

The Newsletter of the Virginia Association of Counties

June 5, 2017





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Wireless companies seek uniform approval process for new towers that would limit local authority

On May 8, the General Assembly's Committee on Wireless Communications Infrastructure reviewed draft <u>legislation</u> that was proffered by the wireless industry. The legislation would limit what a locality may consider and/or require when reviewing a zoning application for construction of a new wireless support structure (i.e. tower or pole). Additionally, the proposal limits the fee a locality may charge to review an application.

In regards to the zoning approval process, the proposal hamstrings a locality from considering certain impacts that citizens may want addressed through public input. For example, a locality could not deny - based on height - an application for a 60-foot structure.

Additionally, the proposal states that any application for construction of a new wireless support structure shall be "deemed approved" if a locality fails to either approve or disapprove an application within 150 days. This is problematic. For instance, there will be occasions when a locality takes longer than 150 days to ultimately approve a wireless structure in order to fully weigh public input, especially if the process requires multiple public hearings. This constraint may unnecessarily rush a decision without fully vetting options to address citizen and neighborhood concerns.

In terms of review fees, the proposal caps what a locality may charge at \$500 per application. In most cases this will not cover the required cost of public notice in a local newspaper, let alone staff time and resources necessary for review.

VACo expressed concerns with the proposal and continued to advocate for the deployment of wireless services to rural and under-served areas. Senator Ryan McDougle, committee co-chair, directed the wireless industry and local governments to meet and explore if an agreement could be reached. He stated, "If we can't reach consensus, those of us on the legislative side will move forward." The committee is tentatively scheduled to meet again in late June.

VACo Contact: <u>Ioe Lerch, AICP</u>





Join us at the Region 4 Meeting



We are just days away from the Region 4 Meeting in Brunswick County where we expect a robust legislative conversation. VACo staff is prepared to take copious notes as county officials and legislators share the issues that affect their counties. This information gathering is important because it helps steer VACo's legislative program for the 2018 General Assembly Session.

Expected attendance includes Board Chairs, Vice Chairs, Supervisors, Legislators, Planning District Commissioners and County Administrators and Executive Staff from Amelia, Brunswick, Charlotte, Dinwiddie, Greensville, Lunenburg, Mecklenburg, Nottoway and Prince Edward Counties.

We look forward to seeing you there!

• Region 4 | June 7 | Brunswick County | Agenda Region 4 Director - Charlotte County Supervisor Nancy Carwile

This year, VACo has scheduled 7 Regional Meetings spanning 10 regions.

- Region 7 | June 22 | Louisa County | Agenda
- Regions 12 & 13 | June 29 | Washington County | Agenda
- Regions 9 & 11 | September 14 | Rockbridge County | Preliminary Agenda
- Regions 1 & 2 | TBA
- Region 6 | TBA
- Region 10 | TBA

We look forward to seeing you at an upcoming Regional Meeting. If you are interested in sponsoring a Regional Meeting, please use this link for more information.

VACo Contact: Larry Land, CAE



WARREN COUNTY APPOINTS DEANNA CHEATHAM AS DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL SERVICES

County Administrator Douglas P. Stanley announced the appointment of DeAnna Cheatham as the new Director of the Warren County Department of Social Services (DSS), effective July 1. Cheatham is currently employed as the County's Assistant DSS Director, and her appointment follows outgoing DSS Director H. Elizabeth "Beth" Reavis' retirement effective June 30.

Cheatham holds Master's Degrees from Liberty University in Human Services Counseling and Business Administration and has more than 11 years of experience with the Virginia DSS. She began her DSS career in 2006 with the City of Franklin as an Employment Service Worker. During her career in Franklin, Cheatham also served as Social Worker, Senior Social Worker, Volunteer Domestic Violence Prevention Trainer, and Family Services Specialist Supervisor. In August 2016, she was hired by Warren County as the Assistant Director for the Department.

