

The Newsletter of the Virginia Association of Counties

October 18, 2017



Henrico officials join governor to announce plans for Facebook facility... Page 3



Visit Loudoun County and Goose Creek Stone Bridge... Page 5



Valmarie Turner named Assistant Loudoun County Administrator... Page 4



New Report Finds Water and Wastewater Rate Increases Across Virginia... Page 7



# State General Fund Revenues Increase in September



Governor Terry McAuliffe announced last week that state General Fund (GF) revenues turned in a strong performance in September, increasing 5.5 percent over the previous year. On a fiscal year-to-date basis, total GF revenues are running ahead of the annual forecast of 2.7 percent growth, with growth of 4.1 percent.

Individual income tax withholding collections, which comprise nearly two-thirds of GF revenues, continued to be a mainstay, growing 5 percent in September; on a fiscal year-to-date basis, withholding collections grew 4 percent, outpacing the annual estimate of 1.8 percent growth. Corporate income tax collections increased markedly in September, rising 20.8 percent; on a fiscal year-to-date basis, collections are up 27.9 percent, well ahead of the annual forecast of 1.6 percent. This revenue source is a small portion of overall GF collections and tends to be volatile, but in an article in the Richmond Times-Dispatch, Secretary of Finance Ric Brown cited its robust performance as one indicator of overall economic health.

Another encouraging sign in the monthly report was September's healthy growth in sales tax revenues, which had failed to meet the forecast in FY 2017 and underperformed in August. In September, collections grew 5 percent, and increased 2.7 percent on a fiscal year-to-date basis, approaching the annual estimate of 2.8 percent.

During his presentation to the House Appropriations Committee on October 16, Secretary Brown noted that the fall revenue forecasting process is underway in preparation for the Governor's presentation to the "money committees" in December. In discussion with committee members, he listed several large spending items that must be addressed in the biennial budget that will be introduced in December, including required rebenchmarking of Standards of Quality, growth in the Medicaid forecast, and potential loss of the enhanced federal match rate for the Children's Health Insurance Program. He also noted the potential effects of other federal actions on Virginia's budget, such as another round of federal spending reductions related to sequestration. Members discussed whether these claims on the budget would crowd out spending on other priorities; Secretary Brown suggested that continued economic growth and the resulting strength in state revenues could alleviate these budget pressures.

Secretary Brown also reported on recent discussions with bond rating agencies. In light of Standard and Poor's decision to put a negative outlook on Virginia's AAA bond rating earlier this year, both the Governor and General Assembly leadership have signaled that they will seek to place additional funds into a new cash reserve that was implemented in the budget in 2017. Secretary Brown told committee members that Standard and Poor's retained the negative outlook in its October report, but is open to revising that position if Virginia bolsters its reserves and avoids making further withdrawals from the Revenue Stabilization Fund in the absence of an economic downturn. House Appropriations Chair Chris Jones said that he will introduce legislation in 2018 to put the state on a path to amassing a cash reserve of approximately \$380 million over several years, the equivalent of 2 percent of the GF operating budget, in order to provide an additional cushion against future revenue shortfalls.

The Secretary's report on September revenues is available <u>here</u> and his presentation to House Appropriations is available

<u>here</u>.

**VACo Contact:** Katie Boyle





York County's Assistant
Director of Economic
Development Melissa
Davidson accepts an
Achievement Award
from VACo's Katie Boyle.
York County's HomeBased Business Assistance
Program won the 2017 Best
Achievement Award.



VACo was proud to present Prince William County with two Achievement Awards.

**Pictured left to right - Julia Flanagan**, Prince William County Arborist; **Chris McDonald**, VACo Director of Government Relations; **Barbara Diehl**, Supportive Services Specialist, Prince William Area Agency on Aging Supportive; **Corey Stewart**, Chairman, Prince William County Board of Supervisors; **Sarah Henry**, Director, Prince William Area Agency on Aging.

Congratulations Prince William County!



# Henrico officials join Governor to announce plans for Facebook facility

\$750 million data center slated for site in county's White Oak Technology Park



Henrico County officials recently celebrated the announcement that Facebook will invest \$750 million to establish a data center in the county's White Oak Technology Park, noting that the industrial center was designed to accommodate such high-tech operations and pointing to tax-rate changes earlier this year intended to make Henrico more attractive to businesses like Facebook.

