

COUNTY CONNECTIONS

The Newsletter of the
Virginia Association of Counties

November 1, 2011



NACo survey:
Counties settling into the 'new normal'...
Page 2



Assessing localities' risk in intergovernmental finance... Page 4



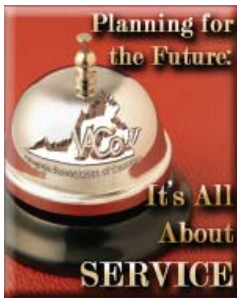
JLARC presents report on Medicaid...
Page 3



Visit Lee County and Cumberland Gap National Historical Park... Page 5



VACo 2011 Annual Conference Update



Your VACo staff members are excited to bring you the 2011 Annual Conference. Each year our objective is to out-do performances of past VACo conferences. We believe the program we offer at this year's conference will be informative and interesting.

Keynote speakers at the general sessions will be Political Scientist Robert D. Holsworth to provide perspectives on the 2011 General Assembly elections; Civil War Trails Executive Director Mitch Bowman who will speak about the sesquicentennial of the Civil War and what it means for counties; Rear Admiral (and Page County Administrator) Mark J. Belton who will share perspectives on his experiences in Iraq and their lessons for local governments in Virginia; and Glen Whitley, NACo's Immediate Past President who will provide VACo's members with an update on NACo's services.

The Conference's concurrent sessions will focus on such topics as Governor McDonnell's Task Force on

ANNUAL CONFERENCE
Continued on page 9

VDOT survey results on devolution shared with Transportation Board



By Larry Land
lland@vaco.org

Last August, VDOT conducted an extensive survey to gauge the attitudes of local officials toward "devolution" (the shift of responsibility for maintaining secondary roads from the state to counties), and related transportation issues.

The results are in.

Predictably, the idea of "devolution" has received a collective "thumbs down" among the 124 county officials from 62 counties (both elected and appointed) who responded to the survey.

A more complete summary of survey results is available at this link: www.virginiadot.org/business/resources/local_assistance/SurveySummary-CountyOnly-Sept30.pdf.

The basis of VDOT's survey was a report by George Mason University's School of Public Policy on the issue of devolution. The GMU report, also released last summer, was commissioned by the Secretary of Transportation Sean Connaughton. GMU's report listed seven policy options for Virginia to consider in efforts to improve deteriorating pavements on a 48,000 mile secondary road system.

According to VDOT's survey the least popular option (preferred by only 3.2 percent of respondents) is the imposition of "devolution on all

localities." The most preferred option among county officials participating in the survey was for the state to "enhance budgetary priority for secondary road construction and maintenance."

VDOT's survey also asked county officials to rank the ability of their counties "to provide transportation services to (their respective communities) within (their) current organizational structure." Of the 124 respondents, 77 of them (75.5 percent) rated their organization ability to manage the secondary roads within their respective counties as "poor." Just 4.9 percent of respondents rated their organizational structure for managing secondary roads as "very good."

The survey results were presented by VDOT's staff to the Commonwealth Transportation Board (CTB) during its October 19 meeting. Apart from the issue of devolution, survey results reflected many other concerns among county officials about the condition of Virginia's secondary system.

For example, 44.2 respondents indicated that the local transportation system within their respective localities were in "mediocre" condition, while only 0.9 percent rated their local transportation networks as "very good."

TRANSPORTATION
Continued on page 9

NACo survey: Counties settling into the 'new normal' of revenue, staffing and service

A new National Association of Counties (NACo) survey shows that counties large and small appear to be settling into the "new normal" of revenue, staffing and service delivery levels after years of revenue losses in a U.S. economy struggling toward recovery.

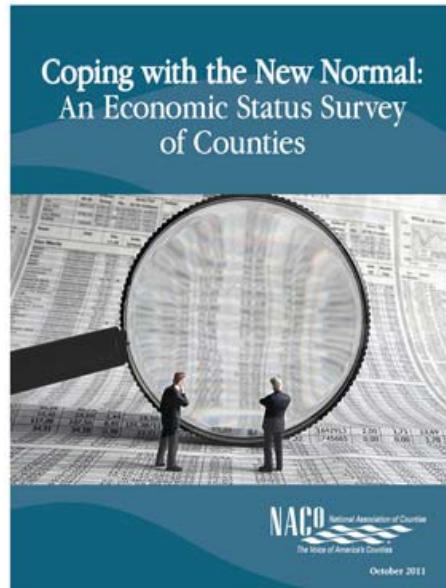
"Coping with the New Normal: An Economic Status Survey of Counties" is the seventh survey in a series of twice yearly efforts by NACo to capture information about counties as they struggle with the current fiscal situation. The new survey shows counties are continuing to make difficult budget decisions and are still scaling back or deferring certain activities to help them through their current fiscal year.

Although most financial analysts believe that the recession ended more than a year ago, local economies affecting county governments continue to struggle toward recovery. As this economic slowdown drags on, counties have made increasingly more severe – or long term in nature – budget adjustments to try to adopt balanced budgets and still maintain mandated service deliveries.

"As a result of the slow economic recovery, counties appear to be settling into the 'new normal' of revenue, staffing and service delivery levels," said NACo Executive Director Larry E. Naake.

In early October, NACo surveyed all counties that have professional managers, clerks or administrators. Of these 2,000 counties, 233 responded representing 38 states. Counties of all budget sizes responded providing a good representative distribution of counties in the nation by population. Key findings include the following:

- Only 35 percent of responding counties (69 counties) report that they adopted balanced budgets this fiscal year with no anticipated shortfalls.
- More than half of responding counties (51 percent or 107



- counties) report that declining revenues from the state and federal government was the number one contributor to their shortfalls.
- Two-thirds of responding counties (66 percent or 143 counties) report employing fewer county employees this fiscal year as compared to the number of county employees in FY2010.

The cuts are being felt by Americans all across the country since county governments are responsible for providing so many essential services important to communities. These services include maintaining roads and bridges, operating airports and other transit systems, delivering critical health care services, providing law enforcement, courtroom and jail services, funding schools, and numerous social services for seniors and families. Many counties are the first line of defense for emergency and pandemic preparedness and response.