County Administrator Douglas P. Stanley said, "We are very excited about DeAnna being promoted to Director of the Warren County DSS. I have been extremely pleased by her growth over the past year as Assistant Director. DeAnna has an excellent background with 11+ years of progressively responsible work in social services as



well as a Master of Arts in Human Services Counseling and a Master's degree in Business Administration. In looking for someone to replace Beth, we hoped to find someone with her same exceptional interpersonal skills and a strong background in dealing with state, local, and community agencies; we think we have that in DeAnna and more. Her passion for social services and the clients we serve is clearly evident. We feel very confident that DeAnna will continue guiding the department forward in a positive manner and be an active and engaged member of the community."

Social Services Advisory Board Chair William Crawford said, "I am very pleased with our selection of DeAnna Cheatham as the new Director. Her education and experience make her a perfect fit for this very challenging position. I'm very confident we will continue to develop a working relationship that ensures vital services offered by the Department continue to be managed and allocated as efficiently and effectively as possible."

Cheatham said, "I am honored at being selected to lead an agency that plays such a vital role in the community. Ensuring that citizens receive needed assistance and maintaining the safety of our children and vulnerable members of the community is a priority. I look forward to cultivating and strengthening relationships with community partners to increase services and awareness of critical issues facing the County."

County Administrator Douglas P. Stanley added, "I also would like to thank Beth Reavis for her service as Director over the past six years. Her experience and wealth of knowledge of the Virginia social services system has been an invaluable asset. Her dedication to not only the job but also to our community has been evident through her many acts of community service and her responsiveness to those in need. Under her guidance, the Warren County DSS has made great strides in both facility improvement and staff development, functioning at a high level of service expected of our agency."

The Warren County DSS is located at 465 W. 15th Street, Suite 100, telephone 540.635.3967. Office hours are 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday.



Stability sought for Water Quality Improvement Fund

The budget approved by the 2017 General Assembly authorized the creation of a stakeholder group to find ways of stabilizing the portion of the Water Quality Improvement Fund (WQIF) that is allocated to the Agricultural Cost Share Program. Under this program, financial assistance is provided to farmers in the form of grants to pay for the installation of certain Best Management Practices (BMPs) to reduce pollutant loading into waters of the state from agriculture.

Because the WQIF is capitalized through deposits equal to 10 percent of end-of-fiscal year budget surpluses, the amount of money deposited into the WQIF is subject to fluctuations that adversely affect the program's continuity.



The Agricultural Cost Share Program is managed by the Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR). The agency's director, Clyde Cristman, serves as chair of the stakeholder group. Legislative members include Delegate David L. Bulova, Delegate L. Scott Lingamfelter and Senator Emmett W. Hanger.

The stakeholder group has about 20 members representing VA Farm Bureau, the Agribusiness Council, Chesapeake Bay Foundation, one local government representative (Richard Street | Spotsylvania County), and Soil and Water Conservation Districts.

The first stakeholder group meeting on May 17 provided an opportunity for members to discuss WQIF's volatility. There was considerable discussion about adoption of a dedicated revenue source to assure a predictable stream of program funding. Alternative funding sources will be discussed at the Stakeholder Group's next meeting, which is scheduled for 9:30 a.m. on Tuesday, June 13 in the West Reading Room of the Patrick Henry Building in Richmond.

VACo Contact: Larry Land, CAE

Summit held on Rural Coastal Virginia Community Enhancement Authority

On May 12, Delegate Keith Hodges convened an informal meeting pursuant to <u>HB 2055 (Hodges)</u>, which passed the 2017 General Assembly. HB 2055 creates the Rural Coastal Virginia Community Enhancement Authority. The provisions of the bill do not actually take effect until July 1. The actual Commission members have not yet been appointed.

A very important part of the meeting was a presentation by Lewis Lawrence, Director of the Middle Peninsula Planning District, on unique ways localities in that region of the state can make progress in economic development by utilizing such natural resources in that area as wetlands and capturing an abundance of rainwater falling on impervious surfaces, all of which can be transformed into sellable credits.

Another important item on the meeting's agenda was a joint status report provided by U.S. Senator Tim Kaine and U.S. Representative Rob Wittman about issues being considered in Congress that are of interest to the middle peninsula and northern neck regions. Chief among these issues was the restoration in the FY 2017 budget of \$73 million for the Chesapeake Bay Program.

