

COUNTY CONNECTIONS

The Newsletter of the
Virginia Association of Counties

December 15, 2011



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Say 'no' to devolution



By Ted McCormack
tmccormack@vaco.org

ACTION

The McDonnell Administration is actively considering proposals to devolve responsibility for the secondary road system to counties. Please contact your delegate and senator to oppose devolution.

KEY INFORMATION

If devolution occurs, counties would become responsible for the construction and maintenance of a badly deteriorated road network without sufficient revenue sources to do the job.

Thus, the only option left to counties would be to increase property taxes that currently fund other state mandates as well as schools, public safety, debt service and most ongoing functions of government.

TALKING POINTS

- Since 1932, the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) has been responsible for secondary road construction and maintenance

State forces local taxes higher



The following Op/Ed by VACo Executive Director Jim Campbell was printed in the Richmond Times-Dispatch on Dec. 11.

Enough is enough.

For a number of years, the Virginia General Assembly has boasted its success of "not raising your taxes." But is this claim really true?

No, they haven't recently raised your income tax. And they haven't increased the sales tax. Nor the gasoline tax, which helps pay for your roads. They actually reduced or eliminated some taxes, such as the estate tax.

But your local property taxes have probably gone up. And while state lawmakers beat their chests and brag about reducing taxes, they are actually vicariously causing local property taxes to increase.

How?

Devolution.

During the past decade, the state has devolved more and more services to local governments and even at times shunned its constitutional responsibilities to deliver — or pay for

— services to our citizens.

In order to balance the budget and not raise taxes, legislators have resorted to gimmicks such as underfunding the Virginia Retirement System, or reducing statutory payments for law enforcement departments, or merely shifting the funding of state-mandated programs to localities.

These actions have inevitably caused local taxes to increase.

* * * * *

According to the Virginia Constitution, the General Assembly "shall provide a system of free public elementary and secondary education." Over the years, public schools have been supported by the state, with supplemental funding coming from

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Are you a county board chair or vice chair?

If so, VACo's Chairpersons' Institute is for you. It will be held at the Richmond Marriott between Feb. 9-11. The Institute offers a professional learning experience that is carefully tailored to the needs of county board chairs.

These uncertain times require county leaders who are prepared for every eventuality, and balancing a tight budget is only the beginning. To succeed, board chairs must be active leaders who know how to encourage teamwork and manage conflict. They must be confident problem solvers as well as visionary leaders.

The Chairpersons' Institute was developed with the cooperation of an ad hoc committee of board chairs. This Institute gives chairs a chance to learn practical strategies in critical areas including the duties, powers and responsibilities of board chairs.

This program provides details on the structure and functions of county government, active leadership, communications, meeting management, decision making, working strategically to achieve important goals, building partnerships with local staff, board colleagues, the media and other governments.

Click here for a registration form with hotel information, or register online.



VACo County Supervisors Forum

January 6-8, 2012



New

Supervisors Sign Up Now!

About the Forum: The Virginia Association of Counties offers County Supervisors Forum for supervisors to concentrate on critical issues facing counties today: financial responsibilities, schools, economic development, transportation, environmental protection, intergovernmental relations, legal issues and more. An overview of county government and the work of county supervisors is covered.

Who should attend: Newly elected and incumbent supervisors, chief county administrative officers and other government managers will come away with information they need to steer their locality forward.

Registration details: The conference registration fee is \$295, which covers conference materials, a Virginia County Supervisors' Manual, Friday dinner, Saturday lunch and Sunday lunch. Spouses and guests who attend may register for \$150, which covers those meals. The conference takes place at the Richmond Marriott, 500 E. Broad St. The room rates are \$112 for a single or double room. **To reserve a hotel room, call 1-800-228-9290 by Dec. 16 with this code: ("New Supervisors VACo").**

To register, e-mail or mail this form along with a check or charge authorization to VACo, 1207 E. Main Street, Suite 300, Richmond, VA 23219-3627. Credit card payments may be faxed to 804-788-0083. **The registration deadline is Dec. 16.**

Name _____

Title _____ County _____

Mailing Address _____

Phone _____ Fax _____ E-mail _____

My guest's name _____

Charge Options: VISA American Express MasterCard

Card Number _____ Expiration Date _____

Card Holder's Name _____

Card Holder's Signature _____



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



It's time to retire the county courthouse photos on the front of www.vaco.org.

We want to replace them with beautiful, unique, spectacular images from Virginia counties.

Please send us photos of your county so we can share them on our website. Photos of people, landmarks, events, nature are desired.

Send photos and a short description to garter@vaco.org.

