

COUNTY CONNECTIONS

The Newsletter of the
Virginia Association of Counties

July 1, 2011



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SEC adopts CSA policy advice

By Beau Blevins
bblevins@vaco.org



The State Executive Council (SEC) for comprehensive services for at-risk youth and families voted Thursday on the denial of funds to local CSA programs. Before the vote, local government advocates spoke and offered recommendations to strengthen the policies.

The SEC, after review and discussion, adopted and approved the following recommendations to CSA policies:

- Clarify that state agencies are responsible for notifying the Office of Comprehensive Services (OCS) when a provider loses a license, even if that provider is not currently billing for services.
- Clarify that copies of local audits of

CSA
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Commentary by Dean Lynch, CAE
VACo Deputy Executive Director

Eliminate the annual \$60 million reduction in aid to localities (ATL)

It's time to do away with the reduction in ATLs. Once again, localities are faced with making the tough choice of which local programs to cut or whether to write a check from reserves to comply with the mandatory \$60 million annual reduction in state aid to localities.

This decision has local government grappling with concerns over reducing aid to libraries, police, health and human services and the impact these reductions have on local service delivery.

Additionally, as state payments and funding for services shifts from the state to local governments, the pressure put on the real estate tax is increasing, while state mandates have not been eliminated or relaxed.

The FY 2012 adopted budget shifts more funding responsibilities from the state to local governments in many programs, namely:

- Line of Duty - the state shifted all funding responsibility (\$9.5 million) from this previously state funded program to localities
- Constitutional Officer funding - the state shifted all funding responsibility for surety bond and insurance liability coverage from the state (\$1.7 million) to local governments
- K-12 education - the state mandated increased teacher pension rates by 2.4 percent which mandates that employer rates rise from 3.93 percent to 6.33 percent in FY 2012

The reduction in ATL coupled with programmatic funding shifts from state



Dean Lynch

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Lawsuit filed to protect counties opting out of LODA

By Phyllis Errico
perrico@vaco.org

The VACo Group Self Insurance Risk Pool (VACoRP) filed suit in the Circuit Court in Roanoke seeking to stop the collection of 2011 Line of Duty (LODA) fees from employers wishing to opt out of the State administered program. The suit names David Von Moll, State Comptroller; Robert P. Schultze, Director of VRS;

and each member of the VRS Board of Trustees as defendants.

The suit seeks to have the court declare that the state does not have authority to collect payments for 2011, seeks to stop them from collecting, and to require them to move forward in compliance with the actual language of the budget bill.

Although a hearing was initially set for June 28 in Roanoke, the case was moved to Richmond because defendants

are all state officials or entities. The case will be set for hearing in the near future.

Item 258 of the 2010-2012 Budget Bill created a separate fund from



VACoRP
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2011 Annual Conference Update

Once again, at this year's conference we plan to promote many of VACo's ongoing educational programs.

Among them is the County Supervisor Forum that is held each January in even numbered years.

The next County Supervisor Forum is scheduled for Jan. 6-8, 2012, at the Richmond Marriott. The forum is an ideal event for both newly elected and experienced county supervisors.

Attendees can pick up valuable information pertaining to the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA), the Conflict of Interest Act (COIA), budgeting, land use planning, and other important county issues.

It is also important for county officials to consider the Virginia Certified County Supervisor Program, sponsored by VACo in partnership with the Cooperative Extension Office.

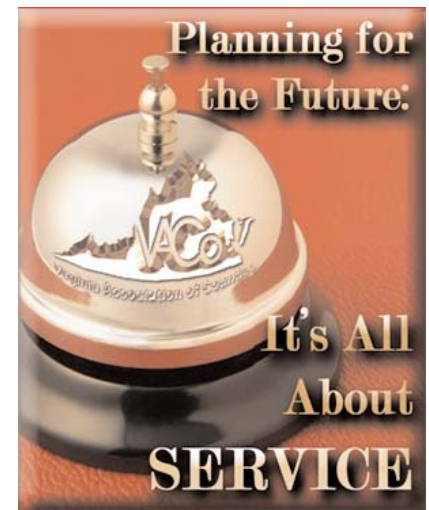
The purpose of the program is to help elected officials become more

effective civic leaders by offering a series of courses in such areas as leadership development, community planning, local government finance and others.

On an annual basis, VACo also teams up with Virginia Tech and the Weldon Cooper Center for Public Service to offer the County Chairpersons' Institute. This is a three-day seminar that will take place on Feb. 9-11 at the Richmond Marriott.

The seminar prepares newly elected board chairs and vice chairs for leadership roles. It is also designed to encourage team work and help participants learn how to manage conflict. The program provides substantive information about the structure and functions of county government.

A tentative list of issues to be addressed during VACo's 2011 Annual Conference include census demographics and its implications for local governments; enterprise resource



planning; rural broadband and high speed internet options; detecting and deterring fraud, waste and abuse; effective utilization of video in county communications; Virginia's political landscape, environmental issues, transportation issues, budgeting and others.

The preliminary conference agenda will be available online by Sept. 15.

New Six-Year Plan adopted for transportation

By Larry Land
lland@vaco.org

On June 15 the Commonwealth Transportation Board adopted the Six-Year Improvement Program (SYIP) for FY 2012 through FY 2017. At \$10.6 billion, the new SYIP represents a 36 percent increase over the SYIP approved for FY 2011 through FY 2016 that was valued at \$7.8 billion.

The \$2.8 billion increase of this year's SYIP stems from the General Assembly's approval of a funding package. That included the expedited issuance of \$1.8 billion in capital project revenue bonds, the creation of the Virginia Transportation Infrastructure Bank that is capitalized with \$283 million VDOT funds that were uncovered in last year's audit of VDOT, and the issuance over the next three years of approximately \$1.1 billion in Guaranteed Anticipated Revenue Vehicle bonds.