The budget cuts and staffing adjustments, the new survey shows, have touched nearly every aspect of county government services:

- Planning, Zoning, Engineering, Surveyors, Code Enforcement (46

VACo Notes



VACo's Ted McCormack presents an Achievement Award to Louisa County for its program titled "Louisa County Parks and Recreation VIEW Partnership."

Pictured from left to right are Tommy Runnett, Parks Coordinator and Elise Rengers, Human Services Assistant III. Check out all the entries here.

- percent reported cuts);
- Roads, Highways, Transportation (45 percent reported cuts);
- Administration, Budget, HR (42 percent reported cuts);
- Sheriff, Police & Fire & Rescue (35 percent reported cuts);
- Human Services, Children, Seniors, Veterans (33 percent reported cuts);
- Public Works, Building & Grounds, Water, Sewer, Waste Management (31 percent reported cuts);
- Health (26 percent); Libraries (26 percent), and Jails and Corrections (25 percent reported cuts).

Naake said NACo leadership and members will continue to work with Congress and the Administration to address the troubled economy.

"Despite the local budget challenges, counties are ideally situated to lead the way back toward economic growth and opportunity in communities across the country," Naake said. "We pledge to continue to work in partnership with our federal leaders to meet these great challenges in these most difficult times."

For more information, contact Jim Philipps at 202.942.4220 or jphilipps@naco.org.

JLARC presents report on Medicaid

By Beau Blevins
bblevins@vaco.org

On Oct. 11, the Joint Legislative Audit and Review Commission (JLARC) made a presentation to the Joint Commission on Health Care examining the extent of fraud, waste, abuse, and inefficiency in Medicaid.

The presentation was based on a draft report completed by JLARC in response to HJR 127 (2010 session).

The information presented was based on interviews with all state agencies in the Medicaid system, ten local departments of social services, and all managed care organizations. It also included literature and document reviews and data analysis of provider enrollment, program integrity and collections, and payment error rates.

In JLARC's presentation, the following six findings were highlighted:

- Medicaid program integrity



activities are designed to reduce improper payments

- Enrollment of ineligible Medicaid recipients presents greatest risk of improper payments
- Improvements needed to further improve and sustain Department of Medical Assistance Service's (DMAS) strong performance of provider review activities
- DMAS collects majority of improper payments but process could be improved

- More oversight of managed care is needed to ensure rates exclude improper payments
- Comprehensive changes needed to meaningfully reduce the risk of improper payments

JLARC recommended in its presentation that the General Assembly may want to consider establishing a special interagency task force to examine its recommendations in its draft report, to determine potential effects of healthcare reform on fiscal integrity of Medicaid, and develop comprehensive improvement plan to present to the General Assembly.

The full presentation and draft report can be found on JLARC's website (jlarc.virginia.gov/pubs_rec.htm).

It is important to note that the report is still in draft form and may be subject to change.

Seminar on Strategies to Improve Delinquent Collection

A standing room only crowd recently joined colleagues for an open conversation about "Best Practices" in debt collection. Sallie Mae was on hand to present a national perspective on their experiences with municipal and state tax amnesty programs. Attendees participated in discussions about ongoing and best practices for collecting outstanding government receivables.

Topics included

- 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



Below are the presentations that were featured at the seminar

- **Chad Wilson**, Senior Director of Operations, Contingency Services, Pioneer: "Best Practices in Revenue Collection"
- **Chad Wilson**, Senior Director of Operations, Contingency Services, Pioneer: "Consideration for a Tax Amnesty Program"
- **Frank O'Leary**, Treasurer, Arlington County; and **Kevin Appel**, Esq., Tax Collection Services: "Dealing with Tax Delinquency"
- **Keith J. Richardson**, Commissioner, Department of Revenue, City of Philadelphia: "Strategies to Improve Delinquent Collections, Case Study on Philadelphia Tax Amnesty Program"
- **Richard C. Dotson**, Assistant Tax Commissioner, Virginia Department of Taxation: "Overview of Debt Setoff and Treasury Offset Program"

Assessing local government risk in intergovernmental finance

By Vicky Steinruck
vsteinruck@vaco.org

Current economic conditions, including job losses, illiquid credit markets and an ailing construction industry with reduced consumer spending have combined to increase risk and uncertainty across all private industries and the public sector. Local governments are again facing major cut-backs from federal and state governments.

The American Institute of CPAs (AICPA) Statement of Position (SOP) 94-6, *Disclosure of Certain Significant Risks and Uncertainties*, and Financial Accounting Standards Board (FASB) Accounting Standards Codification (ASC) Topic 275, *Risks and Uncertainties*, require certain disclosures about risks and uncertainties relating to the nature of operations, the use and significance of estimates in financial statements and the vulnerability of financial statements to certain concentrations.

With regard to concentrations, SOP 94-6 requires disclosure when information known prior to issuance of the report has met these criteria:

- The concentration exists at the date of the financial statements.
- The concentration makes the enterprise vulnerable to the risk of a near-term severe impact.
- It is at least reasonably possible that events that could cause the severe impact to occur will transpire in the near term.

Perhaps the biggest risk from intergovernmental financial dependency is ignoring its existence. Ignoring the federal and state governments' fiscal problems has allowed the matter to get much worse, and to make the options for resolution all the more painful.

From the CPA's perspective, our challenge is that the clients we serve, most often, do not recognize the buildup of risks within their financial planning and reporting.

Very few state and local governments disclose and discuss the

concentration of intergovernmental revenues for their entire entity within their annual reports or seek to alert their readers to the risks of such dependency.

A continued absence of dependency information will limit the ability of state and local government leaders to take into account the ramifications of such dependency when they seek to institute proactive measures prior to reductions in intergovernmental flows and a possible worsening of the federal debt crisis.

The percentage of total state revenue sourced directly from the federal government averages 39 percent, based on a compilation of the 2009 audited financial reports of 47 states. Local governments also are highly dependent on federal and state assistance.

Click here to view Exhibit 3.

As illustrated in Exhibit 3, federal funds account for between 27 percent and 49 percent of the total revenues of Virginia, Colorado, Pennsylvania and Illinois. The economies of these four states also are affected by federal funds flowing directly to their local governments, billions of dollars in federal purchases from businesses located in the states, and payments made by the federal government directly to their residents for salaries and wages, pension benefits, Social Security and Medicare coverage.

