

# COUNTY CONNECTIONS

The Newsletter of the  
Virginia Association of Counties

August 10, 2018



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## Virginia Counties Recognized for Model Programs

The Virginia Association of Counties (VACo) is pleased to announce the 25 recipients of the 2018 Achievement Awards, which recognize excellence in local government programs. VACo received a record 106 submissions.

Winning entries focused on addressing high-priority issues that challenge counties today.

[Winning Achievement Award Submissions](#) | [Winning Program Descriptions](#)

"This is the 16<sup>th</sup> year of the Achievement Awards, and we continue to be rich with innovative programs that truly help Virginia's counties," VACo Executive Director **Dean Lynch** said. "I want to thank all who participated. This year, we received 106 entries, which is the highest in the program's history. This tells me that Virginia counties continue to find creative ways to solve the complex challenges they face every day."

**Tedd Povar**, Associate Director of the Virginia Institute of Government; **Dr. Sheryl Bailey**, Senior Vice President at Springsted Incorporated and former Chesterfield County Deputy County Administrator; and **Larry Land**, retired VACo Director of Policy Development, served as judges for this year's statewide competitive awards program.

**Pittsylvania County** and its **Park Project Program** won this year's Best Achievement Award. "Pittsylvania County's Park Project was selected as the overall winner for 2018 in recognition of their multiyear effort to leverage \$150,000 in County seed money to raise over \$500,000 from other sources to build their first public parks," Povar said. "Located at the County's four middle schools, the new multipurpose facilities provide badly needed health and recreational opportunities to residents throughout the County. While these facilities have already received commendations from other agencies, it became clear that VACo needed to also recognize and congratulate Pittsylvania County on this major achievement."

The judges also selected a Best Small County Achievement Award (50,000 or less population) and a Best Large County Achievement Award. **Isle of Wight County** captured the Best Small County Achievement Award while **Chesterfield County** earned the Best Large County Achievement Award for the second consecutive year.

"The Achievement Awards Program is a treasure trove of ideas for all localities in Virginia and beyond," Dr. Bailey said. "I encourage all county administrators and staff as well as elected officials to review the 106 entries this year. The VACo Achievement Awards are not just a competition but also a sharing of ideas. Each batch of entries every year is a best practice repository available to everyone in the Commonwealth to learn from and to replicate."

Land said he's encouraged by how counties continue to find solutions despite budget or other restraints. "This is the first time I've judged the VACo Achievement Awards, and I admit I felt a sense of pride after reading all the entries," Land said. "After working at VACo for almost 30 years, I can't say I'm surprised because Virginia counties have always shown a high level of resourcefulness and ingenuity."

**Chesterfield County** tops the all-time Achievement Awards list with 30. Chesterfield County has won an award in each of the 16-year history of the program. **Henrico County** is second on the list with 23 Achievement Awards while **Loudoun County** is third with 21. **Prince William County** is fourth with 19 awards.

The VACo Achievement Awards are a competitive program open to local government members of the association. VACo will present awards at Board of Supervisors meetings and recognize award-winning counties at the 2018 Annual Conference in November.

[Winning Achievement Award Submissions](#) | [Winning Program Descriptions](#) | [Achievement Awards Website](#) |  
[2018 Achievement Awards Entries](#) | [Past Winners](#) | [Past Judges](#)

**1207 to the 95 Blog****School Safety in Virginia****Part I. Where are we, and where are we going?**

Over the last several years, Virginians, along with the rest of the nation, have expressed a renewed interest in school safety. Understanding the importance of safe learning environments to all community members, VACo will address this issue with a *1207 to the 95* series that will examine key components of the school safety discussion.

As always, keep in mind that VACo is not endorsing the content or opinion linked here, but simply sharing information and resources. Today's post will review the origins of the current school safety debate and discuss federal efforts to address the issue.

**VACo Contact:** [Angela Inglett](#)

Read 1207 to the 95 Blog

# 2018 Presidential Initiative: Healthy Virginia Counties



By Sherrin Alsop | VACo President

## Spotlight on Mental Health

"A sound mind in a sound body" is an ancient expression of the major elements of a good life, often cited as an argument for physical activity as a component of a well-rounded education. For the last several months, we have been examining basic elements of physical health: good nutrition and physical activity. This month, we will shift our focus to mental health – but as the ancients knew, physical and mental health are intertwined, and social factors, including our life experiences, can influence both aspects of well-being.

### What is mental health?

The World Health Organization defines mental health as "a state of well-being in which every individual realizes his or her own potential, can cope with the normal stresses of life, can work productively and fruitfully, and is able to make a contribution to her or his community." Mental illnesses can vary in severity, duration, and recurrence and can encompass conditions such as anxiety disorders, depression, post-traumatic stress disorder, and schizophrenia. Mental illness is relatively common in the United States; the Centers for Disease Control reports that in 2015, about one in five Americans 18 and older experienced a mental illness within the previous year, with about one in 25 Americans experiencing a serious mental illness ("a mental illness or disorder with serious functional impairment that substantially interferes with or limits one or more major life activities").

"Behavioral health" is a term that is often used somewhat interchangeably with "mental health," though it is a broader designation, often encompassing both mental health and related issues such as substance use. Substance use disorder is a topic worthy of its own column, and I plan to discuss it in more detail soon. A great resource for information on opioids is [a series of blog posts by Angela Inglett](#) on VACo's 1207 to the 95 blog, and the Health and Human Resources Steering Committee will be hearing from several experts at our meeting on August 16.