Halifax County Administrator to retire

George Nester, Halifax County Administrator since May 2009, has announced his retirement effective March 31.

Nester's career of working with local government spans 38 years. He is a native of Bedford County, and a graduate of Virginia Tech.

"My experience working with local governments in Virginia has been so very positive," Nester said. "I have had the good fortune of working with exceptional governing bodies throughout the state. Over the years I have been allowed to learn from some of the best leaders in local government. Above all, I appreciate the dedication of the local employees. They make each community special and unique."

During his career he has served as

Town Manager of Ashland (Hanover County) and Vinton (Roanoke County) and City Manager of Covington (Alleghany County).

In 1990 he became President of Consultants to Government & Business, a consultancy based in Roanoke. As a local government consultant he worked with many communities in central and southwest Virginia on community development projects.

In 1998 he returned to local government as Floyd County Administrator and later as Director of Community Development for Bedford County. He will reside in Floyd County with wife Janet who operates Stoney Meadow Inn Bed and Breakfast at Mile Post 152 on the Blue Ridge Parkway.

"I have really enjoyed the



experience of Halifax County. The quality of life is wonderful. This is the place to be if you enjoy the outdoors, fishing, hunting or auto racing."

Crum appointed Assistant County Attorney for Washington County

Washington County is pleased to announce employment of Matthew B. Crum as the new Assistant County Attorney.

Under direction of County Attorney Lucy E. Phillips, Crum will provide legal advice to and representation of the Board of Supervisors and County Administrative Offices. In addition, he may offer legal assistance to Constitutional Officers and other agencies of County government.

Crum started on a part-time basis on Dec. 1. He will continue to maintain his private practice in Abingdon.

After graduating from Washington and Lee University School of Law in 1991, Crum worked as an Associate Attorney with the private law firm Robinson & McElwee in Charleston, West Virginia. Subsequently, he practiced law as a Deputy Attorney in the West Virginia Attorney General's Office, representing the West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection.

Crum has also served as a trial attorney for the Environment and



Natural Resources Division of the U.S. Department of Justice in Washington, D.C. In 2001, Crum was appointed Director of the Division of Mining and Reclamation for the West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection.

Crum displays all the qualities and background to complement this new position as an associate to the Office of the County Attorney.



We love to print your staffing news.

Send your press release and photo to gcharter@vaco.org.

Governor unveils 2012 transportation funding plan

By Larry Land
lland@vaco.org

Last week Gov. Robert F. McDonnell unveiled some of his plans to increase funding to maintain Virginia's highway system.

None of his proposals included an increase in any taxes. Instead, he proposed that a larger share of sales tax revenue should be transferred from the general fund for highway maintenance.

He also proposed that an increased share of end-of-the-year revenue surpluses should also be directed toward road maintenance.

The governor announced his 2012 Transportation Funding initiative during his annual Transportation Conference that took place in Norfolk.

The conference attracted more than 700 attendees from state agencies, businesses and local government agencies throughout the state.

Nowhere in the governor's speech was there any mention of a legislative proposal to shift responsibility for maintaining Virginia's 48,000 mile secondary road system from VDOT to counties.

However, there were several occasions throughout the conference when Transportation Secretary Sean Connaughton criticized what he once characterized as the "historic anachronism" of the state maintaining secondary roads.

One major component mentioned by the governor as part of his package was a proposal to allow transportation revenue sharing funds to be used for some maintenance projects.

Currently, transportation revenue funds are awarded by the Commonwealth Transportation Board in the form of grants to local governments only for construction projects. The governor's proposal to allow revenue sharing funds for maintenance activities is consistent with a priority position in VACo's 2012 Legislative Program.

Here are the details associated with the Governor's 2012 transportation funding initiative:

- Over the next eight years, increasing from .5 cents to .75 cents the share of sales tax revenues dedicated to transportation. For the upcoming biennium, this would result in a .01 cent increase that would boost transportation funding by \$110 million.
- Increasing transportation's share of year-end budget surpluses to 75 percent.
- Authorizing CTB to implement a version of tax-increment financing. For example, when the state funds a major new transportation facility (such as a major highway interchange), a portion of revenues generated from economic development generated from the project would be deposited in the Commonwealth Transportation Fund.

The governor also announced that he would initiate legislation to restructure and fund the Virginia Commercial Space Flight Authority and convert it to an independent agency to develop the Mid-Atlantic Regional Spaceport "into the number one commercial space flight facility in the nation."

He said he would also propose legislation to promote the Port of Virginia by eliminating some of the bureaucratic processes with which the VA Port Authority must comply. He would also propose the creation of the I-85 Connector Economic Development and Promotion Zone.