The new SYIP allocates \$8.3 billion for VDOT and \$2.3 billion for the Department of Rail and Public

Transportation. Altogether, the SYIP is comprised of more than 900 construction projects. Of significance to local governments is the total allocation of \$206.8 million (\$103.4 million in FY 12 and \$103.4 million in FY 13) for the Revenue Sharing program.

Year-to-date, Commonwealth Transportation Fund revenues are running 3.5 percent ahead of the originally projected growth rate of 3 percent.

- According to VDOT, motor vehicle sales and use tax collections are performing "significantly better than last year," at (year-to-date) 13.8 percent above FY 2010 receipts, "exceeding the estimated 6.9 percent growth for the year."
- Motor vehicle registration fee revenues increased by 10.6 percent in May (year to date growth over last year of 4.8 percent).
- May's Motor Fuels tax collections fell by 1.8 percent compared to May 2010 (year to date collections are up 2.5 percent compared to last year). Fuels tax collections are falling below the



expected annual growth of 3.1 percent.

The modest growth anticipated in transportation has enabled CTB to slightly increase its allocations over the next six years for projects in both the primary and secondary highway systems.

Under the newly adopted SYIP, allocations for the secondary system increased to \$500 million from the \$400 million that appeared in the DRAFT SYIP. Respectively, allocations for projects in the primary system increased to \$2 billion from \$1.9 billion.

Quarles joins leaders for intensive leadership program



William Quarles, Jr., Goochland County Board of Supervisors Chair, was one of a select group of 21 leaders in county government from across the U.S. to participate in the 8th Annual County Leadership Institute (CLI), a rigorous program developed by the National Association of Counties (NACo) and the Cambridge Leadership Associates.

The 3 ½ day Institute, held June 5-9 in Washington, D.C., challenged the county officials to consider innovative approaches to address key issues facing their home county and residents.

Participants worked with the faculty as a group to develop a sense of direction and vision; a mechanism for innovation and creativity; a resource for invigorating organizational culture; and increased risk taking, improved decision making, team building and effective communication.

"These sessions were unlike any I have ever experienced," Quarles said. "The Institute provided a unique opportunity to learn from the experience and insights of experts in leadership development and to work with my colleagues from across the country on specific approaches to address the challenges that all counties share."

CLI curriculum was developed in 2004 by Marty Linsky, co-founder of Cambridge Leadership Associates and faculty at the Kennedy School of Government, Harvard

University, in collaboration with Dr. Ellen Schall, Dean, Robert F. Wagner School of Public Policy at the New York University, specifically for NACo. Jeffrey Lawrence of Cambridge Leadership Associates delivered this year's program.

"The county officials who participate in the institute get information, ideas, and perspectives they can't get anywhere else," said Larry E. Naake, executive director of NACo. "These county leaders not only discussed the core principles of public service leadership with faculty, they also collaborated intensively with each other to develop new ways to attack real-life issues of importance to the residents of their counties."

For more information, contact Ruth Nybro at 202.942.4277 or rnybro@naco.org.

Henrico mechanic advances to national competition

Henrico County's Jason Sharpe recently outperformed mechanics from around the state to capture first place in the Virginia's Best School Bus Technician Competition, held by the Virginia Association for Pupil Transportation (VAPT) in Spotsylvania County.

Now he's making travel plans for San Antonio, Texas where he will represent the Commonwealth at the national School Bus Technician's Training and Skills Competition in September.

Sharpe, who was recognized by Henrico's Board of Supervisors at its June 14 meeting, has worked as an automotive equipment mechanic at the county's Central Automotive Maintenance facility since 2008.

"Jason is truly gifted and dedicated to his work and is a popular member of our staff," said Automotive Fleet Manager Charles Gibbens. "He will do a great job representing Henrico County and Virginia in San Antonio."

The VAPT competition consisted of

a written exam as well as a timed hands-on segment that tested contestants' problem-solving skills under pressure.

Participants were presented with several buses requiring repair and then were evaluated on their diagnostic ability, speed and application of safety measures.

Sharpe said he diagnosed repairs ranging from drivability issues to electrical malfunctions.

"There are times when you need to work quickly, such as when a bus is broken down on the road," he said. "You pay attention to everything under the bus - that's when experience comes into play."

Sharpe, 28, holds an associate's degree in automobile science from J. Sargeant Reynolds Community College. He said he grew up around people working on engines and vehicles.

"School buses are very sophisticated, especially in terms of electronics," he said. "There is something new every



day, and that keeps things interesting." Sharpe said the upcoming national competition will present an additional challenge - the flight to San Antonio will be his first trip aboard an airplane.

"There's a little anxiety but I'm really looking forward to it," he said.

Burgess says he will step down after start of new year

**By Duncan Adams
Roanoke Times
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After more than 19 years at the helm as Botetourt County's administrator, Jerry Burgess announced Tuesday afternoon his plans to resign on or about Jan. 20.

Burgess, 64, shared the news at the conclusion of a regular meeting of the county's board of supervisors. He told board members he believed "the county is in excellent financial condition with many talented individuals throughout the organization" and the timing is right for him to make a change.

Later, Burgess, a 1969 graduate of the U.S. Military Academy at West Point and a Vietnam veteran, said he has spent his entire professional career in public service.

"I want to see what else is out there," Burgess said.

Beth Doughty, executive director of the Roanoke Regional Partnership, has known and worked with Burgess in various capacities for years.

"Jerry has an awesome sense of responsibility and awesome allegiance to Botetourt County," Doughty said. "I have the utmost respect for him."

She said West Point's influence is evident in his dedication to service, his

organization and effectiveness.

"He has a no-nonsense way of getting things done," Doughty said. "He has a lot of ability, talent and heart."

Billy Martin, chairman of the board of supervisors, said he was shocked by Burgess' announcement and agreed that the county will lose a highly capable administrator.

"I think he's probably one of the best in the state," Martin said. "I am really going to miss him. He's a man of integrity, he's smart, he knows economic development and he's just a good man."

Terry Austin, who has served 13 years as a county supervisor, said Burgess "is going to be very hard to replace."