Exhibit 3 illustrates how these total direct and indirect federal flows range from 19 percent of real GDP for Colorado to 34 percent of real GDP for Virginia.

Click here to view Exhibit 4.

Exhibit 4 also illustrates the indirect economic impact of the federal government associated with its ownership or lease of millions of square feet of buildings as well as the presence of military facilities.

Similar measures of intergovernmental financial dependency can be obtained for local governments. For example, in Virginia, direct federal and state assistance as a percentage of total locality revenues was 25 percent for the cities of Virginia Beach and Richmond



in 2008–09 and 32 percent for Henrico County.

Click here to view Exhibit 5.

Indirect federal flows relating to the purchases of goods and services and payments to individual residents amount to hundreds of millions of additional dollars in revenues for those localities.

Besides the impact of federal funding and payments on state and local governments, the businesses and residents of each state and a variety of nonprofit organizations also are affected by these federal flows. Clearly, we are all in the same boat, including the members of the CPA profession who provide vital services to businesses, governments, organizations and individuals throughout each state.

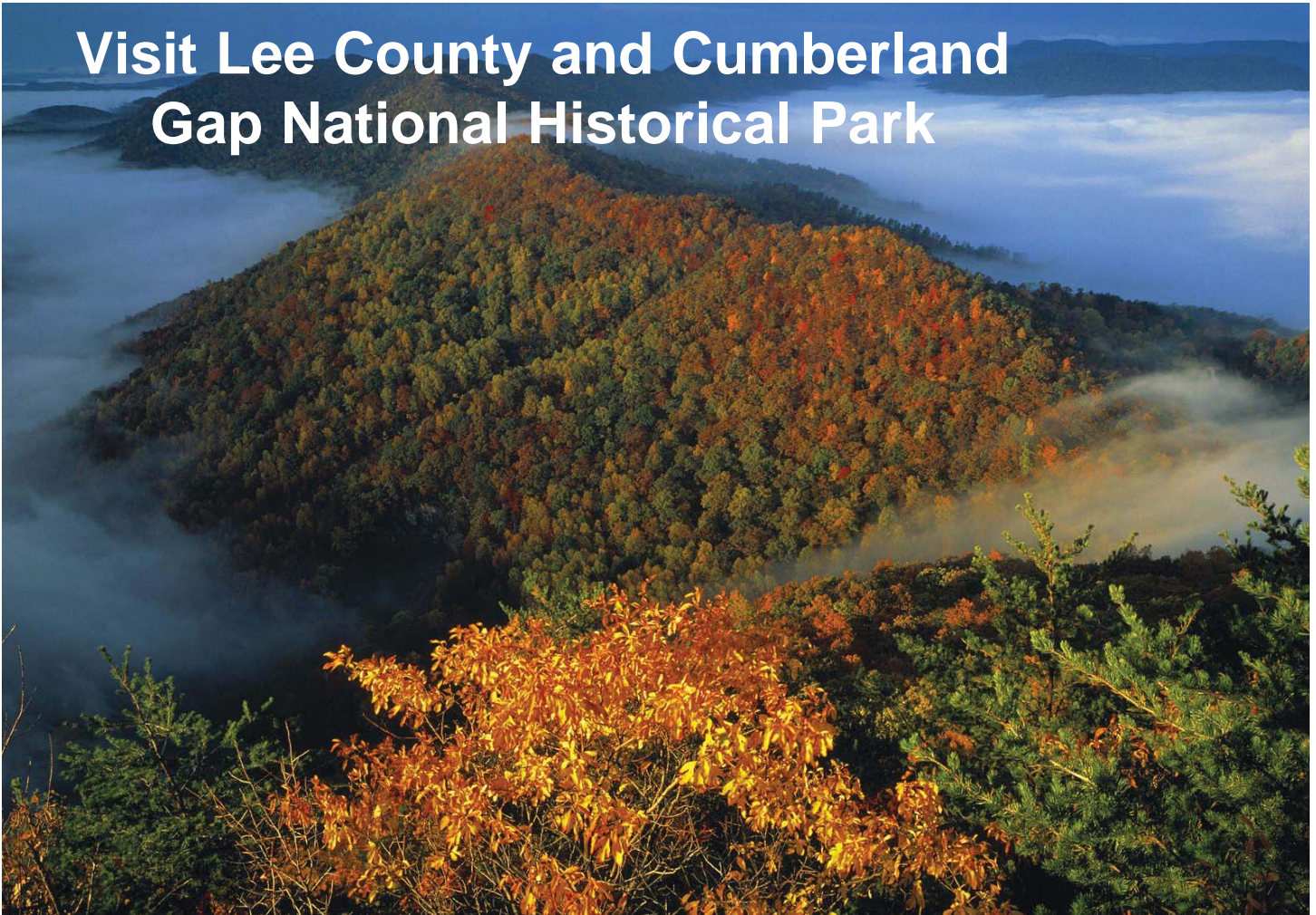
The challenge of CPAs is to help government clients better recognize the buildup of risk associated with intergovernmental financial dependency within their financial planning and reporting. AICPA Statement of Position (SOP) 94-6, *Disclosure of Certain Significant Risks and Uncertainties* can be a particularly valuable tool for assessing and disclosing intergovernmental financial risks.

The Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) intends to publish a Preliminary Views document in the fall of this year that sets forth the board's thinking on the disclosure of long-term fiscal sustainability and intergovernmental service interdependency issues by state and local governments.

VACo will continue to keep our county governments aware of the latest trends in intergovernmental finance.

Source: Journal of Accountancy, October 2011

Visit Lee County and Cumberland Gap National Historical Park



Established on June 11, 1940, Cumberland Gap National Historical Park is a United States National Historical Park located at the border between Kentucky, Tennessee, and Virginia. The Cumberland Gap is a sizable natural break in the Appalachian Mountains.

The park lies in parts of Bell and Harlan counties in Kentucky, Claiborne County in Tennessee, and Lee County in Virginia. The park contains the Kentucky-Virginia-Tennessee tri-state area, accessible via a short trail.

