

COUNTY CONNECTIONS

The Newsletter of the
Virginia Association of Counties

April 20, 2018



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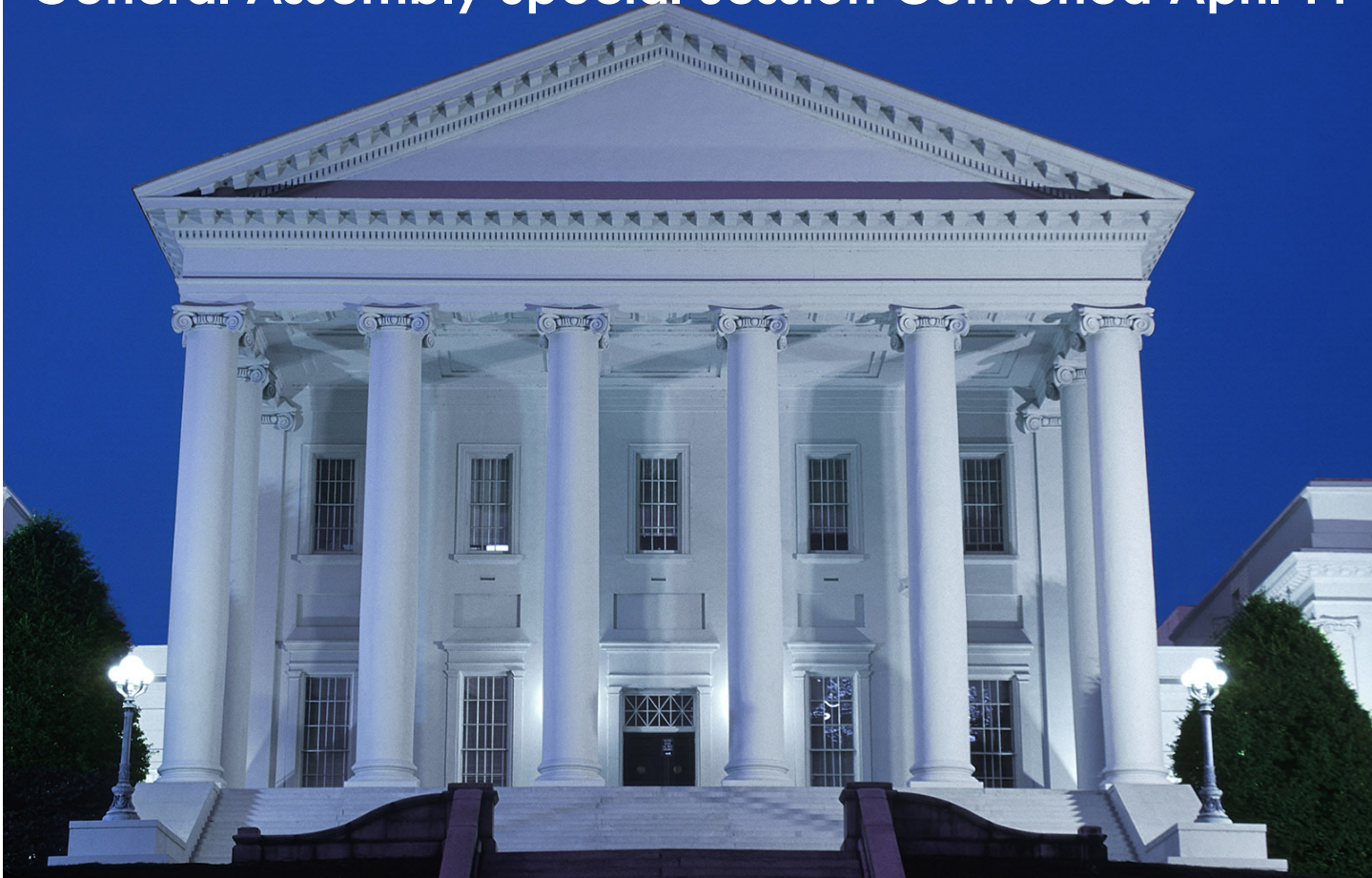


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VIRGINIA INITIATIVE FOR
**GROWTH &
OPPORTUNITY**
IN EACH REGION

General Assembly Special Session Convened April 11



The General Assembly returned to Richmond on April 11 to continue work on the “caboose” and biennium budgets after negotiations reached an impasse during the regular session over the question of Medicaid expansion. After the House and Senate adopted procedural resolutions governing what matters may be considered during the special session, the House Appropriations Committee met on Friday, April 13, to review Governor Northam’s introduced budget and receive a briefing on state revenues from Secretary of Finance Aubrey Layne.

General Fund revenue collections fell in March by 3.5 percent, but on a fiscal year-to-date basis, revenue collections have increased 5.2 percent, and are still expected to meet the annual forecast of 3.4 percent growth. The drop in revenues in March is attributable in part to a decline in individual income tax withholding of 4.7 percent relative to March 2017. However, March 2018 had one less day for deposits than the same month last year, and on a fiscal year-to-date basis, collections have grown by 4.2 percent, ahead of the annual estimate of 3.5 percent. Of more concern, sales and use tax collections grew slightly in March, but have slipped behind the forecasted 3 percent growth, growing 2.9 percent on a year-to-date basis. Secretary Layne noted that it is too soon to determine whether March’s faltering performance is an aberration or the beginning of a worrisome trend. The last quarter of the fiscal year, which encompasses collections of estimated and final corporate income tax payments and individual nonwithholding payments, as well as most individual income tax refunds,

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1207 to the 95 Blog

The Opioid Crisis: How Do I Learn More?



Over the past decade, American communities have become all too familiar with the scourge of addiction – in particular, opioid abuse. This unique and deadly epidemic continues to grow with few localities remaining unscathed from the devastating impacts.

Given the critical nature of this issue, VACo is working to ensure that members have the resources necessary to better understand and address this challenge. Therefore, over the next several posts we'll explore various aspects of the opioid addiction crisis.

In the first post of our series, we'll share a few resources regarding the history and current outlook of the situation. Subsequent posts will discuss new studies, community treatment options, and current legal battles.

Keep in mind that VACo is not endorsing any particular content or opinion, rather we hope that an array of information will aid those deliberating the most appropriate avenue for their community effort. It is important to remember that each resource is just one piece in a much larger puzzle, so weigh all material against other reliable sources.

Click on the button below to discover some available resources that will help you understand this complex issue.

