

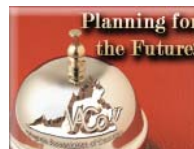
COUNTY CONNECTIONS

The Newsletter of the
Virginia Association of Counties

October 15, 2011



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VACo releases 2012 Preliminary Legislative Program



By Ted McCormack
tmccormack@vaco.org

The Preliminary 2012 Legislative Program is now posted on VACo's website. The document includes a host of important and timely proposed policy statements on issues critical to Virginia's counties.

The new legislative program is to be adopted during the annual conference at the Homestead in Bath County. VACo's eight steering committees will finalize and adopt their policy sections on Sunday, Nov. 13. The Resolutions Committee will ratify the program on Monday, Nov. 14, and the VACo membership will adopt the program during the annual business meeting on Tuesday, Nov. 15.

Click here for the meeting schedule and information on the development and adoption of the annual legislative program.

Contact Dean Lynch for more information about VACo's legislative process: dlynch@vaco.org or 804-343-2511.

VACo presents governor its list of top mandates of concern to counties



By Ted McCormack
tmccormack@vaco.org

County supervisors recently received an announcement from Gov. Robert F. McDonnell about the creation of his Task Force for Local Government Mandate Review. This five-member task force was appointed to review state mandates imposed on localities and to recommend temporary suspension or permanent repeal of such mandates.

The message urged local officials to provide the task force with a list of state mandates that they believe should be modified or eliminated. The governor also indicated that he had received a VACo list of burdensome mandates, especially unfunded ones, which the state dictates to counties.

Listed below are the mandates that VACo sent to the governor at his request late last month. This same list was presented by former VACo President Phillip Bradshaw to the Intergovernmental Relations Committee of the Reform Commission on Aug. 4, 2010.

While this is not an exhaustive inventory of all burdensome mandates

imposed on counties, it includes the top mandates identified by VACo's leadership.

For further information, contact [Ted McCormack](#) or [Dean Lynch](#).

Aid to localities

Reverse the \$120 million biennial reduction in aid to localities.

Line of Duty Act

Delete local funding requirement for Line of Duty benefit. The 2010 General Assembly included budget language transitioning the Line of Duty benefit in FY 2012 from a fully state funded program to one paid by local governments and state agencies. The program is administered by the state, and many local governments opting to self-fund need the authorization to administer the program.

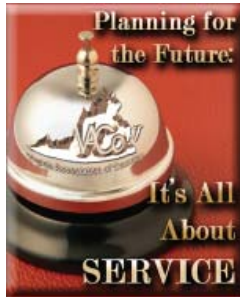
Public Education

-Review the Standards of Learning, the

MANDATES

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VACo 2011 Annual Conference Update



If you're attending VACo's Annual Conference here are a few helpful suggestions we'd like you to consider.

- When you arrive, please remember that the bellman and doormen at the Homestead work for tips and are not compensated through any service fees collected by the hotel. These individuals should be rewarded at the guests' discretion for their superior service.
- Valet parking is included in the 15 percent daily charge that is automatically added to your room rates.
- Check-in time for your room is 4 p.m. or later and checkout time is before noon. Express checkout is available and you may settle your room account by using your credit card.
- Seating for dinner reservations is available in the dining room starting at 6:30 p.m. and Sam Snead's (casual attire) is open from 5:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. The Homestead's 1766 Grille seatings begin at 6 p.m. until 9 p.m. and the Casino (also casual attire) will also be available beginning at 6-9 p.m.

In recent years the Homestead has doubled its seating capacity in the main dining room. Reservations are required for all restaurants. You must provide the names of all individuals in your party.

In addition, a credit card is needed for reservations of more than eight people. Please do not double book reservations so others may have the opportunity to make arrangements.

Here are a few tips to make arrival and departure from the Homestead work out more smoothly.

UPON ARRIVAL

1. The Doormen will give each guest a Valet Parking ticket for the car or you may park in the complimentary parking lots at the top of the hill.

2. The Doormen will give each guest a luggage ticket - TAKE THIS TO THE FRONT DESK.
3. Proceed to the Front Desk to check in with the resort.
4. You will need a credit card & photo ID & your luggage claim ticket.
5. If your room is ready, you will receive your room keys and hotel ID cards, the bellstand will deliver your luggage to your room.
6. If your room is NOT ready, you will receive a temporary ID card for charging purposes. Luggage will be stored until room is ready.
7. Please provide a cell phone number if you would like to be called when your room is available. Check In begins at 4 p.m. and most rooms will be ready for check in at this time.
8. Luggage delivery will take approximately 20 minutes, depending on the flow of guests arriving around the same time.