Cumberland Gap National Historical Park covers 20,508 acres, and saw 883,663 visitors in 2009.

The Cumberland Gap Visitor Center is located on U.S. Highway 25E just southeast of Middlesboro, Kentucky and just northwest of the Cumberland Gap Tunnel and Cumberland Gap, Tennessee.

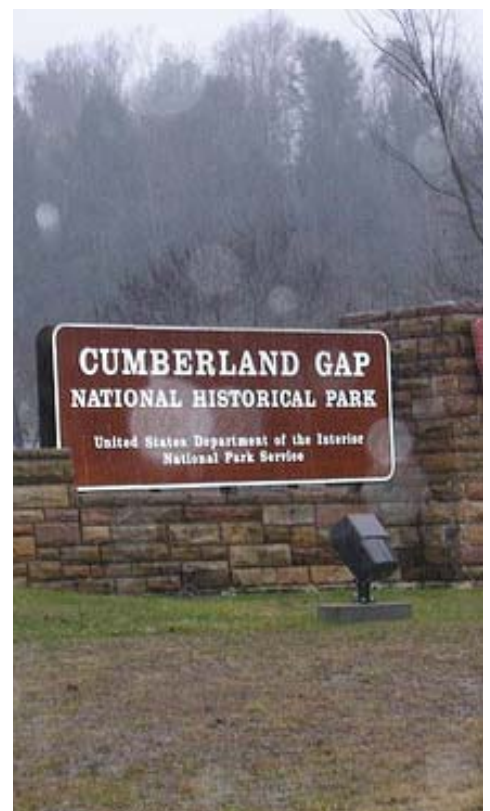
The visitor center features a museum with interactive exhibits about the Gap's role as a transportation corridor, an auditorium that shows films about the area's cultural and natural history, a book store and the Cumberland Crafts gift shop. The visitor center is open each day of the year except Christmas Day.

E-mail

Phone: Visitor Information (606) 248-2817

Fax: (606) 248-7276

Website: www.nps.gov/cuga/index.htm



Mark Your Calendars**Conservation Easement Workshop
for Working Lands****Dec. 13 and Jan. 5**

The Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (VDACS) has posted the online registration for the next two "Conservation Easement Workshop for Working Lands" sessions.

These workshops, led by Secretary Haymore and Commissioner Lohr, are a great opportunity for farm and forest landowners in Virginia to learn more about conservation easements.

The sessions are:

Dec. 13: Pittsylvania County

Jan. 5: Dinwiddie County

For more information, visit www.vdacs.virginia.gov/preservation/workshop.shtml

**GRANT WRITING USA****Grants Training
in Roanoke****Dec. 15-16**

Roanoke Police Department and Grant Writing USA will present a two-day grants workshop in Roanoke on Dec. 15-16.

This training is for grant seekers across all disciplines. Attend this class and you'll learn how to find grants and write winning grant proposals.

Click here for full event details.

Beginning and experienced grant writers from all city, county and state agencies are encouraged to attend.

We are excited to offer Virginia Association of Counties members a special tuition rate of \$395 which includes class workbook and accompanying resource CD that's packed full of tools and more than 200 sample grant proposals.

Seating is limited, online reservations are necessary. Please use code "VAASSN" to receive this \$30 discount off full price at registration. Tuition payment is not required at the time of enrollment.

Complete event details including learning objectives, class location, graduate testimonials and online registration are available here.

Contacts
The Client Services Team at Grant Writing USA
800.814.8191
cs@grantwritingusa.com

Lt. Rick Morrison Roanoke Police Department
540.853.2649
rick.morrison@roanokeva.gov

More than 10,000 agencies across North America have turned to Grant Writing USA for grant writing and grant management training.

**VHDA®
Governor's Task Force
for Local Government
Mandate Review****Monday, Nov. 7
1 p.m.****Virginia Housing Center
4224 Cox Road,
Glen Allen, VA**

Local governments face serious challenges when trying to balance their budgets during complex financial times. This difficulty is exacerbated when the state places burdensome mandates on localities.

This Task Force – created by Gov. McDonnell as a result of legislation introduced by Sen. Steve Newman (R-Bedford) – will identify mandates imposed on localities that are overly burdensome or unnecessary and recommend appropriate changes, providing relief to local governments.

**WE WANT YOU!****Nov. 10, 5-7 p.m.****Norfolk****Registration Form**

Join us for the 2nd Annual EMS Career Fair at the Virginia EMS Symposium in Norfolk on Thursday, Nov. 10 from 5 - 7 p.m.

Bring your resume and dress for success. Dozens of local organizations will be there to meet you!

More details coming soon. Check our website for additional information. www.vdh.virginia.gov/joems

Registration Form

introducing a new associate member

Corporate Overview

Spectrum Design is a full-service architecture and engineering firm based in Roanoke, Va. Spectrum provides architectural design, master planning and land planning services, as well as comprehensive structural, civil, electrical, and mechanical engineering. The firm specializes in the design of educational facilities, historical preservation, museums, and municipal and government buildings.

Sustainable Design Our Passion

Ten Spectrum Design architects and engineers hold LEED accreditation and more than half of our significant projects are LEED-certified.

A recent example, the Blacksburg Motor Company building in Blacksburg, Va., is indicative of our dedication to historic preservation and environmentally sensitive design. The 1925 structure, which originally housed the Blacksburg Motor Company, and later Doc Roberts Tire, was restored in 2008, preserving the original façade and interior character by maintaining the terrazzo floors, tin ceilings, woodwork, steel-framed windows and curved art deco-walls. However, preserving the structure’s architectural character did not sacrifice modern environmental standards. The renovated Doc Roberts building is LEED-NC “Platinum”-certified, featuring high-efficiency HVAC systems, dual-controlled lighting systems, day-lighting, recycled use of construction and demolition by-products, low-VOC emitting wall and floor coverings, and sustainable plumbing fixtures to reduce water consumption by at least 50 percent. A public park and sculptural rain-garden for storm water management graces the exterior of the building, which now houses the Department of Planning and Engineering for the Town of Blacksburg.