Austin said he's never worked with anyone with greater integrity or higher ethics. He cited a number of accomplishments during Burgess' watch, including achieving a high bond rating, luring and retaining industry, building a new jail and sports complex, and solid budgeting and planning.

Larry Ceola, a more recent addition to the board, offered similar reactions.

"He's done a lot of good and he's going to be missed," Ceola said. "Whether everybody feels this way or not, the county is going to lose a really good administrator."

Burgess' letter reiterated a point he

made time and again this spring during board of supervisors budget meetings that sometimes turned tense and clearly left him exasperated:

"Most importantly, from a professional viewpoint, Botetourt County has unbelievably dedicated staff who understand the value of teamwork."

On Tuesday afternoon, Burgess said, "I won't miss the job, but I will miss the people."

He told supervisors he will do everything he can to ease the transition to a new administrator.

Austin said the board of supervisors will initiate the search for a replacement, but it's too soon to say when.

Burgess was born in Jacksonville, N.C. His father was a Marine who later joined the Trailways bus company. Burgess said his family moved around some and that he lived in Henrico County and moved in the sixth grade to what is now part of Norfolk.



Join Go Green

Ten counties have registered to participate in the Green Government Challenge. Go Green was created four years ago by the Virginia Municipal League for the chief purpose of improving energy efficiency among local governments.

In 2009, VACo's Board of Directors voted to participate as a partner with VML in this program.

Last year, eight counties compiled the number of points necessary on the Go Green Scorecard to achieve certification under the Go Green Initiative. These were the counties of Albemarle, Arlington, Chesterfield, Fairfax, Gloucester, Hanover, Loudoun and Roanoke. All eight were recognized and awarded Go Green plaques at the VACo's 2010 Annual Conference.

The 10 counties that have registered for so for certification in 2011 are Augusta, Charles City, Clarke, Culpeper, Fairfax, Frederick, Hanover, Henrico, Roanoke and Wythe.

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

This website has been structured to make the process easy for applicants as possible. Counties that are certified as "green governments" will be recognized during VACo's Annual Conference on Nov. 13-15 at the Homestead.

Questions about VACo's participation in the Go Green initiative may be directed to Larry Land, VACo staff.



Constructed of limestone and marble and a fine example of early 20th century architecture with classical revival details, the 1913 Bank of Smithfield houses something much more precious than cash and mutual funds.

Home to the Isle of Wight County Museum, the building now documents and preserves the area's rich history, a tale that documents the growth of America.

Located across the James River from the first permanent English settlement at Jamestown, Isle of Wight County has grown as a result of its agriculture and commerce. From pre-historic settlement through notable events in American history such as the Revolutionary War, War of 1812 and Civil War, Isle of Wight has experienced America's story.

The Isle of Wight County Museum was founded in 1976 by volunteers dedicated to the preservation of county history. Now owned and operated by the Isle of Wight County's Division of Historic Resources, the museum's exhibits include prehistoric fossils, Native American artifacts, a re-created turn-of-the-century country store and displays interpreting the Smithfield ham industry.

One of the museum's more notable artifacts is the world's oldest, edible cured ham. While the 1902 pork product exemplifies the patented Smithfield curing process, it was, at one time, known as P.D. Gwaltney Jr.'s pet ham. Overlooked for a few decades, the ham was found hanging from a smokehouse rafter, and upon discovery in 1924, Gwaltney fashioned a brass collar for the ham and took it to trade shows and expositions to display its durability. The ham was featured in Ripley's Believe It Or Not in 1929, 1932 and 2003.

The museum offers special programs, lectures, children's programming, tours and innovative activities for families on a myriad of topics. Monthly, the museum hosts a curatorial coffee klatsch where guests are treated to a discussion about an oddity from the museum's collection. Anything from a flamethrower to a hog bristle scraper is likely to emerge for these events.

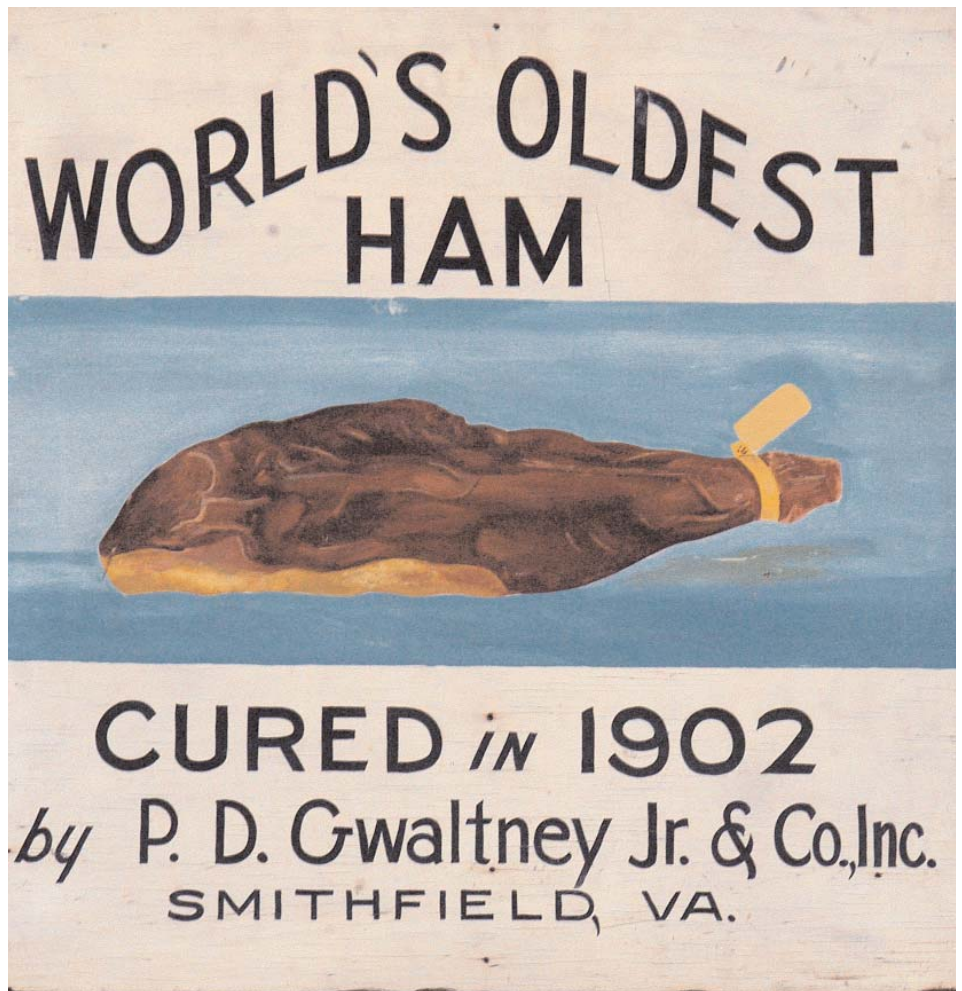
The museum also offers a walking tour via iPod. Technology tells the story of the county as listeners enjoy a scenic one-mile walk - whisking listeners back to the days of dusty roads, plank sidewalks and a bustling riverfront.