Over the next month, Gov. McDonnell is expected to announce additional proposals that will be part of his 2012 Transportation Funding initiative.

Another important event that was part of the Governor's Transportation Conference was a special meeting held by the House Transportation Committee.

The meeting provided an opportunity for committee members to receive a presentation on the results of a study conducted last summer by the Department of Motor Vehicles on vehicle permit fees. A chief recommendation from the study was for permit fees on oversized trucks to be increased based upon the damage they do to highway pavements. The increased fees are expected to generate approximately \$10 million per year for road maintenance.

Delegate Joe May, Chair of the House Transportation Committee, indicated that he would sponsor legislation providing for the fee increases during the 2012 General Assembly.



Visit Surry County and Bacon's Castle



With its cruciform shape, triple chimneys and curvilinear gables, Bacon's Castle is a rare surviving example of Jacobean architecture in America. Built in 1665, the house was home to a prosperous planter, Arthur Allen. Allen also planted a garden adjacent to his house for the use of his family and household. The house passed to Major Arthur Allen at his father's death. A supporter of the colonial governor and member of the House of Burgesses, Allen was driven from his house in 1676 when Nathaniel Bacon and men staged what came to be known as Bacon's Rebellion.

The house had many owners throughout the eighteenth century. John Henry Hankins purchased the Castle in 1844 and later built a Greek Revival addition. Later in 1880, Charles Warren purchased the house. His grandson, Walker Pegram Warren, lived in the house until his death in 1972. Through a purchase agreement, the APVA (now Preservation Virginia) bought the house and began a research and restoration effort. The APVA opened Bacon's Castle in 1983 to the public.

Visitors today can step back to the late seventeenth and early eighteenth century through the doors of Bacon's Castle. Using the Allen's inventories from 1711 and 1755, furnishings have been selected to interpret daily life. Much of the early and original massive hand hewn beams are evident on the upper floors of the home. On the first floor, the raised panel woodwork in the downstairs chamber and great hall reflect the early eighteenth-century renovations of Elizabeth Bray, wife of Arthur Allen III.

Information and photo (above) courtesy of Preservation Virginia

Preservation Virginia's Website: www.preservationvirginia.org/BaconsCastle
*Bacon's Castle is temporary closed for winter. Please visit Preservation Virginia's website for more information regarding Bacon's Castle 2012 Spring re-opening.



Mark Your Calendars**LEAD VIRGINIA
accepting applications
for Class of 2012****Deadline
January 15**

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 Legislative
Conference****January 17-18
Omni Richmond Hotel**

Join us for the VACSB 2012 Legislative Conference, to be held January 17-18, 2012, at the Omni Richmond Hotel.

- Online conference registration is available here (with follow up payment by check to VACSB)
- Online Omni Hotel reservations for this conference are available here.

Please be reminded of the following:

- January 6, 2012: registration cancellation refund deadline
- December 23, 2011: early bird discount registration deadline
- December 28, 2011: Omni group rate cut-off date. (Additional lodging will be announced if necessary.)
- Parking at the Omni: VACSB negotiated a daily valet rate of \$15 for overnight guests. This rate is also available for day parking if space is available. Mention VACSB to get this rate – it is not automatic.
- Be sure to sign up for membership in the Omni Hotels Exclusive Select Guest Program. Complimentary benefits include Wi-Fi service! www.omnihotels.com.
- The Coalition Rally will be held at 10 a.m. on January 16, 2012, at the Capitol Bell Tower.

Plan to join us! If you have questions or need additional information or assistance, please contact the VACSB office. We look forward to seeing you in January!

**2012 County
Supervisors Forum
January 6-8
Richmond Marriott****About the Forum**

The Virginia Association of Counties will host the County Supervisors Forum on Jan. 6-8. The purpose of the event is to expose new supervisors to critical issues facing counties today: financial responsibilities, schools, economic development, transportation, environmental protection, intergovernmental relations, legal issues and more.

Registration Form
Register Online
Preliminary Agenda

Who will attend

Newly elected and incumbent supervisors, chief county administrative officers and other government managers will learn information they need to steer their locality forward.

Presentations

Will be posted here after the forum is completed.

Ownby retiring from Cumberland County

By Megan Harris
Farmville Herald

It's almost the end of the year 2011 and Cumberland's County Administrator, Judy Ownby, still takes her notes at board meetings in shorthand and talks to concerned citizens like they're her neighbors but in three months she'll be retiring from the County Administrator's seat, the county where she was born and raised.