Blacksburg Motor Company

Other recent historic restoration and sustainable building projects include:

- Roanoke County Fleet Service Center, Roanoke, Va.: the 29,000 square foot LEED certified building services more than 800 vehicles that comprise the Roanoke County and Western Virginia Water Authority fleets and features hydronic radiant floor heating, and a high-efficiency boiler that collects and recycles old motor oil for heat and hot water.

Heartwood: Southwest Virginia’s Artisan Gateway, Abingdon: a 37,000 square foot center near I-81 that welcomes travelers to discover the art and culture of Southwest Virginia artisans.

- State & City Building, Roanoke: a 107-year-old, eight-story building renovated into retail, office, and residential space. The first LEED certified historic preservation residential building in Southwest Virginia.
- Access Advertising and Public Relations, Roanoke: this 17,000 square foot brick and steel structure, that formerly housed a car dealership and bottling plant, is now loft office space featuring a wooden barrel vault ceiling and floor to ceiling glass entrance.
- Center in the Square, Roanoke: a 1915 warehouse structure which serves as an arts and culture hub and economic development catalyst for the Roanoke region is currently being restored and will be LEED certified and include a rooftop butterfly habitat and technology lab.



Heartwood

Contact

Michael A. Rakes, PE, LEED AP – Senior Associate mrakes@spectrumpc.com
10 Church Avenue, SE, Plaza Suite 1
Roanoke, VA 24011
Phone: 540.342.6001/www.spectrumpc.com

**introducing a new
associate member****Constellation
Energy®****Have Questions About Green Energy?**

Businesses and organizations that are interested or required to take sustainable measures can choose from relatively simple to very complex strategies to make their electricity usage more green. Below are questions that we often hear from companies that are looking into green energy.

**Question 1: What fuels are considered Renewable?**

The most common renewable fuels include:

- Solar energy, which uses the sun's energy to convert sunlight into electricity.
- Wind energy, a process where wind turns the blades of a turbine, which spin a shaft that connects to a generator and makes electricity.
- Geothermal energy, which is generated from natural steam, hot water, hot rocks or lava under the Earth. Geothermal power is produced by pumping water into cracks in the Earth's crust and then conveying the heated water or steam back to the surface so that its heat can be extracted through a heat exchanger, or its pressure can be used to drive turbines.
- Hydroelectric power, which is generated by using electric generators to extract energy from moving water.
- Biomass, which is the common name for organic materials used as renewable energy sources such as wood, crops, and waste.

Question 2: What is a REC?

A renewable energy certificate, or REC, represents the environmental attributes of one megawatt hour (MWh) of electricity generated from a renewable generating facility and delivered to the power grid. The most important of these environmental attributes is the clean electricity generated by the facility. Other attributes of a REC include the fuel source, the location and commercial operation date of the facility, and the date the MWh that produced the REC was generated.

Question 3: When I buy green power, does it reach my business?

Typically green power is delivered to your business in the form of "system mix" electricity from the electrical grid, combined with an equal number of MWhs of environmental attributes, in the form of renewable energy certificates (RECs) from a renewable generator. This approach is necessary because it is impossible to direct a specific electron to a specific buyer. Instead, the renewable generator delivers electricity onto the grid and is issued a REC for each MWh generated.

At Constellation Energy we pride ourselves on the quality of customer care we provide our customers with. If you are interested in purchasing REC's for your business, please contact Larry Godleski at 412-489-9455 or walter.godleski@constellation.com. This article is based on a recent blog post that was published on Constellation Energy's Energy4Business Blog, blogs.constellation.com/energy4business.

TRANSPORTATION

Continued from page 1

The survey results also reflect major concern by county officials with the conditions of pavements and bridges.

Another key finding from the survey was a belief shared by 74.3 percent of respondents that "maintenance of existing infrastructure" should be a priority at both the federal and state level for meeting the Commonwealth's transportation needs.

Other key revelations from the survey:

- In terms of streamlining VDOT to free up more funds for infrastructure maintenance and construction, the majority of respondents believe "nothing can be reduced and/or eliminated" and that "transportation is already at a minimum."
- 65.3 percent of respondents indicated that they have plans for their counties to participate in the increasingly important transportation revenue sharing program in the future (48.5 percent of respondents indicated that their counties currently participate in the revenue sharing program.)
- 67 percent of respondents indicated that their respective counties are not currently considering applying for low interest loans or grants for trans-

portation projects from the Virginia Transportation Infrastructure Bank (VTIB) that was created by the 2011 General Assembly. However, VTIB is an alternative many county officials will consider in the future pending further investigation.

- A total of 85.8 percent of respondents indicated they were (at the least) either "willing to learn about options" or (at most) "very interested" in playing a more significant role in transportation if additional resources are available.

On October 19 CTB also approved revisions to the Subdivision Street Acceptance Requirements (SSAR). These changes stem from legislation passed by the 2011 General Assembly (SB 462, Puckett) requiring VDOT to review and revise certain components of SSAR. The revisions will go into effect on Jan. 1, 2012.

VACo's upcoming Annual Conference there will provide a major opportunity for county officials to focus on devolution and other significant transportation issues.

Both Secretary of Transportation Sean Connaughton, and VDOT Commissioner Gregory A. Whirley plan to participate in both the Transportation Steering Committee meeting on Sunday, Nov. 13, and a concurrent session on transportation issues scheduled for the following day.

ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Continued from page 1

Local Mandate Review; the outlook for Virginia's transportation network; State and Local Finance and Budgeting; Energy; Economic Development; the Comprehensive Services Act, the Line of Duty Act; and others.

Perhaps the most important part of the Annual Conference will be ratification of VACo's 2012 *Legislative Program and Policy Statements*. On Sunday, Nov. 13, all eight of VACo's steering committees will meet to take a second look at VACo's Draft Legislative Program that was sent to all counties in early October.

The next morning starting at 7:30 a.m. in the Homestead's Georgia Room, VACo's Resolution Committee will then consider and vote upon changes proposed by each steering committee.

The final Legislative Program will be voted upon at the Annual Business meeting on Tuesday, Nov. 15. The Conference will also provide special programs for guests and spouses. In addition to the popular cooking demonstration and wine tasting events offered in previous years, these two new activities will be featured:

- 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 at the VACo's Registration desk.