VACo Contact: [Angela Inglett](#)

Read the 1207 to the 95 Blog

General Assembly Acts on Governor's Amendments at Reconvened Session

The General Assembly met on April 18 to consider the Governor's amendments and vetoes of legislation from the 2018 regular session. Governor Northam submitted amendments to 53 bills (including House and Senate pairs) and vetoed ten bills (gubernatorial amendments to several other bills were considered prior to the adjournment of the regular session). In order for legislation to be amended in accordance with the Governor's wishes, both the House and Senate had to vote to accept the amendments. The General Assembly accepted the Governor's amendments to 36 bills and rejected amendments, either in whole or in part, to 17 bills. The Governor now has 30 days to act on legislation that was returned to him from the reconvened session, and must either sign or veto legislation; bills upon which he takes no action will become law without his signature.

All of the Governor's vetoes were upheld, including HB 1204 (Hugo), legislation which would have required that certain property be assessed based on use value rather than fair market value in certain localities meeting specified population growth criteria, whether or not the locality had adopted land use value taxation. VACo had opposed the bill during the session and requested that the Governor veto the bill.

Amendments to several bills of interest to localities were considered:

Wireless facilities: [HB 1258 \(Kilgore\)](#)/[SB 405 \(McDougle\)](#) limit local zoning authority over the siting of wireless towers by allowing wireless companies to place cell towers of up to 50 feet tall within rights-of-way and restricting localities' ability to obtain information and address citizen concerns through the public hearing process for towers of greater height. The Governor's amendments to these bills (which were accepted by the General Assembly) did not change VACo's opposition to the underlying legislation. Two related measures, [HB 1427 \(Kilgore\)](#)/[SB 823 \(McDougle\)](#), limit what VDOT and localities may charge for the use of publicly owned rights-of-way by the wireless industry for the placement of poles and towers. The Governor's amendments, which were accepted by the General Assembly, revised the bills to limit only what VDOT may charge for the use of publicly owned rights-of-way.

Solar facilities: [SB 902 \(Lucas\)](#), which would provide more local flexibility in the tax treatment of solar facilities, was amended to provide that the 150 megawatt cap for the mandatory 80 percent exemption from local property taxes applies only prospectively to projects for which an initial interconnection request form is filed on or after July 1, 2018. VACo did not support the amendments, preferring instead to retain the provisions in the bill as it passed the General Assembly that would make the favorable tax treatment of larger solar projects a local option, no matter when the interconnection request was filed. The Governor's amendments were accepted by the Senate and initially rejected by the House by a narrow margin before being reconsidered and subsequently accepted.

Regulation of mulch: [HB 1595 \(Wilt\)](#)/[SB 972 \(Obenshain\)](#) limit local authority to regulate the use of mulch, which can pose a fire hazard when applied too close to a structure. The Governor's amendment sought to remove certain structures housing larger numbers of people, such as assisted living facilities and college dormitories, from the restrictions on local regulation, so that localities could still regulate the use of mulch for these properties. VACo opposed the bill during the session and supported the amendments, which were rejected by the General Assembly. The bills have been returned to the Governor for final action.

Drones: [HB 638 \(Collins\)](#)/[SB 526 \(Obenshain\)](#), which address the issue of trespass via use of an unmanned aircraft system, limit the ability of political subdivisions to regulate the use of unmanned aircraft systems within their boundaries. One of the Governor's amendments would have carved out an exception to this restriction for local school boards, but this provision was rejected by the General Assembly. Another proposed amendment that would require a review of the impact of the legislation on unmanned aircraft research and economic development was accepted. The bills now await final action by the Governor.

VACo Contact: [Katie Boyle](#)

VACo SPOTLIGHT

Tony F. Carter **Warren County Chairman**



Q1. You grew up in Warren County and have lived there all your life. What is it like to serve on the Board of a county where you have such deep roots?

Tony Carter: Having lived here my entire life with the exception of attending Lynchburg College, it has been a great experience. Having seen the progress that has occurred over the past 30 years and being a small part of it, has been very rewarding. We are fortunate to have many community minded people here. That includes the locals as well as our newcomers. Being able to merge the different perspectives into a positive outcome is what makes our county a great place to live.

Q2. Prior to your service on the Warren County Board of Supervisors, you served for seven years on the Front Royal Town Council. What made you decide to run for office? How did your Town Council service prepare you for working at the county level?

TC: Serving on the Town Council was my first foray into local politics. A lot was accomplished during that time and we had a good relationship with Warren County, particularly in bringing jobs and business to our area. However, one of the deciding factors for me to run for County Supervisor, was to work with our school board to improve our school infrastructure. We were in desperate need of new facilities and the previous boards had always put this out for referendum which would ultimately fail. The first board I served on worked with the school board to develop a 20-year needs study for new schools. And we implemented it.

Q3. You've been in public service since 1994. What are some of the major changes you've seen in your time in public life? Has your approach to leadership changed over time?

TC: In some respects, the issues are the same as they were 20 years ago, it just seems that they have become more pressing. It's always a challenge of meeting the different needs of diverse constituencies. Growth is the major factor that drives all other issues. We have the same growth concerns that many localities share. We compete with our neighbors in attracting and keeping well-qualified employees whether it's teachers, law enforcement, fire and rescue, etc. Balancing the need to provide good services without burdening our taxpayers becomes an ongoing challenge as well. I think that one major change that we have all seen in the last 20 years that has impacted everyone is the growth of the internet and social media. Everyone has unlimited access to all sorts of information and our constituents have become more understanding as to what occurs in local government and the impact it has on their lives. I don't think that my approach has changed. I have always tried to understand the issues before me and listen to differing points of views before rendering a decision and hopefully, this has served my constituents well.

Q4. In your view, what are the greatest challenges and opportunities facing Warren County in the next 10 years?

TC: The County and Board have prioritized economic development to replace the loss of the Avtex Fibers manufacturing facility (once the largest employer and taxpayer in the region that closed in 1989) and catching up on infrastructure needs of the community over the past 15 years. New economic development included the recruitment of the Sysco distribution center, the Dominion Power Plant, and the Riverton Commons and Crooked Run shopping centers. Infrastructure improvements include the construction of a new high school, renovation of our junior high school to a high school, renovation of our old high school to a middle school, construction of a new middle school, expansion of our park system out into the County, completion of a new regional jail, public safety building, and health and human services complex. We have been able to accomplish all of this while keeping our tax rate competitive with our neighbors in the region. With those projects behind us, we really need to work to address how we compensate our employees, including our teachers, to stay competitive and ensure that we can maintain a quality workforce. To accomplish this, we need to continue to build our economic base to generate additional revenue without overly taxing our property owners.