She's hoping the upcoming new year will bring about a new time in her life. Opportunities, she said, that will lead to more involvement at her beloved rock church, Jones Chapel Baptist Church; plenty of gospel singing trips with her sister; and more time spent with her cherished family.

"I have really enjoyed this job," she exclaimed as she repositioned herself at the round table in her office. "I can say that I don't doubt for a minute that this was the career and the job that God had in store for me and that's why I survived and have done well. I feel like I have.

"I feel like I've been the right person for this job up until this point and then I think there comes a time in everyone's life when they know that it's time to retire or make a change...I have my 30 years in and I'm looking forward to the next phase."

She started working as an executive secretary on June 1, 1991, she said, and throughout the years the workload increased until she finally agreed to take over the County Administrator seat.

"I worked for the first county administrator Cumberland ever had," said Ownby. "I have worked for three county administrators and have served as interim or acting county administrator for each time. Now, I can't remember the exact date they appointed me assistant county administrator-I know I was acting county administrator so many times that they thought I should be assistant county administrator when I didn't want to be considered for county administrator. It was just like I was working on projects even when we had a county administrator and sometimes you need a title for people to take you seriously and believe they are talking to the right person..."

"That was when Franklin Grant was on the board," smiled Ownby.

A little while later the Board of



Cumberland's County Administrator, Judy Ownby, will officially retire on March 31. She recently took time out to reflect on her years that have been spent in the leadership position in the county where she was born and raised. (Photo by Megan Harris)

Supervisors asked her, since she was already doing the job, she said, to take the lead job.

"When I was approached...I hadn't applied for it. They hadn't even advertised for it," remembered Ownby about how she got the job. "The board, at that time, asked me. They said, 'You're doing the job, why don't you accept it?' I had to think about it because it's a big step and it's not as secure as a position on staff so I thought about it, prayed about it, and then I had some encouragement from some people in the community...Finally, I decided, 'Okay. I will try this and give it my best shot.' I haven't regretted it for a minute."

When Ownby started with the County, the board was made up of three supervisors and now, after redistricting, she's working with a five-member board.

She's currently ushering out her sixth Board of Supervisors and has agreed to help with the transition of the new Cumberland Board that was elected in November, which will be her seventh.

That's a lot of transition.

"One time there was a complete turnover," added Ownby about election cycles in Cumberland throughout the years and her consistent leadership has been the one constant familiarity.

"There are many different personalities when you have a five member board-well even with three," she added.

"There are always different personalities. I think I have always tried to respect each person. I've treated them all the same and

given them all the same information.

"If one board member asks for something that he's interested in and I've gathered that information I give it to all of them...I like people and I've tried to treat them in a way that I would want to be treated too."

Ownby remarked about how happy she's been with the people she's worked with while in Cumberland.

"It's been a good career," she offered.

And changes-she's seen them all, she said.

When she first started working for Cumberland she was in the basement with the building inspector, she said, and the county administrator at that time was in a room that is now a storage room for cleaning supplies.

"With computers, we started out with one person who developed some programs for us," she offered. "We didn't know about email. That's what is so much easier. Instead of having to pick up the phone and call all of the staff for any question, you just shoot an email and if they are busy they don't have to answer it right away."

Although board meetings in Cumberland can still be lengthy, Ownby can recount meetings that lasted into the next day.

"I can remember them going into one in the morning," she laughed.

Getting things done was also much

OWNBY

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OWNBY

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simpler earlier on in her career, she said.

"It used to be easier to get something done," she added. "Now, there are all these rules and regulations and there are more every year but the three member board-we had twice a month meetings then."

Delegating tasks is also something she has learned while being in the role.

"When I became County Administrator I was here until 6:30 or 7:30 or eight o'clock every night during budget times and I would get up in the middle of the night and work on the budget," she remembered. "It was new and even though I had helped the county administrator on it before it was my responsibility-I put in a lot of hours-and I had to learn to let go. I was used to doing things my way and I liked knowing it was done by a certain a time. That was something I had to learn to do. Let go of responsibilities and delegate. I've learned that rather well. I had to gradually give up things because you can't do it all..."

It was only just a few boards ago that Ownby gave up her budget responsibilities.

"They said to me, 'What would we do if you were in an accident and had to be out or were sick? Who knows how to do the budget?' I said, 'No one.'"

That board then delegated to Ownby to find some back-up.

"That's when we changed Jill's (Matthews) role and I brought her in to work on the budget," she offered. "Now, she's completely taken over with getting the budget over and getting it in the computer and getting a balanced budget to the Board before they have their first budget work session. That was a big change for me."