### How is Virginians' mental health?

The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation includes mental health as a factor in its County Health Rankings, using self-reported measures of poor mental health (which may not always rise to the level of a diagnosed mental illness). Survey respondents are asked to provide the number of days out of the past 30 for which their mental health was not good, including "stress, depression, and problems with emotions." In 2016, Virginia's average number of poor mental health days was 3.5, with a

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# VACo SPOTLIGHT

## Sheila S. Noll York County Chairman



**Q1. You've made a major contribution to your community, serving more than 20 years on the York County Board of Supervisors. What are some of your lessons learned from your time in public service?**

**Sheila Noll:** It is so very important to be inclusive. Every citizen has a right to be heard. Whether or not we agree politically, the bottom line is we all want to do what's best for our County. Communication and openness are greatly appreciated; and the more transparent we are in local government, the greater the understanding of the decision making process. I have found that all relationships are important and are built on trust - whether it is with the citizens, board members, or staff. I've learned to be patient but also to be persistent-- because government does indeed move slowly! I try to keep focused on the reason I ran for office in the first place, which was to serve, and that is best done by being objective in my deliberations and taking into consideration each decision's long range implications. Should my position not prevail, I have learned to move on and not dwell on the lost vote. Although elected by my district, I recognize that I have an obligation to serve all our citizens if I wish to preserve, protect, and improve our county for future generations. Finally, keeping a sense of humor helps keep me balanced!

**Q2. You've been an active member of VACo throughout your time in office, chairing the Transportation Steering Committee and helping to plan the annual conference, among other roles. What aspects of your experience with VACo have been most helpful to you in your service on the Board of Supervisors?**

**SN:** Since day one in office, I have always felt that it is important to stay informed and continue to educate myself on the operations of local government. VACo has been most helpful in this respect. I became a certified planning commissioner, took advantage of VACo's educational opportunities, and have attended VACo's annual conferences, breakout sessions, and district meetings. This exposure to ideas outside my comfort zone has given me a better understanding of the issues local governments face and how, legislatively, we might effect needed changes. It has also helped broaden my perspective which I have shared with my fellow board members.

**Q3. You have a family tradition of military service, with both your father and husband serving in the Navy, and York County, as well as the Hampton Roads Region overall, is known for its strong ties to the military. Are there some elements of York County's partnership with the military that you would point to as particularly successful?**

**SN:** York County benefits from a variety of professional relationships with the surrounding military bases. Our waterfront docks are used to train "Coasties" on small boat handling, and the Coast Guard responds to local emergencies on the water. Our Sheriff's Office and the Department of Fire and Life Safety have jurisdictional agreements with the Navy, Air Force, and Coast Guard. York is a very patriotic community. Active duty Coast Guard trainees volunteer, and military units march in our parades. Our schools and volunteer organizations also benefit. Military personnel and dependents who are service oriented add so much to enrich our daily lives - children sharing their travel experiences in the classroom, mothers volunteering with the PTO, dads coaching all manner of sports, and military retirees serving on a great many of our County Boards and Commissions.

**Q4. In your view, what are the major challenges and opportunities facing York County in the next ten years?**

**SN:** I can't begin to predict all the major challenges and opportunities that may face us in the next ten years; but like I imagine it is in other counties, York County's significant challenge will be to maintain a desirable quality of life for its citizens in an ever changing world -- without resorting to higher taxes. This includes meeting infrastructure needs and increasing funding for capital projects. We recently lost two of our highest commercial taxpayers, but an increase in the sales tax granted this year by the General Assembly, for the "Historic Triangle," will hopefully offset this shortfall while providing additional tourism marketing dollars. We have an opportunity to not only give the County the resources to now fund much needed projects, but also enhance a very important sector of our economy. While we have a new fire station, new school, and a library expansion already identified in our Capital Improvements Program (CIP), a recent space needs assessment clearly shows that the County needs a new building for the Sheriff's Department and, down the road, major expansion of other office facilities.

The vitality of a community depends on a continued inward migration and finding ways to encourage Millennials to move into the County. Nonetheless, our retired population continues to grow, and their needs do as well. The challenge will be to find a balance in providing appropriate service to both groups.

Additionally many of our County staff are reaching retirement age, and the need to compete regionally for new hires will necessitate an in depth review of our salaries and benefits. As required skill sets change, additional training will be also necessary.

Guiding us forward, the Board of Supervisors has established six Strategic Priorities. These are opportunities for York to become

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# Visit Pittsylvania County and the Olde Dominion Agricultural Complex



**The Olde Dominion Agriculture Complex** is owned and operated by the Olde Dominion Agricultural Foundation, a Virginia 501-C3 non-profit organization. The Foundation was formed in 2008 by a group of local farmers and visionaries. The Board of Directors has grown with members representing the counties of Bedford, Campbell, Franklin, Halifax, Henry, and Pittsylvania. The Foundation is supported by donations from private individuals, businesses and grants.

**Mission:** Our mission is to promote and support regional agriculture while offering a community based facility to educate and entertain.

**Vision:** Agriculture will be an economic driver for the counties of Bedford, Henry, Franklin, Halifax, Campbell, and Pittsylvania, creating profits for local producers and businesses, encouraging farmland preservation, and ensuring the continued benefits of open space within these counties.

#### Photos and Information

<http://oldedominionagriculturecomplex.com>







# Mark Your Calendars



## See you soon at the County Officials' Summit



**VACo Education and Steering Committee Meetings**  
Thursday, August 16

**VACo Board of Directors Meeting**  
Friday, August 17

[Fredericksburg Expo and Conference Center](#) | 2371 Carl D. Silver Parkway | Fredericksburg, VA 22401  
[Agenda](#)

VACo's County Officials' Summit is now less than one week away! We hope you're making plans to join us at this exciting event on August 16 at the Fredericksburg Expo and Conference Center. If you haven't yet registered, you can do so [here](#). Hotel accommodations can be made at the Homewood Suites by Hilton Fredericksburg by clicking [here](#).

The [2018 VACo County Officials' Summit](#) returns with another potentially dynamic political discussion. This year the focus is on federal elections.

In the U.S. Senate race - Incumbent Tim Kaine and Challenger Corey Stewart have confirmed to separately share their vision for Virginia with County Supervisors, administrators and staff.

In the U.S. House of Representatives elections - Virginia's 5th Congressional District Candidate Leslie Cockburn and Virginia's 7th Congressional District Candidate Abigail Spanberger will also speak.