They also spoke about the anticipation in Congress of President Trump's proposed program to improve the country's infrastructure. When discussing the federal budget for FY 2018 they also touched upon the Community Development Block Grant program, and FEMA flood mitigation program and the long-term status of the Chesapeake Bay Program. Both Senator Kaine and Representative Wittman stated how important it will be for localities to monitor the debate in Congress over the budget for FY 2018.

VACo Contact: Larry Land, CAE





Haven B. Howe House is a historic home located at Claytor Lake State Park, near Dublin, Pulaski County. It was built between 1876 and 1879, and is a two-story, brick dwelling with Italianate style detailing. It has a rear brick ell and projecting one-story bays on both end walls. It features ornamental wrought iron porch supports. Also on the property are three contributing limestone mounting blocks. The property, located on Claytor Lake, was conveyed to the Virginia Conservation Commission in 1947. The house is used as a Nature Exhibit Center that focuses on the lake's wildlife habitat.

It was added to the National Register of Historic Places in 2008.

SOURCE: Wikipedia | Haven B. Howe Brochure





Mark Your Calendars





NACo's 82nd ANNUAL CONFERENCE & EXPOSITION

The NACo Annual Conference & Exposition is the only meeting that draws a cross section of elected officials and county staff from across the country. Attendees from rural and urban counties with large and small budgets and staff – all come together for four days of education, networking and sessions aimed to help improve residents' lives and the efficiency of county government.

REGISTER ONLINE | REGISTRATION FORM | GUEST REGISTRATION FORM



Click on logo to view video of Annual Conference



Commonwealth Transportation Board holds workshop in Roanoke

On May 16, the Commonwealth Transportation Board (CTB) held its monthly workshop in Roanoke. A key item on CTB's agenda was a presentation about VDOT's "Arterial Preservation Program." The chief objective of the VDOT's Arterial Preservation Program is to facilitate maximum mobility within such major "corridors of statewide significance" as (for example) U.S. Route 220, U.S. Route 29 and others.

According to VDOT, one major impediment to this objective is the installation of an excessive number of traffic signals. The growth in the number of new businesses along major corridors often necessitates an increase in intersections, thus creating the need for more traffic signals in order to protect public safety. So, the challenge is to strike a balance between mobility in major corridors while also providing safe access to them from new commercial development. If VDOT is overly strict about denying access to major arterials from newly constructed streets necessitated by commercial construction it could adversely affect economic development to the detriment of counties.

During the workshop CTB also received routine presentations on the status of the Six Year Transportation Improvement Plan for 2018 through 2022, Smart Scale and the Revenue Sharing program. The CTB is expected to consider changes to the Revenue Sharing Program during its June meeting.

Here are some of the recommendations VDOT's staff are expected to present to CTB next month:

- Reduce the maximum a locality may apply for each fiscal year from \$10 million to \$5 million.
- Establish a lifetime allocation maximum of \$10 million (state match) per project, including transfers to the project.
- Surplus funds from a completed project may continue to be transferred administratively to an existing revenue sharing project.
- Surplus funds from a cancelled project will be deallocated and deposited to the statewide revenue sharing account. Those funds may only be reallocated by CTB.

Such issues as transportation funding, Smart Scale, the revenue sharing program and the arterial protection program are emerging as major items on the agenda of a special meeting to be held by VACo's Transportation Steering Committee on Wednesday, June 15, between 10 a.m. and noon at the Henrico County Government Complex. Any questions concerning this meeting may be directed to Larry Land, Lland@vaco.org. Telephone: 804.343.2504.

VACo Contact: Larry Land, CAE

Two VACo Steering Committees to meet in June

Two of VACo's steering committees have scheduled special meetings in the month of June. The first will be held by VACo's Transportation Steering Committee on Thursday, June 15, starting at 10 a.m. at the Hanover County Government Complex, 7497 County Complex Road, Hanover, VA 23069.