DAY OF DEPARTURE: BY NOON

1. To order your car for departure
 - Call the Transportation Department directly at Ext. 57711.
 - Allow 15 minutes prior to departure for your car to be delivered at the front drive
 - Please keep in mind that PEAK DEPARTURE will be between the hours of 11 a.m. and 1 p.m., you may experience a wait of up to 30 minutes.
 - As a reminder, we are unable to leave cars unattended in the front of the resort, due to the flow of arrivals and departures. Please call for your car when you are ready to depart.
2. Luggage pick up
 - Please call the Bellstand directly by pressing the "Bellstand Button" on your guest room phone, or Ext. #57571.
 - Place all luggage inside your guest room by the door for the bellstand.
 - Your luggage may be retrieved on the front porch, please speak to a Doorman for assistance with departure and notify the Doorman if you have golf clubs to load.
3. Check Out - you will receive a copy of your charges under your door the last night of your stay.
 - You may check out of your guest room via the television by going to guest services.
 - You may leave your Express Check Out card (located in your key packet) at the Front Desk in the Express Check Out Box
 - You may check out directly with the Front Desk. Please keep in mind that PEAK DEPARTURE TIME will be from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., during which you may experience an extended wait time.

BILL SPLITTING

Separate billing for room, the Daily Resort Charge, the Modified American Plan (MAP) and related taxes will be provided for each conference attendee staying at the Homestead. Expenses for spouse, guests and children as well as incidentals will be included on a separate bill. For more information about bill splitting, please request assistance from the Homestead's registration counter when you check into the hotel.

VML and VACo to host delinquent collections seminar



On Oct. 25, VML and VACo will host a delinquent collections seminar at the Omni Hotel in Richmond.

Local government finance officials will hear from leading industry groups on the "best practices" in debt collection, including existing state and local tools for delinquent revenue collections, elements of a successful tax amnesty program, and the legal requirements for establishing a tax amnesty program.

Sallie Mae will present on the "best practices" in delinquent revenue collections from a national perspective.

Presentations on existing state tools for delinquent collections will be made by DMV's Assistant Commissioner for Driver, Vehicle and Data Management Services and by the Virginia Department of Taxation's Assistant Commissioner for Compliance.

The Honorable Frank O'Leary will talk about "best practices" employed by his Treasurer's Office for Arlington County. And, the Treasurer for the City of Philadelphia is expected to talk about his city's tax amnesty program.

Click here to register online. Click here for registration form.

Please note that Treasurers and their staff can earn CEU credit for attending the collections seminar.

Gloucester hires real estate assessor

Gloucester County Administrator, Brenda Garton has announced the hiring of Rod Compton as Gloucester County's Real Estate Assessor at an annual salary of \$91,000.

Compton has over 18 years of real estate and appraisal experience including the development of models and methodologies for the valuation and assessment of residential, commercial, industrial, multi-family, and agricultural properties.

He has served as Prince George County Assessor since April 2006 having previously worked eleven years as a commercial appraiser in the private sector.

He is a Virginia Certified General Real Estate Appraiser, member of the Virginia Association of Assessing Officers (VAAO), as well as the International Association of Assessing

Officers (IAAO) and is a candidate for the Certified Assessment Evaluator (CAE) designation from the IAAO.

Compton has a Bachelor of Business Administration in Finance with a real estate concentration from James Madison University. He will complete his Master's Degree in Real Estate Valuation from Virginia Commonwealth University this month.

Garton said, "I am excited to be able to hire an individual of Mr. Compton's caliber as our new Real Estate Assessor. His depth of experience and ability to provide progressive leadership in real estate assessment will serve our county now and in the future."

Compton, who officially began his duties on Sept. 1, expressed his pleasure at coming to Gloucester. "I am both honored and excited about



the opportunity to serve the Board of Supervisors, administration, and citizens of Gloucester County. I look forward to working with the dedicated and professional staff in the Real Estate Assessment Office."

Romanchyk hired as Loudoun County Controller

Janet Romanchyk is the new Loudoun County Controller, Mark Adams, Director of the Department of Management and Financial Services, recently announced.

Romanchyk, who began her new position Sept. 19, most recently worked in Fauquier County where she had been Finance Director since 2009.

She began her service with Fauquier County in 2003 as a budget analyst for the school system before moving to the Fauquier County government as Assistant Finance Director in 2004. Previous to that, she was the financial manager for Oswego County Opportunities, a nonprofit organization, in Fulton, N.Y.

Romanchyk received a bachelor's degree in accounting from Empire State College in New York; a bachelor's degree in public justice from the State University of New York at Oswego, New York; and a master's in public administration from George Mason University.