Following the legislative portion of the Summit, we'll adjourn to our Steering Committee meetings, where committee members will discuss the issues facing their counties, deliberate policy proposals, and engage with experts on matters of note to each committee. These steering committee meetings are some of the first steps to the creation of VACo's Legislative Program for 2019 and should not be missed.

We look forward to seeing you at the 2018 County Officials' Summit!

**VACo Contact:** [Angela Inglett](#)



# Payments In-Lieu of Taxes Class Action Lawsuit



In June 2017, Kane County, Utah, filed a lawsuit in the U.S. Court of Federal Claims seeking to recover underpayments to the county as well as underpayments of all other Payments In-Lieu of Taxes (PILT) recipients nationwide for 2015-2017. In December, the court ruled in Kane County's favor for FY2015 and FY2016 underpayments and issued a similar ruling on FY2017 underpayments in March 2018.

This lawsuit arose out of the following situation. In 2008, Congress amended the PILT statute by mandating full funding through 2014. Congress also repealed the original statute language that made the program discretionary and subject to the annual congressional appropriations process. Due to insufficient appropriations for FY2015–2017, PILT recipients did not receive the full amount that they were entitled under the PILT statute based on the Department of the Interior's full payment calculation.

There are approximately 60 Virginia Counties that Class Counsel (Smith, Currie and Hancock law firm) has identified as being underpaid in FY2015–2017. The dollar amounts range from \$1 to approximately \$17,000. As soon as the opt-in period has ended, Class Counsel will file a motion asking the Court to award it attorney's fees and expenses. Class Counsel will ask for one-third (33.3 percent) of the amounts recovered on behalf of all Class Members who opted in as its attorney's fees, plus its actual out-of-pocket expenses—for filing fees, costs of printing and mailing the Class Notice.

To participate in this class action lawsuit and collect possible amounts due them, each underpaid PILT recipient must complete and submit a form "opting into" the lawsuit. If a county does not elect to join the class, they will not be included in the class action lawsuit and can choose to sue on their own. Counties will have until mid-September to opt into the class.

[Click here](#) for more information and to access the opt-in.

[On June 19, 2018, NACo hosted a conference call with Class Counsel to discuss the lawsuit and how counties can join the suit. Click here to listen to a recording of the NACo hosted call.](#) To opt in, a county must fill out and submit a Class Action Opt-In Notice Form **no later than September 14, 2018**. See [www.PILTPayments.com](http://www.PILTPayments.com).

**VACo Contact:** [Phyllis Errico, Esq. CAE](#)

# U.S. House Judiciary Committee Holds Hearing on Impact of *Wayfair* Decision



On July 24, the House Judiciary Committee held a hearing to examine possible effects of the recent Supreme Court decision in *South Dakota v. Wayfair, Inc., et al.* and discuss what actions, if any, Congress should take in response to the ruling. The Court's 5-4 ruling overturning the 1992 *Quill Corp. v. North Dakota* decision clears a path for states to require remote sellers to collect sales taxes by removing the requirement that the retailer must have a physical presence in the state in order to be subject to state sales tax collection laws.

The decision is a major step forward in allowing states to structure sales tax collection requirements in a manner that reflects a modern economy, but it leaves open the question of exactly how laws requiring remote sellers to collect and remit sales taxes must be constructed in order to withstand future legal challenges. The majority opinion signaled that certain elements of South Dakota's law, such as its prospective (rather than retroactive) application, provisions to simplify collection associated with its membership in the Streamlined Sales and Use Tax Agreement (such as a limited number of separate tax rates), and its application only to sellers who met a certain transaction threshold, would likely protect the law from a challenge under the Commerce Clause because they "appear designed to prevent discrimination against or undue burdens upon interstate commerce." However, the opinion does not explicitly spell out what criteria must be met for a similar state law to pass Constitutional muster.

Several witnesses at the hearing cited the lack of definitive guidance in the ruling as a reason for Congress to intervene to set clear parameters for states to follow, citing concerns about potential retroactive application of collection requirements, compliance burdens on small sellers, and possible expansion into other areas of taxation, such as corporate income taxes. Committee Chairman Bob Goodlatte said in his opening statement, "The Court's close and incomplete decision in *Wayfair* has the potential to unleash chaos for consumers and remote sellers, particularly small business sellers," and suggested that more time is needed to resolve both technical and substantive questions. Grover Norquist, representing Americans for Tax Reform; Bartlett Cleland, representing the American Legislative Exchange Council (ALEC); and Andrew Moylan, representing the National Taxpayers Union, submitted testimony advocating for Congress to impose a moratorium on state implementing legislation until Congress resolves these issues. Several speakers suggested possible limits for Congress to impose on remote collections; for example, ALEC's statement encouraged Congress to reinstate the physical presence standard, or at a minimum impose requirements for states to streamline their collection systems by setting single rates for remote sales and developing uniform definitions of taxable and exempt products; ALEC also advocated for Congress to require states and localities to shoulder all compliance costs for merchants.

Utah State Senator Curtis Bramble, representing the National Conference of State Legislatures, contended that Congress should take no action and instead allow the states to proceed with implementation, arguing that the Court's highlighting of key provisions of South Dakota's law provides states with a template to follow in passing their own laws. His testimony includes a list of suggested principles for states to follow, including issuing clear guidance to businesses with as much advance notice as possible, simplifying the registration process for sellers, and providing a depository of materials needed for sellers to comply with state laws.

It is difficult to predict whether Congress will act to impose parameters on state tax collection laws. Congress wrestled with the issue of remote sales tax collection for years, and legislation passed the Senate in 2013, but was unsuccessful in the House. It is likely that Virginia will take action to implement the ruling in the upcoming General Assembly session.

A recording of the hearing is available on the [House Judiciary Committee's website](#).