County officials joined Governor Terry McAuliffe, representatives from Facebook and others at the Virginia State Capitol, where the governor announced the social media giant's plans to build a 970,000-square-foot data center on a 300-acre site in the eastern Henrico industrial park. The project will bring thousands of construction jobs to the region, McAuliffe said, and will create more than 100 full-time positions when complete.

The project's total investment will top \$1 billion, including the construction of solar facilities throughout the state to power the data center entirely with renewable energy.

Varina District Supervisor Tyrone E. Nelson nodded to Henrico's investment in infrastructure for White Oak, which offers high-speed fiber optic cable from multiple providers, high-capacity electric power designed for large-volume loads and water service with a firm capacity of 10 million gallons per day, among other features.

"When Henrico invested over \$40 million in infrastructure improvements to make White Oak the unique park it is today, we believed it would yield these kinds of announcements," Nelson said.

The supervisor also pointed to a near-90 percent tax-rate reduction for data centers approved earlier this year by the county's Board of Supervisors. The change established a business property tax rate of 40 cents per \$100 assessed value for computers and related equipment for data centers, dropping it from the previous rate of \$3.50.

"When the county set up the special tax rate for data centers, we could only hope it would yield a \$750 million investment like this," Nelson said. "Thank you, Facebook, for making us look so smart."

With the addition of Facebook, Henrico now has nearly 20 data centers. County Manager John A. Vithoulkas noted that with the benefit of the data-center tax rate, assets like White Oak Technology Park and proximity to a new trans-Atlantic fiber optic cable that will connect North America to Europe through Virginia, he is optimistic the county will be able to recruit more. The businesses provide high-paying jobs and bring significant and ongoing capital investment, he said.

"The last 10 months have been special — and intense — for Henrico County as we've worked with the Facebook team," Vithoulkas said. "Today's announcement makes all the effort worthwhile."

Vithoulkas noted that county staff had worked to prepare land-disturbance permits in time for the announcement.

"We've been with you for the last 10 months, and I promise we'll continue to be with you as you build out your 300-acre site," he told Facebook officials.

Rachel Peterson, director of data center strategy for Facebook, pointed to Henrico's quality infrastructure and supportive business climate for data center development as important factors in the company's decision. Other factors included partnerships within the local community and a strong pool of local talent.

"We could not be more thrilled to locate our next data center here," Peterson said. "Henrico County and the Commonwealth of Virginia have it all."



### Valmarie Turner named Assistant Loudoun County Administrator

Valmarie Turner has been appointed as an Assistant Loudoun County Administrator, effective November 2, 2017, Loudoun County Administrator Tim Hemstreet announced Monday. Turner was chosen after a nationwide search. She comes to Loudoun from Seminole County, Florida, where she was most recently Director of the Community Services Department.

"We had a very competitive pool of applicants for this position and Valmarie stood out as a seasoned manager and exceptional leader with a wide range of experience in local government," Hemstreet said.

As Community Services Director in Seminole County, Turner oversaw the implementation of affordable housing and community development projects, human services and financial assistance programs, veterans' services, juvenile diversion programs and mandated services. Her prior experience also includes service in local governments in Hillsborough County, Florida, the city of Daytona Beach, Florida, and Fulton County, Georgia.

Turner has a Bachelor of Science degree in Business Economics from Florida A&M University and a Master of Public Administration from Walden University.



In her new position in Loudoun, Turner will oversee the departments of Community Corrections; Family Services; Health Services; Mental Health, Substance Abuse and Developmental Services; and the Juvenile Court Services Unit.

Turner will join the other members of the Office of the County Administrator in directing and supervising the day-to-day operations of all Loudoun County departments and agencies, which are under the direct control of the Board of Supervisors.

The Office of the County Administrator is the highest level management office of the Loudoun County government and also serves as the Board of Supervisors' official liaison to the constitutional officers, the judiciary, and state and regional agencies.



Voting credentials for the November 2017 VACo Annual Business Meeting, scheduled for 10:30 a.m. on November 14, have been sent to each county.

Please return these at your earliest convenience. You may email the credentials form back to VACo or fax it to 804.788.0083.

If you have questions or need a copy, please contact Vicky Steinruck (<u>vsteinruck@vaco.org</u>) or Valerie Russell (<u>vrussell@vaco.org</u>).