She'll be officially leaving on March 31, 2012, which gives the incoming Board of Supervisors a transition period, she noted.

The most important question was also answered, "What do you have planned for when you retire?"

"Everybody asks that," she laughed. "Somebody said, 'Well you're going to get your closets cleaned out and then what are you going to do?' I want to be more available for my grandchildren too and help them some. I've already told them I'm not going to be a fulltime babysitter so don't look for that but a day or two a week, especially the little ones that haven't

started school. I'd like to spend a little time with them. Then I want to do more work in the church because I'm involved now but there are some things I can't do because I'm working...That's something I'm looking forward to."

Ownby has 10 grandchildren-they range in age from 20 (this month) to 18 months.

Then, there will be plenty of time for those gospel-singing trips with her sister, she smiled.

"I won't have to worry about my schedule with Carol when going on our gospel singing trips! I just won't have to worry. Now she's the one that will have to fit it in her schedule. I'll be available."

Oh, and there's already one big plan that's in the works, which could be seen as a family retirement celebration, she offered.

"In June, with the whole family, Carol's family and my whole family," she offered. "We are all going to Tennessee for a week to stay in one of those log cabins. We're going to do that. We did it four years ago and they've been asking ever since when are we going back and so I decided that this would be a good year to do it!"

Being born and raised in the county is also something that has assisted her throughout her time as County Administrator, she offered.

"I think at the time and somewhat still now people like someone who is homegrown," she offered. "I think the citizens are better about that now...but way back when they liked the fact that you were born and raised in Cumberland County and went to Cumberland County schools."

Previous county administrators even told Ownby that their jobs were made easier by her being on the staff because she knew the county and the people and could fill them in on things when calls came into the office, she explained.

"I'll just have to adjust to a completely different routine come April 1 and I think I can do it," she laughed.

She also says she has learned to listen to Cumberland's citizens and find solutions.

"Even if you can't do anything about it if you sit here and listen to them-most of the time that is what they want-for you to feel like you understand their problems," she said as she offered some advice. "Even if you can't do anything about it...sometimes you can think of some

alternative...and then they leave and thank you... I want to treat them the way I would want to be treated."

Recently, Ownby has been flanked by Assistant County Administrator Jill Matthews. A team that can solve problems and get projects completed.

"Jill is smart and a work-a-holic," offered Ownby. "She's very knowledgeable and she can do anything she wants to do. She's made it much easier for me. I've often said we complement each other. There are areas where I think one way and she thinks another way and we are able to talk those issues out. I rein her in and other times she convinces me... I think it's good that you have two people who don't think exactly alike and are able to complement each other and work well together to get a good job done. She's top notch-no doubt about it."

When Ownby thinks back on her years spent as County Administrator, she said, the working relationships between the County's staff, departments, and Constitutional Officers is one thing that will always stick out in her memory.

"This was a neat thing that we were proud of," she said. "We did the staff retreat, at no cost to the County, to think of ways to save the County money. We took time out of our own weekend to get together and we implemented a lot of the ideas. That was not only fun for us to be together but it was a benefit to the County. That was a few years ago when we were having a hard time."

Later Ownby continued and said, "We all work together and the Constitutional Officers have been great trying to reduce their budgets...ours have tried to work with us because they know we are in a tight position. I've been thankful for that-they've just been so cooperative-and all of our departments have done the same thing. They have understood and I think when people understand what you face they try to work with you."

When it comes to the future and development in Cumberland, Ownby is right on target with the rest of Cumberland's residents-she is also holding out hope for a grocery store.

"I hope we have a grocery store!" she exclaimed.

"And people don't understand how hard we've tried and recruited," she continued. "I think we will get one eventually. That's a priority with everyone you talk to. It's not from a lack of trying. I promise you."

OP/ED

Continued from page 1

local tax dollars.

Recently, however, the state has gradually reduced its proportionate share of funding for public education, thereby shifting more costs to local governments.

Again, the state has vicariously raised local taxes.

Recently, the state has been severely challenged to balance its budget without raising taxes.

Without sufficient revenue to meet its expenses, the legislature simply reduced its contribution to a number of programs that are funded jointly from state and local sources — such as libraries, social services and constitutional officers.

In effect, \$60 million of your local property taxes were remitted each year to balance the state budget.

Now the state wants to devolve the transportation system of secondary roads and bridges to the counties. Since 1932, the state has constructed and maintained most of the roads in the commonwealth, partially funded by a state gasoline tax. This was a conscious decision by the state to avoid having a patchwork of disparate roadways throughout Virginia, which could have a negative impact on economic development.