VACo Contact: [Katie Boyle](#)





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**ENVIRONMENTAL RESILIENCE  
INSTITUTE**

## JOIN US September 12 and 13 | Charlottesville Omni Hotel

The Virginia Solar Summit is a statewide gathering of solar policy interests, including local and state governmental officials, land use planners, solar industry representatives, utilities, and the non-profit community.

The event is composed of a one-day educational event, followed by a half-day of interactive sessions for highly-engaged organizations and individuals seeking to enhance solar power in Virginia. The presentations provided on the first day of the event will be especially useful for local governments responding to the land use implications of this technology.

We hope you can join us at the Charlottesville Omni Hotel on September 12 and/or 13 for this deep dive into Virginia's solar power industry...as your schedule permits.

**[REGISTER](#) | \$140 in advance | \$200 day of**

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### September 12th

Opening remarks | **Angela Navarro** (Deputy Secretary of Commerce and Trade)

Trends, policy history, and regional outlook | **Ken Jurman** (DMME, Renewables Program Manager)

Perspectives from the Field: Utility, non-profit, commercial, & rooftop systems | **Katharine Bond** (Dominion Energy) | **Tony Smith** (Secure Futures LLC) | **Damian Pitt** (VCU)

Permit By Rule and Local Authority | **Beth Major** (DEQ, Renewables Program Manager)

Land Use Considerations | **Steve Kalland** (NC Clean Energy Center Director)

Fiscal Considerations and Risk Management | **David Murray** (Solar Energy Industry Association)

### September 13th

*Three roundtable discussions will be held with stakeholders. Input will be used as suggestions for Virginia Energy Plan the Solar Permit by Rule enhancement processes.*

- **Local Policy:** Help improve state guidance to local government and start a statewide technical assistance campaign
- **Solar Research:** Academic research can help balance the tradeoffs and open new opportunities
- **Municipal Solar:** Rooftops, distributed, and local policy considerations



Virginia's **Adopt-a-Highway** program is celebrating 30 Years in 2018! A partnership established between the Virginia Department of Transportation and Keep Virginia Beautiful, the program encourages new participants to join the thousands of groups that have helped keep Virginia's roadways litter-free since it was first established in 1988. The Adopt-a-Highway program provides a FREE opportunity for businesses, civic groups and even families to clean up litter and be recognized for their efforts with a sign featuring their name after two pickups have been documented. An increase in miles covered with regular litter cleanups will translate into overall savings for the commonwealth and provide a cleaner, greener environment for us all to enjoy. For more information, please email [info@keepvirginiabeautiful.org](mailto:info@keepvirginiabeautiful.org) or visit: [www.VirginiaDOT.org/AAH](http://www.VirginiaDOT.org/AAH)

Did you know that it is FREE & EASY to participate in Virginia's **Adopt-a-Highway** Program?

*The process is simple and the results are inspiring!*

STEP 1: Complete [Application](#) & Submit to your [Regional VDOT Coordinator](#)

STEP 2: Choose a Clean-up Day & Recruit Volunteers

STEP 3: Pick-up & [Document](#)

## **Application deadline for FY 2018 pre-disaster mitigation and flood mitigation assistance grants is October 12**

*VDEM continues to be proactive in pre-disaster funding opportunities*

**RICHMOND** — The Virginia Department of Emergency Management (VDEM) announced the application deadline for both the Pre-Disaster Mitigation (PDM) grants and the Flood Mitigation Assistance (FMA) grants is October 12. VDEM opened the application period on March 23, 2018, and has been working with localities to develop strong applications for these nationally competitive programs.

While the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) application period has not been announced, VDEM has established the application timeline to give local governments, state agencies, institutions of higher education and certain private non-profits additional time to develop applications. VDEM has also restructured its state level peer review process to include representation from each region of the Commonwealth and subject matter experts.

“The time is now, before the next disaster, to apply, as PDM for fiscal year 2018 is projected to be funded at the highest level since its inception,” said VDEM State Coordinator, Jeff Stern. “The reformed application timeline for these grants, has allowed for continual technical assistance to our local and state partners.”

Applications are required to be submitted through [MitigationVA.org](http://MitigationVA.org) (MitVA). MitVA is a grants management system that allows the mitigation grant to be managed from pre-application to closeout. VDEM will also be allowing for submission of technical support documents that can be claimed as pre-award costs, until November 13. No pre-award costs can be claimed in an application until after the FEMA period of availability is opened.

For more information on how to apply, visit <http://www.vaemergency.gov/emergency-management-community/grants/unified-hazard-mitigation-assistance-hma-grant-program-2015/> or contact Robbie Coates, Grants Manager for Disaster Programs at 804.897.9766.



VACo Webinar | Chris Piper | Commissioner of Elections

## Commissioner of Elections Webinar on Mis-Assigned Voters

Commissioner of Elections Chris Piper presented information on the issue of potentially mis-assigned voters in a July 30 webinar hosted by VACo. Commissioner Piper discussed efforts at the Department of Elections to identify voters who may have been mis-assigned, as well as the potential complications that may result from situations where a house straddles a boundary line or other “edge cases.” An initial review of Congressional district assignments was completed by the Department earlier this year, and the Commissioner indicated that the Department’s review of state House and Senate districts was being transmitted to general registrars last week. The Commissioner advised members of local governing bodies to discuss the issue with their general registrars and legal counsel. VACo will continue to work with the Administration and legislature on potential solutions to this issue.

A recording of the webinar is available on [VACo’s YouTube channel](#).

**VACo Contact:** [Katie Boyle](#)



Asset Protection Group “AP Group” is proud to continue its partnership with the Virginia Association of Counties “VACo.” Aflac is proud to be part of AP Group’s team. This unique partnership is being led by Monty Dise, President of AP Group. This relationship will benefit VACo members by combining AP Group’s experience in designing comprehensive benefit solutions with Aflac’s sixty years of experience in the public sector serving over 36,000 clients. This partnership will help VACo members navigate a constantly evolving benefits landscape while providing exclusive value added benefits and incentives through Aflac to VACo members.