Romanchyk is also an active member of the Virginia Government Finance Officers Association and is a member of both the education and conference committees of that organization.



"Higher Education as the Engine of the American Economy"

The October issue of *The Virginia News Letter* features an article on how academic research promotes economic growth.

The author, **Teresa A. Sullivan**, is President of the University of Virginia.

She states, "Our colleges and universities have the necessary elements of human talent, a culture of cross-disciplinary collaboration, and a long view perspective, to lead to a new, sustained renaissance in American innovation and economic growth."

[Click here](#) to see this important article.

Roanoke Parks, Recreation and Tourism director honored

The Virginia Recreation and Park Society (VRPS) this week presented one of its most prestigious awards to Roanoke County's longtime Director of Parks, Recreation and Tourism.

Pete Haislip received the organization's Distinguished Service Award during the group's annual conference in Norfolk.

The Distinguished Service Award is presented each year to a VRPS member with at least 10 years of experience who has demonstrated leadership and innovation at both the community and regional levels in the parks and recreation field.

Earlier this year, Haislip announced his plans to retire from Roanoke County in March 2012. While Haislip has spent the last 18 years of his career with Roanoke County, he previously worked at the Prince William County Park Authority in Northern Virginia.

Jim Stutts, CEO of the Virginia Recreation and Parks Society, has known Haislip for more than 35 years. "I can't think of a more deserving person to receive this recognition from his professional colleagues. He's a good friend and an exceptional professional. He's definitely left the parks and recreation field better than when he started."

The Distinguished Service Award has been presented by the VRPS for the past 40 years.

It is one of only two individual honors given by the VRPS each year. Haislip was nominated by the staff of Roanoke County's Parks, Recreation and Tourism Department.

During the conference, Roanoke County's Parks, Recreation and Tourism Department also received the Best Promotional Effort award for a promo circular or flyer in the 50,000 to 100,000 population category.



LEAD VIRGINIA accepting applications for Class of 2012

LEAD VIRGINIA, a statewide leadership forum which celebrated its five-year anniversary in 2010 is accepting applications for its upcoming 2012 class.

LEAD VIRGINIA is a non-partisan, nonprofit educational forum which has been widely recognized for connecting Virginia's proven leaders across the Commonwealth.

Each year *LEAD VIRGINIA* selects a group of 45 senior executives representing business, government, nonprofit and education sectors from throughout the Commonwealth.

The annual program consists of seven informative visits to different regions of the Commonwealth to explore curriculum themes of the economy, education and healthcare

Participants gain a 360-degree perspective of the Commonwealth, its issues and challenges, and learn through a study of trends and analysis how Virginia can best position itself for future economic vitality and educational and workforce performance

at regional and statewide levels.

Class members are exposed to challenges facing seven diverse regions and gain an understanding of the resources, assets and mutual interdependence of the regions.

The class program includes a monthly visit to a different region beginning in April and concluding in November.

For an application, 2012 class schedule or more information about *LEAD VIRGINIA*, please visit www.leadvirginia.org or e-mail Susan Horne, President & CEO at shorne@leadva.org. The deadline for class of 2012 applications is Jan. 15, 2012.

About *LEAD VIRGINIA*

LEAD VIRGINIA was incorporated as a charitable and educational organization in March 2005 and is patterned after similar models of statewide leadership programs across the nation. Led by a board of directors composed of business, education, government, nonprofit and community leaders from



across Virginia, *LEAD VIRGINIA* uses a proven model for developing a statewide network of leaders by engaging academic, business, civic and government advisors to educate class members on the wide range of key issues in Virginia. 2011 sustaining sponsors of the program include Altria, Bon Secours Richmond Health System, HCA Virginia and Norfolk Southern. Additional sponsors include Dominion, Northrop Grumman, as well as Verizon, Columbia Gas, MWV, Wells Fargo, Virginia Business Magazine and XO Communications. More information about *LEAD VIRGINIA* can be found at www.leadvirginia.org.



Visit New Kent County and Colonial Downs

Colonial Downs is Virginia’s only pari-mutuel horse racetrack, and it’s located in New Kent County at Exit 214 off I-64. The track features a summer thoroughbred racing season, a fall harness racing season, and an ever growing year-round slate of special events.

Eighty percent of the summer thoroughbred races are held over the Secretariat Turf Course, which at 180 feet wide, is the widest grass surface of any track in North America. The 1¼ mile dirt track is the country’s second largest, next to Belmont’s. The large dirt track enables harness horses to pace or trot a one mile distance while encountering just one turn, the only track anywhere to offer this unique configuration.