Visit the museum the next time you're near to see how the county has transformed its story into a valued educational resource and heritage tourism commodity.

Isle of Wight's history is your history.

For more information, visit www.historicisleofwight.com or call (757) 357-0115.

Visit Isle of Wight County and the Isle of Wight Museum



Mark Your Calendars



**2011 Virginia Rural
Summit**

Sept. 12-13
**Wyndham Virginia Crossing
Hotel and Conference Center**
Glen Allen

Realities of Rural

Virginia's 2011 Rural Summit is designed to bring together community and business leaders, professional developers and elected officials to share experiences and to learn new ideas for community and rural economic development. The 2011 Summit theme will focus on the power in the room as we identify the problem(s), address the people and tie it all together.

Summit Registration

The Rural Center has partnered with the Virginia Association of Counties, VACo to take online registrations. Thank You VACo!
Full 2 Days Registration only \$189.00

Access Registration Form

Fax a completed registration form to: (804) 788-0083
Mail: VACo, 1207 E. Main Street, Suite 300, Richmond, VA 23219
Include credit card information or check payable to Virginia Association of Counties
Click here for online registration

Call the Hotel for Lodging

804.727.1400 Toll-Free: 888.444.6553
Tell the staff you're with Virginia Rural Summit
Wyndham Virginia Crossings
Hotel & Conference Center
1000 Virginia Center Parkway
Glen Allen, Virginia 23059

Access the Agenda

Va Rural Center - www.cfrv.org
Rural Summit Registration Form



**Department of Social
Services**
**Community Leaders
Meeting**

Local elected officials are invited to participate in one of three meetings for community leaders being held around the state to explain a new Virginia Department of Social Services initiative to strengthen families. Specifically, the initiative focuses on reducing non-marital births, connecting and reconnecting fathers with their children, and encouraging the formation and maintenance of safe, stable, intact, two-parent families.

Details are included in this letter from VDSS.

July 13 – 9:30 a.m. to noon – Calvary Revival Church, 5833 Poplar Hall Drive, Norfolk

July 26 - 9:30 a.m. to noon – Virginia Western Community College, Business Science Building, Whitman Theater, 3093 Colonial Avenue, Roanoke

July 28 - 9:30 a.m. to noon – Virginia Department of Transportation, District Office, 4975 Alliance Drive, Fairfax 22030

Read VDSS' letter.

**Rural Planning Caucus
Annual Conference
“Home Grown
Prosperity and Vitality
in Your Community”**



Program includes a mobile workshop and tour of two Giles County 'Round the Mountain Artisans; presentations on Rural Economic Strategies, Sustainability of Places, TMDLs and the Environment; and a legal session on Development Bonds.

Oct. 19-21
Mt. Lake, Giles County

**Keynote Speaker on Thursday, Oct. 20, is Ed McMahon discussing
“Place Making.”**

Information and registration information at www.rpcva.org.

MERG wins High Technology in Government award

The Southwestern Virginia Technology Council (SWVTC) announced Mountain Empire Regional GIS (MERG) as the winner of the coveted 2011 High Technology in Government Award.

The MERG project streamlines the process for data sharing among localities and the state through development of a regional GIS data replication system in near real-time. It significantly improves public safety in a large region of the state, and is the largest regional geographic data repository project in the Commonwealth of Virginia.

The project began when the Virginia counties of Lee, Russell, Scott, Smyth and Washington and the City of Bristol identified a need to improve emergency response to 9-1-1 calls. The area is significantly mountainous and largely rural.

Within the 2,505 square miles covered by the MERG project, there are numerous areas of sparse population and difficult access. 5,440 miles of roads, 97,066 addressed structures and 182,975 citizens depend upon the six government entities in a variety of public safety events, which rarely adhere to county lines.

Public safety answering points (PSAPs) can be affected by the terrain, particularly when calls originate from cellular telephones. Frequently, the area has need for coordinated response across government boundaries.

For example, Scott County transferred 949 emergency 9-1-1 calls to other jurisdictions in 2010. Mapping, and particularly current and correct mapping, can be critical to effective response.

Prior to project implementation, the area's characteristics, lack of coordination and dependence upon paper maps could hamper and delay public safety response. The MERG project was designed to enable sharing and upkeep of current GIS data across jurisdictional boundaries, thus enhancing emergency response and providing critical backup capabilities.

Other jurisdictions easily may join the partnership in the future, creating further benefits for everyone involved. The citizens of the six MERG jurisdictions are the primary beneficiaries of improved services from MERG through the various Public Safety Answering Points (PSAPs). Dispatchers now share near "real time" GIS mapping with responders, including updated roads, centerlines, parcel and E9-1-1 addressing information available at the dispatcher position.

