

COUNTY CONNECTIONS

The Newsletter of the
Virginia Association of Counties

March 2, 2016



Get Certified
as a County
Supervisor...
Page 2



Visit Wythe
County and
the Stephen F.
Austin Memorial
Park... Page 5



Longtime Warren
County Attorney
to retire... Page 4



County
Chairs
and Vice
Chairs...
Page 7



Virginia Association of Counties ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS



ENTER THE 2016 VACo ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS

Dear VACo Members

It's time for the 2016 Achievement Awards Program. Any county department is eligible to compete so **ENTER NOW!**

Submissions must be received by June 1.

Last year we processed a record 92 entries and selected 34 winners from 20 counties. VACo presented awards at 19 Board of Supervisors Meetings and recognized winners at the Annual Conference, in a news release sent to statewide media and in an Achievement Awards booklet.

All entries are required to be submitted in electronic form. No paper copy submissions are necessary. The electronic copy should be a PDF or WORD file. Email entries to Gage Harter at gcharter@vaco.org.

The judges for the 2016 Achievement Awards will be announced soon.

VACo received more than 400 entries over the past seven competitions. Last year's Best Achievement winner was Carroll County for its "STEM Lab for Agriculture" program.

VACo encourages all counties, big and small, to enter the 2016 Achievement Awards Program. Please contact gcharter@vaco.org with questions or for more information.

[Click here for registration form](#)

[Click here for Achievement Awards website](#)

[Click here to browse all of the 2015 entries](#)

[Click here to view past Achievement Award winners](#)

Get Certified as a County Supervisor



This photo is from last May when elected officials attended the Supervisors Certification course in Bedford County. VACo's Phyllis Errico (sitting far right) and Instructors Mike Chandler (middle with tie) and Martha Walker (standing far left) lead the program, which has graduated nearly 60 supervisors from over 40 counties since its inception in 2005. Also pictured is Bedford County Administrator Carl Boggess (standing far right). The five-course Supervisors Certification program is a staple of VACo's educational efforts. For more information, please visit <http://www.vaco.org/education/supervisor-certification>.

Have you heard about our [Virginia Certified County Supervisors' Program](#)? The program, a collaboration between VACo, Virginia Tech and Virginia Cooperative Extension, provides county supervisors an opportunity to enhance their capacity to effectively and efficiently lead their respective counties. Since its inception in 2005, nearly 60 County Board Supervisors have graduated from over 40 counties.

The program includes five, two-part classes. An opening class is followed by eight weeks of home study, and the course concludes with a closing program. Class location varies and is determined according to enrollee location. Participants can enroll for any opening course, and the program can usually be completed within two years with only 10 days in the classroom. Attendees will receive a binder for each class along with assigned textbooks.

Instructors are Dr. Michael Chandler, Virginia Tech and Dr. Martha Walker, Virginia Cooperative Extension, and the courses include a number of guest instructors and practitioners with expertise in the area of study. Space is limited to 20 participants per class to ensure optimal learning.

Interested in the next course starting Friday, March 11 and ending Friday, April 22? Make sure to register now at "[Making a Governance Difference: Purpose Driven Policy, Deliberation and Decision Making](#)." Both classes will be held in Albemarle.

To find out more about upcoming VACo Education be sure to check out the [Events and Meeting](#) page on our website to stay up to date. Contact [Beau Blevins](#) for more information on this or upcoming Supervisors Certification courses.

VACo Contact: [Beau Blevins](#)

Keith Early Appointed New Prince George Police Chief

Prince George County Administrator Percy Ashcraft has announced that Captain Keith Early has been appointed to the position of Police Chief.

Early, a Prince George County resident, is currently an Operations Division Commander for the City of Colonial Heights. He will assume his new responsibilities on March 14.

"We went through a very thorough application and screening process to fill this very important position," commented Ashcraft. "There were a number of outstanding applicants. Captain Early represents all we were looking for."

Early will replace Chief Ed Frankenstein, who retired October 1. The search began last April to fill the position.

"It was important we found the right person," Ashcraft said of the lengthy time frame to fill the position. "Sometimes these things take weeks, and other times they take months. But in the end, finding someone who is the right fit is the ultimate goal."

Early began his law enforcement career as a Patrol Officer in the City of Petersburg in 1993. After accepting a similar position in Colonial Heights in 1994, he rose through the ranks holding positions as sergeant and lieutenant before being named captain in 2007.

Early has a Bachelor of Science degree in Justice Administration from Virginia Commonwealth University and a minor in psychology. He has attended Penn State University for Police Executive Development, and is a graduate of the FBI National Academy.

Early will inherit a Police force with 78 positions, including Communications and Animal Control. There are 58 sworn officers.



GASB has proposed a single approach for lease reporting. State and local governments would report leases based on the principle that leases are financings of the right to use an underlying asset. The proposal would provide guidance for lease contracts for nonfinancial assets such as vehicles, heavy equipment and buildings. It would not apply to grants, donated assets or leases of intangible assets. The limited exceptions in the draft guidance include financed purchases and short-term leases of 12 months or less.

The exposure draft would require a lessee government to recognize a lease liability and an intangible asset representing its right to use the leased asset. A lessor government would be required to recognize a lease receivable and a deferred inflow of resources.

Under the proposal, a lessee would also report:

- Amortization expense related to the lease asset, recognizing the asset amount as an expense over the term of the lease.
- Interest expense related to the liability.
- Note disclosures with information about the lease, including a general description of the leasing arrangement.

The proposal would also require a lessor to report:

- Lease revenue and a corresponding reduction in the deferred inflow over the term of the lease.
- Interest revenue related to the receivable.
- Note disclosure with information about the lease, including a general description of the leasing arrangement.