Please contact Monty Dise, [mdise@apgroupinc.com](mailto:mdise@apgroupinc.com) or at 1-800-644-9840, to learn more about this opportunity.



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range of 2.8-4.7 – slightly worse than the best-performing states, which report an estimated average of 3.1 poor mental health days. County-specific estimates of average numbers of poor mental health days are available at [this link](#). The United Health Foundation’s *America’s Health Rankings* dis-aggregates 2016 survey responses by gender and income, among other factors, reporting that average numbers of poor mental health days are higher for females than for males (at both the state and national levels), and higher for those making \$25,000 or less than for those earning higher incomes. The data breakdown is available at [this link](#).

Another way of measuring mental health among Virginians is the percentage of adults reporting what the Robert Wood Johnson categorizes as “frequent mental distress,” or 14 or more days of poor mental health per month. These percentages varied by locality in 2016 from 9 to 16 percent, with an average of 11 percent. County-specific estimates are available at [this link](#).

A worrisome national trend is an increase in suicide rates in almost every state between 1999 and 2016, according to the CDC. Virginia lost 1,166 residents to suicide in 2016, for a rate of 13.2 suicide deaths per 100,000 residents; although one suicide death is one too many, Virginia’s rate in 2016 was the 16<sup>th</sup> lowest rate among states. Although Virginia’s suicide rate was low relative to most other states, the fact that Virginia’s [suicide rate increased by 17.4 percent between 1999 and 2016 is troubling](#).

**What is Virginia doing to improve mental health?**

Many efforts are underway to provide resources to Virginians struggling with poor mental health or mental illness. A major effort to enhance coverage for mental health treatment for individuals with certain serious mental illnesses, the Governor’s Access Plan, was launched in 2015 and has since been expanded by the General Assembly to cover more people; GAP provides limited mental health treatment benefits through Virginia’s Medicaid program to individuals who otherwise would not qualify for Medicaid benefits. A legislative committee, the Joint Subcommittee to Study Mental Health Services in the Commonwealth in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century, chaired by Senator Creigh Deeds, is in the midst of an extensive review of the overall structure of the state’s public mental health system, as well as ways to improve the interaction of people with mental illness with the justice system. A summary of recommendations from the Joint Subcommittee that have been enacted through statutory changes or budget provisions is available at <http://dls.virginia.gov/groups/mhs/recommendation050718.pdf>.

One of the major changes to the public system to emerge from the Joint Subcommittee is the STEP-Virginia plan, which was enacted in 2017 and will require, when fully phased in, a standard array of services to be provided at each Community Services Board (CSB). The first step in this plan, same-day access to mental health assessments, was partially funded in FY 2018 and fully phased-in in the recently-passed biennium budget, which also funds the second step, primary care screenings (due to the frequency with which other medical issues co-occur with mental illness), and begins to fund the next steps (outpatient substance abuse and detoxification services) in FY 2020. Localities are funding partners with the state in supporting CSBs; generally, state funding for CSBs is not to exceed 90 percent of a CSB’s total funding, and localities supply the balance, though some localities contribute far in excess of these amounts and some localities receive waivers from the requirement due to financial hardship.

**Adverse Childhood Experiences and Mental Health**

Mental illness can be caused by many factors, including chemical imbalances in the brain and genetic factors. An area of significant research interest in recent years is the effect of trauma on health outcomes later in life, especially the effect of Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs). [An important study in 1998](#) examined the relationship between certain traumatic experiences in childhood, such as psychological or sexual abuse, substance abuse in the home, or violence directed toward a mother or stepmother, and found that “the impact of these adverse childhood experiences on adult health status is strong and cumulative.” The exact ways in which childhood trauma affects later-life outcomes is still the subject of research. The researchers in the 1998 ACEs study theorized that the connection between the traumatic experiences in childhood and poor health outcomes in adulthood, such as depression, substance abuse, heart disease, cancer, and obesity, may be related to the ways in which people self-medicated the anxiety and depression that resulted from their childhood trauma, such as by smoking or abusing alcohol. A [recent study](#) conducted by researchers at the University of Wisconsin-Madison found that high levels of childhood stress actually influenced how certain genes were expressed, including genes that affect mood, and that this change persisted later in life. In [an article about the study](#), Reid Alisch, one of the researchers, said, “What we’re finding is that after 10 years or so there are still markers, like fossils in our genome, telling us there was a trauma here. And that

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trauma may make this individual more susceptible to a second trauma, or even worse, a behavioral change, later in life.” Research suggests that adverse childhood experiences are common in the United States. [A research brief produced by Child Trends](#) from data compiled in the 2016 National Survey of Children’s Health found that 24 percent of children nationwide had experienced at least one adverse childhood experience. This study reported that 22 percent of children in Virginia had experienced at least one adverse childhood experience, 8 percent had experienced two, and 11 percent had experienced three or more. Virginia Department of Health recently added a module on ACEs to its behavioral health survey, so more detailed data on ACEs in Virginia’s population should be available in future years.

Although childhood trauma can have serious and long-lasting effects, research has found that our fates are not sealed by what happens in childhood. The Child Trends report notes that a positive relationship with even one adult can help buffer the effects of trauma, and that resilience can be built by learning coping techniques. Trauma-informed care has become an important aspect of mental health, and language in the biennium budget directs Virginia’s Secretary of Health and Human Resources to convene a workgroup to develop a trauma-informed system of care throughout the agencies within the Secretariat and explore opportunities to expand trauma-informed care statewide.

In my next column, I’ll be highlighting some of the approaches Virginia counties have taken to address the critical issue of mental health.

