 2011 start date for the new City Manager. For a complete profile related to the position, please visit www.springsted.com.

Workforce Development Director/Region 2000 Partnership

The Region 2000 Partnership seeks an energetic leader to coordinate the region's Workforce Development Program. Communications, planning, interpersonal relations skills are vital in a diverse and changing community. A minimum 5 years successful leadership experience working with business, education, government and boards is expected. A Master's degree

is preferred. Letters of interest and the Region 2000 employment application are required for employment consideration. Forms are due by Oct. 25 to mgilley@region2000.org. Information and application at www.region2000.org/jobs.

Budget Management Analyst/Hanover County

Hanover County, one of only 34 counties in the United States with a triple AAA bond rating, is seeking an experienced professional to join the Finance and Management Services Team. The incumbent will be developing, performing analysis, and monitoring operating and capital budgets to ensure financial resources are available to provide County services. For more information and to apply, please visit www.hanovercountyjobs.com or call 804-365-6489.

President/Thomas Jefferson Partnership for Economic Development

Salary negotiable up to \$120,000, DOQ plus excellent benefits. Submit letter of application, detailed résumé with employment and salary history and five (5) work related references to: John A. Anzivino, Senior Vice President Springsted Incorporated 1564 East Parham Road Richmond, VA 23228 Fax: 804-726-9752 E-mail: Richmond@Springsted.com Deadline is Oct. 13. For a full profile describing the region and the position, please visit www.springsted.com.

Emergency Management Coordinator/Gloucester County

Full time with benefits. Salary Range: \$53,788-\$80,682. Requires minimum of bachelor's degree in emergency management, public safety, or a related field, and 3-5 years of progressively responsible public sector disaster or emergency management experience. Must pass a post-offer, pre-employment physical and drug screen. Visit our website at www.gloucesterva.jobs for complete details and to apply online. Application Deadline: Sept. 30.



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