VACo Contact: [Vicky Steinruck](#)

Message from VACo President Judy Lyttle

On behalf of the Virginia Association of Counties, I would like to extend my condolences and prayers to those who suffered loss because of tornadoes on February 24.

Four Virginians were killed and many more were injured when tornadoes struck the Town of Waverly (Sussex County) and Appomattox County.

I encourage you to call the numbers below to donate to the communities.

Sussex County
434.246.1087

Appomattox County
434.352.2336

Please keep those communities and others impacted in your thoughts and prayers.

Thank you.

Judy Lyttle
VACo President and Surry County
Supervisor

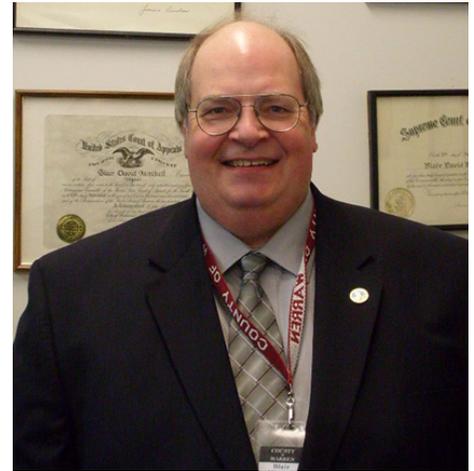
Blair Mitchell announces retirement after 31 years as local government attorney

Warren County Attorney Blair Mitchell recently announced his retirement, effective at the end of April. Mitchell has served as attorney for various Virginia localities for almost 31 years. He's been a member of the Virginia State Bar for nearly 40 years.

"It was time," Mitchell was quoted in The Northern Virginia Daily. "I've got some household chores, mostly repairs and renovations, remodeling that we've been putting off and putting off just because I haven't had time to do it. Some gardening and stuff like that that I really have not been able to do because of being here."

Mitchell joined Warren County in January 2007 after serving more than six years as Front Royal's Town Attorney. He also worked as Assistant and Deputy Stafford County Attorney from 1984-1999.

VACo asked Mitchell five questions about his career, plans for his retirement and advice he would give to young local government attorneys. His answers are below.



VACo: You've worked for almost 31 years as a local government attorney. What will you miss the most?

Mitchell: First and foremost I will miss the people I have worked with. The staff and officials here in Warren are the best, the friendliest, and the most caring of each other and of the citizens we serve. They are truly family to me. I will also miss the challenges of encountering something new every week. In a two-lawyer office we don't get to specialize, so we constantly see new issues. The research to learn different areas of the government legal practice has been a rewarding education for me over the years.

VACo: If you were speaking with young local government attorneys today – what advice would you give them?

Mitchell: Never assume you know everything. Always check your authorities because the legislatures and courts are always tinkering with what you thought you knew. Don't hesitate to take advantage of your peers in the Local Government Attorneys of Virginia. There is great wisdom and greater friendships in our colleagues around the state. Appreciate not only your legal colleagues, but your other dedicated co-workers as well. And don't take yourself too seriously. Have some fun doing what you do.

VACo: How has county law changed over the years?

Mitchell: It's getting more frustrating to deal with the restrictions the General Assembly keeps placing on localities. They still enact unfunded mandates, while refusing to give us the local option to have taxing powers equal to cities and towns. Counties keep growing in population, density, and demands for more rural counties to provide more urban services. Warren County is participating in building and/or paving roads, providing more parks and recreation facilities, enhancing our law enforcement facilities and courthouse, and building new schools. The list goes on. But we are still turned down when asking for the ability to tax cigarettes, and to raise our transient occupancy tax and our meals tax. We are restricted more every year on our ability to suggest and accept reasonable proffers during rezonings. Some other localities in the past have stretched the limits of the proffer system, and we all end up being punished for it. Our big brothers in Richmond want more and more to manage us without providing us the tools to manage ourselves.

On a more positive note, county law is still very interesting. We don't prosecute or defend criminal cases, we don't get into messy domestic relations cases, or personal injuries. But we are otherwise very much both a general practice of civil law and a specialized practice of land use and procedural law. The combination never loses its freshness.

VACo: Please say a few words about being able to serve the citizens of Warren County and the other communities you've served.

Mitchell: Warren/Front Royal and Stafford have a lot of similarities. Many people in both areas are commuters to the Beltway area around D.C. But many, too, are from families that have lived and worked close to home for generations. Those from the more permanent families have more of a sense of kinship and community, are very open to supporting each other, and being appreciative of the support that we in government can give to them. The people of both Warren and Stafford are great. They take pride in the community and celebrate the good things about home. As a government employee, you have to remember that anyone you deal with may be the cousin of someone else you work closely with, and as a result you make yourself more patient with people, which is a good thing, and makes you a better person. After all, helping to make the community better for the people is why we got into and stayed in public employment in the first place.

VACo: You mentioned in a newspaper article that you wanted to do some gardening – what do you like to grow? Flowers? Vegetables?

Mitchell: When I had more "home time" in the past, I grew several varieties of flowers (roses, lilies, daffodils, tulips, azaleas, and quince) and was able to cut them for filling vases in the house. My wife appreciated that. I also would plant lots of vegetables to have fresh veggies for cooking, mostly different types of beans, tomatoes, peppers, onions, lettuces, cabbage and carrots. You can't beat eating grape tomatoes that you've just picked and haven't even gotten inside the house yet. I look forward to getting my fingers dirty again!



Photos courtesy of Jeremy Farley | Wythe County Tourism

Millions of Americans are familiar with famed Texan Stephen F. Austin, the man who secured his place in history as the “Father of Texas.” Most, however, are unaware that the “Father of Texas” not only hails from the Old Dominion, but from the Blue Ridge Mountains of Southwest Virginia’s historic Wythe County.