Q5. What are the "must-do" activities for a first-time visitor to Warren County?

TC: As the gateway to the Skyline Drive and Shenandoah National Park, no trip to the area would be complete without a visit to the park and associated trails and our quaint downtown area of Front Royal. Other amenities include both the north and south forks of the Shenandoah River, the Appalachian Trail, the Shenandoah River State Park, Skyline Caverns, local wineries and breweries, and playing at one of the six golf courses in our community. Warren County sits just an hour down Interstate 66 from our nation's capital and has so much to offer, whether visiting for a day or a week.

VACo Contact: [Katie Boyle](#)



Experience the history of America at Luray Caverns in an exhibit featuring over 140 items relating to transportation including cars, carriages, coaches and costumes dating from 1725.

This fascinating story of roadway travel begins with simple wagons and coaches to the elaborate and luxurious automobiles of the 1940s. Meticulously restored to their original splendor, these “antiques on wheels” are all in running condition and beautifully displayed among period artifacts.

Experience a slice of life from another time when a new top-of-the-line Cadillac Double Tulip Touring Car would set you back \$950 (in 1906). Mother-in-law seals came in handy when touring in a 1912 Metz Roadster. Milk was 5 cents a quart as found on the original paint of the 1914 Ford Model T Milk Wagon.

Fascinating to all is the elegant and extremely rare 1932 Rolls Royce Shooting Brake, a recent addition to the collection. Rudolph Valentine’s 1925 Silver Ghost Town Car, another Rolls, captures the spirit of the posh silent screen era. See a Stanley Steamer, a Baker Electric and the oldest auto in operating condition on display in America, the 1892 Benz. Vis-a-vis. Other highlights include a Conestoga Wagon, a 1908 Baker Electric, and a 1913 Stanley Steamer.

Entrance fee is included in Luray Caverns general admission.

SOURCE: [Virginia is for Lovers](http://Virginia.is.for.Lovers.com)





Mark Your Calendars



Virginia Association of Counties

ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS



ENTER THE 2018 VACo ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS

Dear VACo Members –

It's time for the 2018 Achievement Awards Program. Any county department is eligible to compete so **ENTER NOW!**

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. Submissions must be received by June 1.

Last year we processed 79 entries and selected 17 winners from 9 counties. VACo presented awards at 9 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.

The judges for the 2018 Achievement Awards will be announced soon.

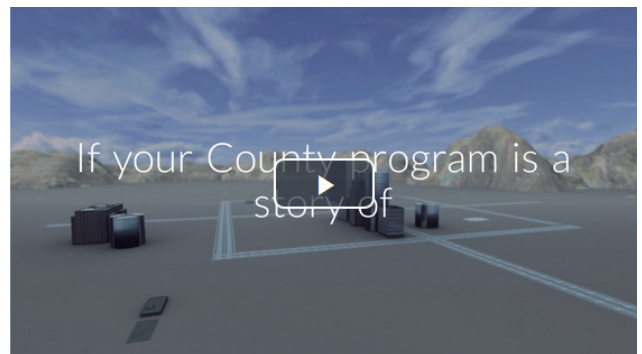
VACo has received nearly 600 entries over the past nine competitions. Last year's Best Achievement winner was York County for its "Home-Based Business Assistance" program.

VACo encourages all counties, big and small, to enter the 2018 Achievement Awards Program. Please contact gcharter@vaco.org with questions or for more information.

[Click here for submission form](#)

[Click here to browse all of the 2017 entries](#)

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



NEWS FROM OUR ASSOCIATE MEMBERS



Client Focus

Chris Adcock Brings Innovations to Pittsylvania Service Authority

By Su Clauson-Wicker

Pittsylvania County, covering nearly 1,000 square miles, is Virginia's largest land-mass county. Its 3,500 water and sewer connections are spread over a combined 185 miles of line.

When Chris Adcock became executive director of the Pittsylvania County Service Authority (PCSA) in fall 2013, he knew he had to upgrade the authority's maps and aging monitoring system. A computerized system with geographic information made sense.

"Our water systems are spread out, so without a GIS system, my field staff might drive 30-40 miles to get back to the office for water line information,"

Adcock says. "And for meter reading, even the radio-read system requires employees to drive by all the homes and businesses."

Within two years, Adcock and his progressive board had incorporated a new system of checking water meters without ever leaving the office. It works a bit like a cell phone.

"The Beacon system uses cellular transmitters to send meter readings over commercial networks to a secure, hosted database," said Adcock. The data can then be accessed by staff and customers through an Internet-based interface."

If a customer's usage jumps significantly in a day, it creates a red flag for the staff to check it out. Previously, a leak could go undetected until the end of a 60-day cycle.

"Pittsylvania was one of the first municipalities in Virginia to adopt the system," Adcock says.

With a strong GIS background from his years as a consulting and municipal engineer, Adcock sought to put the PCSA's system into a GIS format. Funded through a cooperative partnership with the county, GIS information will soon allow employees, contractors and economic development officials to view



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utility facilities, property lines, fire hydrants, and other information online.

This is especially important as Pittsylvania recruits businesses to its new Berry Hill mega park and other county industrial parks. As he looks to the future, Adcock has worked with H&P engineers to study an expansion of the county's water supply coming from Henry County. The preliminary engineering report has been submitted to the health department.

"The coal ash spill on the Dan River got us thinking about a backup water supply," Adcock says.

Adcock is a Pittsylvania County native who returned after earning a degree in civil engineering from Virginia Tech. He lives in Danville with his wife and son, a ninth grader. Adcock is a scoutmaster and serves on the vestry of Danville's Epiphany Episcopal Church as well as on the boards of Danville Golf Club and the Harvest Jubilee concert series. To de-stress, he rides Danville's 35-mile, IMBA-spec Angler's Ridge mountain bike trails.

Geotechnical Services Expand to Blacksburg Office

H&P welcomes Chuck Newman, PE, who recently joined H&P's Blacksburg office as a Geotechnical Engineer. He is a graduate of Virginia Tech and has been involved in the design and construction of a wide variety of geotechnical projects including infrastructure, land development, and vertical construction.

Chuck's primary areas of expertise include ground improvement, shallow/deep foundations, chemical modification of soil, and geotechnical remediation.