## **Financial Facts**



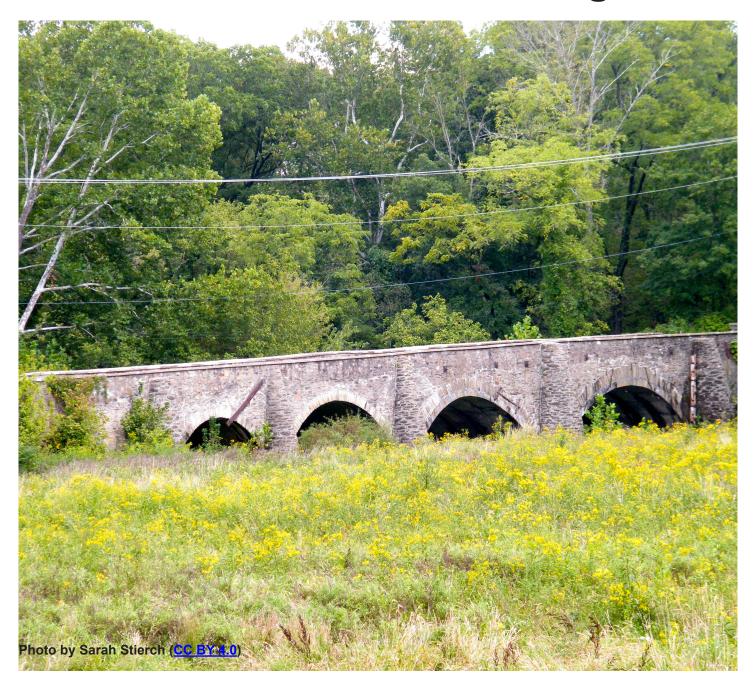
The Social Security Administration (SSA) announced that the maximum amount of wages subject to the 6.2 percent Social Security tax in 2018 will rise from \$127,200 to \$128,700, an increase of slightly more than 1 percent. The 2017 wage base increased more than 7 percent over the 2016 base. This raises the maximum a taxpayer can pay by \$93, from \$7,776.40 to \$7,979.40.

The SSA also announced that Social Security beneficiaries will get a 2 percent cost of living increase. In 2017 the increase was 0.3 percent and in 2016 there was no increase.

VACo Contact: Vicky Steinruck, CPA



# Visit Loudoun County and Goose Creek Stone Bridge



This four arch stone bridge was built in 1802 as part of Ashby's Gap Turnpike, and is believed to be the oldest and longest stone bridge in Virginia. It is one of the few remaining in Virginia, and was the scene of a cavalry and artillery duel on June 21, 1863. A Civil War Trails marker and interpretation is available. The bridge was bypassed by the relocation of Route 50 in 1957.

SOURCE: <a href="https://www.visitloudoun.org/listing/goose-creek-bridge/360/">https://www.visitloudoun.org/listing/goose-creek-bridge/360/</a>





## **Mark** Your Calendars





The Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) Community Development Division will be traveling throughout the state to provide information about the various community development and capacity building programs available through the agency.

We will introduce stakeholders to our programs, provide examples of how communities have used these grant funds and prepare participants for the upcoming grant cycle this winter.

Attendees will learn about Community Development Block Grants (CDBG), Virginia Main Street (VMS), the Industrial Revitalization Fund (IRF), Building Collaborative Communities (BCC), Building Entrepreneurial Economies (BEE), Community Business Launch (CBL), and Virginia Individual Development Accounts (VIDA).

DHCD representatives will be available to introduce you to the programs, as well as talk individually about potential projects.

This event is free, but pre-registration is requested.



#### **Dates and Locations**

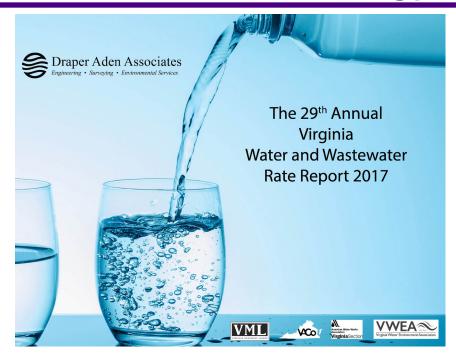
October 26, 2017 | Bolling Wilson Hotel Banquet Hall, Wytheville | 1-4 pm

October 30, 2017 | Main Street Center, Gloucester | 1-4 pm

November 2, 2017 | Historic Train Station, Farmville | 1-4 pm

November 6, 2017 | John Barton Payne Building, Warrenton | 1-4 pm

Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development 600 East Main Street | Suite 300 | Richmond, Virginia 23219 804.371.7000 | www.dhcd.virginia.gov



By Sheryl Stephens | Draper Aden Associates

There are more than 250 local government providers of water and wastewater services in Virginia, including many counties. With this wide array of providers serving large, small, urban, and rural communities, it can be difficult for those providers to analyze broad statewide trends concerning water and wastewater rates. Yet, understanding these trends is critical when utilities are comparing their rates to others across the state and it can be essential when considering rate increases.