Responders and emergency



coordinators, formerly reliant on paper maps that were rarely current, now receive map data, which is updated nightly if changes occur. The immediate benefit is the ability to shave seconds from life threatening incidents. In reality, mapping without borders can reduce response time by hours in remote locations when E9-1-1 wireless and wire line calls are received.

Administratively, GIS technicians at each jurisdiction are freed from the time consuming task of continually reaching out to bordering neighbors in an effort to obtain data that is often outdated before it is available to the PSAP. Emergency coordinators and other county administrators also now share connectivity, frequent communication and planning for new uses of this agile data repository.

MERG easily supports the vision and the practice of VGIN's statewide geospatial clearinghouse, which sources authoritative data from the localities to share information regionally, statewide, multistate and federally. MERG data is available to support state efforts through a single point of contact versus the time and effort of reaching out individually to the localities involved.

Consequently the local authoritative data flows into statewide road centerline data and becomes part of collaborative state led efforts with commercial data providers such as Navteq and TomTom and web mapping applications such as MapQuest, Bing and ESRI. The result of the MERG collaboration is delivery of the most accurate and current data, available to both citizens and government.

The greatest challenge to interoperable communications in the region was the lack of local funding and the lack of jurisdictional information systems support.

The challenge was addressed by building a regional team to qualify for a

regional project grant through the Virginia E9-1-1 Wireless Board grant program. The grant program provided the \$775,000 grant award that enabled the MERG vision to become a reality. Because the funding was made available to the MERG team, there was a heightened sense of accountability that fostered an attitude of innovation and success. Every dollar spent was leveraged for additional benefits and return on investment for its constituents.

The result of this process was that the team actively sought ways to capitalize on the grant investment. It was able to accomplish an infrastructure that supported not only this project's objectives but also many other value adds such as creation of a web-based information portal, data backup and recovery of other data systems for the jurisdictions.

MERG was designed to assist participants without adding requirements for increased staff or budget-critical in the current economic environment. It has been implemented through leverage of an innovative funding stream and positively exemplifies local-state partnerships.

The data repository is designed to not be limited to GIS-based data. The full vision of this project is to create the foundation of data sharing, services, transferring, backups, etc. for the continued improvement of the region's public safety and overall planning endeavors. Plans for MERG II already are underway.

MERG implements a "come as you are" GIS approach. Whether members have a simple or very sophisticated GIS program, participation is easy. The flexible, scalable platform development and secure, firewalled network eliminated previous barriers to

MERG

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Council on Aging honors six programs

A partnership in Arlington County that provides cost-effective assisted living services for elderly residents of a low-income apartment complex won the top 2011 "Best Practices" award from the Commonwealth Council on Aging.

The council, which advises the Governor on issues affecting older Virginians, annually acknowledges organizations whose model programs can be replicated across the Commonwealth.

Jim Rothrock, Virginia Department for the Aging (VDA) Commissioner, along with Robert Blancato, chairman of the Commonwealth Council on Aging and Dr. Richard Lindsay, a member of the Commonwealth Council on Aging, presented the award on June 14.

"With these awards, the Council and the Virginia Department for the Aging honor creativity in services that foster livable communities for older adults through home- and community-based supports such as transportation, housing, caregiver support and intergenerational programming," said Rothrock.

The Rotondaro Family Foundation, based in Alexandria, provided \$10,000 for a top award, two second-place awards and three honorable mentions.

The year's top award honors the partnership between Arlington County's Aging and Disability Services division and Culpepper Garden, which provides affordable services normally found in assisted living facilities to older residents of the low-income apartment complex in Arlington. The program will receive a \$5,000 donation in recognition of its efforts to assist older Virginians age in their community.

Through the program, Culpepper Garden residents can receive assisted living services such as transportation, personal care, adult day health care and nursing case management. Culpepper Garden provides federally-financed housing for older Virginians.

Two service coordinators and the Arlington County Agency on Aging work together to help residents identify their needs and apply for and access



services.

About 1 million Virginians are age 65 and older, a number that will increase considerably as Baby Boomers enter their retirement years. By 2030, one in every five Virginians, or almost 2 million people, will be age 65 and older.

"Our hope is that other communities across the Commonwealth will replicate these innovative, cost-effective programs that can do so much to improve the quality of life for older Virginians," said Blancato.

Two organizations tied for second place and each will receive \$1,750:

- ElderSpirit Community is one of mutual support and late-life spirituality in a mixed-income, co-housing neighborhood in Abingdon, consisting of 29 homes, including 16 low-income rentals, a central "Common House" and a "Spirit Center." Resident management is one of the principles of co-housing: the residents determine how they will live with and offer support to one another, maintain the lawns and buildings, cook their common meals and live by the stated values.
- The Volunteer Money Management Program, by the Capital Area Agency on Aging in partnership with AARP, provides individualized assistance to seniors age 60 and over who need help with their monthly bill-paying

responsibilities. Trained volunteers provide one-on-one check writing and bill paying services in the home. Money management enables seniors to live independently and with the peace of mind that their bills are paid in a timely manner.

A \$500 award was given to each of three honorable mentions:

- Aging Together, Culpeper, for its "Caregiver Training Series," which supports family caregivers by providing them affordable and accessible hands-on training in their home communities.
- Rappahannock Rapidan Community Services Board, Culpeper, whose volunteers for the RSVP & Care-A-Van Driving Programs provided 874 trips, 43,077 miles of transport and 3,191 hours of service helping older individuals with vital transportation services in 2010.
- The Virginia Heart and Vascular Institute Heart Failure Clinic, Mary Washington Healthcare, Fredericksburg, whose successful ongoing care has dramatically reduced heart failure and patient readmissions, enabling patients to manage their conditions and resume most daily activities.

For more about the Commonwealth Council on Aging's Best Practices Awards, visit www.vda.virginia.gov/council.asp.

CSA

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CSA review are to be provided to OCS within three business days from presentation of said audit to governing body.