Born November 3, 1793, in what is now Austinville, Virginia, Stephen Fuller Austin was the second child of Moses Austin and Mary Brown Austin. Moses, born in 1761, was originally from Connecticut. He and his brother moved to eastern Wythe County in August 1789 with intentions of founding a lead mines on the banks of the New River.

Burdened by debt, the brothers are said to have looked westward, toward the rich lead deposits in Missouri; then a part of upper Spanish Louisiana. In 1797 Moses traveled with a friend to Missouri, where he toured and eventually purchased a lead mines about forty miles west of the Mississippi River. Nearly two decades later, the Austin’s again relocated to the largely unsettled expanse of Texas.

Stephen’s father had hopes of colonizing the region in the days ahead, however, he died in 1821 having never realized his dream of settling the vast territory known as “Tejas.” Persuaded by a letter from his mother, Wythe County native, Stephen F. Austin set out to fulfill his father’s dream. Under Austin’s leadership, the Texas colony grew from three-hundred to over 11,000 by 1832.

Soon the colonists found themselves in a state of war with the Mexican government, the same nation that had originally encouraged them to settle the land. Austin briefly commanded Texan forces in late 1835. Under his leadership, colonists secured a decisive victory near modern-day San Antonio, during the Siege of Bexar.

In the spring of 1836, Texas’ sovereignty was officially recognized and the war for Texas independence was over. In August, Austin announced his candidacy to serve as the new nation’s first president. Unfortunately for Austin, he was soundly defeated by another Virginia native, Sam Houston.

As President of Texas, one of Houston’s first moves was to appoint Austin to serve as the nation’s first secretary of state. Tragically, Austin would serve only two months in this position before dying unexpectedly – after catching a severe cold in December 1836. The Wythe County native’s last words were, “The independence of Texas is recognized!” Upon hearing of Austin’s death, President Houston ordered an official statement proclaiming: “The Father of Texas is no more; the first pioneer of the wilderness has departed.”

Nearly two decades ago, local citizens in Wythe County, with help from donors in Texas, erected a marble monument on the banks of the New River in Austinville, Virginia, recognizing the Father of Texas’ birthplace.

“The monument is truly one of the most beautiful sites in all of Southwest Virginia,” said Wythe County Tourism Director Jeremy Farley. According to Farley, many of the original caretakers of the private-monument are aging and no longer capable of maintaining the memorial. “Earlier this year, we issued a call to a new generation of county residents to take the lead on keeping the site up – the response has been overwhelming.”

The State of Texas recently donated a Texas flag to the monument that flew over the Texas Statehouse and Farley said Congressman Morgan Griffith’s office has donated an American flag that flew over the U.S. Capitol Building.

“We’re working to get a Virginia flag as well.”

In addition to spearheading an effort to restore the monument to its original glory, Wythe County is working to develop the Poplar Camp community, near Austinville.

“Soon the area will be serviced by a reliable sewer and water system and we’re eager to help brand the community before a nationwide audience. There are just so many hidden gems in Wythe County – no more than three miles from the Stephen F. Austin Memorial is the site where the Fincastle Resolutions were signed: the inspiration for the Declaration of Independence,” concluded the county’s tourism director.



Mark Your Calendars



Virginia Institute of Government - Compensation Survey System - Free Workshop

If your locality is interested in learning about or, if a current subscriber, receiving an update and further training about the Virginia Institute of Government's online compensation and benefit survey system (CSS), this is your chance, and it's all free of charge.

(For a description of the CSS, click on this link: <http://vig.coopercenter.org/content/compensation-survey-system-css>.)

Space is limited to 50 people, so please register right away to reserve a seat!

Date: Wednesday, March 23 | **Time:** 1pm - 5pm | **Place:** Hilton Richmond Hotel and Spa, Short Pump - 12042 West Broad Street, Richmond, VA 23233
The developers/operators from Tech Net in Salt Lake City, UT will be on hand to lead the program.

The registration form can be accessed by the following link - <http://www.ipma-va.org/2016Conf>.

Other questions about the workshop or CSS in general? Please contact:
Tedd E. Povar | Associate Director | Virginia Institute of Government
Weldon Cooper Center for Public Service | University of Virginia
11 S. 12th Street - Suite 225 | Richmond, VA 23219
Phone: 804.371.0202 | Fax: 804.371.0234 | Email: tep3e@virginia.edu



The 2016 Resilient Virginia Conference - March 22-23 - Activating Communities and Businesses for a Resilient Future



The **2016 Resilient Virginia Conference**, taking place March 22-23 in Richmond, provides an opportunity for local governments to find out about national, state and local resiliency initiatives. This inaugural conference has the goal of activating community and business stakeholders around the Commonwealth:

- to learn about resiliency planning in order to address current and future climate, social and economic challenges, and
- to become leaders in their communities to formulate plans for a resilient future.

Topics of interest to local government elected officials and administrators, energy and emergency management officials, economic development offices, and land use planners include:

- Hampton Roads and Norfolk's resiliency planning initiatives involving their planning district commission, local governments, businesses and universities;
- the Fredericksburg area resiliency planning with public and partners and moving forward to implementation;
- Boulder, Colorado's process for building regional resiliency, working with the city and county, as an example for non- coastal areas;
- Central Shenandoah Planning District Commission's program, which brought together jurisdictions to coordinate planning for disasters.

Find additional details about the Agenda and Speakers at www.resilientvirginia.org. Register today - www.resilientvirginia.org - to learn, network and gain insights into innovative resiliency initiatives and resources.