However, since the state gasoline tax has not been raised since 1986, the dollars available for road construction and maintenance have not kept up with the needs.

In fact, transportation dollars are so scarce that Virginia is losing federal transportation money because it cannot provide the modest matching funds.

The transportation system is such a drain on the state budget that some want to shed the entire system — now a

neglected system of potholes and traffic gridlock — to local governments to maintain at local expense. That means your property taxes will have to be raised.

Devolution doesn't have to be a bad word. It can be a sign of progress if our state leaders redefine their priorities.

Instead of shunning responsibilities and shifting costs, work with localities to find solutions.

State and local leaders must continue to work with the business community to reform the tax system so counties aren't solely reliant on regressive real estate taxation -- and allow local government the authority and flexibility to adapt its taxation measures accordingly.

Virginia should be evolving not devolving.

Enough is enough.

DEVOLUTION

Continued from page 1

in all of the state's counties except two (Arlington and Henrico). State responsibility has resulted in uniform road maintenance throughout the Commonwealth.

The 97,629 lane miles of secondary roads are currently in poor condition.

Between FY 2007 and FY 2010, the allocation for secondary maintenance has declined from \$404 million to \$345 million, or by almost 15 percent.

Between 2007 and 2009, deficient pavement on the secondary system increased from 25 percent to 31 percent, while in some districts, the pavement deficiency rate is almost 50 percent.

VDOT estimates total maintenance needs for secondary pavement at \$1.3 billion and a "targeted" need at \$338 million.

The funds counties would receive from the state would be woefully inadequate to build and maintain their secondary roads.

VDOT's FY 2011 budget for secondary maintenance and operations is only \$3,240 per lane mile statewide.

VDOT's FY 2011 per lane mile payments to Arlington and Henrico Counties, who are responsible for their own roads, were \$16,121 and \$9,101, respectively.

VDOT's FY 2011 per lane mile payments to cities and some towns were \$17,180 for principal and minor arterials and \$10,087 for collector and local streets.

The state's own devolution study found that road funding from the state to the counties under any devolution scenario would be stable "at best" but are likely to decline over time.

Counties are well aware of the Commonwealth's history of reducing financial support for state-mandated services provided by localities.

Counties that have studied assuming responsibility for their roads — James City, Stafford and Fairfax — found the expected revenue from the state would not cover the cost of the program.

The Commonwealth asserts that county land use decisions approving new residential subdivisions are adding significantly to the yearly cost of secondary road maintenance.

VDOT estimates that expenditures for subdivision street maintenance comprise only 7-10 percent of the total annual secondary maintenance budget.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

VACo's top legislative priority for many years on transportation funding

To eliminate the revenue shortfalls that have caused Virginia's transportation infrastructure to deteriorate at an alarming rate, VACo urges the governor and the General Assembly to enact a funding package for transportation with new revenues that are separate from the general fund; and are stable, recurring and sufficient to meet Virginia's well-documented transportation needs for highways, transit and all other modes.

KEY CONTACTS

Ted McCormack or Larry Land.

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.

Senior Accountant/Town of Culpeper

Full-Time – Excellent Benefits. Salary Range - \$48,230 - \$73,986. The Town of Culpeper's Treasurer's Office is seeking qualified applicants for a Senior Accountant. The successful candidate will plan, design, and implement systems of accounts and procedures in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles; establish and maintain the implementation of sound internal controls, ensure financial records are reconciled; oversee management of cash and investments; assist auditors with special financial reports; and act as backup to payroll and accounts payable processing. Application and position profile are available at www.culpeperva.gov or at Town Hall, 400 S. Main Street, Culpeper, VA 22701. Applications should be submitted to the Department of Human Resources or by e-mail at dwise@culpeperva.gov. Open until filled, however priority will be given to applicants received before Dec. 30.

Deputy/Isle of Wight County

Candidates must have no felony or misdemeanor convictions involving moral turpitude. Prior law enforcement experience and/or college level course work in Criminal Justice or a related field is preferred. A written examination will be conducted, followed by oral interview sessions. Selected individuals will be required to undergo a comprehensive background investigation. Positions are open until filled. Starting salary DOQ. Interested candidates should submit a County application, Background Investigation forms, and an Authorization for Release of Information form, along with a current DMV driving record (within 30 days) and copies of any additional certifications that are applicable to: HR, P.O. Box 80, Isle of Wight, VA 23397. Visit our website at www.iwus.net or call 757-365-6263.