To provide this data and additional insights, Draper Aden Associates has released the 2017 edition of the <u>Virginia Water and Wastewater Rate Report</u>. The firm collaborated with the Virginia Association of Counties to conduct the survey and distribute the results in the report.

The two most significant findings from the 2017 survey are about increasing rates – rates are continuing to rise and utilities are increasing rates on a frequent basis. According to the results of this year's survey, the combined average monthly residential water and wastewater rate increased 3.6 percent from 2016. Over the past 10 years, the combined average monthly water rate and wastewater rate increased by 60.3 percent.

It is not just that water and wastewater rates are rising, the frequency at which rates are adjusted is increasing as well. In 2017, 55 percent of respondents reported a rate increase during the year; an additional 24 percent had increased rates in 2016 or 2015.

There are three primary reasons for the rise in rates and frequency of increases, including the higher costs to operate and maintain water and wastewater systems, significant pressure these systems face to cover their expenses, and the decline in water consumption. Water and wastewater providers must face these challenges and will likely need to continue increasing rates in the coming years to address them.

When surveyed on the top concerns facing water and wastewater providers, respondents shared many issues, such as aging infrastructure and long-term financial stability. A complete ranking of the top concerns is available in the report.

The 29<sup>th</sup> Annual Virginia Water and Wastewater Rate Report was produced by Draper Aden Associates, an engineering, surveying, and environmental services firm with offices in Virginia and North Carolina. Draper Aden collaborated with leading trade associations that support municipalities and utilities, including the Virginia Association of Counties. The report and an interactive Rates Dashboard can be accessed online at <a href="https://www.daa.com/resources">www.daa.com/resources</a>.

\*Sheryl Stephens is a Senior Community Resource Specialist in the Site Development and Infrastructure Division of Draper Aden Associates, an engineering, surveying, and environmental services firm in the Mid-Atlantic. Sheryl is the primary author of the annual Virginia Water and Wastewater Rate Report. She can be contacted at <a href="mailto:stephens@daa.com">sstephens@daa.com</a>.





# **VACo Associate Member SPOTLIGHT**



VACo is proud of its Associate Members. They work with local county government on a regular basis and know all the ins and outs of the budgeting and permitting process and everything else that makes a county tick. This month's spotlight is on Siemens Building Technologies.

# SIEMENS

Siemens Building Technologies - Energy and Environmental Solutions. As a leading provider of energy and environmental solutions, building controls, fire safety and security systems solutions, Siemens Building Technologies, Inc., makes buildings comfortable, safe, secure and less costly to operate.

Have you wondered how your county is operating? Is energy efficiency a discussion you are having within your leadership team? Siemens can help you with a preliminary assessment of your energy savings potential. From this initial assessment, you will have answers to your energy performance questions from a proven energy partner to many others throughout our Commonwealth.

#### **Contact**

Janet Tribble, Business Development

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Website: www.siemens.com/buildingtechnologies



# Revive RVA regional summit to explore solutions to heroin, opioid epidemic



The city of Richmond and the counties of Henrico, Chesterfield and Hanover will present a free summit Thursday, October 26 to examine and identify solutions to the alarming rise of heroin and opioid abuse in central Virginia.

The community event — titled Revive RVA: Regional Solutions to the Opioid Crisis — will be held from 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Greater Richmond Convention Center, 403 N. Third St. in downtown Richmond. The summit is open to the public, but registration is required. To sign up, go to <a href="https://regionalopioidsummit2017.sched.com/">https://regionalopioidsummit2017.sched.com/</a> by Thursday, October 12.

Revive RVA will feature keynote addresses by Dr. Robert L. DuPont, president of the nonprofit Institute for Behavior and Health, and Dr. A. Omar Abubaker, professor and chairman of the Department of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery in the Virginia Commonwealth University School of Dentistry.

DuPont, a longtime leader in drug abuse prevention and treatment, served as the first director of the National Institutes of Health's National Institute on Drug Abuse, from 1973 to 1978, and was the second White House drug chief, from 1973 to 1977. Abubaker, an oral surgeon, has spoken extensively about the heroin and opioid crisis after his 21-year-old son, Adam, died following an overdose in 2014.