The second meeting will be held by VACo's Environment and Agriculture Steering Committee on Thursday, June 22, starting at 10 a.m. in the Manager's Conference Room of the Henrico County Western Government Complex, 4301 E. Parham Road, Richmond, VA 23228.

The staff contact for both committee meetings is Larry Land, who can be contacted at <u>Lland@vaco.org</u>. Phone: 804.343.2504.

VACo Contact: Larry Land, CAE



The U.S. Governmental Accountability Office has proposed revisions to multiple requirements in the Government Auditing Standards. The proposed changes to the standards commonly known as the Yellow Book are designed to reflect major developments in the auditing, accounting, and financial management professions and emphasize specific considerations that apply to the government environment.

Key proposed changes include:

- A new format that would differentiate requirements from applications guidance
- Updated internal control requirements and guidance
- Revised continuing professional education requirements
- Revised peer reviews requirements
- New requirements for reporting waste that is detected during an audit

VACo Contact: Vicky Steinruck, CPA



PRESS RELEASE



VACo Welcomes Chris McDonald



RICHMOND (June 5, 2017)—The Virginia Association of Counties is pleased to announce that Chris McDonald will join the team on July 1 as a Local Government Lobbyist. McDonald comes to VACo after serving in Governor Terry McAuliffe's Administration as Special Advisor for Energy Policy.

"Adding Chris to our strong legislative team enhances our presence at the Capitol," VACo Executive Director Dean Lynch said. "We are serious about our advocacy efforts, and Chris gives our members another talented advocate fighting for their interests. I'm very excited to welcome Chris to VACo."

In his role as Special Advisor, McDonald counseled the Governor's Office; the Secretary of Commerce and Trade; the Department of Mines, Minerals and Energy; and other government entities and officials on energy laws, regulations and policies pertaining to solar, wind and nuclear energy as well as energy efficiency, energy project financing and economic development.

"I couldn't be more excited to join the VACo team," McDonald said. "The breadth and depth of experience and knowledge that the Association possesses is unparalleled, and I am thrilled at the chance to be a part of this great organization. Virginia is incredibly lucky to have such a storied, diverse array of counties. The opportunity to now work directly with them and advocate on their behalf is truly enlivening."

McDonald graduated from Vanderbilt University with a bachelor's degree in philosophy (honors) and political science. He earned his Juris Doctor from Washington and Lee University School of Law and is licensed to practice by the Virginia State Bar.

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

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For more information Gage Harter 804.343.2502 gharter@vaco.org Virginia Association of Counties 1207 East Main Street Richmond, Va. 23219 www.vaco.org



VACo 83rd Annual Conference Update

VACo's 83rd Annual Conference is approaching quickly. On Thursday, June 15, be on the lookout for the Hotel Room Reservation form. This will be sent by email to the VACo Board of Directors, County Managers and Administrators and confirmed exhibitors. If you are unfamiliar with the room reservation process, please see the <u>VACo Lodging Policy</u> or contact us for more information.

Attendees staying at The Omni Homestead will be on the Modified American Plan (MAP) meal plan. This plan includes the buffet breakfast and dinner. Make meal reservations as soon as your room reservations are made, as venues fill quickly.

On Tuesday, August 15, we will release the VACo Annual Conference Registration Form. Conference registration is separate from your room reservation.

New this year, during Monday's Opening General Session, the VACo Team asks current and former service members for a photo to appear in the continuous loop PowerPoint presentation played during the program. If you want to participate, please send a photo with your name, branch of service and rank to <u>John Kandris</u>.

If you have any questions, or are new to the conference, please contact us at 804.788.6652.

VACo Contact: Amy V. Sales, CMP

VACo is pleased to announce that in recognition of the Veterans' Day holiday the Roanoke County Color Guard will perform the Presentation of Colors at the start of the Monday morning Opening General Session. During this program, the VACo Team asks current and former military service members for a photo to appear in the continuous loop PowerPoint presentation played during the session. If you want to participate, please send a photo with your name, branch of service and rank to John Kandris.