Virginia County Chairs and Vice Chairs

THE CHAIRS

Accomack County Ron S. Wolff	Charlotte County Haywood J. Hamlet	Greensville County Peggy R. Wiley	Mecklenburg County Glenn E. Barbour	Roanoke County P. Jason Peters
Albemarle County Lizabeth A. Palmer	Chesterfield County Stephen A. Elswick	Halifax County Dennis G. Witt	Middlesex County John D. Miller, Jr.	Rockbridge County John Marshall Higgins
Alleghany County Stephen A. Bennett	Clarke County David Scott Weiss	Hanover County Aubrey M. Stanley	Montgomery County Christopher A. Tuck	Rockingham County William B. Kyger
Amelia County Franklin D. Harris	Craig County Martha Murphy	Henrico County Tyrone E. Nelson	Nelson County Allen M. Hale	Russell County Steven G. Breeding
Amherst County John A. Marks, Jr.	Culpeper County Alexa V. Fritz	Henry County Jimmie L. Adams	New Kent County Ron P. Stiers	Scott County Danny Paul Mann
Appomattox County Samuel E. Carter	Cumberland County Lloyd Banks, Jr.	Highland County Kevin W. Wagner	Northampton County H. Spencer Murray	Shenandoah County Dr. Conrad A. Helsley
Arlington County Libby T. Garvey	Dickenson County Shelbie J. Willis	Isle of Wight County Rex W. Alphin	Northumberland County Ronald L. Jett	Smyth County Wade H. Blevins, Jr.
Augusta County Carolyn S. Bragg	Dinwiddie County Brenda K. Ebron-Bonner	James City County Michael J. Hipple, Sr.	Nottoway County Gary L. Simmons	Southampton County Dallas O. Jones
Bath County Claire Anne Collins	Essex County E. Stanley Langford, Jr.	King and Queen County Sherrin C. Alsop	Orange County Lee H. Frame	Spotsylvania County Tim J. McLaughlin
Bedford County Stephen L. Wilkerson	Fairfax County Sharon S. Bulova	King George County Ruby A. Brabo	Page County John R. Woodward	Stafford County Robert M. Thomas, Jr.
Bland County Karen Harless Hodock	Fauquier County Christopher N. Granger	King William County Stephen K. Greenwood	Patrick County Roger T. Hayden	Surry County John M. Seward
Botetourt County L. W. Leffel, Jr.	Floyd County Case C. Clinger	Lancaster County William R. Lee	Pittsylvania County Jessie L. Barksdale	Sussex County Keith C. Blowe
Brunswick County Barbara Jarrett Drummond-Harris	Fluvanna County J. Michael Sheridan	Lee County Charles H. Slemple, Jr.	Powhatan County William E. Melton	Tazewell County D. Michael Hymes
Buchanan County James Carroll Branham	Franklin County E. Cline Brubaker	Loudoun County Phyllis J. Randall	Prince Edward County Howard F. Simpson	Warren County Linda Poe Glavis
Buckingham County Joe N. Chambers, Jr.	Frederick County Charles S. DeHaven, Jr.	Louisa County Troy J. Wade	Prince George County William A. Robertson, Jr.	Washington County Randy L. Pennington
Campbell County Eric R. Zehr	Giles County Richard K. McCoy	Lunenburg County David E. Wingold, Sr.	Prince William County Corey A. Stewart	Westmoreland County Darryl E. Fisher
Caroline County Jeffery M. Sili	Gloucester County John C. Meyer, Jr.	Madison County R. Clay Jackson	Pulaski County H. Andrew McCready	Wise County Robert R. Adkins
Carroll County Joshua A. Hendrick	Grayson County Brenda R. Sutherland	Mathews County Edwina J. Casey	Rappahannock County Roger A. Welch	Wythe County Timothy A. Reeves, Sr.
Charles City County Floyd H. Miles, Sr.	Greene County William B. Martin		Richmond County F. Lee Sanders	York County Jeffrey D. Wassmer