He also has significant experience in design of segmental and cantilever retaining walls, earthen embankments, helical pile underpinning analysis and design, geophysical exploration utilizing electrical resistivity, ground penetrating radar (GPR) and in-situ analysis of foundations. Specific VDOT services include post installation testing, pile dynamic analysis (PDA), and crosshole sonic logging (CSL). You can contact Chuck at cnewman@handp.com.



Chuck Newman, PE

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Story appeared in Hurt & Proffitt's Vision Magazine. Click on the pages to enlarge.

To follow more news from Hurt & Proffitt, [sign up](#) for H&P's Newsletter.

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GRANT WRITING & GRANT ADMINISTRATION

VISION

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SAVE THE DATE FOR H&P OPEN HOUSE IN OCTOBER

H&P SPONSORS ONWARD NRW LUNCHEON

CAD: THE BACKBONE OF ENGINEERING SERVICES

Moseley Architects Receives 2018 ENERGY STAR® Partner of the Year Award



**Pictured: Baldwin Elementary
School, Manassas, VA**

**Story and photo courtesy of Moseley
Architects**

Moseley Architects, a full-service architecture and engineering firm with more than 49 years of planning and design experience, is proud to announce that it received the 2018 ENERGY STAR® Partner of the Year Award for its outstanding contribution to energy efficiency in commercial building design. The firm's accomplishments will be recognized by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the U.S. Department of Energy at a ceremony in Washington, D.C. on April 20, 2018.

Moseley Architects' President Stewart D. Roberson credits this achievement to the firm's clients and talented designers. "We are fortunate to work with so many clients who recognize that energy efficient buildings can be functional, affordable, and beautiful all at the same time. We applaud their commitment and the dedication of our project teams to arrive at design solutions that meet these needs."

Moseley Architects has designed more than 3.7 million square feet of Designed to Earn the ENERGY STAR buildings for seventeen different clients over the past decade, representing an estimated greenhouse gas emissions reduction equivalent to removing 1,900 vehicles from the road. The firm is one of only two commercial architecture firms to ever be recognized with the prestigious Partner of the Year award.

Bill Wehrum, EPA Assistant Administrator for Air and Radiation, congratulated Moseley Architects and this year's other award recipients, saying, "The 2018 ENERGY STAR Partners of the Year have demonstrated real leadership, showing how American families and businesses can save energy, save money, and reduce air emissions."

For a complete list of 2018 winners and more information about ENERGY STAR's awards program, visit www.energystar.gov/awardwinners.

About Moseley Architects

Moseley Architects provides comprehensive architecture, engineering, interior design, high-performance design, and construction administration services to clients worldwide. In a multi-disciplinary studio setting, they strive to enrich communities by collaborating with local governments, public schools, colleges and universities, correctional institutions, and private sector clients. Founded in 1969 in Richmond, Virginia, Moseley Architects footprint includes offices in Virginia, Maryland, North Carolina, and South Carolina. More information can be found at www.moseleyarchitects.com.

About ENERGY STAR

ENERGY STAR® is the simple choice for energy efficiency. For over 25 years, EPA's ENERGY STAR program has been America's resource for saving energy and protecting the environment. Thousands of industrial, commercial, utility, state, and local organizations—including more than 40 percent of the Fortune 500®—rely on their partnership with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to deliver cost-saving energy efficiency solutions. More background information about ENERGY STAR can be found at energystar.gov/about and energystar.gov/numbers.

CONTACT: Lisa Demmel | ldemmel@moseleyarchitects.com | <http://www.moseleyarchitects.com>

GO Virginia Status Update



In 2016, the General Assembly created the Virginia Growth and Opportunity (GO VA) Board and Fund. The Board is a policy arm in the executive branch of state government promoting collaborative regional economic and workforce development opportunities and activities. The Fund is a nonreverting account in the state treasury that facilitates regional collaboration on economic growth and diversification through strategic economic and workforce development efforts.

On April 10, the GO VA Board approved five regional applications totaling over \$1.1 million to address strategic needs in talent development, infrastructure development, and commercialization. The approved projects will leverage \$3.2 million in additional resources. To view the *2018 Round 3 Regional Per Capita Grant Awards*, please click [here](#). In addition, the GO VA Board approved 18 projects with \$5 million in state funds, leveraging \$8.5 million in additional resources.

The Board awards allotted funds to certain projects and oversees the nine regional councils who approve the projects. Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) staff provide recommendations to the Board for project approval. For localities having trouble meeting regional council local match requirements, DHCD Director Erik Johnston suggested setting aside reserve dollars naming Loudon's approval of \$200,000 and Henrico's approval of \$50,000 as examples.

Going forward, the Board will prioritize funding to support joint site development and the startup ecosystem to ensure Virginia's competitive position in the 21st century economy. Specifically, the Board seeks to develop a template for the projects, and hire an outside consultant through available funds. This would be much like what the Virginia Research Investment Committee (VRIC) has done to respond to the [report](#) developed by their consultant, TEconomy Partners. VRIC will address the recommendations strategically through their new Implementation Advisory Team.

Developing the template and funding the projects for the two areas will align with the Virginia Economic Development Partnership (VEDP) Business Ready Sites Program. Here, eligible sites are more than 100 acres in size and must be approved through the regional councils. Utilizing a consultant, the Board can conduct site development analysis and review best practices. Additionally, each region will have a consultant to build an application template.

In addition, GO VA developed [guidelines](#) for the Collaborative Economic Development Act. Funding incentivizes economic development collaborations between at least two localities and share local revenues associated with the project. Eligible projects create at minimum 200 jobs at least equal to the average wage in the region and include a capital investment of \$25 million. The threshold can be lowered to 25 jobs and \$1 million in investment for areas of fiscal distress or extraordinary economic opportunity. VEDP provides recommendations to the Board for project approval.

Two pieces of legislation impacting the Board were signed into law during the 2018 General Assembly Session. [HB 1467 \(Jones, S.C.\)](#) removes the Secretary of Technology and adds the Secretary of Commerce and Trade to VRIC. And, [HB 1583 \(Byron\)](#) establishes the position of the Chief Broadband Advisor.

Additional business carried out by the Board included amending grant scoring guideline exceptions for the statewide competitive pool fund for certain proposals that align with priorities in multiple [Growth and Diversification plans](#) and authorizes funding for studies of significant impact to the Commonwealth. The Board also approved a new policy to establish a process for authorizing expenditures and disbursements of GO VA funds.