The Virginia Derby is Colonial’s annual showcase event. The 2011 Virginia Derby is held July 16, the \$600,000 Grade II event draws over 9,000 fans to the New Kent oval. Thoroughbred racing’s top three year old turf horses, along with the sport’s top jockeys and trainers compete 1¼ miles in the Virginia Derby.

Summer racing is held on Wednesday, Thursday, Saturday and Sunday in June and July. Races begin at 5 p.m. during the week and Saturday, 1 p.m. on Sunday. A two-day “Racing to the Stars & Stripes” Festival is held on July 2-3 featuring horse racing, a patriotic concert and fireworks with racing starting at 5 p.m.

Fall harness races begin in September 17 and continue through Nov. 5. Opening weekend festivities coincide with the New Kent County Fair, which also is held at Colonial Downs.

In mid-October, the country’s top trotters are invited to Colonial Downs to compete in the \$40,000 Patriot Invitational and several weeks later, top Virginia-bred pacers and trotters compete in the annual “Day of Champions” event.

SOURCE: www.colonialdowns.com



Mark Your Calendars



Seminar on Strategies to Improve Delinquent Collection

Oct. 25
10 a.m. - 3 p.m.
 The Omni Hotel
 100 South 12th Street
 Richmond
\$40 includes parking and lunch

Please join your colleagues for an open conversation in which local government finance officials of Virginia will hear from leading industry groups on the “Best Practices” in debt collection. Sallie Mae will be on hand to present a national perspective on their experiences with municipal and state tax amnesty programs.

Attendees will participate in discussions about ongoing and best practices for collecting outstanding government receivables. Topics will include:

- Current “Best Practices” for collecting owed debt
- Existing tools in Virginia for delinquent revenue collections
- Administering a successful tax amnesty program
- The legal and legislative requirements for establishing a tax amnesty program

To register, provide the following information. Payment is due at time of registration by check or credit card. Online registration is available at the VACo registration site. Register by Oct. 15 and receive \$10 discount.

[Click here for registration 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](#)

Virginia HR Symposium



Oct. 27-28

Symposium Flyer

Attention human resource professionals! Save the dates of Thursday, Oct. 27 and Friday, Oct. 28 to attend the Virginia HR Symposium in Richmond. The one-and-a-half day event is sponsored by the Virginia Department of Human Resource Management for both public and private sector employers throughout the Commonwealth.

More details are available at www.dhrm.virginia.gov. Topics include:

- Social Media in the Workplace - Since employees use Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn, and blogs, management of social media is one of the hottest topics in the workplace today.
- Americans with Disabilities Act Amendment Act - ADAAA, which covers all employers with 15 or more employees, drastically changed the scope of persons defined as disabled and the accommodation responsibilities of employers.
- The Legal Workforce Act - This proposed federal legislation, which appears destined to pass, will repeal the current paper-based I-9 process and replace it with a mandatory electronic work eligibility check via an improved E-Verify system.
- Virginia Healthcare Reform - Every Virginian needs access to appropriate and affordable health.

[Click here for Symposium Flyer](#)

news from our associate members

Broadband Access Drives Growth and Job Creation

By Susan Swecker Internet Innovation Alliance

Economic challenges have touched nearly every community and industry in Virginia. As we work together to adapt and encourage innovation and economic growth, we must do so with an eye toward the future.

Increasingly, growth and opportunity in our digital age depend on a critical infrastructural component, high-speed wireless broadband.

This technology brings unlimited possibilities to businesses and communities, and it facilitates the types of new opportunities we will need to fuel economic growth.

Broadband access is no longer a luxury; it's a necessity. That's why expanded availability of high-speed broadband is an essential goal for every region across the country.

Leaders on both sides of the aisle recognize its potential and even President Obama set a national goal earlier this year to reach 98 percent of Americans with broadband access within five years.

Recently, Virginia's Secretary of Technology released an interactive broadband availability map, which revealed many communities, both rural and urban, do not have reliable, affordable access to broadband.

This lack of access means so much more than people not being able to Skype with their friends across the country.

It means many of our communities and residents are falling behind, and given the current economic climate, we cannot afford that.

Enhancing and expanding the exist-

ing wireless network infrastructure is expensive, which would typically be a huge concern for the American taxpayer. However, the proposed merger of AT&T and T-Mobile would result in an advanced network covering nearly all areas of the U.S. without a tax-payer burden..

This coverage is possible, because AT&T has committed to spending billions in private capital in order to expand access to broadband.

This merger will allow the combined companies to offer the next generation of high-speed broadband to over 97 percent of the U.S. population, including residents of rural or underserved areas similar to communities found in Virginia.

Additionally, it has been estimated that this merger could create up to approximately 96,000 new jobs. Once more businesses and entrepreneurs gain

access to this dynamic tool, the resulting innovation and productivity is expected to create even more new opportunities.