- State that the OCS will communicate with the CPMT chairs and local Chief Executive Officers of a locality when OCS suspects noncompliance.
- Clarify whether the "look back" policy affected local document retention policies.

- The SEC clarified that its interpretation of this existing policy does not and would not affect local document retention policies.

The SEC and state health and human resources officials have been instrumental in providing opportunities for localities to review and to join the dialogue regarding the CSA policies. State and local governments have

benefited from this approach.

Secretary of Health and Human Resources, Dr. Bill Hazel, stated "Our ability to come to consensus on these important policies this morning clearly demonstrates the power of collaboration and communication between the state and our local government partners. We will continue to improve the delivery of services to these vulnerable children and will look to our local government partners for support and guidance."

Testifying on behalf of VACo was Dean Lynch, Deputy Executive Director. Lynch highlighted some of the aforementioned recommendations needed to clarify the policies.

The adoption of CSA policies and local government recommendations is an important step in strengthening the state-local partnership and functionality of the CSA program.

VACoRP

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which Line of Duty benefits would be paid. Previous to this amendment, these benefits were paid entirely by the state out of the General Fund.

The budget language allows employers to make an irrevocable choice to participate in or to opt out and self fund the required benefits. The language also requires the VRS board to

provide forms for such an election.

VRS stated initially that it would not be collecting 2011 funds from employers who opt out of participation in the state fund.

However the State Board of Accounts under the State Comptroller have made it clear that they are collecting 2011 funds from all localities retroactively even if they choose to opt out. VACo will continue to monitor the progress of the suit.

MERG

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service improvement.

The MERG project shines as a leading practice in Virginia due to both the government to government project collaboration and the leveraging of simple yet advanced technologies of the ESRI v10 software. It is a classic case of the business need driving the technology and not the other way around as it is so often.

Organizational hurdles melted away because of the unifying regional need. The PSAP Grant Program provided the perfect funding opportunity. The v10 ESRI software made the technical solution easily attainable, sustainable and expandable.

The entire project concept dovetailed with ongoing efforts at the state level. With its service oriented architecture, growth into new forms of data is enabled. The original grant wisely has been used to build a

platform that does not depend upon further funding or staffing to expand. The regional cooperation is a model for other government entities.

Appropriately, the citizen rarely if ever knows of the technology which supports the business of improving E9-1-1 response. However, this innovative use of technology has met the business need and stands ready to assist any citizen in need during public safety responses.

The MERG project is an outstanding example of local, regional and state cooperation--and innovation.

Even in a tight economy, participants focused on improving operations to benefit their citizens and employees.

Project implementation followed best practices throughout, from clear identification of the business problem to project launch.

The business need clearly drove the technology.

LYNCH

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to local governments is more about reducing the "state's funding blueprint" than about creating state revenue to fund mandatory programs or balance the state budget.

This ideological shift is forcing many localities to supplant federal, state and privately funded services with more local dollars while the state is boasting a FY 2011 revenue surplus of nearly \$200 million.

In a presentation to Senate Finance and House Appropriations committees in June, Ric Brown, Secretary of Finance, in summary stated that total general fund revenue collections rose 17.9 percent in May 2011.

On a year-to-date basis, total revenue collections rose 5.8 percent, ahead of the revised annual forecast of 3.5 percent growth.

Adjusting for the accelerated sales tax program in June 2010, total revenues grew 7.3 percent through May 2011, ahead of the economic-base forecast of 5.5 percent growth, resulting in a state surplus of approximately \$200 million (as reported by the Richmond Times Dispatch).

There is strong evidence to suggest that the shifting of state funding responsibilities to localities, as well as the \$60 million annual reduction in state aid to localities, played a role in enabling the Commonwealth to realize that surplus.

Noting a state budget surplus in FY 2011 and potential revenue collection increases in FY 2012, why are local governments continuing to provide "local aid to the state?"

The Virginia Code does not absolve the state of funding responsibilities for libraries, police, health and human services and education, nor should the state budget.

A top priority for Virginia's counties must be elimination of the \$60 reduction in aid to localities (ATL).

VACo's Finance Steering Committee will discuss the issue at the Aug. 12 meeting and consider legislative actions that will force the state to live up to its mandated funding responsibilities.

Workgroup meets to discuss regulations of aquaculture

By Larry Land
lland@vaco.org

On June 21, a workgroup studying the regulation of aquaculture met at the Virginia Institute of Marine Science in Gloucester Point.

The group was established upon the request of the General Assembly's House Agriculture Committee as it voted to table SB 1190 (Norment).

This was the bill that would have amended the Right-to-Farm Act (Section 3.1- 300 et seq. of the Code of Virginia) by including "the practice of aquaculture" within the definition of "production agriculture or silviculture" activities. Because the bill was interpreted as an intrusion in local land use authority, VACo opposed the measure.