Administrative Assistant/Isle of Wight County

Starting Salary \$27,333. Isle of Wight County seeks an individual to provide administrative support to the Sheriff's

Office. Duties may include, but are not limited to organizing, processing information via data entry, maintaining files, answering telephone calls, and tactfully assisting citizens. Position is not available until Jan. 1. Interested candidates should submit a County application and resume by Dec. 21 Human Resources, P.O. Box 80, Isle of Wight, VA 23397. Visit our website www.iwus.net or call 757-365-6263. Salary shall be competitive and commensurate with qualifications. To apply go to agency.governmentjobs.com/culpeper or contact the Human Resources Department, 306 North Main Street, Culpeper, Va. 22701; Telephone 540-727-3422; Fax 540-727-3482. Position is open until filled but preference will be given to candidates who apply by Wednesday, Feb. 15. Culpeper County is an equal opportunity employer.

Assistant Director of Utilities/Gloucester County

Gloucester County currently seeks a dynamic team oriented Professional Engineer to assist the Director of Utilities in planning, organizing, coordinating, and directing activities of the Utilities Department. The Assistant Director of Utilities will also assist with the coordination of departmental efforts and initiatives to comply with all Federal and State applicable regulatory and performance standards. Salary Range: \$57,072-\$85,524/yr. DOQ/DOE s plus an excellent benefits package. Visit our website at www.gloucesterva.jobs for complete details and to apply online. Application Deadline: Jan. 2.

Utility Engineer/Gloucester County

Full-time with benefits. Salary Range: \$47,872-\$71,808. Qualifications: Bachelor's degree in civil engineering or related field, and 3 to 5 years of progressively responsible work experience dealing with municipal water and wastewater operations, maintenance and construction; or any equivalent combination of training and experience which provides the required skills, knowledge and abilities. Requires valid driver's license issued by the Commonwealth of Virginia and Virginia Professional Engineer license or Engineer in Training certification. Visit our website at www.gloucesterva.jobs for complete details and to apply online. Application Deadline: Jan. 2.

Chief of Technical Services/Hampton Roads Sanitation District

Hampton Roads Sanitation District. Our

700 environmentally focused employees come from many backgrounds but we share one vision: Future generations will inherit clean waterways and be able to keep them clean. We've been reducing human impact on the environment for over 70 years. If you share this vision and want to make a difference, you should be working here! Chief of Technical Services
Work Location: 1436 Air Rail Avenue, Virginia Beach, Virginia 23455.
Hiring Salary Range: \$82,932-\$122,183 (depending upon qualifications)
Selected candidates must pass pre-employment drug screening and background check. Applicants can apply online and view the complete job description at www.hrsd.com/jobs or call 757-460-7303 for more information.

Permit Technician/City of Falls Church

Salary Range and Benefits: \$33,557 + 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: Submit a resume to the City of Falls Church, Human Resources Division, 300 Park Avenue, Falls Church, VA 22046, or via e-mail at hr@fallschurchva.gov. Open until filled. Reasonable Accommodation: During the selection process, applicants with disabilities may request reasonable accommodation with the agreement of the Human Resources Division. Requests should be directed to the Human Resources Division.

County Administrator/Mathews County

The current County Administrator is retiring after eleven successful years of service. The ideal candidate is an exceptional leader and proven administrator who is people-oriented with strong professional judgment skills. The candidate will have the ability to successfully manage multiple functions and projects. Salary is negotiable DOQ to a maximum \$95K. Please submit a current resume, salary requirements, salary history, and professional references to O. J. Cole, Jr., P.O. Box 160, Mathews, VA 23109. Electronic copies may be sent to Julie A. Kaylor, Assistant to the County

EMPLOYMENT

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Administrator at jkaylor@co.mathews.va.us. The position remains open until filled. For questions regarding this position, please contact Mr. O.J. Cole, Jr., Chairman, Board of Supervisors at 804-725-7000, or the incumbent, Steve Whiteway, County Administrator at 804-725-7172 or swhiteway@co.mathews.va.us. For more information and a complete job description, please visit the Mathews County website at www.mathewscountyva.gov.

Director of Public Works/Town of Vinton

The Town of Vinton serves 8,000 citizens within the town limits. An additional 1,925 households are provided water and sewer as residents of our service area. Vinton is a full-service municipality governed by an at-large, five member Town Council – one of whom serves as mayor, and under the leadership and direction of a Town Manager. The Public Works staff is comprised of 27 full-time employees, seasonal workers, plus two administrative office staff members. The Department provides services to the Town in the areas of water – the source of which is a series of local wells, waste water removal, refuse collection and recycling, street maintenance, traffic engineering, snow removal, fleet maintenance, and grounds and right-away maintenance. A complete recruitment and community profile, along with the required job application is on-line at www.vintonva.gov. Please attach to the application a resume, letter of application and a list of at least 3 professional references with contact information to include email addresses. If desired, packets may be forwarded to Human Resources, Town of Vinton, 311 S. Pollard St, Vinton, VA 24179. The review of applications will begin Dec. 30. Hiring range is \$62,600 - \$76,000 dependent upon degree of relevant experience and preparation.