COUNTY CONNECTIONS
The Newsletter of the Virginia Association of Counties
November 15, 2010

Visit www.vaco.org for complete coverage of VACo's 16th Annual Conference.
Watch videos of keynote speakers, review presentations from concurrent sessions and appreciate the highlights for the first time or all over again.
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 B. Adkins as 2010-2011 President during VACo's 16th Annual Conference in Reno, County Adkins and other newly elected officers started their work at the association's Annual Business Meeting on Nov. 8.

Adkins replaces Dale of Wayne County Supervisor Philip A. Bradshaw and becomes the first-ever president from Wise County and the first-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, 74, was elected to the Wise County Board of Supervisors in 1997 and has served as chairman twice and vice chair since being his tenure. He joined the VACo Board of Directors in 2004.

"Bob is a cerebral leader, and in this time of uncertainty, his style will serve our membership well," VACo Executive Director James D. Caswell 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 bigger counties. VACo is fortunate to have Bob Adkins as its president."

Adkins was born and raised in

For a recap of the annual conference, read the Nov. 15 issue of County Connections and visit www.vaco.org

Chesterfield County named one of the nation's 100 Best Communities for Young People

Chesterfield County achieved national recognition once again today as one of America's Promise Alliance's *100 Best Communities for Young People* presented by ING for its initiatives to help young people.

The competition recognizes communities across the country that focus on reducing high school dropout rates and providing service and support to their youths.

America's Promise Alliance recognized Chesterfield County as one of the nation's *100 Best Communities for Young People* for a fifth time because of the county's collaborative culture and commitment to providing young people with the resources they need to be successful. Last year, the local Communities

In Schools program, made up of more than 400 mentors, tutors, lunch buddies and classroom helpers volunteered nearly 5,000 hours to deliver education, health and social support services to promote academic achievement and help students graduate. Approximately 100 students earn high school diplomas each year through the Communities in Schools program. The Chesterfield County Youth Services Citizen Board provides young leaders with the opportunity to have a voice regarding youth-related issues by planning programs and offering the Board of Supervisors with policy recommendations.

Each year, thanks to a partnership with the Virginia Dental Association, the Southside Dental Society and Communities In Schools, nearly 150 students in need receive dental screenings and follow-up treatments free of charge.

These are just a few of many such initiatives on behalf of the county's young people.

"We're proud of Chesterfield County for being named one of the America's Promise Alliance's *100 Best Communities* five consecutive times," said Art Warren, chairman of the

Chesterfield County Board of Supervisors. "This award recognizes the hard work of the many community members and schools and county staff who have dedicated themselves to making a difference in the lives of our young people."

"Chesterfield County Public Schools is proud to share in the America's Promise 100 Best Communities award for the 5th straight year," stated Dianne Pettitt, chairman of the Chesterfield County School Board. "As staunch supporters of our youth, the School Board and our dedicated employees understand that an effective educational system is the backbone of a vibrant society. This award is a celebration of just how great it is to live in and raise a family in Chesterfield County!"

"In a nation where 7,000 students drop out of high school every day, we hope Chesterfield County's initiatives inspire other communities across the nation to take action to solve the challenges facing their young people," said Marguerite W. Kondracke, America's Promise Alliance president and CEO. "Chesterfield County is especially deserving of this recognition due to their efforts to ensure that their young people graduate high school and go on to lead healthy, productive lives. Chesterfield County refuses to let the challenges they face determine the future for their young people. Instead, they are helping their youth prosper and become contributing members of society."

On Oct. 12, Kondracke joined America's Promise Alliance Chair Alma Powell and ING Foundation President Rhonda Mims at the Newseum in Washington, D.C., and officially announced the 100 winning communities in a live webcast.

"The issues surrounding youth education and success are of vital



importance to ING," said Mims. "Our ongoing support for *100 Best* underscores our commitment to the cause and the value we place on recognizing communities that produce measurable results for youth."

Chesterfield County will receive a \$2,500 grant, signage identifying the community as one of the nation's *100 Best Communities for Young People*, and access to America's Promise Alliance's community development resources.

First held in 2005, the *100 Best* competition is one of the Alliance's signature initiatives and is part of its Grad Nation campaign, which is a 10-year initiative to mobilize Americans to end the high school dropout crisis and prepare young people for college and the 21st century workforce.

The *100 Best* honors communities large and small, rural and urban, that are making progress to help young people achieve their potential, which includes earning a high school diploma, securing a good job, and playing an active, productive role in America's economic vitality.

All communities entering the *100 Best* competition completed a rigorous application where they provided details on how their existing programs and initiatives help deliver the Five Promises—resources identified by the Alliance as being critical to the

CHESTERFIELD

Continued from page 10

development of healthy, successful children: caring adults; safe places; a healthy start; effective education; and opportunities to help others.

Applicants were also asked to describe how different sectors of their community work together to help children and families overcome challenges. Most importantly, communities were judged on the strength and innovation of their efforts and programs to help young people graduate from high school prepared for college and the 21st century workforce.

This year, more than 300 communities from all 50 states, the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico were nominated for the *100 Best* distinction. Winners were chosen by a distinguished panel of 20 judges that included: Marc Morial, president and CEO, National Urban League, Roxanne Spillett, president and CEO, Boys and Girls Clubs of America, and Michelle Shearer, Chemistry Teacher, Urbana High School, 2011 National Teacher of the Year.

The winners are a diverse group, ranging from small communities to large cities. A list of all 2011 winners can be found at www.americaspromise.org/100best.

Being a *100 Best* community not only demonstrates commitment to local young people; the award fosters local pride, bolsters economic development and shines the spotlight on the people and programs that are building better communities.

The competition also facilitates the sharing of best practices among communities nationwide regarding education, access to health care, reading score improvement, youth service and pre-school enrollment, among many other areas.

About America’s Promise Alliance

America’s Promise Alliance is the nation’s largest partnership organization dedicated to improving the lives of children and youth by raising awareness, supporting communities, and engaging in nonpartisan advocacy. Through our Grad Nation campaign,

we harness the collective power of our partner network to mobilize Americans to end the high school dropout crisis and prepare young people for college and the 21st century workforce. Building on the legacy of our Founding Chairman General Colin Powell, the Alliance believes the success of our young people is grounded in the Five Promises—caring adults; safe places; a healthy start; an effective education; and opportunities to help others. For more information about America’s Promise Alliance, visit www.americaspromise.org.