THE VICE CHAIRS

Accomack County Robert D. Crockett	Charlotte County Gary D. Walker	Greensville County Michael W. Ferguson	Middlesex County Robert LeBoeuf	Rockbridge County David W. Hinty, Jr.
Albemarle County Diantha H. McKeel	Chesterfield County Dorothy A. Jaeckle	Halifax County J. T. Davis	Montgomery County Gary Creed	Rockingham County Ricky L. Chandler
Alleghany County George M. Garten	Clarke County Beverly B. McKay, Jr.	Hanover County Angela C. Kelly-Wiecek	Nelson County Thomas Harvey	Russell County David R. Eaton
Amelia County Judy M. Jones	Craig County Jesse P. Spence	Henrico County Richard W. Glover	New Kent County W. R. "Ray" Davis, Jr.	Scott County Joe W. Herron
Amherst County David W. Pugh, Jr.	Culpeper County C. Jackson Frazier	Henry County Debra P. Buchanan	Northampton County Larry E. LeMond	Shenandoah County Richard R. Walker
Appomattox County Sara E. Carter	Cumberland County David Edwin Meinhard	Highland County David W. Blanchard	Northumberland County Richard F. Haynie	Smyth County M. Todd Dishner
Arlington County G. N. Fiset	Dickenson County Ronald E. Peters	Isle of Wight County Rudolph Jefferson	Nottoway County Helen M. Simmons	Southampton County Ronald M. West
Augusta County Tracy C. Pyles, Jr.	Dinwiddie County Harrison A. Moody	James City County John J. McGlennon	Orange County S. Teel Goodwin	Spotsylvania County Paul D. Trampe
Bath County Richard B. Byrd	Essex County Margaret H. Davis	King and Queen County Doris H. Morris	Page County C. David Wiatrowski	Stafford County Laura A. Sellers
Bedford County Curry W. Martin	Fairfax County Penelope A. Gross	King George County John E. Jenkins, Jr.	Patrick County Crystal P. Harris	Surry County Judy S. Lyttle
Bland County Lace M. Asbury, IV	Fauquier County Richard R. Gerhardt	King William County Travis J. Moskalski	Pittsylvania County Elton W. Blackstock	Sussex County Susan B. Seward
Botetourt County Todd L. Dodson	Floyd County Joe D. Turman	Lancaster County Ernest W. Palin, Jr.	Powhatan County Larry J. Nordvig	Tazewell County John M. Absher
Brunswick County Bernard Lee Jones, Sr.	Fluvanna County Mozell H. Booker	Lee County Richard D. Leonard	Prince Edward County Robert M. Jones	Warren County Archie A. Fox
Buchanan County William P. Harris	Franklin County Charles D. Wagner	Loudoun County Ralph M. Buona	Prince George County Jerry J. Skalsky	Washington County Saul A. Hernandez
Buckingham County Robert C. Jones	Frederick County Gene E. Fisher	Louisa County Stephanie L. Koren	Prince William County Peter K. Candland	Westmoreland County Woodrow W. Hynson, Jr.
Campbell County Michael P. Rousseau	Giles County Larry Jay Williams	Lunenburg County Charles R. Slayton	Pulaski County Charles R. Bopp	Wise County Virginia H. Meador
Caroline County Jeffrey S. Black	Gloucester County Phillip N. Bazzani	Madison County Jonathon R. Weakley	Rappahannock County I. Christopher Parrish	Wythe County Joseph Hale
Carroll County Ralph J. Martin, Jr.	Grayson County Kenneth Ray Belton	Mathews County John T. White, III	Richmond County Richard E. Thomas, Sr.	York County Sheila S. Noll
Charles City County William G. Coad	Greene County Michelle A. Flynn	Mecklenburg County Gregg Gordon	Roanoke County Joseph P. McNamara	

Thank you for sending us your 2016 updates.
Changes and corrections may be emailed any time to ccameron@vaco.org.



2016 Agritourism in Virginia's New Economy Conference

Tuesday, April 5, 2016, 9:15 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.
Farm Tours 2:45 p.m. - 5:30 p.m.

Wednesday, April 6, 2016, 8:30 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.
Post Conference Workshops 3:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

**Southern Virginia Higher Education Center
820 Bruce Street, South Boston, VA 24592**

Two-days filled with fresh ideas on . . .

farm events such as weddings and music, social media, marketing, hospitality, regional networks, zoning and conservation, financing and legal structures, wineries and farm craft breweries, bed and breakfast, food and farm safety, farm workforce, and businesses planning.

Visit <http://tinyurl.com/2016Agritourism-Conference> to review the program

Special Guests include

- The Honorable Maurice Jones, Secretary of Commerce and Trade
 - The Honorable Todd Haymore, Secretary of Agriculture and Forestry
 - The Honorable Danny Marshall, Virginia House of Delegates and chair of the House Committee on Agriculture, Chesapeake and Natural Resources
 - Ms. Mary Rae Carter, Special Advisor for Rural Partnerships
- Start on Monday with the pre-conference activities hosted by Hudson Heritage Farm—visit <http://tinyurl.com/2016Preconference> for more information
 - On Tuesday afternoon, **take one of the four agritourism tours** featuring Hudson Heritage Farms, Reese's Farm Fresh, Hunting Creek Vineyards, and Shangrila Guest Ranch.
 - On Wednesday, meet agritourism leaders, share your successes, and explore your challenges during the afternoon's **Agritourism Showcase**.

To Register . . .

Register on-line by visiting <http://tinyurl.com/2016Agritourism-Conference> and completing the registration. You may register for one day (\$95) or both days (\$135).

**Conference registration deadline is Friday, March 26, 2016.
(No refunds after this date)**

Conference Location

**Southern Virginia Higher Education Center
820 Bruce Street, South Boston, VA 24592**

Opening Session and all Conference Meals will be held at *The Prizery* located beside the Higher Education Center

For more information, contact

Martha A. Walker
walker53@vt.edu
or
call 434.766.6761

Sponsored by . . .

- Central Shenandoah Planning District Commission
- Farm Credit
- The Bed & Breakfast Association of Virginia
- USDA Rural Development
- Virginia Agribusiness Council
- Virginia Association of Counties
- Virginia Cooperative Extension
- Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services
- Virginia FAIRS
- Virginia State University
- Virginia Tourism Corporation



Virginia Cooperative Extension

Virginia Tech • Virginia State University

www.ext.vt.edu

Virginia Cooperative Extension programs and employment are open to all, regardless of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, genetic information, marital, family, or veteran status, or any other basis protected by law. An equal opportunity/information action employee. Issued in furtherance of Cooperative Extension work, Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, Virginia State University, and the U.S. Department of Agriculture cooperating. Edwin J. Jones, Director, Virginia Cooperative Extension, Virginia Tech, Blacksburg; Jewel E. Hamlin, Administrator, 1890 Extension Program, Virginia State, Petersburg.

employment opportunities



Employment ads are edited due to space considerations. Visit www.vaco.org to view the full versions. Click on the County Employment link on the menu bar.

**DOMESTIC VIOLENCE ADVOCATE |
Gloucester County**

SALARY: \$14.73 Hourly. **CLOSING DATE:** Continuous. **DESCRIPTION:** PART-TIME GRANT FUNDED POSITION (20 hours per week). Under general supervision, explains complexities of the criminal justice system and provides crisis intervention services and referrals for specialized counseling or social services to women who have been victims of crime. Reports to Victim Witness Coordinator. A cover letter and resume are required in addition to the online application. A complete job description is located on our website: www.gloucesterva.jobs.