VACo Contact: [Khaki LaRiviere](#)

U.S. Supreme Court Hears Online Sales Tax Case



The United States Supreme Court heard oral arguments on April 17 in *South Dakota v. Wayfair Inc.*, a case that could have major implications for collections of sales taxes on online purchases. The case centers around a law which took effect in South Dakota in 2016 and requires businesses that sell more than \$100,000 in goods in the state or conduct 200 or more transactions per year with South Dakota customers to collect and remit sales taxes. South Dakota argues that the Supreme Court should overturn the precedent set in 1992 by the *Quill Corp. v. North Dakota* case, in which the Court reaffirmed an earlier decision and held that a state may not require an out-of-state retailer without a physical presence in the state to collect sales taxes. South Dakota contends that the growth in online sales since the *Quill* case (which dealt with mail order sales) has changed the retail landscape significantly, and that compliance burdens for retailers have been lightened by the development of tax compliance software. Wayfair and its fellow respondents in the case (several other online retailers) argue that collecting sales taxes levied at different rates by different taxing authorities remains burdensome, particularly for smaller retailers; that sales tax is already being collected on most online purchases; that failing to uphold *Quill* will open the door for states to impose retroactive liability on retailers; and that the Court should defer to Congress to resolve the issue under its power to regulate interstate commerce.

Several bills to address the issue have been considered by Congress in recent years, most notably the Marketplace Fairness Act, which passed the Senate in 2013, but failed to emerge from the House. When major transportation funding legislation was enacted in Virginia in 2013, state policymakers signaled their expectation that Congress would eventually pass a version of the Marketplace Fairness Act by embedding provisions in the transportation bill for the disposition of additional revenue that would be generated by the enhanced collection of sales and use tax, contingent on Congressional passage of the Marketplace Fairness Act or similar legislation authorizing the state to require remote sellers to collect state and local sales and use tax. To date, no such legislation has been enacted by Congress.

In the meantime, Virginia has attempted to improve collections of sales and use tax on purchases made online within the existing legal framework under *Quill*. The state reached an agreement with Amazon in 2013 to collect taxes from its customers on sales made by Amazon, and in 2017, legislation was enacted to clarify that storage of inventory within the Commonwealth constitutes nexus for an out-of-state seller, thus requiring such a seller to collect sales tax, a change that the state Department of Taxation estimated would result in approximately \$21 million per year in additional state and local sales and use tax collections. Since the tax is owed by the consumer whether the seller collects the tax or not, the Department of Taxation has also revised the individual income tax return form to emphasize the taxpayer's obligation to report sales and use tax owed on online, mail-order, and out of state purchases. Despite these efforts, former Secretary of Finance Ric Brown estimated in October 2017 that approximately \$229 million per year in sales tax for such purchases is owed but not collected.

Media reports on the questions asked during oral argument suggest that the justices' views on the issue vary. As the Tax Foundation pointed out in an analysis of the issue, the Court could take a variety of approaches to the case, including upholding the *Quill* decision and striking down the South Dakota law, issuing a narrow ruling upholding the South Dakota law, issuing a broad ruling that would provide general authority for states to compel the collection of taxes by out-of-state sellers, or upholding the South Dakota law and providing guidance to states on a system of taxation of remote sellers that meets Constitutional muster. A ruling is expected in June.

Story Continued from Page 1

will be critical in ensuring that the state meets its FY 2018 revenue estimates, as well as signaling future trends in revenue performance. Information on income tax refunds will also help the state determine whether the spike in December nonwithholding collections represents sustainable growth or tax planning strategies.

In the long term, Secretary Layne told Committee members that he is most concerned about cuts to federal spending, particularly drastic action by Congress such as sequestration. He pointed to the Congressional Budget Office report released last week that projected federal budget deficits of \$1 trillion per year beginning in 2020 as a factor that might prompt moves by Congress to curtail federal spending in a way that would damage Virginia's economy. In the near term, the state Department of Taxation continues to analyze the federal Tax Cuts and Jobs Act of 2017 to determine its effect on Virginia revenues.

Secretary Layne also provided Committee members with an update on discussions with the bond rating agencies. Standard and Poor's placed a negative outlook on Virginia's AAA rating in April 2017 due to concerns that the state's reserves were insufficient to weather future economic downturns. Secretary Layne presented a comparison of Virginia's existing Revenue Stabilization Fund (the "Rainy Day Fund") balances with those of other AAA-rated states, noting that Virginia's Rainy Day Fund balance as a percentage of expenditures is well below the levels in other AAA-rated states. An additional revenue reserve was created by statute in the 2018 regular session and the amounts to be deposited over the biennium are part of the budget discussions. House Appropriations Chairman Chris Jones emphasized his commitment to taking steps needed to reassure the rating agencies and preserve the state's credit rating.

The Committee then considered Governor Northam's introduced caboose and biennium budget bills and reported them to the House floor in the forms in which the House passed its budgets during the regular session, with several key amendments:

HB 5001 (the "caboose" bill amending FY 2018 appropriations):

- Language is added to the Training, Education, Employment, and Opportunity Program (TEEOP) to disenroll individuals from Medicaid who fail to meet TEEOP's requirements for three months of the plan year, unless the failure was due to circumstances beyond the individual's control.
- Language is added at the request of the Governor to increase the amount of FY 2018 revenue surplus to be deposited to the new Revenue Reserve Fund from 50 to 100 percent, after the mandatory deposits to the Revenue Stabilization and Water Quality Improvement Funds.
- Language that would have directed the provision of a one-time two percent bonus for state employees on December 1, 2018, contingent on a FY 2018 revenue surplus, is removed, as surplus funds are instead to be directed to the Revenue Reserve Fund.

HB 5002 (the 2018-2020 biennium budget bill):

- Language is added authorizing the Secretary of Health and Human Resources to apply for a state innovation waiver under the Affordable Care Act to implement innovative solutions to reduce premiums and out-of-pocket costs in the individual insurance market, such as the creation of a state reinsurance program or high-risk pool.
- Language is added to reflect the additional deposits to the Revenue Reserve Fund in FY 2018 and the deposits in FY 2019 and FY 2020 as set out in legislation adopted by the General Assembly in the 2018 regular session. Language regarding the proposed bonus for state employees that was removed from the caboose budget is also removed from the biennium budget.
- Language from the caboose budget regarding disenrollment from Medicaid for failure to meet TEEOP requirements is included.

The full House approved the two budget bills on Tuesday, April 17; the bills now await action by the Senate.

VACo Contact: [Katie Boyle](#)

It's almost Regional Meetings time!