About ING

ING is a global financial institution of Dutch origin offering banking, investments, life insurance, and retirement services to over 85 million residential, corporate and institutional clients in more than 40 countries. With a diverse workforce of about 115,000 people, ING is dedicated to setting the standard in helping our clients manage their financial future.

In the U.S., the ING (NYSE: ING) family of companies offers a comprehensive array of financial services to retail and institutional clients, which includes life insurance, retirement plans, mutual funds, managed accounts, alternative investments, direct banking, institutional investment management, annuities, employee benefits, and financial planning. ING holds top-tier rankings in key U.S. markets and serves nearly 30 million customers across the nation.

ING’s diversity management philosophy and commitment to workplace diversity, diversity marketing, corporate citizenship and supplier diversity fosters an inclusive environment for employees that supports a distinctive product and service experience for the financial services consumer. For more information, visit www.ing.com/us.

About the ING Foundation

The ING Foundation’s mission is to improve the quality of life in communities where ING operates and its employees and customers live. For more information, visit www.ing-usafoundation.com.

VACo urges Virginia counties to echo comments to the U.S. Department of HHS



By Beau Blevins
bblevins@vaco.org

Dear VACo Member:

VACo urges Virginia counties to echo our comments to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Service (CMS), a division of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

In brief, these comments are in reference to proposed regulations to the Affordable Care Act of 2010 that affect Medicaid and Exchange eligibility determinations.

Please use the attached letter from VACo to CMS as a guide in echoing our comments. Also attached is a letter from the National Association of Counties (NACo) to CMS.

Please do not hesitate to contact Beau Blevins with any questions.

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.

Assistant Director of Finance/Town of Blacksburg

The starting salary range for this position is \$50,277 - \$62,846, and is negotiable based on qualifications and experience. The Town offers excellent benefits that include: fully paid retirement, long-term disability insurance, life insurance, and employee medical insurance. Direct deposit of pay is required. A Town of Blacksburg application is required for this position by 5 p.m. on Friday, Dec. 2. Applications are available at the Human Resources Office located in the Municipal Building at 300 South Main Street, Blacksburg, VA 24060 or may be downloaded at www.blacksburg.gov. Individuals with disabilities requiring accommodation in the application process may call 540-961-1188.

Management Informations Systems Manager/Town of Blacksburg

The starting salary range for this position is \$42,475 - \$53,093 and is negotiable based on qualifications and experience. The Town offers excellent benefits that include: fully paid retirement, long-term disability insurance, life insurance, and employee medical insurance. Direct deposit of pay is required. A Town of Blacksburg application is required for this position by 5 p.m. on Friday, Dec. 2. Applications are available at the Human Resources Office located in the Municipal Building at 300 South Main Street, Blacksburg, VA 24060 or may be downloaded at www.blacksburg.gov. Individuals with disabilities requiring accommodation in the application process may call 540-961-1188.

Programs Manager/DCR

HIRING RANGE: \$40,959 - \$84,062

Duties include taking the lead role in establishing policy, direction and strategic planning necessary to continue to improve the effectiveness and financial soundness of statewide implementation programs; serving as the primary contact for non-point source pollution control policy and technical issues related to program implementation and outreach; overseeing the administrative functions and evaluation of the program to include agreements and deliverables, contracts, audits and grants; managing the

program's business operations to include human resources, budgeting, financial statements, and technology; and participating on various groups and committees as necessary. This is a re-announcement. Closing date is 5 p.m. on Nov. 13. Complete the Commonwealth of Virginia Application for Employment on-line on the Recruitment Management System (RMS), at jobs.virginia.gov. Only electronic applications will be accepted. Applications that say, "see resume" will not be considered.

Environmental Programs Manager/Isle of Wight County

Isle of Wight County seeks an Environmental Programs Manager for the Engineering Division. Responsibilities include: managing the Erosion & Sediment Control & Stormwater Management Programs by ensuring compliance with DCR requirements; improving existing programs by implementing and/or streamlining procedures for program management; ensuring land development plans comply with applicable ordinances; issuing land disturbing permits for projects. Starting salary DOQ Position open until filled. Interested candidates should submit a County application and resume to: HR Department, P.O. Box 80, Isle of Wight, VA 23397. Visit our website at www.iwus.net or call 757-365-6263.

Maintenance Technician/City of Falls Church

Salary & Benefits: \$40,602 + 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, credit union membership, free parking, and more. See www.fallschurchva.gov for additional information. To Apply: Send resume to City of Falls Church, HR Div, 300 Park Ave, Falls Church, VA 22046 or hr@fallschurchva.gov. YOU MUST SUBMIT A COPY OF YOUR DRIVING RECORD OBTAINED FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF MOTOR VEHICLES WITH YOUR APPLICATION.

Economic Development and Tourism Director/County of Fluvanna

Experience in community development, economic development, and/or marketing is required. Experience with alternative funding sources for startup business' (such as

the SBA Microloan Program) and capital needs preferred. The successful candidate will need to understand public/private partnerships and how to implement them. Proficiency in MS Office and a valid driver's license required. Salary \$48,700 plus the standard benefit package. Submit cover letter, resume, and a Fluvanna County application to Fluvanna County Human Resources, PO Box 540, Palmyra, VA 22963. Review of applications will begin on Nov. 10. This position will remain open until filled.

CD Program Administrator/DHCD (Positions #00026)

\$44,000 - \$55,000 Annually
and Virginia Enterprise Initiative (VEI) programs in a comprehensive Community Revitalization context to encourage private investment, business development and job creation. Essential functions consist of providing technical assistance and training to local stakeholders and governments resulting in maximizing the effectiveness of the EZ and VMS designations, including non-profit management best practices; assist businesses, private investors, CPAs, and other clients with incentive qualification process; assisting local stakeholder groups to accelerate real estate development, review and process incentive applications; grant implementation and management; project management; and provide other program implementation to attain maximum performance. TO BE CONSIDERED FOR THIS POSITION, YOU MUST COMPLETE A STATE APPLICATION THROUGH THE ONLINE EMPLOYMENT SYSTEM (<https://jobs.agencies.virginia.gov>) BY 5 P.M. THURSDAY, NOV. 3. For additional information please contact our Human Resource Office, at (804) 371-7000.