**CONSTRUCTION PLANS EXAMINER | City
of Manassas**

The individual will process and review building and site plans to ensure compliance with local, state and federal codes and ordinances including but not limited to the Uniform Statewide Building Code. Plan review responsibilities encompass all trades for both commercial and residential projects to include building, structural, plumbing, mechanical and electrical. The position also requires the performance of building and trade inspections on an as needed basis. Hiring Range for this position is: \$55,016.00 - \$72,883.20. TO APPLY, complete the City application at <http://www.manassascity.org/hr/jobs>.

**REAL ESTATE APPRAISER I OR II |
Gloucester County**

SALARY: DOQ. **CLOSING DATE:** March 6. **Hiring Range:** \$35,072 - \$48,900. Performs responsible technical work in appraising residential and commercial property within the County to determine market value for tax purposes. Work involves measuring, sketching and inspecting properties, and entering data using a Computer Assisted Mass Appraisal (CAMA) system. As experience is gained, appraisal assignments will become progressively more complex. This position offers career opportunities for

the candidate with the willingness to learn and grow! For a complete description and to apply online, visit our website at www.gloucesterva.jobs.

**DEPUTY COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR |
Rockingham County**

The Deputy serves as the principal assistant to the County Administrator working collaboratively to provide day to day supervision of County departments. With assistance from appropriate staff members develops background information for recommendations to the Board of Supervisors. You may apply in person at the Rockingham County Administration Center or mail your resume, completed application and references, to the Department of Human Resources, Rockingham County, 20 East Gay Street, Harrisonburg, VA 22802. The position will remain open until filled, with consideration of applications beginning on March 31. If you prefer you may download the employment application from our web site at www.rockinghamcountyva.gov and submit the application and resume to the Department of Human Resources.

**ENVIRONMENTAL INSPECTOR I/II/III |
James City County**

Salary and level hired dependent on qualifications + Benefits. I-\$35,477/year or higher, DOQ; II-\$38,146/year or higher, DOQ; III-\$41,018/year or higher, DOQ. Responsibilities: Performs compliance monitoring in accordance with related laws, regulations, and programs; preconstruction meetings; Issues and tracks progress of issued land-disturbing permits; Review and process record drawings and construction certifications; Accepting applications until the position is filled. Only online applications to our website will be considered. To apply, please visit the James City County Career Center at jobs.jamescitycountyva.gov.

CHIEF OF POLICE | Albemarle County

We are seeking an individual to serve the citizens of Albemarle County, Virginia as the Chief of Police who has demonstrated superior ability leading and managing organizations with comparable characteristics and qualities. Join a dedicated team of principled public

servants that are committed to the high performance organization model and achieving excellence through the practice of our core values of accountability, courage, dedication, diversity, innovation, integrity, learning, preparedness, professionalism, stewardship, and unity. For more information on Albemarle County and the position of Chief of Police, please see the Chief of Police Position Profile (http://www.albemarle.org/upload/images/forms_center/departments/human_resources/forms/misc/Recruiting_Police_Chief_Final.pdf). The salary range for this position is \$90,108 - \$147,085. This is a full time, FLSA Exempt position. Apply through Albemarle County's online application system by March 18, 2016 at 5 p.m. Faxed and mailed applications will not be considered. Anticipated Start Date June 1.

**ASSISTANT COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR |
Brunswick County**

Brunswick County is accepting applications for the position of Assistant County Administrator. The duties of this position include, but are not limited to, planning, directing and overseeing the departments of Planning & Zoning and Building & Code Enforcement, the functions of transportation, tourism, recreation, rural broadband, and supervising assigned staff. A complete job description is available on the Brunswick County website www.brunswickco.com. Please submit application and resume to Dr. Charlette T. Woolridge, County Administrator, 228 North Main Street, 3rd Floor, P. O. Box 399, Lawrenceville, Virginia 23868 .Telephone: 434.848.3107 or toll free 1.800.848.3199. This position will be open until filled.

**DIRECTOR OF FINANCE | Town of
Carrboro, NC**

The Town of Carrboro (20,984), a progressive small town located adjacent to the Town of Chapel Hill, is seeking highly qualified applicants for the position of Director of Finance. The Finance Director will be responsible for all aspects of the Town's financial operations. The Town operates under the council-manager form of government and has a seven (7) member elected Board of Alderman that serve as the governing body. To learn more

about the Town and view the full position profiles, please visit our website, <https://waters-company.recruitmenthome.com/postings/803>. The salary for the position is negotiable within a range of \$73,796 - \$120,103, dependent upon education and experience. Professional dues and conference expenses are also provided. Moving and relocation expenses, and the transfer of vacation and sick leave balances from current employer may be negotiated with the Town. The application deadline is March 16, 2016. To be considered, please submit a cover letter, résumé with salary history and five (5) professional references online by visiting Waters & Company Executive Recruitment (WCER) website at <https://waters-company.recruitmenthome.com>. For more information, please contact John Anzivino at richmond@waters-company.com.

DIRECTOR OF GENERAL SERVICES | Prince George County

Salary: \$73,958 - \$118,332. Planning, organizing, directing, supporting, reviewing and executing all programs for the maintenance and repair, construction and remodeling of building facilities to include all buildings owned by Prince George County; planning, organizing, directing, reviewing, and executing all work involved in the contracted services of the County; planning, supporting, reviewing, organizing, and executing all programs for the repair and maintenance of a wide variety of gasoline and diesel automotive, construction, and mechanical equipment. APPLICATIONS MAY BE FILED ONLINE AT: <http://www.princegeorgecountyva.gov>.