VACo is excited to visit Westmoreland County and Dinwiddie County in May for Regional Meetings, which are held annually to give local elected officials, county administrators and legislators an opportunity to discuss challenges and offer solutions.

[Region 2](#) | May 22 | Westmoreland County | [Agenda](#)

[Regions 1 & 4](#) | May 30 | Dinwiddie County | [Agenda](#)

We also offer sponsorship opportunities. [Sponsor one meeting or the entire season.](#)

VACo held 7 Regional Meetings covering 9 Regions during our 2017 season. These meetings offered VACo members, legislators, state agency leaders and staff an opportunity to learn from each other. They helped steer VACo in the development of the legislative program. [Check out our recaps of each 2017 Regional Meeting.](#)

VACo Contact: [Angela Inglett](#)



Nominations sought for VACo Jefferson Cup

VACo seeks nominations for this year's Jefferson Cup Award to be presented at the November 11-13 Annual Conference. **The deadline for nominations is May 1.** Please submit nominations to Dean Lynch at dlynch@vaco.org.

[Click here for a list of Jefferson Cup recipients.](#) Below is a brief history of the Jefferson Cup as well as criteria for award recipients.

On October 25, 1964 at The League of Virginia Counties Executive Board Meeting - The Committee that had been appointed by President Stuart T. DeBell of Fairfax County to study methods and procedures for recognizing outstanding programs, contributions and achievements in local government, reported. The Committee recommended the establishment of an award for outstanding contributions and achievements in local government to be made at the discretion of an Awards Committee in a presentation at the Annual Meeting. The Committee further recommended that the Jefferson Cup suitably engraved to set on a wooden base be adopted as the award. The award was to be called THE JEFFERSON CUP AWARD.

Criteria established for award recipients

1. Any individual who has made an outstanding contribution to local government may be a recipient of the Award.
2. Any local government which has participated in an outstanding local government activity may be a recipient.
3. The Award is to be made at the Annual Meeting of VACo but may not necessarily be made each year.
4. Nominations are to be made to the Awards Committee by August 15 of each year prior to the Annual Meeting.
5. Any additional rules, regulations, standards can be adopted by the Awards Committee.

Financial Facts

GASB has issued a new standard requiring state and local governments to present direct borrowings and direct placements of debt separately from other types of debt in their financial statements. GASB *Statement No. 88, Certain Disclosures Related to Debt, Including Direct Borrowings and Direct Placements*, clarifies which liabilities governments should include in disclosures related to debt. It requires debt borrowings and direct placements to be presented separately because they may expose a government to risks that are different from or in addition to risks related to other types of debt.

The new standard also requires the disclosure of additional essential debt-related information for all types of debt, including amounts of unused lines of credit as well as assets pledged as collateral for debt. It requires disclosure of terms in debt agreements related to:

- Significant events of default with finance-related consequences
- Significant termination events with finance-related consequences
- Significant subjective acceleration clauses

Requirements take effect for reporting periods beginning after June 15, 2018, and earlier application is encouraged.

VACo Contact: [Vicky Steinruck, CPA](#)



2018 Virginia Energy Conference
Energy's Role in a Competitive Commonwealth
MAY 23, 2018
GREATER RICHMOND CONVENTION CENTER
VA CHAMBER FOUNDATION

Wednesday, May 23, 2018

7:45 a.m. - 9:00 a.m. - Networking Registration

9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. - Program

GREATER RICHMOND CONVENTION CENTER

For more information contact
 Lindsay Borge at l.borge@vachamber.com

Who should attend?

Business Executives | Environmental Managers |
 Operations & Facility Managers | EH&S Managers |
 Sustainability Leads | Government Representatives
 | Engineers | Energy Policy Professionals |
 Consultants & Attorneys | Technology & Equipment
 Providers | Business Strategists | Architects

Business leaders and policy makers will discuss energy's role in a competitive Commonwealth.

MORNING KEYNOTE ADDRESS



The Honorable
Ralph Northam (invited),
 Governor of Virginia

KEYNOTE LUNCHEON REMARKS

Cybersecurity and The Energy Grid

Renee Forney, Sr. Director of Cyber Assurance, Capital One
 Rodney Blevins, Chief Information Officer, Dominion Energy

Panel Discussion Topics Will Include:

The Role of Sustainable Infrastructure in Corporate Strategy

Panelists will discuss the current landscape and future trends in corporate sustainability and infrastructure development and how these efforts play a critical role in enhancing economic competitiveness in the Commonwealth.

Diverse Energy Production for Economic Development and Job Growth

Members of Virginia's business community will offer their perspective for incorporation into Virginia's Energy Plan with a focus on areas that will promote job growth, competitive rates, and environmental protection.

PRESENTING BANK SPONSOR



PRESENTING LAW FIRM



PLATINUM SPONSOR



GOLD



[Click](#) flyer to enlarge and to see a list of sponsorship opportunities (Page 2). Be a sponsor of this amazing event!

New Local Government Officials' Guide to the Virginia Freedom of Information Act Now Available

(Sixth edition of an indispensable guide published by UVA's Weldon Cooper Center for Public Service and the Local Government Attorneys of Virginia, Inc.)

The 2018 edition of the Guide to the Virginia Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) is now available from UVA Bookstores. It provides public officials with the knowledge to ensure that public business is carried out with public access, to the fullest extent permissible under the law.

This 46-page, soft-cover guide explains the Virginia Freedom of Information Act in a clear readable format of over 100 questions and answers. Information is arranged under several broad categories:

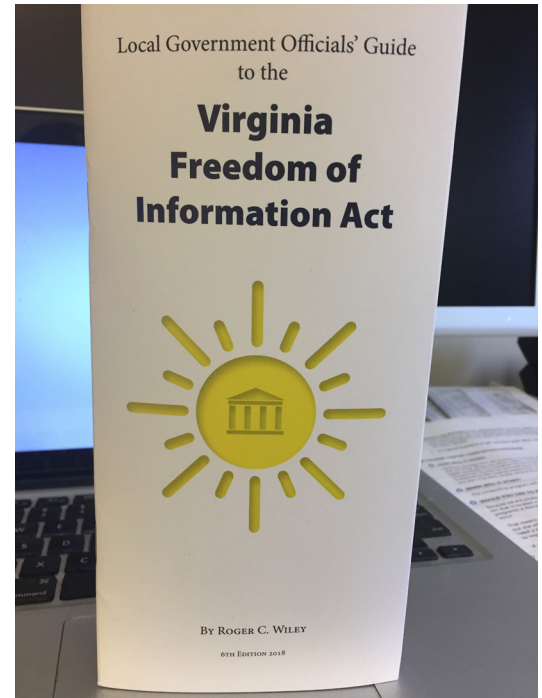
- Who is covered by the act?
- What is considered a public meeting?
- When are closed meetings permissible?
- To what public records does the act apply?
- What happens if someone violates the act?