Purchasing Division Director/Hanover County

The ideal candidate for this executive level position will be a dynamic, customer service oriented individual with a Bachelor's degree in a related field and at least five (5) years of progressively responsible governmental or industrial purchasing experience, including supervision. Also requires comprehensive knowledge of specification development, contract negotiation and administration, insurance and bonding requirements and contractor licensing. Local government experience and certification in the Purchasing field preferred. Salary range

EMPLOYMENT

Continued on page 13

EMPLOYMENT

Continued from page 12

\$73,242 - \$98,882 plus excellent benefits. For more information and to apply, please visit www.hanovercountyjobs.com or call 804-365-6489 (TDD# 365-6140).

City Manager/City of Buena Vista

SALARY: \$95,000-\$110,000 negotiable DOQ/DOE (+) benefits. Job requires strong leadership and task driven management skills, must show high level of achievement in areas that include working effectively with council and concern for providing high level of municipal services. Manager must be visible in area business and industrial community as well as active in the community. Must have proven skills in strategic planning, economic development and an open communication. Manager reports to an elected mayor who serves a 2-year term and 6 council members who serve 4-year staggered terms. Submit Commonwealth of Virginia application (jobs.virginia.gov/emplApplication.html), resume with salary history and 5 work-related references to: Dawn Moore, Clerk of Council, 2039 Sycamore Ave., Buena Vista, VA 24416. Interviews will begin in late November. Open until filled.

Director of Economic Development/ Greenville County

This position heads the County's economic development efforts to attract and maintain business and industry, and encourage the maintenance and improvement of the quality of life in Greenville County by enhancing the economic base. The salary range for this position is from \$55,708-\$100,761 plus benefits. To apply for this position, contact or visit the Virginia Employment Commission, 1781 Greenville County Circle, Suite 300, Emporia, VA 23847, (434)634-2326. A county application, a resume and a letter with salary history and salary expectations should be submitted by Tuesday, Nov. 29 at noon. Contact Alice Whitby, HR Specialist at (434) 348-4248 for additional information.

Public Information Officer/Stafford County

The Public Information Officer will be passionate about public service and will constantly look for innovative ways to keep citizens proactively informed. Outstanding writing, photography, website and social media skills are a must. Experience building an online community is a huge plus. Interest, enthusiasm, curiosity, perseverance

and an adventurous spirit will make you stand out. Work is performed under the general direction of the Public Information Administrator. Opportunities for professional and personal development abound for the right candidate! Submit application at www.staffordcountyva.gov. Deadline: Nov. 4. EOE. SALARY: \$41,496.00-\$52,894.40 DOQ/DOE (+) benefits.

Project Manager/Isle of Wight County

County Engineering Division Starting Salary \$42,402-54,063 The successful candidate will perform technical work involving project management for design and construction of capital improvement projects. Additional responsibilities include reviewing and coordinating County transportation issues, serving as project manager on all current and long range transportation projects, acting as liaison between the County and VDOT, and representing the County on local and regional boards involving transportation issues. Interested candidates should submit an application and resume by Nov. 11 to: HR, P.O. Box 80, Isle of Wight, VA 23397. Visit our website at www.iwus.net or call us at 757-365-6263.

Director of Finance/Fauquier County

Beautiful Historic Fauquier County is in search of an outstanding professional to join our team! Responsibilities include management and supervision of the County Government and Schools consolidated Finance Department in the areas of general ledger, payroll, accounts receivable, accounts payable and procurement. Salary range is \$84,805-\$110,253 with excellent benefits. Visit our website apply.fauquier-county.gov for position requirements and more information! Apply online today!

Real Estate Assessor/Prince George County

SALARY: Annually \$67,266-\$107,625 OPENING DATE: Oct. 17 CLOSING DATE: Nov. 15 at 5 p.m. QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS Successful candidate must have knowledge of the principles, practices and relevant laws of property appraisal for assessment purposes, knowledge of building and land values, and thorough knowledge of the state laws relating to property assessment; familiarity with mass appraisal techniques; and, the ability to analyze factors which influence the value of properties and to exercise judgment in the determination of property values. Position requires any combination of education and experience equivalent to graduation from an accredited college or university with

major course work in business, economics or related field and extensive experience in the management of real estate assessment operations. To apply online please visit www.princegeorgeva.org. To be considered for this position, applicants must fill out a County application which can be completed online. For additional information, please call (804)722-8669.

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 resumé, 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, developing 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.



Executive Committee

President: Robert R. Adkins, Wise County
President-Elect: Barbara A. Favola, Arlington County
1st Vice President: Catherine M. Hudgins, Fairfax County
2nd Vice President: John D. Miller, Middlesex County
Secretary Treasurer: Harrison Moody, Dinwiddie County
Immediate Past President: Donald L. Hart, Jr., Accomack County

Staff

Executive Director: James D. Campbell, CAE
Deputy Executive Director: Dean A. Lynch, CAE
General Counsel: Phyllis A. Errico, Esq., CAE
Director of Administration: Vicky D. Steinruck, CPA
Director of Communications: Gage Harter
Director of Governmental Affairs: Ted McCormack, AICP
Director of Member Services: Carol I. Cameron
Director of Policy Development: Larry J. Land, CAE
Director of Technical Services: John N. Kandris, A+, ACT, CCA
Government Relations Liaison: Beau Blevins
Administrative Assistant: Pricilla Wallace
VACo Risk Management Programs: Chris Carey, Administrator,
(888) 822-6772

VACo exists to support county officials and to effectively represent, promote and protect the interests of counties to better serve the people of Virginia.

1207 East Main Street
Suite 300
Richmond, VA 23219-3627
(804) 788-6652
Fax: (804) 788-0083
www.vaco.org

County Connections is a semimonthly publication.

Editor: Gage Harter
(804) 343-2502