Wireless broadband is critical for economic development and job creation. Access to fast, reliable broadband allows businesses to stay competitive and innovative in the 21st century. Broadband also connects people to the future, and it drives economic growth and development.

Expanded access to broadband could mean that Virginia could have the ability to attract more relocating



businesses and encourage business expansion.

New and existing businesses use broadband to grow and expand online, benefitting our communities and creating opportunities for our workers.

The technology has appeal for individuals as well, allowing them to access professional development resources and online job training, as well as job searching and professional networking tools. And universal access to wireless broadband means more employers can offer the option to telecommute.

Increased opportunity, particularly for rural residents, is one of the key reasons IIA Honorary Chair and former Virginia Congressman Rick Boucher supports this merger.

Congressman Boucher has pointed out "the combination of AT&T and T-Mobile very nearly achieves the president's goal and does so with private capital, not taxpayer funds."

Commerce, communication, education—everything runs faster these days, and it's not slowing down.

Americans need to be sure it doesn't pass us by. Broadband access brings access to opportunities and limitless possibilities for our country's communities, businesses, and residents.



news from our
associate members

Keystone Information Systems

Keystone Information Systems is by no means a newcomer to the local government administration software market. However, market focus and growth in the Commonwealth of Virginia has been a more recent emphasis for the thirty-six year old software and services firm.

Specifically, for the use of Virginia county governments, Keystone offers an enterprise-wide software suite that fully integrates the functions of the Commissioner of the Revenue, Real Estate Appraisal, Building Permits and Inspections, Land Records, Motor Vehicles, Animal Licensing, Personal Property Billing, Tax Collections, Centralized Collections and Cash Receipts, General Ledger, Purchasing (bidding), Payables, (fully automated bank reconciliations), Payroll and Human Resources.

Keystone also offers a variety of web browser-based "user portals" for both public and (secured) employee access, to relevant information, such as personnel and pay information, benefits enrollment, job applications, vendor bid response, and tax records.

Keystone's differentiators are a fully integrated solution with deep and proven, state-specific functionality, current technology and user interfaces, open standard-based data access and integration of third party applications, at a price point which is surprisingly affordable to the medium to small county.

At present, Keystone supports the information processing operations of over 85 county and municipal governments and public school districts, across the six states of New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Virginia, North Carolina, Missouri and Rhode Island, wherein our products have been adapted to particular state differences, and have found wide acceptance.

The firm's strengths and focus with



regard to Virginia, are on small to mid-sized counties, mid-sized towns and cities, and small to mid-sized school divisions, in which settings Keystone provides comprehensive applications, for an exceptional value, and return on investment, to which our many long time customers will testify.

Thoughtful design, using modules, settings and parameters, allow the company to support one set of software that well accommodates the operational differences between these types of organizations, and easily crosses the state to state differences.

Well thought design and product enhancement also provide straightforward upgrade paths to expanded capabilities for our customers, while preserving their investments in detailed historical data and user knowledge.

The modular design also permits the system to be used effectively in partial implementations (i.e. Real Estate Appraisal only), with a great deal of flexibility for data interfaces (imports and exports, to and from) third party systems.

The company's growth has been entirely funded by the acceptance of its products in each new market and

state into which it has grown. Keystone has always been owned by the same family, with a successful transition from the founding generation to its present management team in the past five years, which team is energized to continue the proven path of success in providing greater efficiencies in local government administration to a loyal and enthusiastic customer base. The company remains committed to responsible growth in its chosen markets, as it enhances its products to meet new technologies and customer needs, entirely with its own, (U.S.-based) staff.

In line with Keystone's focus on the Commonwealth of Virginia market, the company is involved with the following associations, and regularly attends their conferences: VACo, Treasurers' Association, Commissioners of the Revenue, VA Government Finance Officers, and VA Association of School Business Officials and VASPA (School Personnel Administrators).

Keystone's association with these professionals, its product fit, and its reputation for quality support services, is paying off with a growing number of client sites in the Commonwealth.

Many realize that tight budgets are exactly the imperative to look to potential efficiencies to be gained through the implementation of better integrated financial and operational systems, using open standard technology and interfaces, so to reduce redundant human effort and gain a more timely view of management information.

It is truly an investment in the organization's bottom line, with the potential for immediate financial benefit.

For more information, visit Keystone's booth at the upcoming conference at the Homestead, or contact Thomas Price at Keystone. Tprice@keyinfosys.com or 1-800-735-4862. www.keyinfosys.com.

