

COUNTY CONNECTIONS

The Newsletter of the
Virginia Association of Counties

February 2, 2018



Cooper-Jones
makes history in
Prince Edward
County... Page 2



Visit Buckingham
County and the
Confluence of
the Tye River and
James River...
Page 5



Bret Schardein
appointed
Powhatan County
Assistant County
Administrator...
Page 3



Join us at the
VACo 2018
Supervisors'
Forum... Page 6



Governor Ralph Northam to speak at VACo County Government Day



February 8, 2018 | Omni Richmond Hotel | [Agenda](#)

This is our day to advocate for counties at the 2018 General Assembly Session. Join us for VACo County Government Day on Thursday, February 8!

Registration opens at 11 a.m. and the event kicks off with lunch at noon. Governor Ralph Northam will speak on issues that affect counties. VACo staff will provide legislative reports before inviting all present to meet with their General Assembly representatives that afternoon.

For information on how to reach your representatives, see the [Virginia House of Delegates](#) and the [Senate of Virginia](#) member listings websites. Find information about VACo's positions in the [2018 Legislative Program](#). We will distribute our VACo County Government Day Bulletin at the event.

We encourage all counties to participate in the legislative process - listen to Governor Northam share his vision for how we can work together to advance policies beneficial to Virginia localities. Also hear the VACo Team talk about the issues and then go speak with your representatives about your County's concerns. The VACo County Government Day event should conclude around 1-1:30 p.m.

Online registration is closed. Late registration will be taken at the VACo registration table, which opens at 11 a.m.

VACo Contact: [Dean Lynch, CAE](#)

Cooper-Jones makes history in Prince Edward County

The history started years ago, even though Pattie Cooper-Jones may not have realized it. Cooper-Jones moved to Farmville and the Prince Edward County area on August 23, 1983. She was hired to manage an apartment complex, but this wasn't just any ordinary neighborhood where fixing a tenant's air conditioning was the biggest issue. This was a bad place.

"There was a lot of crime when I first came to the apartment complex," Cooper-Jones said. "But I was not afraid. If I saw someone commit a crime. I filed a police report."

Cooper-Jones said the support of the Town of Farmville – Town Manager Gerry Spate, the late Commonwealth's Attorney Bill Watkins, the late Chief of Police Otto Overton, and the late Judge William P. Hayes – gave her the courage to fight back because she knew they had her back.



Prince Edward County Chairman Robert M. "Bobby" Jones presented the VACo Service Award to Supervisor Pattie Cooper-Jones at the October 10, 2017 Board meeting. The Service Award recognizes her 10 years of dedicated service to county government.

"They were very instrumental in turning that place around," Cooper-Jones said. "The local government really helped me."

Then in 2003, Cooper-Jones was visited by an influential member of the community who had been watching her progress with the apartment complex. This meeting would change her life and was another step toward making Prince Edward County history 15 years later.

Mary Stokes had been the long-time Supervisor for District 801 Farmville when she knocked on Cooper-Jones' door to ask a question.

"She was retiring and made the trip to ask me to run for her Supervisor seat," Cooper-Jones said. "Mrs. Stokes and Carl U. Eggleston told me that anyone who could turn around and manage that apartment complex, should be helping more of the community, as a Supervisor. I said, 'Let me do one thing first. Let me talk to my husband (Stanley O'Neal Jones) and son (Taikein).' I knew how much time being a Supervisor would take from my family."

But her husband encouraged her to run. Be all you can be, he said. So she did. And she won.

Cooper-Jones has now won four elections – giving up her seat once to run for Treasurer. Then on Tuesday, January 9, as the Prince Edward County Board of Supervisors convened for its first meeting of the year – history was made.

Cooper-Jones was appointed Chair by her peers, becoming the first African-American and the first woman to hold that position in Prince Edward County. She made history with little fanfare. But that's how she likes it.

Cooper-Jones told her loved ones, "We don't have to make a lot of noise to be important. I feel blessed and humble. I'm going to continue to do my job and treat people fairly. I truly enjoy serving on the Board, and I thank God for the opportunity. Without him, I would be nothing."

Her first order of business as Chair was to recognize junior Da'Mya Harris, a Prince Edward County High School junior, who has scored more than 1,000 points in her varsity career.