The guide also includes numerous other sources of FOIA information.

This valuable resource is for Virginia's elected and appointed government officials as well as Virginia citizens who care about good government. This is the sixth edition since the guide was first issued in 1996.

The author of the guide, Roger C. Wiley, graduated from the University of Virginia's Class of 1967 and from its Law School in 1970. A former Charlottesville city attorney, Wiley is a senior member of the Richmond law firm of Hefty, Wiley & Gore, PC, which represents local government bodies throughout Virginia. He has been advising Virginia local governments on legal matters for over 40 years and served as a state Senate appointee on the Virginia Freedom of Information Advisory Council from its inception in 2000 to 2011.

The guides cost \$8 each plus shipping; \$7 each for an order of 25 or more. To order the guide [click here](#). Or go to <https://uvabookstores.com/> and enter *Virginia Freedom* in the search bar. The bookstore's phone number is 434.924.3721.



The latest report from the NACo Lab, [Investing in America's Infrastructure: County Funding for Capital Facilities](#), highlights the role of counties in the country's infrastructure and capital facilities, as well as challenges created by economic and population growth, the cost of permitting and ongoing pressure on funding and financing issues. [Click HERE to view the full report!](#)



To see all Lab reports, visit www.NACo.org/LabReports.

2018 Governor's Volunteerism and Community Service Awards Recipients Announced

~ Nine recipients honored during annual ceremony ~

Governor Ralph Northam recently recognized the recipients of the 2018 Governor's Volunteerism and Community Service Awards during an awards ceremony held at the Executive Mansion. The annual awards program spotlights the outstanding efforts individual volunteers and organizations make on behalf of citizens throughout the Commonwealth.

"I am pleased to recognize this year's Governor's Volunteerism and Community Service Award recipients, who serve as wonderful examples of how we can all positively impact our communities," said **Governor Northam**. "Their selfless acts have made a difference in so many lives across Virginia."

Virginia Department of Social Services (VDSS) Commissioner Duke Storen also congratulated this year's winners, noting "Volunteerism impacts the lives of so many families and individuals in need of assistance and support. Virginia is a better place to live and work because of the service and dedication of our volunteers within their respective communities."

VDSS Director of Volunteerism and Community Services Gail P. Harris added, "As we honor this year's award recipients, we also recognize and thank the two million Virginians who volunteer across the Commonwealth each year and put their caring spirit into action by giving generously of their time and talents."

The awards ceremony was organized by the Office on Volunteerism and Community Services, in partnership with the Governor's Advisory Board on Service and Volunteerism and the Virginia Service Foundation. These organizations are charged by the Governor with recognizing Virginians who have significantly contributed to the life and welfare of the Commonwealth and its citizens.

Congratulations to Arlington County and Hanover County! And a high five to VACo Associate Member RRMM Architects!

Outstanding Corporation: RRMM Architects, Chesapeake

Throughout the year, volunteers from RRMM Architects donate countless hours to Virginia Beach City Public Schools and the Virginia Beach Education Foundation. Their staff utilizes their talents and skills by volunteering to work with students in the planning and design of major projects. Most recently, students collaborated on a major renovation project, the Old Donation School building. Students were consulted to explore various innovative building practices – from sustainable building practices to STEM concepts.

Outstanding Adult Volunteer: Dana Dougherty, Arlington County

Dana Dougherty has made it a personal mission to make sure that students in the region have multiple opportunities to improve their health. Dana created 2Fit2Quit, a program that educates staff and parents about the benefits of "brain breaks" and movement throughout the school day. Through her efforts, funding was received to purchase exercise balls, wobbly stools, and pedal desks for classrooms. Dana also spends countless hours running an "all are welcome" fitness program for students and families at Oakridge Elementary, a school where 40 different languages are spoken.

Outstanding Youth Volunteer: Addison Raso, Hanover County

At just 16 years old, Addison has dedicated hundreds of hours to serving others. She has a special passion for service to individuals with disabilities which led her to a special program developed at her church called God Inspires Friendships Together (GIFT). Addison leads this ministry each week, creating the biblical lessons, modifying them, and providing adapted activities that coordinate with each lesson. Most recently, Addison has also begun volunteering as an after-school tutor in the Mosby Court neighborhood and has volunteered in Haiti with an orphanage for youth/adults with special needs.

The Governor's Volunteerism and Community Service Awards are presented by the Governor's Advisory Board on Service and Volunteerism and the Virginia Department of Social Services' Office on Volunteerism and Community Services on behalf of the Office of the Governor. These awards have recognized exceptional volunteer service in Virginia for more than 20 years. Additional information about the program and full bios on this year's recipients can be found online at <http://virginiasservice.virginia.gov/volunteering/governors-volunteerism-awards/>.

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 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.

The Virginia Certified County Supervisors' Program, originally designed by a cross-section of county supervisors and appointed officials in 2005 and subsequently reviewed and reaffirmed in 2009, features a five course curriculum. The format used with each course is designed to maximize learning and student engagement. Each course begins with a six-hour classroom session that is topically driven and reflective of the subject matter being covered. Following the classroom session is an eight-week home study session. Each course participant is assigned relevant articles and books, and completes assignments drawn from the readings on a weekly basis. One or more essays are also assigned during this portion of the course. The third and final course component of each course is a concluding six-hour classroom session.

A variety of topics are discussed during the closing session including a review of the books read and the assignments completed by each class member. Each course is designed to provide the participant with a solid understanding of the subject or topic being examined. Faculty from Virginia Tech and Virginia Cooperative Extension, VACo staff and local government practitioners from across the state serve as the program's core faculty. Each course is designed to address fundamental learning objectives which, in turn, challenge traditional thinking while highlighting best practices models that can enhance governance at the local level.

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

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

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

Stafford Selects Economic Development Director



Stafford County Administrator Thomas C. Foley recently announced the appointment of John P. Holden as the County's next Economic Development Director. Holden comes to Stafford from Combined Management, Inc. He has extensive experience over the last 20 years in economic development and business development across the State of Maine.