MANDATES

Continued from page 1

Standards of Accreditation and other administrative regulations to bring them into sync with the current Standards of Quality. If the state cannot afford its standards, then it needs to develop standards it can afford instead of simply passing those costs onto local governments. Fully fund rebenchmarking.

-Delete state educational mandates that exceed federal requirements:

*Currently, the state mandates all students in grades 3-8 be tested in not only reading and math, but also in social studies and history, and that students in high school take additional end of course tests. The federal No Child Left Behind (NCLB) only requires students be tested in reading and math as well as in science once while in elementary, middle and high school.

*Virginia exceeds the federal requirements under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), however, in over 175 areas. When Virginia's regulations exceed the federal requirements, those regulations impose additional costs on the state and, most importantly, local governments.

Comprehensive Services Act (CSA)

-Make the CSA program subject to the Administrative Process Act. Local governments pay more than 80 percent of the administrative costs of this "shared" program. The state share of administrative costs has not been increased in more than a decade. At the same time, the administrative burdens on local governments have increased in data collection and reporting requirements. The APA ensures adequate public notice about, and input into proposed rules and regulations that affect all taxpayers in the Commonwealth.

-Return local CSA service rates to the FY 2006 level. The Commonwealth has increased mandatory local participation percentages for the provision of services funded through the Comprehensive Services Act. Mandates increasing local rates for residential and foster care related services should be abolished and returned to the FY 2006 level.

-Increase state match for certain youth programs in CSA. Local governments

pay a healthy portion of the state's Medicaid match for certain youth in this program. The portion paid by local governments has increased over the life of this program, which began in the early 1990s. The state pays the Medicaid match for other service areas and should do so for this program.

-Establish financial incentives for local governments that foster regional contracting for provider services. Local governments who participate in regional contracts should provide local fund match at the lowest rate of the participating local governments.

Constitutional Officers

Fund fully the state's obligations for mandated constitutional officers. A full fiscal and program analysis should determine state and local responsibilities and whether state funding responsibilities are sufficient. Additionally, the study should examine jail issues including staffing, funding, construction, per diems, operational costs, and benefits.

Equal Tax Authority

Equalize county taxing authority to enact local excise taxes including the cigarette tax, admissions tax, transient occupancy tax and meals tax with that of cities and towns.

Public Safety

Increase state funding for state prisoners housed in local jails. Since 2008, the state has closed eight adult correctional facilities and one juvenile facility. More than 3,000 prison beds, or about a tenth of the state capacity, have been eliminated. The state has lowered the per diem payment for state-responsible prisoners held in local jails. The state also has redefined the legal definition for state-responsible inmates so that going forward, state funding will drop even further.

Election Administration

Increase state funding for the local election administration. The state budget contains \$13.8 million in FY11 and \$12.8 million in FY12 for election administration. Of that amount, \$5.8 million a year is designated for electoral services, primarily to pay a portion of salaries for general registrars, and for

the salaries and limited expenses for local electoral boards. Localities, however, spent \$40.8 million on election administration in FY09. Thus, localities pay the tab for not only local elections, but also primaries, state and federal elections.

Courthouse Construction

Remove the mandate for localities to build and maintain court facilities. State law requires localities to assume the mandated cost to construct and maintain court facilities. If, in the sole opinion of the local circuit court, localities do not meet those requirements, the court can order them to build a new courthouse without regard to the fiscal condition of the local government. Additionally, the state has not established incentives for court officials to foster regional facilities. While this mandate has been temporarily suspended by the General Assembly, it remains a threat of significant unplanned expenditures to all cities and counties.

Environmental Protection

-Increase funding for Chesapeake Bay clean up. Virginia local governments face an estimated cost of more than \$7 billion to comply with the Watershed Implementation Plan under Chesapeake Bay TMDL. Localities need additional state and federal funds.

-Delete local monitoring requirements in Chesapeake Bay Preservation Act.

*Local governments subject to the Chesapeake Bay Preservation Act are required to devote staff resources to monitor the five-year septic tank pump out provision of the Act. This should be the job of the Virginia Department of Health since it currently has the records and personnel already in place to monitor this requirement.

*Local governments subject to the Chesapeake Bay Preservation Act are required to review soil and water runoff control and water quality assessments prepared by all agricultural operations within their jurisdiction, and to take enforcement action when necessary. This function should appropriately be the responsibility of either the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation or the Virginia Department of Agriculture.

Roanoke County website honored with state and national awards

The Roanoke County Board of Supervisors recently recognized Roanoke County's Communication and Information Technology team, which earned three prestigious awards in the past three months for the County's newly redesigned interactive website launched last spring.