County Administrator/Botetourt County

The County operates with a FY 2012 budget of \$85.9 million and approximately 280 full time equivalent employees. The salary for the position is negotiable within a range of \$130,000 to \$140,000 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. Resumes received by Jan. 5 will receive priority consideration. For a complete community/position profile related to the position please visit www.springsted.com.

County Administrator/Halifax County

Current County Administrator is retiring. Salary & benefits \$115,000 - \$140,000 DOQ. Reports to 8 member Board of Supervisors elected by districts; \$86.2 million budget. Requires bachelor's degree and minimum 5 years in public sector experience as a County Administrator, City Manager or assistant, or a senior level position in a successful local government operation. Responsible for 65 direct full/part time employees; and the day-to-day operations of the County. Send a confidential cover letter and resume to Clerk, Board of Supervisors, P. O. Box 699, Halifax, VA 24558 by Feb. 15.

Assistant City Manager/City of Norfolk

(senior executive service - Unclassified) (\$105,942 - \$171,700) The City Manager for the City of Norfolk seeks a proven senior level executive to serve as an Assistant City Manager. Salary is negotiable depending on qualifications and experience. Competitive benefits package. City residency must be established within six (6) months of appointment. Position is open until filled. The position is an unclassified, senior executive position which serves at the pleasure of the City Manager. The City of Norfolk's unique culture and rewarding work experience is the result of a proud history and the efforts of a dedicated team of employees. If you are interested in a career where you can work with other talented, caring people that enjoy serving the citizens of Norfolk we invite you to apply online at www.norfolk.gov/jobs.

Director of Development (#00004557)/ City of Norfolk

(senior executive service - Unclassified) (\$86,070 - \$148,838) The City of Norfolk seeks an experienced, results oriented, community-focused professional to lead, plan and direct the activities of the Department of Development. Salary is negotiable depending on qualifications and experience. Competitive benefits package. City residency must be established within six (6) months of appointment. Position is open until filled. The position is an unclassified, senior executive position which serves at the pleasure of the City Manager. If you are interested in a career where you can work with other talented, caring people that enjoy

serving the citizens of Norfolk we invite you to apply online at www.norfolk.gov/jobs.

Permit Technician/Isle of Wight County

Department of Planning and Zoning Salary \$23,611-30,104. Isle of Wight County is seeking a Permit Technician in the Department of Planning and Zoning to assist the public with general land use information, issue zoning permits for land development activities, answer questions on land disturbance activities, Chesapeake Bay Preservation Area requirements, subdividing property, and residential and non-residential site plan review. Interested candidates should submit an application and resume by Dec. 30 to: HR, P.O. Box 80, Isle of Wight, VA 23397. Visit our website at www.iwus.net or call 757-365-6263.

On-Call Firefighter-EMT-Basic-Intermediate-Paramedic/Prince George County

Prince George County is now accepting applications for the position of On-Call Firefighter/EMT-Basic/Intermediate/Paramedic. For a County application and job description, please visit the County's website at www.princegeorgeva.org.

Assessor/Gloucester County

Gloucester County seeks a dynamic team orientated leader with excellent leadership, communication, and interpersonal skills to head the Real Estate Assessment Department. Gloucester County is centrally located on the Eastern Seaboard with easy access to the Chesapeake Bay, Virginia's Historic Triangle, and major cities, yet abounds with small town charm and hospitality, while offering a wealth of outdoor recreational opportunities. For additional information and to apply online visit us at www.gloucesterva.jobs. Salary Range: \$64,062-\$96,093 DOQ. Excellent benefits package. (804)693-5690.

Water Resources Engineer (Job #2011-004)/GKY & Associates

GKY & Associates, Inc. (GKY) has been in business for more than thirty-five years and we currently have a unique opportunity for the right professional to move into a position with growth potential in a well established firm in the water resources arena. GKY offers competitive salary and benefits, including a 401(k) retirement plan, medical, disability, vision, dental, and life insurance, performance bonuses, vacation, holidays, and tuition reimbursement. Qualified applicants should e-mail their qualifications to careers@gky.com noting the job opening number in the subject line.



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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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