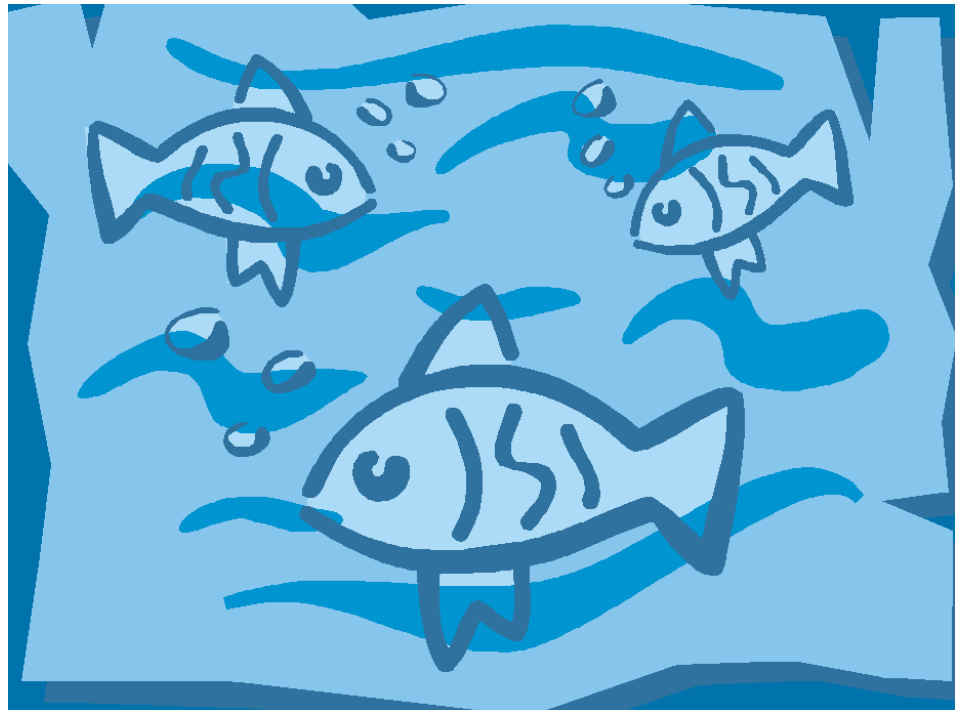
Work group members include representatives from local government, the aquaculture industry, the Virginia Marine Resources Commission, the Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, and citizens' groups.

The introduction of SB 1190 stemmed from a situation in York County where approval was denied for a conditional use permit requested by a property owner who wished to operate an aquaculture operation in rural residential district.

The work group's chief purpose is to determine whether it might be possible to reach a compromise between parties on different sides of SB 1190.

These are the chief issues dividing the bill's supporters and opponents.

- Supporters of SB 1190 continue to insist that the legislation include "the practice of aquaculture" as a by-right use in an area zoned "as an agricultural



district or classification." For local governments the problem is the statutory definition of "the practice of aquaculture," which could include such structures as "a laboratory, pen, cage, incubator, raceway or other equipment." All these structures concentrated in a small area might often not be compatible in an area zoned "rural residential" where both residential and some agricultural practices are allowed.

- Supporters of SB 1190 are requesting consideration of an amendment that would change the "agricultural district or classification" language in the Right-to-Farm Act. Since the last time major amendments were made to the Right-to-Farm Act, "agricultural district or classification" was largely understood to mean A-1 Agricultural Districts. During the meeting, there were

discussions about seeking an Attorney General's opinion over the meaning of "agricultural district or classification."

One area of agreement among all sides is the recognition that aquaculture, when managed properly, can be a major contributor toward the improvement of water quality in the Chesapeake Bay and its tributaries.

Oysters and clams, especially, are organisms that can effectively filter pollutants from the water.

The growth of the aquaculture industry can serve as an extremely beneficial resource for helping localities in Virginia's portion of the Chesapeake Bay watershed meet their pollution reduction targets established by U.S. EPA.

The work group's next meeting is likely to take place in mid-July.

Congratulations to all 2011 NACo Achievement Award winners!

We hope you can join us at the Awards Reception at NACo's Annual Conference in Multnomah County, Ore., on July 17 at 3:30 p.m. in the Oregon Ballroom 203. Please RSVP to Matt Luce at mluce@naco.org or 202.942.4276.

If you would like to purchase duplicate certificates or other awards memorabilia, please visit www.easttowest.com and click on the NACo logo.

Abstracts for all 2011 Achievement Award winners will be available in August.

For common questions about the NACo Achievement Award program, please view the Frequently Asked Questions document. Click here to see all the winners!



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.

County Administrator/Lunenburg County

The County operates with a FY 2012 budget of \$33.6 million. A bachelor's degree in business or public administration, public policy, finance, planning or related field is required with a master's degree preferred. At least five (5) years of public management experience as a Chief Executive/Administrator or Deputy Chief Executive/Administrator in a comparably sized community or organization with a wide range of knowledge and duties in operations and management is desired. The salary for the position is negotiable within a range of \$75,000 to \$95,000 based on the candidate's qualifications and experience and is supplemented by an excellent benefit package. Please submit a letter of application, detailed resume with 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. Resumes received by July 28 will receive priority consideration. Position remains open until filled. For a complete community/position profile related to the position please visit www.springsted.com.

Citizen Action Officer/Stafford County

This position will serve as a liaison for County citizens and provide professional constituent support services to the Board of Supervisors; perform professional and difficult administrative work researching issues and constituent inquiries for members of the Board of Supervisors. Submit application at www.staffordcountyva.gov. Deadline: July 10. EOE. The salary for the position is \$41,496.00 - \$52,894.40, based on qualifications and experience.

Benefits include but are not limited to participation in the Virginia Retirement System, vacation and sick leave, group life insurance, medical and dental insurance, professional dues and conference expenses. A complete description of the position and the County's profile is available at: www.staffordcountyva.gov. Applications must be received by July 10. To be considered please submit a Stafford County application through Stafford County's website at www.staffordcountyva.gov.

Planner II/Spotsylvania County

Requires a Master's degree in Urban Regional planning, or a closely related field and 2 years of experience performing duties equivalent to the class of Planner I with Spotsylvania County or similar county; or a Bachelor's degree in urban planning and 4-6 years of experience performing duties equivalent to the class of Planner I professional level planning work; or any equivalent combination of training/experience. A background or experience in historic preservation is preferred, but not required. May be filled as a Planner I. Salary \$44,916 (Entry Level Salary). Deadline July 8. A County application must be submitted online: Human Resources, P.O. Box 605, Spotsylvania, VA 22553 (540) 507-7290, www.spotsylvania.va.us

Assistant General Manager/Alexandria Sanitation Authority

As the Assistant General Manager, responsible for the overall management activities and programs, with special emphasis in the departments of Finance, Process and Engineering. Identify opportunities and develop relationships aimed at identifying new business and market opportunities, and alternate funding sources. Stay apprised of emerging issues within the industry, the profession and community. Principal advisor to General Manager/Engineer-Director (ED) in relation to the development and implementation of ASA's strategic business plans. In the absence of the ED, this

position may serve as spokesperson for ASA. Visit www.alexsan.com for more information and to apply online.