Designed in concert with the government website experts at CivicPlus, a leading developer of community engagement platforms, the County's website www.roanokecountyva.gov has received the 2011 Governor's Technology Award, the 2011 Best of the Web Award and second place in the Center for Digital Government's annual Digital Counties Survey.

For 14 years, the Governor's Technology Awards program has honored outstanding achievements and recognized innovative technology initiatives in the public sector throughout the Commonwealth of Virginia.

On behalf of Gov. Bob McDonnell, Virginia's Secretary of Technology Jim Duffey and Chief Information Officer Sam Nixon presented the award to Roanoke County's Director of Communication and Information Technology Bill Greeves at the Commonwealth of Virginia Innovative Technology Symposium (COVITS) in late September.

"We are extremely proud of the job Bill and his team have done to make our County website a national model for innovation, community dialogue and cost-effective government," said Clay Goodman, Roanoke County Administrator. "The newly redesigned site improves citizens' electronic interaction with government and promotes the availability, usability and transparency of County information."

One of 24 winners in nine categories, the County's website won for the category "Online, Not In Line", which recognizes the innovative use of the Web to improve citizen access to and service from governmental entities of any type. An independent panel of



Pictured from left to right: Public Information Director Teresa Hamilton Hall, Enterprise Services Manager Chad Sweeney, Web Analyst Nicole Bird, Web Content Manager Gray Craig, Communications and Information Technology Director Bill Greeves, and Board of Supervisors Chairman Joseph B. "Butch" Church.

Virginia government executives judged the entries.

"These awards reflect the hard work of dozens of employees across nearly every department in the County as well as our partnership with CivicPlus," Greeves said. "The CivicPlus team's methodical and effective project management process integrated our ideas and kept us on track. They came in on time and on budget, despite mid-course changes we threw at them."

The County also earned a top spot in the 2011 Best of the Web awards competition, which judges state, county and city web portals throughout the United States. Best of the Web spotlights government websites that demonstrate the highest levels of innovation, functionality and efficiency. Websites are judged by a panel of experts in a wide range of categories including site accessibility, innovation, cost-savings, ease of use and exceptional service to the public. Best of the Web is a joint project between Government

Technology magazine and the Center for Digital Government.

Roanoke County also tied for second place in the 2011 Digital Counties Survey, marking the eighth consecutive year the county has appeared in the Top Ten List of digital counties across the nation.

The Digital Counties Survey is conducted by the Center for Digital Government and Digital Communities program, in partnership with the National Association of Counties (NACo), to identify the best electronic practices among counties nationwide.

"We congratulate Roanoke County on winning these three prestigious awards," said CivicPlus CEO Ward Morgan. "The more a local government can offer residents electronically, the easier they make it for people to access services and get the help or information they need. Roanoke County is setting a new standard that will impact what residents across the country will expect from county government in the future."

Washington County area citizens claim over \$1 million in unclaimed property

Visitors to this year's Washington County Fair claimed \$1,096,469.74 in cash and stocks while visiting the Unclaimed Property Booth hosted by the Washington County Treasurer's Office.

"This is our second time hosting the Unclaimed Property Outreach Program," said County Treasurer Fred Parker. "We had them here several years ago and we hit the \$400,000 mark. To reach almost \$1.1 million is simply amazing and far exceeded our expectations."

The Unclaimed Property list published annually in the statewide media is simply one year's worth of listings.

The State Treasurer's Office of Unclaimed Property operates an Outreach Program where staffers come to a locality and set up with over 50

years of property being held by the Commonwealth. This can be cash, stocks or safe deposit boxes.

The Outreach Program is free. The Washington County Treasurer's Office rented the booth space (\$400) and had some nice prizes donated to give away the last night of the fair.

"So between the free candy and the drawing we were able to get folks over to the booth and the fantastic ladies from Unclaimed Property did the rest," Parker said. "I and members of the Treasurer's Office staff were there every day and night to help with any problems and to help work the crowd and answer questions.

"Spending \$400 to help our citizens recoup over \$1 million is the best investment we could ever make," Parker added.



There is about \$67 million a year going to Unclaimed Property.

"I applaud the County Treasurer for such an innovative approach to informing our citizens of property and assets they may otherwise never know belonged or was owed to them," said County Administrator Mark Reeter. "I also wish to thank the Commonwealth's Treasury for their cooperation and assistance in this program."

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For a recap of the annual conference, read the Nov. 15 issue of County Connections

Visit www.vaco.org for complete coverage of VACo's 76th Annual Conference.

Watch videos of keynote speakers, prize presentations from concerned citizens and experience the highlights for the first time or all over again.

November 15, 2010

Click here for the 2010 Annual Conference coverage.