PLANNER I | Frederick County

Performs and provides professional support to the County's planning program. Carries out special projects, conducts independent planning research; Assists with the administration and enforcement of County development codes; Provides primary support to the Board of Supervisors, the Planning Commission, the Planning Director, and various committees. General County Application with resume required. Starting Salary for the position is \$56,900. Position is open until filled. General Application available on our website: www.fcva.us/jobs. Only applicants selected for interview will be contacted.

POLICE OFFICER I/II (DCJS CERTIFIED) | James City County

Salary and level hired dependent on qualifications + Full-time County Benefits. I-\$40,045/year II-\$42,047/year. Join a

proactive team dedicated to improving the quality of life in our community. James City County Police Department offers opportunities for career development, specialized assignments and training including SWAT, Bike Patrol, School Resource Officer, uniform and marine patrols, and investigations. Selected applicants will continue to a panel interview. Only online applications to our website will be considered. To apply, please visit the James City County Career Center at jobs.jamescitycountyva.gov. Accepting applications until March 6.

FIRE & RESCUE CHIEF | City of Manassas

Salary range: \$104,748.80 - 172,806.40. The City of Manassas is seeking an experienced professional with proven leadership skills and demonstrated abilities to build a strong and focused team of paid and volunteer members in a combination system, and oversee the day to day management and operations of the Manassas fire and rescue system. The Chief also serves as the Emergency Management Coordinator for the City. Please visit <http://www.manassascity.org/hr/jobs> to view a complete community and position profile. Interested candidates must attach a cover letter and resume to the completed City application. Initial consideration will be given to those applications received by March 11. This position is open until filled.

ERP ANALYST | Town of Culpeper

Full-Time – Excellent Benefits. Salary Range - \$49,483.20 - \$79,185.60. The successful candidate will provide ongoing ERP management support to include planning, installation, configuration, operations, project management and maintenance of Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) systems and applications; establish and execute ERP training plan to ensure system team readiness; provide system support; evaluate and modify programs; review and perform program coding and testing; and participate in business process/systems review with agency staff and other team members. Application and position profile are available at www.culpeperva.gov. Selected candidate will be required to successfully complete pre-employment physical and background check. Open until filled.

PROGRAMMER/ANALYST | Town of Culpeper

Full-Time – Excellent Benefits. Salary Range - \$44,839.20 - \$71,742.72. The successful candidate will prepare, test, de-bug, and document computer programs; provide

system support; evaluate and modify programs; review and perform program coding and testing; and participate in business process/systems review with agency staff and other team members. The ideal candidate will have experience with financial modules including: accounts payable, general ledger, human resources, fixed assets, cash management, inventory, payroll, and utility billing. Candidate must have the ability to communicate effectively and establish/maintain effective working relationships. Application and position profile are available at www.culpeperva.gov. Selected candidate will be required to successfully complete pre-employment physical and background check. Open until filled.

COUNTY ATTORNEY | Warren County

Warren County is known for its prime location; scenic beauty; tourist attractions such as the Skyline Drive, Skyline Caverns, and the Shenandoah River; proximity to numerous colleges and universities; strong school system; and its diverse economy and workforce. Appointed by and under the general direction of the Board of Supervisors, this full-time position performs complex professional and administrative work in overseeing the legal affairs of the County. Salary DOQ with an excellent benefits package. Applications will be accepted until 5 p.m. on May 2. For employment application, including job description, contact Warren County Administrator's Office, 220 North Commerce Avenue, Suite 100, Front Royal, VA, or by calling 540.636.4600 or by visiting our website at www.warrencountyva.net.

TOWN MANAGER | Town of Onancock

The Town of Onancock, Virginia, home to 1,262 residents, seeks to appoint a Town Manager to serve at the pleasure of a Mayor and six member Town Council. Located on the beautiful Eastern Shore of Virginia in Accomack County, Onancock employs 15 full-time government employees and currently operates within 2.3 million dollar budget. Additional information about the position and the Onancock community can be found by accessing the "Town Manager Job Opportunity" link on the Town of Onancock website at: www.onancock.com. The salary range established for this position is \$80,000 to \$90,000. Qualified interested applicants should submit a cover letter and resume including three professional references by email to whmwhitley@gmail.com in care of William H. Whitley. Applications are due no later than March 31.

BUSINESS AUDITOR | Albemarle County

The Business Auditor performs difficult technical work in the inspection and investigation of County business establishments to secure compliance with the State and Local Business license and tax ordinances. Works with the business community by providing information and assistance for new businesses. Does related work as required. Hiring Range: \$22.99 - \$27.59/per hour, based on experience, education and internal equity. Annual Equivalent: \$47,829 - \$57,395 Internal candidates will receive pay adjustments in accordance with Local Government Personnel Policy, §P-60. DEADLINE FOR APPLICATIONS: March 7.

UTILITY ENGINEER | Hanover County

PUBLIC UTILITIES - Incumbent performs technical tasks related to the repair and rehabilitation, expansion, planning, and operation of the County's public water and sanitary sewer systems and facilities. Must have the ability to read, comprehend, and prepare moderate to highly technical data, plans, and specifications related to the operation/construction of a water and sewer utility. \$47,916 - \$78,805 + benefits. This position is part of a career development program. Salary & level are dependent on qualifications. For more information and to apply visit www.hanovercountyjobs.com or call 804.365.6489 (TDD# 365.6140).

OFFICE MANAGER | Town of Amherst

This is a full-time, exempt position with health insurance and pension benefits. Individuals with experience in bookkeeping, bill collection, hardware and software maintenance, and human resources are encouraged to apply before March 9, 2016. Information on the Town, this position and application procedures can be found at www.amherstva.gov.