Story Continued on Page 9



County of Powhatan, Virginia

3834 Old Buckingham Road
Powhatan, VA 23139

Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

February 1, 2018

Contact:

Ted Voorhees, County Administrator, County of Powhatan

Email: tvoorhees@powhatanva.gov Phone: (804) 598-5612



Bret Schardein appointed Assistant County Administrator

POWHATAN, VA – Bret Schardein, Powhatan County’s Community Development Director, begins leading the county’s economic development activities through a new organizational alignment today. As Assistant County Administrator, Schardein will primarily focus on supporting the expansion and success of existing businesses, recruiting new businesses, encouraging capital investment in the community and growing jobs. Assisting him will be an additional economic development professional currently under recruitment. He will also be responsible for executive leadership of the Planning and Building functions through supervision of the managers in each area.

Powhatan County’s Board of Supervisor indicated at December’s board retreat that economic development was a top strategic priority. According to County Administrator Ted Voorhees, this organizational change will place an appropriate emphasis on the activities necessary for a successful, sustainable economic development enterprise. “I have great confidence in Bret’s commitment to our community and know he will make an impact,” said Voorhees.

Schardein brings a wealth of local government experience working in growing rural localities, having been the Director of Community Development for Powhatan County since August, 2016; Planning Director/Deputy County Administrator for Cumberland County; and Director of Community Development for King William County.

Schardein earned undergraduate and master’s degrees in Urban and Regional Planning and a graduate certificate in Geographical Information System (GIS) from Virginia Commonwealth University. He holds American Institute of Certified Planners (AICP) and Certified Zoning Administrator (CZA) certifications as well as being a certified Erosion & Sediment Control Program Administrator with Virginia Department of Environmental Quality.

Planning staff member Andrew Pompei will serve as interim Planning Director.

###

Kristin Brown is New Director of Loudoun Office of Mapping & Geographic Information

Loudoun County Administrator Tim Hemstreet announces the appointment of Kristin Brown as the new director of the Office of Mapping and Geographic Information (OMAGI). Brown has been acting director of the department since October, overseeing the management, analysis and display of geographic data through the county's Geographic Information System (GIS). Loudoun's GIS is integrated into multiple county information systems affecting public safety, land use, real property assessments, permits and more.

Brown was appointed on January 11, 2018, following a national search. She began her service with Loudoun County in 1998 as a cartographer and manager of the yearly contract to update the county's base map. She later was promoted to manager of the department's Development and Analysis Division.

"We had an excellent group of applicants for this key position and Kristin stood out as a capable and proven leader," said Hemstreet. "Her historic knowledge is invaluable; she has played a key role in the development of Loudoun's innovative use of GIS and has been an important part of many high-profile countywide projects over many years."



In addition to being responsible for the core components of the county's GIS, OMAGI provides data, mapping, application development, and analytical services to county agencies and also provides a variety of mapping services to the public, including the online mapping tool, WebLogis. OMAGI oversees the assignment of addresses, maintenance of parcels, and approval of street names in Loudoun and is responsible for the county's Conservation Easement Stewardship Program.

Brown received a master's degree in geography from Murray State University in Kentucky. She has earned the GIS Professional certification from the GIS Certification Institute.

More information about OMAGI is online at www.loudoun.gov/mapping.

American Evolution Marketing Grant Program

ALL APPLICATIONS MUST BE SUBMITTED BY MARCH 22

[American Evolution is sponsoring a marketing grant program](#) administered by the Virginia Tourism Corporation. The purpose of this grant program is to assist Virginia localities – from towns and cities to museums, tourist attractions, and nonprofit organizations – in the promotion of their sites and their connections to American Evolution.

This objective can be accomplished through the following:

- Establishing and promoting a local or regional historic trail(s) that aligns with the commemoration themes of democracy, diversity and opportunity.
- Creating and promoting itineraries for tourism to the locality or region aligned with the commemoration themes, local or regional trails, and American Evolution Digital Trail Sites.
- Promoting American Evolution to build awareness of the 2019 Commemoration and Virginia's role in the creation of the United States.

Project proposals must promote American Evolution's themes of democracy, diversity, and opportunity, and its vision of reinforcing Virginia as a leader in education, tourism and economic development. Projects must also encourage visitation to the Commonwealth of Virginia. Programs that are regional in scope are encouraged.

Applicants may apply for up to \$10,000 in funding for their project, with a 1:1 match required. (In-kind support may not be used to match the funding granted by this program.) Applications will be scored on a merit scale, the details of which are available in the grant application packet. A detailed marketing plan must also be included with any application.