VACo has several opportunities for sponsorships throughout the year. Get your company in front of the crowd and sponsor an event. Check back often for updates and additions, or contact Amy Sales for more information.



Smither named Henrico County Director of Finance

Henrico County Manager John A. Vithoulkas has appointed Edward N. "Ned" Smither Jr. to serve as director of the Department of Finance, effective July 1.

Smither has served Henrico since 2013 as director of the Accounting Division in Finance. He will succeed Eugene H. Walter, who has delayed his retirement until June 30 to ensure an orderly transition within the department.

As director of Finance, Smither will be responsible for the management and supervision of the divisions of Real Estate Assessment, Treasury, Management and Budget, Accounting, Purchasing and Revenue. He also will serve as commissioner of revenue and treasurer for Henrico. Finance will have a \$13.6 million budget and a staff of 163 for fiscal 2017-18.

Smither holds a Bachelor of Science degree and a Master of Business Administration degree from the University of Richmond.









Join the American Planning Association (APA) Virginia Chapter for our Annual Conference. Discounts are available for APA members and non-members alike; great lodging rates at the famous Hotel Roanoke too. This year, our Conference focuses on "future communities" and how we are, as professionals, are leading the way in planning for the future.

FUTURE COMMUNITIES

Why should you attend?



- Our host communities, the City of Roanoke, VA and the Roanoke Valley, is the perfect location to see planning for future communities in action. Daily mobile tours scheduled!
- A variety of break-out sessions and workshops on topics ranging from driverless vehicles to smart cities to planning for natural disasters to creative efforts in plan making & civic engagement.
- New "deep dive courses" in leadership for local elected/appointed officials and senior/management-level professional staff.



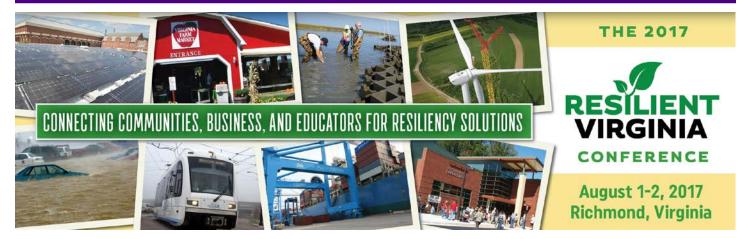
Visit the conference website for more information on the full program and to register:

www.apavirginia.com

Contact the APA VP of Chapter Affairs if you have any questions! Chapter.Affairs@apavirginia.com







2017 Resilient Virginia Conference

August 1-2, 2017 | Richmond, Virginia

Resilient Virginia is pleased to announce the 2017 Resilient Virginia Conference, taking place August 1-2 at the Richmond Convention Center. This year, the Virginia Secretary of Public Safety and Homeland Security and Chief Resiliency Officer, Brian Moran, and the Virginia Department of Emergency Management (VDEM), will take a leading role in supporting the conference.

Our focus, Connecting Communities, Business, and Educators for Resiliency Solutions, will bring together participants from local and state governments, the business community, and representatives from higher education and community organizations to:

- Explore resiliency rationales for their organizations;
- Learn resiliency processes that benefit the public and private sector;
- Develop an understanding of the resiliency priorities for different regions of the state; and
- Take away tools that can be used for resiliency planning in their own communities.

Local governments are turning their attention to resiliency planning for a number of critical reasons that include the increasing effects of changing and unpredictable weather events, and other risks, such as community health and national security concerns. In the long term, communities face economic and social challenges brought on by the need to adapt to sea level rise, increased flooding risks, infrastructure adaptation needs, and emergency preparedness requirements.