**Resources**

Infographic from the CDC on the ACES Study: [https://vetoviolence.cdc.gov/apps/phl/resource\\_center\\_infographic.html](https://vetoviolence.cdc.gov/apps/phl/resource_center_infographic.html)

National Public Radio story on ACEs, which includes the ACEs questionnaire from the 1998 study: <https://www.npr.org/sections/health-shots/2015/03/02/387007941/take-the-ace-quiz-and-learn-what-it-does-and-doesnt-mean>

**Story Continued from Page 4**

engaged in demonstrable efforts to improve the quality of life for its citizens and successfully meet our challenges. Quality Economic Development, Effective and Outstanding Communications and Civic Engagement, Excellent Customer Service, Quality Educational Opportunities, Exemplary Public Safety, and Environmental Stewardship will provide us a roadmap to the future!

**Q5. You have been deeply involved in Chesapeake Bay issues, in particular as a gubernatorial appointee to the Local Government Advisory Committee to the Chesapeake Advisory Council. What sparked your interest in this topic?**

**SN:** I have always loved the outdoors! Summers were spent exploring the woods, camping, clamming during low tide, or just appreciating the beauty of our natural environment. I have been fortunate to have always lived near the water and appreciate all its benefits. In college I found the biological sciences fascinating and soon began to recognize that unless we protect this ecosystem, future generations might not have the same enjoyment I had. My first practical experience as a Supervisor was visiting a low lying area of the County after a heavy rain and witnessing the runoff from septic tanks that was polluting the waterway, closing the area to shellfish harvesting. After seeing that, my support of a huge sewer project, regardless of the opposition, was vital! York County has always been at the forefront of environmental stewardship, a topic which continues to spark my interest. Given my background, I was honored to be one of Virginia’s representatives to the LGAC. This appointment enabled me to voice local government’s practical concerns regarding the watershed-wide restoration plan for the Chesapeake Bay and to help educate the public for the need to support that plan.

**Q6. What are some “must do” activities for visitors to York County?**

**SN:** York County has so many “must do” activities, depending on your interests. For the history buff, the New American Revolution Museum at Yorktown tops the list, followed closely by the NPS Yorktown Battlefield where you can stand overlooking Surrender Field and listen to a recorded reenactment or take a driving tour through the park. October 19 is *Yorktown Day*, which commemorates the last major battle of the Revolutionary War for Independence, a day full of activities that begins with a parade led by a contingent of the U.S. Army’s “Old Guard” and is quite a stirring event. The Watermen’s Museum honoring the fishing and boating heritage of the river and the Chesapeake Bay and the York County Historical Museum are also attractions.

If you enjoy water activities, Yorktown Beach is another attraction and was recently voted second best in Virginia by USA Today readers. A sunset sail on the schooner “Alliance,” followed by dinner in one of the restaurants along the Riverwalk might be your choice. For the eco tourist we have a map of our waterways for kayaking.

For your shopping pleasure, Riverwalk Landing has several quaint shops with antique shops and art galleries along Main Street as well. Market Days on Saturdays at the riverfront are also popular, but my best advice would be to go to [www.visitYorktown.org](http://www.visitYorktown.org). We look forward to your visit!

**VACo Contact:** [Katie Boyle](#)



# *Virginia Freedom of Information Advisory Council*

## **2018 FREEDOM OF INFORMATION (FOIA) “RECORDS” TRAINING**

August 29 | October 3 | November 7

The Commonwealth of Virginia’s Freedom of Information Advisory Council will conduct its 2018 FOIA “Records” training in Richmond starting July 25. The training sessions will be held at the Pocahontas Building located at 900 East Main Street, Richmond, VA 23219, near the Virginia State Capitol.

Citizens, media representatives, public officials, and public employees with an interest in learning more about access to public records under the Virginia Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) are invited to register for this free training presentation. The presentation will provide an overview of the legal requirements regarding access to public records under FOIA, including what is a public record, how to make a public records request, how to respond to records requests, information on exemptions from mandatory disclosure, and the remedies available should a violation occur.

The training sessions are scheduled for August 29, October 3, and November 7. Each session will provide 1.5 hours of continuing legal education credit for attorneys, and will also count as the required annual training for FOIA officers.

For registration information, check the FOIA Council’s website at <http://foiacouncil.dls.virginia.gov/foiacouncil.htm> OR contact the FOIA Council directly at 866.448.4100.

**Contact:** Darlene Jordan

**Organization:** Virginia Freedom of Information Advisory Council

**Telephone No:** 804.698.1810 / 866.448.4100

**Email:** [djordan@dls.virginia.gov](mailto:djordan@dls.virginia.gov)

**Website:** <http://foiacouncil.virginia.gov>



## VACo Region 3 meeting focuses on school safety, transportation and access to the internet



Close to 30 county officials met at the Hanover County Emergency Communications Office on the afternoon August 8.

Laura Fornash, Sr. VP, State Government Relations with McGuireWoods Consulting and Former Virginia Secretary of Education, provided a [one-page list of resources](#) for counties addressing school safety. She also described the work of the [Chesterfield County School Safety Taskforce](#), which she co-chairs with Virginia Secretary of Public Safety and Homeland Security Brian Moran. The purpose of the taskforce is to evaluate current protocols and best practices to ensure that Chesterfield is providing a safe, supportive and nurturing learning environment for all students, staff and administrators. In addition to examining safety and security, the taskforce is exploring the provision of mental health services for students.

Fornash identified three outstanding issues she believes will be brought before the General Assembly. The first is the provision of school resource officers (SROs). Currently 53 percent of Virginia schools employ SROs. While this is above the national average of 42 percent, there may be a push to increase the number of SROs in the state. The second issue revolves around providing mental health support services as a means of prevention. Lastly, some school systems may seek to authorize existing personnel to carry firearms.

Attendees also discussed other top issues and priorities including transit and road funding, the need for access to internet in unserved areas, the historic decline in state aid for K-12 education funding, and the impact of the opioid crisis on communities and county services.

VACo Contact: [Joe Lerch, AICP](#)





# VACo visits Pittsylvania County for the Region 10 Meeting



VACo held its fifth 2018 Regional Meeting on July 24 in the center of VACo's Region 10 – beautiful Pittsylvania County. On a sunny Tuesday afternoon, more than 30 county supervisors and administrators from counties across the region gathered at the Olde Dominion Agricultural Complex to discuss challenges and opportunities while learning from one another.