Visit Buckingham County and the Confluence of the Tye River and James River



The confluence of the Tye River and James River is located in the James River State Park, which is nestled in the foothills of the Blue Ridge Mountains. The park features rolling grasslands, quiet forests and beautiful views, as well as 3 miles of shoreline along the James River. Visitors can hike, bike, canoe, kayak, fish or tent camp on the banks of the historic river or at Branch Pond. Facilities include cabins, a visitor center, a gift shop, a camp store, a natural playground, picnic shelters, multi-use trails, boat launches, water/electric campgrounds and equestrian camping. The park also has a universally accessible fishing pier and a .25-mile-long wheelchair accessible trail around Green Hill Pond. James River State Park Outdoor Adventures, a full-service canoe livery, provides canoe, kayak and tube rentals as well as shuttle services. For more information about the livery (open seasonally), call 434-933-8682. The park is also a great place to view the annual James River Batteau Festival. A replica of one of the unusual vessels is on display at the visitor center.

SOURCE: [Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation](#)



Mark Your Calendars



March 23-24, 2018


[Registration Form](#) | [Preliminary Agenda](#) | [Register Online](#) | **Registration Deadline: March 6**
[Book Online Omni Richmond Hotel](#)

The County Supervisors' Forum helps supervisors concentrate on critical issues facing counties today: intergovernmental relations, financial responsibilities, schools, economic development, transportation, environmental protection, communications, legal issues and more. An overview of county government and the work of county supervisors are covered.

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

The conference registration fee is \$295, which covers a County Supervisors' Manual, Friday lunch and dinner and Saturday breakfast and lunch. Spouses and guests who attend may register for \$150, which covers those meals.

[Click here for the Registration Form.](#)



2018 VACo County Supervisors' Forum Preliminary AGENDA

MARCH 23-24, 2018 | [Omni Richmond Hotel Reservations](#)
[Registration Form](#) | [Online Registration](#)

Friday, March 23

Noon	Registration
1230pm	Lunch

Welcome and Introduction: The Honorable Sherrin Alsop | VACo President, King and Queen County Supervisor

VML/VACo Finance Municipal Advisory & Financing Services



VML/VACo Finance is a Municipal Advisor (MA) registered with the Municipal Securities Rulemaking Board (MSRB). SEC Municipal Advisors are subject to professional qualification standards and a code of conduct established by federal authorities.

Services to facilitate your next financing

If you are planning to finance a capital project or equipment, we can help. Fee quotes are provided up-front so there's no guesswork on your part. Select one or more of the following three deliverables:

Plan of Finance

- ▶ Review outstanding debt and adequacy of revenues to support new debt.
- ▶ Evaluate financing options, make recommendation, develop estimated debt service schedules.

Financing Implementation

- ▶ Bank loans
- ▶ State bond pools
- ▶ Interim financing
- ▶ Municipal bonds
- ▶ Equipment leasing
- ▶ No-closing-cost financing options* (*exclusive to VML/VACo Finance*)

Credit Analysis & Benchmarking

- ▶ Apply industry standards to evaluate essential measures of a locality's financial health.
- ▶ Compare key financial criteria to local government peers.

Let our MSRB-registered Municipal Advisors assist your locality with its next financing.

valocalfinance.org | info@valocalfinance.org | 804-648-0635



*Excludes legal fees when required.

Capitol Contact

Virginia General Assembly

Virginia Association of Counties • 1207 E. Main Street, Suite 300 • Richmond, VA 23219
www.vaco.org • 804.788.6652



The 2018 General Assembly session will span from January 10 to March 10, and legislators will deliberate on many issues critical to local government, including taxes, the state budget, education funding, economic development, public safety, and other policy matters.

VACo will continually provide updates during the session through [Capitol Contact](#). To ensure that you are receiving our legislative bulletin, please send [Gage Harter](#) your best email address. Below are recent Capitol Contacts.