"One of the key requirements for the Director of Economic Development position is the ability to create and foster relationships – via networking and collaboration. This is one of the most valuable strengths that John brings to Stafford County," Foley said. "He has extensive experience with all aspects of economic development, making him ideal for the position. We look forward to his leadership in establishing a clear direction for the future."

"Our goal is to draw a diverse range of businesses to Stafford to both expand job opportunities for citizens as well as expand our business base," said Meg Bohmke, Chairman of Stafford County Board of Supervisors. "The leadership of our Department of Economic Development is crucial to achieving those goals."

Staff conducted a national search to fill the position after the departure of Economic Development Director Bruce Register last year. Rick Cobert, of Economic Development, has been serving as the Interim Director.

"Stafford County has seen significant economic growth over the last decade and has more great things on the horizon, including the development of Downtown Stafford," said Holden. "I am excited to be a part of the County's efforts, and I look forward to being a part of the future."

Before his work with Combined Management, Holden served as the President of the Lewiston Auburn Economic Growth Council, helping to organize and design the Economic Growth Strategy for the community. His responsibilities also included serving as Executive Director for three additional nonprofit development organizations associated with the Council. He was also the Community Economic Development Director for the City of Rockland, Maine, focusing on attracting businesses to the downtown area as well as negotiating tax increment financing and arranging micro-loans for businesses.

Holden holds a Bachelor of Science degree from Bowling Green State University in Environmental Sciences. He has a Master of Science in Community Economics from the University of Maine. Holden serves on multiple boards of organizations including the Acadia Capital Corporation, the Bangor and American Folk Festival and the Economic Development Council of Maine.

National County Government Month



National County Government Month (NCGM), held each April, is an annual celebration of county government. Since 1991, the National Association of Counties has encouraged counties to actively promote the services and programs they offer. Counties can schedule activities any time during the month. NCGM is an excellent opportunity for your county to highlight effective county programs and raise public awareness and understanding about the various services provided to the community.

NCGM's 2018 theme is "Serving the Underserved," which is consistent with NACo President Roy Charles Brooks' initiative and focuses on county responses to multigenerational cycles of poverty. Read about the initiative [here](#) and download NCGM resources below for more information and ideas for how your county can participate in NCGM.

[Toolkit](#) | [Poster](#) | [Sample Proclamation](#) | [Logos](#) | [iCivics & Counties Work](#)

Questions?

If you have questions about National County Government Month, please contact Brian Namey at BNamey@NACo.org or 202.942.4220.

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).



**UTILITY MAINTENANCE
TECHNICIAN** | Powhatan County |
Posted April 19



**ZONING
ADMINISTRATOR/PLANNING
DIRECTOR** | Greene County | Posted
April 19



REGIONAL PLANNER |
Accomack-Northampton Planning
District | Posted April 19



DENTAL ASSISTANT |
James City County | Posted April 18



**ACCOUNTING
TECHNICIAN** | James City County |
Posted April 18



**HUMAN RESOURCES
ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT** | James
City County | Posted April 18



POLICE OFFICER I/II |
James City County | Posted April 18



**SECURITY SPECIALIST/
CYBER SECURITY ANALYST** |
Montgomery County | Posted April 17



BASIC COMMUNICATOR |
City of Harrisonburg | Posted April 16



**SPECIAL PROJECT
COORDINATOR** | Franklin County |
Posted April 13



DEPUTY COUNTY CLERK |
Montgomery County | Posted April 13



EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
| Virginia Association of Planning
District Commission | Posted April 13



**QUALITY ASSURANCE
MANAGER** | Hanover County | Posted
April 11



**DEPUTY SHERIFF
(PART TIME)** | City of Salem | Posted
April 11



**PUBLIC SAFETY
DIRECTOR** | Amherst County | Posted
April 11



**LEGISLATIVE & PUBLIC
AFFAIRS OFFICER** | Albemarle
County | Posted April 10



**COUNTY ATTORNEY
(PART TIME)** | Greene County |
Posted April 10



**SENIOR BUDGET
ANALYST** | Albemarle County | Posted
April 10



**FIELD OPERATIONS
OFFICER BROCHURE** | Bedford
County | Posted April 9



**PUBLIC WORKS
DIRECTOR** | Amherst County | Posted
April 9



**ACCOUNTING
TECHNICIAN – PAYROLL** | Town of
Culpeper | Posted April 9



**TRAINING &
DEVELOPMENT COORDINATOR** |
James City County | Posted April 6



**CIRCULATION SERVICES
ASSISTANT** | James City County |
Posted April 6



SHELVER CLERK | James
City County | Posted April 6



**DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC
WORKS** | City of Manassas | Posted
April 6



**CLINICIAN (CD) –
HOSPITAL LIAISON/OUTREACH** |
Hanover County | Posted April 5



**MAINTENANCE WORKER
– LANDSCAPING** | Montgomery
County | Posted April 3



PERMIT TECHNICIAN |
City of Manassas | Posted April 3



**ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF
HUMAN RESOURCES** | Spotsylvania
County | Posted April 3



CAREER OPPORTUNITIES
| Gloucester County | Post April 2

Chesapeake
CITY ATTORNEY |
City of Chesapeake | Posted April 2

**GEORGE
WASHINGTON
REGIONAL COMMISSION**
**CONTINUUM CARE
COORDINATOR** | George Washington
Regional Commission | Posted April 2



**INFORMATION
TECHNOLOGY SERVICES DIRECTOR** |
James City County | Posted April 2



**MOBILE LIBRARY
SERVICES ASSISTANT** | James City
County | Posted April 2



DENTAL ASSISTANT |
James City County | Posted April 2



**TECHNOLOGY
COORDINATOR** | Montgomery County
| Posted April 2



**SENIOR REAL ESTATE
APPRAISER (COMMERCIAL)** | Fairfax
County | Posted March 29



**COUNTY
ADMINISTRATOR** | Wise County |
Posted March 29



PURCHASING AGENT |
Caroline County | Posted March 28



CODE INSPECTOR III |
City of Alexandria | Posted March 28



**ASSISTANT TOWN
MANAGER** | Town of Christiansburg |
Posted March 28



**SPECIAL PROJECTS
COORDINATOR** | Franklin County |
Posted March 27



GRAYSON EMS DIRECTOR | County
of Grayson & City of Galax | Posted
March 26



UTILITY OPERATOR |
Montgomery County | Posted March
26



**PARK SUPERVISOR –
OPERATIONS** | Gloucester County |
Posted March 26



**BUSINESS
DEVELOPMENT & RETENTION
MANAGER** | Town of Leesburg |
Posted March 26



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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.

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