Pittsylvania County Board Chair Bob Warren welcomed visitors to the county and shared the story of the Agricultural Complex and its usefulness to the region. A consistent highlight of these meetings is the opportunity to observe meaningful development in Virginia's counties.

A key component of each Regional Meeting is the dialogue among county officials about the local challenges they seek to resolve. Region 10 Meeting attendees discussed their concerns with education funding, the opioid epidemic, transportation funding, economic development, the expansion of Medicaid, and broadband in rural communities. County officials learned about the concerns and successes of neighboring counties and gained valuable insight from each other.

Craig Herndon, Vice Chancellor for Workforce Development at Virginia's Community Colleges system, was the guest speaker. Herndon discussed the success of workforce development initiatives such as the New Economy Workforce Credential Grant Program recently made available at Virginia's Community Colleges. This new program has changed the lives of many Virginians, and it's exciting to watch its progress. Read more about the New Economy Workforce Credential Grant Program by visiting Virginia's Community Colleges website at [www.vccs.edu/workforce](http://www.vccs.edu/workforce).

We thank our sponsors and partners for attending the meeting and for making these events possible!

VACo Contact: [Angela Inglett](#)



## Paycheck Checkup Can Prevent a Tax-Time Surprise

It's important to check your federal income tax withholding now to avoid an unexpected tax bill or penalty at tax time. The IRS Withholding Calculator can help.

**Everyone should check their withholding. Due to tax law changes, it's especially important to check now if you:**

- Are a two-income family
- Have two or more jobs at the same time
- Work a seasonal job or only work part of the year
- Claim credits like the child tax credit
- Have dependents age 17 or older
- Itemized your deductions on your 2017 return
- Have high income or a complex tax return
- Had a large tax refund or tax bill for 2017

### Use the IRS Withholding Calculator to do a Paycheck Checkup

- The IRS Withholding Calculator helps figure out if you should submit a new Form W-4 to your employer.
- Have your most recent pay stub and federal tax return on hand.
- The calculator's results are only as accurate as the information you enter.
- Find the IRS calculator at **IRS.gov/withholding**.





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

Stakeholders will be introduced to DHCD programs through examples of how communities have used these grant funds, and participants will learn about the application process, including how to apply and timelines, for the grant cycle this winter.

Attendees will learn about the following DHCD programs:

- Community Development Block Grants (CDBG)
- Virginia Main Street (VMS)
- Industrial Revitalization Fund (IRF)
- Community Business Launch (CBL)
- GO Virginia

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

This event is free, but preregistration is requested.



### **Dates and Locations**

**Aug. 23, 2018** | Fountain Plaza II | **Newport News** | 1-4 p.m.

**Sept. 12, 2018** | Shenandoah County Government Center | **Woodstock** | 1-4 p.m.

**Sept. 26, 2018** | Lynchburg Public Library | **Lynchburg** | 1-4 p.m.

**Oct. 10, 2018** | Southwest Virginia Higher Ed Center | **Abingdon** | 1-4 p.m.



# Virginia Cooperative Extension

Virginia Tech • Virginia State University

## Upcoming Kentland Farm Beef & Forage Day to offer latest techniques and practical tips to producers

On Wednesday, September 12, 2018, Virginia Cooperative Extension and the Virginia Tech College of Agriculture and Life Sciences will host the Kentland Beef & Forage Day. This event will highlight the research at Kentland Farm as well as focus on hay quality and baleage production. Speakers from VCE, Virginia Tech, and industry will deliver workshops and demonstrations on the following topics:

- Hay quality
- Hay storage
- Baleage production
- Low-lignin alfalfa
- Vegetable production
- Estimating forage mass
- Drones in livestock systems
- Dairy Science Complex tour



Kentland exists to support the research, teaching, and Extension programs of the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, which include many of Virginia's major agricultural crop and livestock species. Programs are conducted at the farm by many different colleges and departments of the university, including Engineering, Science, Veterinary Science, and Liberal Arts and Human Sciences. The farm is rich in local history, and Virginia Tech has maintained that history through the manor house, slave cemetery, Native American sites, and other early farm buildings.

**Registration:** \$10 - includes lunch

**To register, please send contact info and payment to:**

Pulaski County Extension Office  
Attn: Kentland Field Day  
143 Third Street NW Suite 3  
Pulaski, VA 24301

Checks payable to: "Treasurer - Virginia Tech"



**The Virginia Rural Center Presents**

**“Rural Broadband Roundtable Breakfast  
& Live Demonstration”**

**Thursday, August 16, 2018  
9:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.**

*This is a unique opportunity to learn about innovative rural  
broadband strategies*

Prince George County Wellness Center  
11033 Prince George Drive  
Disputanta, VA 23842

RSVP by Friday, August 10.  
*A complimentary “country breakfast” will be available.*

Reserve your seat today!  
Contact Kristie Helmick Proctor, Executive Director, Virginia Rural Center at  
[Kristie.HelmickProctor@cfrv.org](mailto:Kristie.HelmickProctor@cfrv.org) or 804-512-1453

**Thank You to Our Event Sponsors for Their Generous Support**



**PRINCE GEORGE COUNTY, VA**  
*A Global Community Where Families Thrive & Businesses Prosper*



# FREE SUMMER MEALS

**AVAILABLE HERE FOR ALL CHILDREN 18 YEARS AND YOUNGER**

No registration required.

COMIDAS GRATIS PARA NIÑOS DURANTE EL VERANO, DISPONIBLES AQUI  
NO SE REQUIERE INSCRIPCIÓN PREVIA.

**TEXT "FOOD" TO 877-877**  
**ENVIE UN TEXTO "COMIDA" AL 877-877**

Visit **NoKidHungry.org** or  
text **FOOD** to **877-877** to find more sites.



Thank you for your continued support of the Summer Meals Program in Virginia. Because of you, 2018 has shaped up to be an innovative and exciting year.