February 1, 2018: [Oppose Bad Wireless Bill Now](#)

January 31, 2018 ALERT: [Oppose Bad Wireless Bill Now](#)

January 30, 2018: [School Boards Bill Rereferred to Senate Courts of Justice](#)

January 30, 2018 ALERT: [Oppose Bill that Changes Local Grievance Procedure](#)

January 29, 2018: [Oppose Exempting School Boards from Obtaining Authorization from the Local Governing Body](#)

January 29, 2018 ALERT: [Oppose Exempting School Boards from Obtaining Authorization from the Local Governing Body](#)

January 26, 2018 ALERT: [Communications Sales and Use Tax on House Finance Committee Docket for Monday Morning](#)

January 26, 2018 ALERT: [Harmful Wireless Bill To Be Heard Monday in Senate Commerce and Labor](#)

January 25, 2018: [Hearing on Communications Sales and Use Tax Modernization Legislation Delayed; Please Make Calls in Support](#)

January 23, 2018: [Communications Sales and Use Tax Bill to be Heard Tomorrow in Subcommittee](#)

January 22, 2018: [VACo-Requested Budget Amendments Introduced](#)

January 18, 2018: [VACo Supports Modernizing the Communications Sales and Use Tax](#)

January 16, 2018: [VACo Opposes Solar Zoning Ordinance Bills](#)

January 15, 2018: [Wireless bill erodes local decision-making authority for the siting of towers and poles](#)

January 11, 2018: [Virginia General Assembly Convenes](#)

January 9, 2018: [VACo Opposes Gutting of Local Authority for Siting of Wireless Towers and Poles](#)

Become a Certified Supervisor

SIGN UP TODAY! | [The Supervisors' Certification Brochure](#)

The Virginia Association of Counties, in partnership with Virginia Tech and Virginia Cooperative Extension, offers Virginia's county supervisors an opportunity to enhance their capacity to effectively and efficiently lead their respective counties in the 21st century by participating in the Virginia Certified County Supervisors' Program.

Since its inception in 2005, 70 supervisors representing more than 40 counties spanning from Bath County and Highland County in the west to Stafford County and Richmond County in the east have completed the training program and have earned their credentials as a certified county supervisor. Of greater importance, each supervisor has gained the insight, perspective and confidence needed to address the issues and opportunities that constitute the governance challenge in the 21st century.

Inventing Your County's Future: **The Role of Community Planning**

Opening Session | March 16
Albemarle County

Closing Session | May 18
VACo Training Center

Registration Deadline | February 23

[Registration Form](#) | [Register Online](#)

Governance in the 21st Century: **The Role of Leadership**

Opening Session | June 1
Albemarle County

Closing Session | August 3
VACo Training Center

Registration Deadline | May 16

Managing While Leading: **Understanding Your Powers, Duties, and Responsibilities**

Opening Session | September 7
Albemarle County

Closing Session | November 2
VACo Training Center

Registration Deadline | August 20

Story Continued from Page 1

"I love to recognize any students for their accomplishments, whether they are academic or in sports," Cooper-Jones said. "I think it's important for our young people to see they do make a difference."

Cooper-Jones said she's going to be busy as Chair this year. Prince Edward County is working to renovate its courthouse. Cooper-Jones hopes to bring the Greyhound Bus Lines back to Prince Edward County.

"We have a transportation committee considering it," Cooper-Jones said. "We have two colleges here. It would be nice for them to use the bus to go to Richmond, D.C. or Maryland instead of having to find a ride out of to catch a bus. I believe this is an important service we can give back to our residents."

Cooper-Jones also has advice for other Supervisors who either are just starting or are veterans.

"When I was first elected, I told myself that if I'm going to do this, I needed to give it my all," Cooper-Jones said. "That's why I enrolled in the VACo Supervisors' Certification Program."

"My advice to other Supervisors is simple - if you are planning to serve more than one term, you need to complete the VACo certification course. I had trouble understanding planning and zoning, but once I took the class, I learned so much and I had so many references available to me. I can call up (instructor) Mike Chandler any time for advice. This knowledge is a valuable tool to have. I learned a lot and it has helped me do a better job."

And Cooper-Jones is doing a great job and being recognized for it. Just a couple of weeks ago she was named the Farmville Police Department's Citizen of the Year.

"I get a lot of my courage and strength from my Daddy, James Cooper," Cooper-Jones said. "Growing up there were nine of us. He taught us all that if you believe in something, stand up for it. I am thankful for my family."

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](mailto:Valerie.Russell@vacounty.org).