The summit will continue with breakout sessions examining the issue from different perspectives: medical community and prescribers; addiction treatment; emergency medical services; law enforcement; state policy; and youth and schools. The program will conclude with a panel discussion led by individuals in recovery and an open dialogue on ways to address the problem. An exhibit featuring more than 15 community service providers and agencies will take place throughout the day.

In addition, the summit will offer free training from 3 to 4:30 p.m. on how to administer naloxone following an actual or suspected overdose of heroin or opioids. Naloxone, which is available in Virginia without a prescription, can temporarily reverse the drugs' toxic effects, allowing time to seek professional medical attention.

The training, developed by the Virginia Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services, is intended for family and friends of someone who is at risk of an overdose. The class provides hands-on instruction on the administration of naloxone's nasal form and is restricted to individuals age 18 and older. Because spaces are limited, registration is encouraged as soon as possible. To sign up, go to <a href="mailto:surveymonkey.com/r/ZZC6V6X">surveymonkey.com/r/ZZC6V6X</a>. Participants will leave the session with a complimentary dose of naloxone.

Revive RVA comes as the region's localities and public school systems are taking steps to address the public-safety threat posed by heroin and opioids. The potent, highly addictive drugs, which include prescription painkillers such as OxyContin and Vicodin, are threatening all communities and segments of society. Virginia State Health Commissioner Marissa J. Levine designated opioid addiction a public health emergency in 2016.

The number of fatal opioid overdoses continues to rise sharply locally, across Virginia and throughout the United States. In Richmond, Henrico, Chesterfield and Hanover, the combined number of opioid overdose deaths increased from 51 in 2010 to 79 in 2012 before jumping to 108 in 2014 and 189 in 2016, according to the Virginia Department of Health.





#### How Does the Executive Transition Assistance Program Work?

Localities across the Commonwealth cope with how to most effectively replace their chief administrator (executive or manager). Our staff provides the right tools, personnel, and experience for this leadership transition period.

The Berkley Group offers a suite of services in the Executive Transition Assistance Program:

#### ← LEADERSHIP

#### On-site Management

The Berkley Group places a qualified and seasoned manager to serve in the chief administrator's role and be onsite handling day-to-day operations, as well as facilitating staff efforts toward achieving the governing body's policies and objectives during the interim period. The locality determines the amount of on-site presence based on its needs.

#### → PROCESS

#### Hiring Assistance

Matching lead candidates with the culture of the organization is essential. Berkley helps with this elusive, but key factor in making a successful hiring decision. The Berkley Group can assist with the development of the position description and qualifications advertise the leadership position, analyze and vet applications, and assist with the interview process to provide valuable, neutral input.

#### **←** EVALUATION

#### Organizational Assessment

The Berkley Group performs a strategic assessment of the organization to evaluate what is working well and areas that can be improved. This comprehensive the governing body and new chief administrator enabling them to operate more efficiently and effectively to achieve local priorities and objectives.

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The Berkley Group's Executive **Transition Assistance Program** 

## Today's way of filling an **Executive Vacancy**

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#### ABOUT US

Helping localities achieve their als is a passion for the Berkley goals is a passion for the Berkley Group's founders – Darren Coffey and Drew Williams. When they formed The Berkley Group in 2010, they did so with the belief that local government's resources are shrinking while expectations for delivering real-world results are greater than ever before

BERKLEY



#### **OTHER SERVICES**

We partner with local governments and public agencies to assist with an array of services. We work to be a true extension of your staff looking for modern solutions to multi-disciplined challenges. The Berkley Group services

- Auxiliary Town Hall
- Planning & Community Development
   Finding
- Civic Engagement
- Organizational Strategic Assessment
- Resiliency/Sustainability

**OUR EXPERTISE. YOUR SUCCESS.** 



The Berkley Group is a proud partner of the Virginia Association of Counties (VACo)



540.560.2202/bgllc.net





### Register Now for NACo's 2017 Poverty Summit & Fall Board Meeting

This fall, the National Association of Counties will convene in Tarrant County, Fort Worth, Texas from **December 7–9** for the 2017 **Poverty Summit and NACo Fall Board Meeting**.

Under the leadership of NACo President Roy Charles Brooks, NACo is embarking on an initiative in 2017 and 2018 that focuses on the critical role counties play in breaking multi-generational cycles of poverty, especially for our children, who are impacted by poverty more than any other age group. As the ultimate safety net, county investment in early childhood development will lower future costs in county health, child welfare, safety and justice and other systems.