Topics at the August 1-2, 2017 Resilient Virginia Conference include:

An overview of Virginia's resiliency initiatives | National security and resiliency | Infrastructure risks and solutions | Challenges for the agricultural sector | Resiliency factors for businesses | Energy security strategies | Built environment adaptations | Developments in emergency preparedness | Tools and strategies for resiliency planning

Plan to participate in the conference to gain insights, network, and join colleagues in working toward a resilient future! Registration is available at our conference website. (www.resilientvirginia.org/buildings/2017-conference)

About Resilient Virginia

Resilient Virginia's mission is to accelerate community resiliency planning across the diverse geographic regions of the Commonwealth. Our website and activities provide resources to inform, educate, and activate communities to develop their own resiliency initiatives. Contact: Annette Osso, Managing Director, Resilient Virginia (osso@resilientvirginia.org or 703.486.2966). Website: www.resilientvirginia.org



employment opportunities



The Virginia Association of Counties accepts employment ads in a PDF file or a link to a job site. Please include information for applying, and a link to other important information. Please do not fax your employment ad. VACo members are not charged for placing an employment ad. The cost is \$50 per ad for non-VACo members. VACo publishes the ad on its website and mobile app as well as the upcoming County Connections issue. If you have any questions or concerns, please email Valerie Russell.



TECHNOLOGY TRAINING
SPECIALIST | Albemarle County |
Posted June 1



DIRECTOR I | Grayson

County | Posted May 31



COUNTY PLANNER |

Essex County | Posted May 31







EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES | **James City County** | Posted May 26



DIRECTOR OF FINANCE |

City of Poquoson| Posted May 26



WORKFORCE
COMMUNICATIONS COORDINATOR
- COORDINATOR OF YOUTH TALENT
DEVELOPMENT - YOUTH CAREER
NAVIGATORS | Region 2000 | Posted
May 26



ENVIRONMENTAL
PROGRAM MANAGER | Stafford
County | Posted May 26



DIRECTOR OF FINANCE |

Caroline County | Posted May 26



GENERAL PROPERTIES

R | Redford County | Posted

MANAGER | Bedford County | Posted May 24



PUBLIC WORKS

DIRECTOR | **City of Buena Vista** | Posted May 24



LANDFILL TECHNICIAN |

Frederick County | Posted May 23



SPOTTER - LANDFILL |

Frederick County | Posted May 23



BROADBAND PROJECT

MANAGER | Fauquier County | Posted May 22



MANAGEMENT ANALYST

II | Albemarle County | Posted May 22



CHILDREN'S SERVICE

ACT COORDINATOR | Fluvanna County | Posted May 22



FIRE RESCUE TECH |

James City County | Posted May 22







CSPDC AGRITOURISM
COORDINATOR | Central Shenandoah
Planning District Commission |
Posted May 19

ROANOTE PORTING

PLANNER II | Roanoke County | Posted May 18



SENIOR UTILITIES

ENGINEER | **Town of Leesburg** | Posted May 17



ASSISTANT COUNTY
ATTORNEY | Louisa County | Posted

May 17

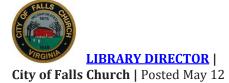
PERMIT TECHNICIAN | James City County | Posted May 16



LIBRARY DIRECTOR |

Essex County | Posted May 16









BUYER III | Albemarle

County | Posted May 12



ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER | Virginia
Department of Alcoholic Beverage
Control | Posted May 11



TOWN MANAGER | Town of Christiansburg | Posted May 11



PLANNER/COUNTY
PLANNER | Campbell County | Posted
May 10



ENGINEER III | Spotsylvania County | Posted May 10



ENVIRONMENTAL

TECHNICIAN – LANDFILL | Frederick

County | Posted May 10



DEPUTY CITY CLERK

City of Manassas | Posted May 9





SENIOR PROJECT

MANAGER | Chesterfield County |
Posted May 8



SENIOR AUTOMATION
ANALYST | Chesterfield County |
Posted May 8



COUNTY EXECUTIVE |

Albemarle County | Posted May 8



FINANCE DIRECTOR | King George County | Posted May 5



ATHLETICS SUPERVISOR
| Gloucester County | Posted May 5



PERMIT TECHNICIAN |

City of Manassas | Posted May 4



PRINCIPAL PLANNER |
Goochland County | Posted May 2

Chesapeake
INFORMATION OFFICER | City of

Chesapeake | Posted May 1

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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 Phone: 804.788.6652 Fax: 804.788.0083 www.vaco.org

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Editor: A. Gage Harter 804.343.2502