**ZONING
ADMINISTRATOR** | Northampton
County | Posted January 31



**GLOUCESTER COUNTY
CAREER OPPORTUNITIES** |
Gloucester County | Posted January 30



**ZONING
ADMINISTRATOR** | Town of Culpeper
| Posted January 30



**ASSISTANT REAL ESTATE
DIRECTOR** | Fairfax County | Posted
January 29



**ECONOMIC
INDEPENDENCE & ASSISTANCE
DIVISION CHIEF** | Arlington County |
Posted January 29



**INSTRUCTOR II WATER
SAFETY** | James City County | Posted
January 29



**WASTEWATER
COLLECTION APPRENTICE** | James
City County | Posted January 29



**PROGRAM SERVICES
ASSISTANT** | James City County |
Posted January 29



LIFEGUARD (INDOOR) |
James City County | Posted January 29



GRAPHIC DESIGNER |
James City County | Posted January 29



**RECORDS AND IMAGING
TECHNICIAN FR** | James City County |
January 29



**INSTRUCTOR II CPR/
FIRST AID** | James City County |
Posted January 29



OFFICE MANAGER II |
Campbell County | Posted January 26



ADMINISTRATIVE AIDE |
Campbell County | Posted January 26



**PAYROLL/BENEFITS
COORDINATOR** | Gloucester County |
Posted January 26



**LEGAL COUNSEL/DEPUTY
COMMISSIONER ADMINISTRATION
DIVISION** | Arlington County | Posted
January 25



PROGRAM ASSISTANT |
Montgomery County | Posted January
25



**TRANSFER SITE
ATTENDANT PT** | Campbell County
| Posted January 25



**MAINTENANCE WORKER
ET** | Campbell County | Posted January
25



ZONING

ADMINISTRATOR | City of Fredericksburg | Posted January 24



OFFICE ASSISTANT PT |

Gloucester County | Posted January 23



JOB FAIR

| Fauquier County and Fauquier County Public Schools | Posted January 23



SECRETARY I/

RECEPTIONIST | Sussex County | Posted January 23



SENIOR APPRAISER |

Albemarle County | Posted January 23



CHIEF OF ZONING/

DEPUTY ZONING ADMINISTRATOR | Albemarle County | Posted January 23



ASSISTANT COUNTY

ATTORNEY | Louisa County | Posted January 22



BUSINESS TAX

SPECIALIST | James City County | Posted January 19



INDUSTRIAL MECHANIC |

James City County | Posted January 19



GLOUCESTER COUNTY

CAREER OPPORTUNITIES |

Gloucester County | Posted January 18



SEASONAL LEAD

LIFEGUARD | James City County | Posted January 18



SENIOR ASSISTANT

GENERAL REGISTRAR | James City County | Posted January 18



INFORMATION

TECHNOLOGY SERVICE DIRECTOR | James City County | Posted January 18



RECREATION LEADER

(REC. CONNECT) | James City County | Posted January 17



RECREATION LEADER

(PARKS) | James City County | Posted January 17



RECREATION LEADER

(CHILD WATCH) | James City County | Posted January 17



INSTRUMENTATION &

CONTROL SPECIALIST | James City County | Posted January 17



THERAPEUTIC

RECREATION LEADER | James City County | Posted January 17



LIFEGUARD (INDOOR) |

James City County | Posted January 17



SEASONAL LIFEGUARD

(OUTDOORS) | James City County | Posted January 17



SUMMER CAMP

INSTRUCTOR | James City County | Posted January 17



PARK ATTENDANT |

James City County | Posted January 17



ASSISTANT RECREATION

SITE SUPERVISOR | James City County | Posted January 17



DIRECTOR OF ECONOMIC

DEVELOPMENT AND TOURISM | Stafford County | Posted January 17



CHIEF FINANCIAL

OFFICER F/T | Accomack County | Posted January 16



SOCIAL SERVICES

DIRECTOR I | City of Galax | Posted January 16



EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

President: Sherrin C. Alsop, King and Queen County

President-Elect: OPEN

1st Vice President: Stephen W. Bowen, Nottoway County

2nd Vice President: Jeff C. McKay, Fairfax County

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

Immediate Past President: Mary W. Biggs, Montgomery County

STAFF

Executive Director: Dean A. Lynch, CAE

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

Director of Administration and Finance: Vicky D. Steinruck, CPA

Director of Communications: A. Gage Harter

Director of Government Affairs: Katie Boyle

Director of Government Relations: Chris J. McDonald, Esq.

Director of Intergovernmental Affairs: Khaki LaRiviere

Director of Local Government Policy: Joe Lerch, AICP

Director of Member Services: Carol I. Cameron

Director of Program Development: Angela Inglett

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

Administrative Secretary: Valerie M. Russell

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