Here are just a few examples of the wonderful programs happening around the state:

- North: Fairfax County Public Schools

<http://www.fairfaxconnection.com/news/2018/jun/27/fairfax-county-schools-launch-summer-meals-program/>

- Southwest: People Inc, Feeding America Southwest

[https://www.heraldcourier.com/news/people-incorporated-provides-free-meals-to-kids-this-summer/article\\_ff0436b7-4cb8-50a2-a1d1-b56b78553388.html](https://www.heraldcourier.com/news/people-incorporated-provides-free-meals-to-kids-this-summer/article_ff0436b7-4cb8-50a2-a1d1-b56b78553388.html)

<https://www.wsls.com/daytime-blue-ridge/feeding-america-works-to-keep-local-kids-fed-during-summer-1>

- Southside: Danville City Public Schools

<https://www.wsls.com/daytime-blue-ridge/feeding-america-works-to-keep-local-kids-fed-during-summer-1>

- Central: Louisa County Public Schools

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SMvzhS6TV98&feature=youtu.be>

- Southeast: Suffolk Public Library, Virginia Peninsula Foodbank

<https://wtkr.com/2018/06/25/suffolk-library-offering-free-lunch-activities-to-youth-this-summer/>

<https://www.13newsnow.com/article/news/local/peninsulanow/virginia-peninsula-foodbank-participates-in-summer-food-service-program/291-563717265>

"Summer Action Week" was promoted July 9-13.

<https://spark.adobe.com/page/SK0lMNuPU09E8/>

With most programs in full swing, now is the perfect time to remind families about texting "FOOD" or "COMIDA" to 877-877 to find meal sites near them.

<http://www.vaco.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/07/Summer-Action-Week-Toolkit-for-Partners-Virginia.pdf>

We hope that this outreach will help combat the participation decreases that we often see in the second half of the summer (due to heat, travel, and a number of other factors).

THANK YOU for all that you do to make sure that no kid goes hungry in the summer!

# 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.

## **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

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

# *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).



**IN SERVICE TRAINING  
COORDINATOR** | City of Salem |  
Posted August 8



**CIVIL ENGINEERING** |  
Hanover County | Posted August 8



**DEPUTY COURT CLERK** |  
Montgomery County | Posted August 7



**INTERN/PLANNING &  
GIS SERVICES** | Montgomery County |  
Posted August 7



**DEPUTY COUNTY  
ADMINISTRATOR** | Essex County |  
Posted August 6



**DIRECTOR OF  
TECHNOLOGY** | Essex County | Posted  
August 6



**ASSISTANT DIRECTOR  
OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT** |  
Botetourt County | Posted August 3



**LIFEGUARD (INDOOR)** |  
James City County | Posted August 3



**INSPECTOR I/II/III** |  
James City County | Posted August 3



**FINANCE MANAGER** |  
Franklin County | Posted August 3



**RECORDS CLERK** |  
Frederick County | Posted August 3



**REAL ESTATE ASSESSOR I** |  
Frederick County | Posted August 3



**CORRECTIONAL NURSE I** |  
Frederick County | Posted August 3



**FOOD SERVICE  
SUPERVISOR** | Frederick County |  
Posted August 3



**DATA COLLECTOR** |  
Frederick County | Posted August 3



**BENEFIT PROGRAMS  
SPECIALIST I/II** | New Kent County |  
Posted August 3



**CLERK TO THE BOARD  
OF SUPERVISORS** | Franklin County |  
Posted August 2



**INDUSTRIAL MECHANIC** |  
James City County | Posted August 1



**BENEFIT PROGRAM  
SPECIALIST I** | Montgomery County |  
Posted July 30



**EMERGENCY  
COMMUNICATIONS OFFICER I/II/III/  
IV** | James City County | Posted July 27



**BUILDING OFFICIAL** |  
Lancaster County | Posted July 27





### GENERAL OFFICE CLERK

James City County | Posted July 27



COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANT | James City County | Posted July 27



TECHNOLOGY SUPPORT TECHNICIAN | James City County | Posted July 27



ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COORDINATOR | Fluvanna County | Posted July 27



COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR | Halifax County | Posted July 27



BUDGET SYSTEM ANALYST | Loudoun County | Posted July 26



DIRECTOR OF NURSING | Frederick County | Posted July 25



MAINTENANCE CREW LEADER/MAINTENANCE WORKER | Montgomery County | Posted July 24



CARE TEAM SOCIAL WORK CASE MANAGER | James City County | Posted July 23



CARE TEAM NURSE CASE MANAGER | James City County | Posted July 23



CARE TEAM COORDINATOR | James City County | Posted July 23



MANAGEMENT ANALYST/BUDGET | Loudoun County | Posted July 20



CAREER FAIR | Fauquier County | Posted July 20



CIRCULATION SERVICES ASSISTANT | James City County | Posted July 20



BENEFIT PROGRAM SUPERVISOR | James City County | Posted July 20



POLICE OFFICER I/II | James City County | Posted July 20



ASSISTANT COUNTY ATTORNEY | Louisa County | Posted July 20



ASSISTANT TO THE CITY MANAGER | City of Harrisonburg | Posted July 19



RECREATION SUPERVISOR | James City County | Posted July 18



ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES JOB OPPORTUNITIES | Fauquier County | Posted July 18



OPERATIONS PROGRAM MANAGER | Town of Culpeper | Posted July 17



BENEFIT PROGRAM SPECIALIST I/II | James City County | Posted July 17



HUMAN RESOURCES GENERALIST | New Kent County | Posted July 17



FIREFIGHTER-EMT | New Kent County | Posted July 17



FIREFIGHTER-MEDIC | New Kent County | Posted July 17



BUILDING INSPECTOR | Halifax County | Posted July 17



GRANT WRITER/HUMAN RESOURCES ASSISTANT | Washington County | Posted July 16



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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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County Connections is a semimonthly publication.

Editor: A. Gage Harter  
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