Director of Public Works/Rockingham County

Join Rockingham County and lead the County's public works operations as part of a high-energy management team. The Director of Public Works is responsible for overseeing operations in the areas of engineering, solid waste disposal, water production, water delivery & sewer collection systems, and the maintenance of county vehicles and facilities. The Director develops innovative policies and procedures, makes recommendations to the Board of Supervisors and advises the executive management team on efficient operations and compliance with federal and state regulatory requirements. More information on this position is available at www.rockinghamcountyva.gov under job opportunities. E-mail or mail your resume and completed employment application to Stephen N. Riddlebarger, Department of Human Resources, Rockingham County, 20 East Gay Street, Harrisonburg, VA 22802 - sridlebarger@rockinghamcountyva.gov. An employment application is located on our website at www.rockinghamcountyva.gov. Application review will begin upon receipt. This position will remain open until filled.

Planner/Fluvanna County

Fluvanna County seeks a Planner. Position requires excellent oral and written communication skills, familiarity with principles of planning and zoning, creativity, strong visionary skills, consensus building ability, and strong interpersonal skills. Position assists in implementation of Comprehensive Plan, provides staff support to the Planning Commission and Board of Supervisors manages demographic information, long-range planning projects, and other similar duties. Bachelor's degree in Planning, Architecture, or a

EMPLOYMENT

Continued from page 11

related field, as well as the demonstrated ability to effectively operate an in-house GIS system and work with a GIS consultant is required. Work experience in planning or local government preferred. Hiring salary is \$35,500 plus benefits. More information and application at www.co.fluvanna.va.us.

Probation-Pretrial Supervision Officer /Frederick County

County benefits include:

- Paid Health and Dental Insurance
- Paid Life Insurance
- Virginia Retirement System
- Paid annual and sick leave
- Deferred compensation plans
- Optional Life, Cancer, Accident, and Disability Insurance

Service area includes City of Winchester, Counties of Clarke, Frederick, Page, Shenandoah and Warren. Frederick County general employment application is required and can be downloaded from our website at www.co.frederick.va.us. Only applicants selected for interview will be contacted.

Payroll & Accounting Technician/Isle of Wight County

Department of Budget and Finance
Starting Salary \$28,700-36,592
Isle of Wight County seeks a Payroll and Accounting Technician to perform governmental accounting work, primarily to process payroll for full and part-time employees. Responsibilities include ensuring accuracy of payroll information, data entry into an automated payroll system, generating and mailing payroll checks. Prepares general billing invoices and a variety of payroll-related and tax reports on a monthly and quarterly basis. Processes miscellaneous deductions and cash transmittals for reimbursement. Requires general knowledge of state and federal fiscal regulations, payroll reporting, and related tax procedures. Associate's degree and 1-3 years of experience or combined education and training preferred. Interested candidates should submit a County application and resume by July

8 to: HR, P.O. Box 80, Isle of Wight, VA 23397. Visit our website at www.iwus.net or call 757-365-6263.

Zoning Administrator/Stafford County

The salary for the position is \$67,932 to \$105,310, based on qualifications and experience. A complete description of the position and the County's profile is available at www.springsted.com and www.co.stafford.va.us. Résumés and applications must be received by July 13. To be considered please submit a Stafford County application through Stafford County's website www.co.stafford.va.us/Departments/Human_Resources/Emploment and submit a résumé with references and salary history to:

John A. Anzivino
Springsted Incorporated
1564 East Parham Road
Richmond, VA 23228
(804) 726-9750
Fax: (804) 726-9752
E-Mail: richmond@springsted.com

Director of Community Development/Louisa County

A Bachelor's Degree in Public Administration or a related field is required. Position will remain open until filled. Job descriptions and applications are available from our website at www.louisacounty.com. Or by calling 540-967-0401. A Louisa County application must be submitted to be considered for this position. Faxed or e-mailed applications will be accepted only if followed up with an original signature on hard copy.

Assistant Director of Social Services/Hanover County

Excellent oral and written communication skills are required. Must be able to establish and maintain effective working relationships with County and state officials, employees, and the general public. Hiring range is \$73,242-\$85,000, plus excellent benefits. For more information or to apply for this position, please visit our career site at www.hanovercountyjobs.com. (804)365-6489, (TDD #365-6140).

Planner-Zoning Administrator/Cumberland County

For complete job description and application contact Jill Matthews at 804/492-3562 or visit our website at www.cumberlandcounty.virginia.gov. Salary commensurate with experience. Submit completed county application to Cumberland County, Attn: Jill Matthews, P.O. Box 110, Cumberland, VA 23040. Position will remain open until filled. Cumberland County does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age, marital status, creed, limited English proficiency, or handicap in its programs, activities or employment practices as required by Title VI, title IX, and Section 504. Contact Human Resources, Cumberland County, 804/492-3562 with questions regarding alleged discrimination.

Public Affairs and Communications Officer/Loudoun County

Requires any combination of education and experience equivalent to a Master's degree in Communications, Public Affairs, Journalism or a related field and a minimum of seven (7) years professional communications experience in Government or a comparable organization, to include 3 or more years experience supervising professional staff. Employment is contingent upon successful completion of a criminal background, credit and DMV check. (Hiring Range: \$69,162-\$110,659) #11-A311-229. Apply immediately. Visit www.loudoun.gov for more information and to apply.

Director of Economic Development/Hanover County

Are you looking for a rewarding job with a dedicated team of professionals that allows you to use all your talents? Then Hanover County is for you. Hanover County has an exciting opportunity for a Director of Economic Development to lead the County's continued growth and economic development initiatives. Hiring range is \$98,424-\$132,875, plus excellent benefits. For more information and to apply, visit www.hanovercountyjobs.com. (804)365-6489, (TDD #365-6140).



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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.

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

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