BUILDING OFFICIAL | Fluvanna County

Planning, coordinating, supervising and participating in building, electrical, mechanical and plumbing inspection activities; reviewing plans; issuing permits; maintaining records and files; preparing reports. To succeed in this role, the ideal candidate will bring several years of progressively responsible experience in the principles and practices of building, electrical, plumbing, mechanical inspection. Salary dependent upon education/certifications, experience and other qualifications. Submit a County application, resume, cover letter, and references by 5 p.m., March 18 to jobs@fluvannacounty.org.

[org](http://www.fluvannacounty.org). Applications are available at the county website: www.fluvannacounty.org.

CITY MANAGER | City of Lynchburg

Current manager retiring. Market competitive salary + benefits, DOQ. 7 member council; 7 managers since 1920. \$1850M operating budget; \$330M total budget; 1300 FTE. An historic, core City with strong, diverse neighborhoods, Lynchburg is located near the geographic center of the state, bordered by the James River and the Blue Ridge Mountains. Qualified candidates encouraged to submit a City of Lynchburg application, cover letter, resume with salary history and professional references via the City's on-line system at www.lynchburgva.gov. Initial review will begin March 4, 2016. Questions may be directed to Margaret M. Schmitt, HR Director at 434.455.4208 or Margaret.schmitt@lynchburgva.gov.

IT SYSTEMS ENGINEER-SERVER SUPPORT | Hanover County

The successful candidate will have specific skills and experience maintaining and supporting server hardware, operating systems and software, server virtualization and must be familiar with network support skills relating to server infrastructure. Experience in installing, configuring and supporting Microsoft Exchange, Active Directory, and System Center products including but not limited to Virtual Machine Manager, Operations Manager, Configuration Manager, and Orchestrator, high availability and clustering technologies. For more information and to apply, please visit www.hanovercountyjobs.com 804.365.6075, (TDD #365.6140).

DIRECTOR/ENGINEER DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS | Alleghany County

POSITION OPEN UNTIL FILLED. Alleghany County is accepting applications for a Director/Engineer to lead the Department of Public Works. Requires considerable knowledge of the functional service areas of a local government public works department, to include but not limited to water, sewer, solid waste management, planning, zoning, building inspections, engineering, and code compliance; preparation, administration, and evaluation of the budgets for the same; considerable knowledge of the principles and practices of civil/sanitary engineering. Apply by cover letter and resume (include salary history) to: Alleghany County Administrator's Office, Attn: Jon Lanford, 9212 Winterberry Avenue, Covington, Virginia 24426. Open until filled. Starting salary negotiable DOE.

INSTRUCTOR II (WATER SAFETY) | James City County

\$14.00/hour; part-time, temporary positions. James City County Parks and Recreation is seeking responsible individuals to plan, execute, and instruct youth and adult water safety classes. Duties include: Preparing the site for the class and ensuring proper clean up after the class; Updating class records; Handing out evaluation forms for participants to complete; Ensuring class goals are met. Accepting applications until March 16 or until positions are filled, whichever comes first. Only online applications to our website will be considered. To apply, please visit the James City County Career Center at jobs.jamescitycountyva.gov.

WATER PLANT OPERATOR | James City County

\$32,994/year or higher, DOQ + Benefits. The James City Service Authority is seeking a motivated and skilled applicant to perform work in the operation, maintenance and repair of its 5 mgd Reverse Osmosis Treatment Plant. This is a full-time position with excellent benefits. Applications accepted until the position is filled. Only online applications to our website will be considered. To apply, please visit the James City County Career Center at jobs.jamescitycountyva.gov.

CHILDREN'S SERVICES ACT (CSA) COORDINATOR | James City County

\$44,104/year + Benefits. James City County Social Services is seeking a responsible individual to coordinate and oversee services to at-risk children and their families under the Children's Services Act (CSA). Accepting applications until the position is filled. Only online applications to our website will be considered. To apply, please visit the James City County Career Center at jobs.jamescitycountyva.gov.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT COORDINATOR | City of Bristol

The successful candidate will manage the city's Emergency Management Program, which includes the day-to-day direction, management, monitoring, and coordination of all emergency management programs and activities for the City of Bristol. The Coordinator will work closely with others to implement emergency management strategies, programs, and activities within the City and Region. Visit www.bristolva.org for full job description and application. Submit application, resume, and cover letter to City of Bristol, Virginia, Human Resources, 300 Lee Street, Bristol, VA 24201. No phone calls. Deadline: March 10.



Executive Committee

President: Judy S. Lyttle, Surry County

President-Elect: Mary W. Biggs, Montgomery County

1st Vice President: William A. Robertson, Jr., Prince George County

2nd Vice President: Sherrin C. Alsop, King and Queen County

Secretary Treasurer: Donald L. Hart, Jr., Accomack County

Immediate Past President: Penelope A. Gross, Fairfax County

Staff

Executive Director: James D. Campbell, CAE

Deputy Executive Director: Dean A. Lynch, CAE

General Counsel: Phyllis A. Errico, Esq., CAE

Director of Administration: Vicky D. Steinruck, CPA

Director of Communications: A. Gage Harter

Director of Intergovernmental Affairs: Beau Blevins

Director of Member Services: Carol I. Cameron

Director of Policy Development: Larry J. Land, CAE

Director of Technical Services: John N. Kandris, A+, ACT, CCA

Operations and Support Coordinator: Amy V. Sales, CMP

VACORP: Chris Carey, Administrator, 888.822.6772

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

1207 East Main Street
Suite 300
Richmond, VA 23219-3627
Phone: 804.788.6652
Fax: 804.788.0083
www.vaco.org

County Connections is a semimonthly publication.

Editor: A. Gage Harter
804.343.2502