Adkins to serve as next VACo President

The membership of the Virginia Association of Counties elected Wise County Supervisor Robert E. Adkins as 2010-2011 President during VACo's 76th Annual Conference in Bath County. Adkins and other newly elected officers attended the association's Annual Business Meeting on Nov. 9.

Adkins replaces the late of Wise County Supervisor Philip A. Bradshaw and becomes the first-ever president from Wise County and the third-ever from Southwest Virginia.

"I'm very proud to stand before you as the (2010-2011) VACo President," Adkins said during his acceptance speech.

Adkins, 76, was elected to the Wise County Board of Supervisors in 1993 and has served as chairman twice and now chair once during his tenure. He joined the VACo's Board of Directors in 2004.

"He is a cerebral leader, and in this time of uncertainty, his style will serve our membership well," VACo Executive Director James D. Campbell said. "Bob represents a great part of Virginia, a section that's sometimes not heard. Bob will be the voice and lead the charge for rural issues and concerns as well as fighting for the interests of our larger counties. VACo is fortunate to have Bob Adkins as its president."

Adkins was born and raised in Wise County. He attended Forest High School. He later owned and operated a family automobile repair and tire center for 40 years. Today, he works as a landlord of rental properties.

Adkins is active in the Edwina Club that does community service and fundraisers, especially with the Department of Virginia's College at Wise and other area schools.

Adkins is married to Theresa Adkins, a faculty member at the University of Virginia's College at Wise. He has a son and a daughter, two granddaughters and three great-granddaughters.

ADKINS
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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.

Deputy Director of Information Technology/Accomack County

Three (3) years of progressively responsible management experience in information systems and communications systems operations are required. Salary range is \$55,900 to \$68,400, based on qualifications and experience. Excellent benefit package includes participation in the Virginia Retirement System, vacation and sick leave, group life insurance, medical insurance, professional dues and conference expenses. Submit letter of application, detailed résumé, salary history and work related references to: John A. Anzivino, Senior Vice President, Springsted Incorporated, 1564 East Parham Road, Richmond, VA 23228; Fax (804) 726-9752 or e-mail Richmond@springsted.com by Nov. 12. For further information visit www.springsted.com.

Regional-Senior Planner/Central Shenandoah Planning District Commission

Responsibilities are varied and include writing and administering grants, providing project and program management, developing regional plans, preparing environmental studies and reports, disseminating demographic and economic information, and assisting member jurisdictions with local contract services. Salary Range: \$33,000 – \$53,000. To apply, send a resume to Bonnie S. Riedesel., Executive Director, Central Shenandoah Planning District Commission, 112 MacTanly Place, Staunton, Virginia 24401. Position open until filled.

Transportation Planner/ Central Shenandoah Planning District Commission

Responsibilities are varied and include writing and administering grants, devel-

oping transportation plans and preparing reports, disseminating information, and assisting member jurisdictions with local contract services. Effective knowledge of traffic calming, bicycle and pedestrian accommodation, and transportation modeling techniques desirable. Salary Range: \$33,000 – \$53,000. To apply, send a resume to Bonnie S. Riedesel., Executive Director, Central Shenandoah Planning District Commission, 112 MacTanly Place, Staunton, Virginia 24401. Position open until filled.

Information Systems Server Administrator/Prince George County

Prince George County is now accepting applications for the position of Information Systems Server Administrator. For a County application and job description, please visit the County's website at www.princegeorgeva.org.

Assistant to the Building Official/Sussex County

Salary DOQ. This position performs difficult, skilled clerical work providing a variety of administrative and office management support functions. Successful candidate shall be responsible for receiving and processing zoning, building, trades, and land disturbance permits, maintaining records and files, issuing certificates of occupancy, and serve as back up to the Assistant to the Director of Zoning. Candidate should possess or have the ability to possess within twelve months the Permit Technician Certification from the International Code Council and the Commonwealth of Virginia. Submit Virginia State Application and salary requirement no later than 5 p.m. Friday, Oct. 17 to: W. Travis Luter Sr., Building Official, P. O. Box 1397; 20135 Princeton Road; Sussex, Virginia 23884 or E-mail: tluter@sussexcountya.com. Position open until filled.

Town Manager/Town of Carrboro

The Town of Carrboro, a progressive small town of 19,182, diverse and well

educated citizens, located adjacent to the Town of Chapel Hill, the University of North Carolina and Research Triangle Park in north central North Carolina. The Town operates with an approved FY 2012 budget of \$34.4 million and a workforce of 155. The salary for the position is negotiable within a range of \$110,000 to \$135,000 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. 29. For a complete community/position profile related to the position please visit www.springsted.com.

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.

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

EMPLOYMENT

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\$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 p.m. 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.

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.



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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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