During this summit, county elected leaders and national experts will discuss the impact of poverty on children and their families and how counties can help to break the cycle of poverty.

The Poverty Summit will take place immediately before the Board of Directors meeting. We encourage board members to attend both events, and non-board members may also observe the Board of Directors meeting.

#### **REGISTER NOW**

#### **Hotel Information**

The 2017 Fall Board Meeting and Poverty Summit will be held at the Worthington Renaissance Fort Worth Hotel. We have secured rooms at a special rate of \$159/night plus tax. By November 8, reserve your room online or call 800-468-3571 and mention you are with the NACo meeting.



# 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.



**ASSISTANT** DIRECTOR GENERAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT AND OTHER CAREER **OPPORTUNITIES** | James City County | Posted October 13





**COUNTY PLANNER** Richmond County | Posted October 6



**WASH BAY ATTENDANT** 

| City of Harrisonburg | Posted October 6



**DEPUTY SHERIFF** 

Montgomery County | Posted October



**UTILITY BILLING** 

**ADMINISTRATOR** | Town of Culpeper | Posted October 6



**EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT** 

NRV - 911 Regional Authority | Montgomery County | Posted October 5



#### **DIRECTOR OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY**

Franklin County | Posted October 5



**ZONING** 

ADMINISTRATOR | Northampton County | Posted October 4



**GENERAL REGISTRAR** |

**Goochland County** | Posted October 3



#### LIBRARY DIRECTOR |

Mecklenburg County | Posted October 3

Chesapeake HR GENERALIST (EMPLOYEE RELATIONS) | City of Chesapeake | Posted October 3



#### **BUILDING INSPECTOR PT**

| Pittsylvania County | Posted October



**INFORMATION** 

**TECHNOLOGY MANAGER | Town of** Warrenton | Posted October 3



**DIRECTOR OF RISK** 

**MANAGEMENT** | Chesterfield County | Posted October 2



**TOWN MANAGER** 

**COMMUNITY SUMMARY | Town of** Amherst | Posted October 2



COMMUNITY

**DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR | Lee County** | Posted October 2



**FAMILY SERVICES ASSISTANT AND OTHER CAREER** 

**OPPORTUNITIES** | James City County | September 29





**DIRECTOR OF FINANCE** 

| **Northampton County** | Posted September 29



**TOURISM COORDINATOR** 

| **Mecklenburg County** | Posted September 28



ARLINGTON DIVISION CHIEF

MATERIALS MANAGEMENT | Arlington County | Posted September

26

New Kent

DIRECTOR OF

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT | New

**Kent County** | Posted September 25



SYSTEMS SUPPORT TECHNICIAN

| **Westmoreland County** | Posted September 25



**CHIEF DEPUTY** 

**TREASURER** | Chesterfield County |

Posted September 25



**ECONOMIC** 

**DEVELOPMENT/TOURISM COORDINATOR** | Page County |

Posted September 25



SPECIALIST (PT) | Westmoreland County | Posted September 25 COUNTY

DIRECTOR OF ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT | Tazewell County |

Posted September 25



| Posted September 22



**TOURISM** 

**COORDINATOR** | **Brunswick County** | Posted September 22



**GIS MANAGER** | Botetourt

**County** | Posted September 20



**CITY AUDITOR** | City of

**Richmond** | Posted September 19



ENVIRONMENTAL

ENGINEER SENIOR | Virginia Department of Health | Posted September 19



DEPUTY CLERK TO THE
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS | Frederick
County | Posted September 19



EMPLOYEE RELATIONS
PERFORMANCE MANAGER | Prince
William County | Posted September 19

WILLIAMS BURG
JAMES CITY COUNTY
PUBLIC SCHOOLS

**CHIEF FINANCIAL** 

OFFICER | Williamsburg-James City County Public Schools | Posted September 15



**CAREER OPPORTUNITIES** 

| **Gloucester County** | Posted September 15

New Kent

PROCUREMENT

MANAGER | New Kent County |

Posted September 15



**PLANNER** | New Kent

**County** | Posted September 15



**ENGINEERING** 

**ASSISTANT** | James City County |

Posted September 15



**PERMIT TECHNICIAN** 

AND OTHER CAREER

**OPPORTUNITIES** | James City County

| Posted September 15



**BUILDING OFFICIAL/** 

INSPECTOR | King & Queen County | Posted September 14



**PARALEGAL** | City of Falls

**Church** | Posted September 14



**TOURISM MANAGER** |

Orange County | Posted September 13



#### **EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

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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.

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