COUNTY CONNECTIONS

Thursday, June 18, 2020

Guidance Issued for the Phased Reopening of K-12 Schools in Virginia



On June 9, Governor Ralph Northam <u>announced</u> a phased approach to allow for the reopening of in-person instruction for Virginia's K-12 schools for the 2020-2021 academic year. Under the <u>guidelines</u> released by the Virginia Department of Education (VDOE), local school divisions are able to develop plans on how best to resume student instruction and the manner in which they may implement phased reopening, and submit them to VDOE for approval. The framework and state plan for reopening was developed in consultation with Centers for Disease Control <u>guidelines</u> and as a collaboration between the Office of the Secretary of Education Atif Qarni, Virginia Department of Health, and VDOE. VDOE also released a detailed document titled "<u>Recover, Redesign, Restart</u>," for local school divisions to utilize in their planning.

The reopening process can be divided into three distinct phases (I, II, and III). These are aligned with the phases outlined in Governor Northam's <u>Forward Virginia</u> blueprint, which has guided the process by which localities and businesses across the Commonwealth have operated during the pandemic.

Broadly speaking, the three phases are as follows:

• Phase I begins immediately and continues remote learning, but also allows for in-person special education instruction and childcare for working families.

SUPERVISORS' CERTIFICATION



Supervisors' Certification Program students meet virtually

More than 20 students are participating virtually in the "Managing While Leading: Understanding Your Powers, Duties & Responsibilities" course that VACo has adapted to fit with the times. Besides meeting virtually for the opening and closing sessions, students will convene virtually for five interactive homework sessions. These five homework sessions are organized to foster discussions between supervisors on how the course materials relate to real time experiences. So far the discussions have been robust and productive. Supervisors from all over the Commonwealth are sharing their experiences and questions with their colleagues.

On May 29, 14 supervisors from 11 Virginia counties met virtually for the closing session of the "Good Governance: The Role of Leadership" module of the Virginia Certified County Supervisors' Program. The instructor, Mike Chandler, Ph.D., led the students through rich discussions of the role of leadership and governance as applied to the experiences of supervisors. Challenges and successes were shared. The evaluations were strongly in support of the format of this invaluable program for county leaders.

VACo Contact: Karie Walker

VACo-VML Task Force Discusses Pandemic Recovery, Rebuilding



The Local Government Recovery Task Force held its first virtual meeting on June 8 to discuss issues related to the near-term reopening of the state's economy, as well as local government priorities for the upcoming special session this summer and long-term issues for consideration in the Governor's December 2020 budget and the 2021 legislative session. VACo is grateful for the service of President-Elect Jeff McKay, Immediate Past President Sherrin Alsop, Past President Mary Biggs, Past President William Kyger, and Region 2 Director Ruth Larson on the Task Force, which was convened to serve as a resource for the Administration and to provide a perspective from local governments as the state works through the recovery process. Five representatives from the Virginia Municipal League join VACo's members in serving on the Task Force.

Key areas discussed at the June 8 meeting include the importance of regular communication with localities as the state moves through its phased reopening plan, the need for joint advocacy for additional federal assistance that can be used to replace lost revenues, and the need for discussion with localities about the plan for reopening schools in the fall. Members also discussed priorities for this summer's special session, stressing the importance of preserving state aid to localities, avoiding permanent, structural cuts in state support, and protecting local revenue sources. Task Force members updated Governor Northam and his staff on the conversation during the Governor's biweekly call with VACo's Board of Directors and VML leadership last week.

The Task Force plans to continue its work over the coming months and will discuss proposed solutions to long-term issues identified by members. Initial areas for discussion included access to child care, mental health issues, and long-term economic impacts to areas of the state that are reliant on tourism.

VACo Contact: Katie Boyle

Supreme Court Removes Barrier to Atlantic Coast Pipeline



The Supreme Court of the United States has removed a major barrier to construction of the controversial Atlantic Coast Pipeline (ACP). In a <u>7-2 ruling</u> published Monday, June 15, the Supreme Court ruled that the ACP could pass under the Appalachian Trail.

The case took up the question of whether or not the United States Forest Service had authority under the Mineral Leasing Act to grant rights-of-way in national forest lands that are crossed by the Appalachian Trail. In the opinion, the majority argued that the Forest Service did indeed have the rights to grant permits for rights-of-ways within national forest lands traversed by the Appalachian Trail.

The ACP's proposed path in Virginia will require it to tunnel under the Appalachian Trail. Already, the Appalachian Trail is traversed by other pipelines 34 times in Virginia. The Atlantic Coast Pipeline, the plaintiffs argued, will be no different than these other pipeline crossings and will be constructed in a way to ensure that the project is hundreds of feet below the surface and emerges from the ground over half of mile away on either side of the trail.

Despite this ruling, the future of the Atlantic Coast Pipeline project is still in the air. While the Supreme Court removed this particular hurdle, a decision from the Fourth Circuit Court of Appeals that struck down the Forest Service's permit itself still stands. Dominion Energy must still consider alternative routes for the ACP that avoid protected land, and if reasonable alternatives do exist, the U.S. Forest Service is in turn prohibited from approving this original route across the Appalachian Trail.

VACo Contact: Chris McDonald, Esq.

TOURISM

Visit Page County and the LOVE Sign



Aptly named "Logs of Love," the LOVEwork at Luray Caverns is constructed from wooden logs to accentuate the fact that Luray-Page County is designated as the Cabin Capital of Virginia.

The sculpture is located on the grounds of Luray Caverns. Set against the beautiful backdrop of Shenandoah Valley, the artwork encourages visitors to feel the LOVE at America's largest and most popular caverns.

Visitors are encouraged to take photos with the LOVEworks and share with loved ones on Facebook at <u>www.Facebook.com/</u> <u>VirginiaisforLovers</u> or on Twitter with the special hashtag #LOVEVA. A complete list of the LOVEwork locations is at <u>www.Virginia.org/</u> <u>LOVE</u>.



MARK YOUR CALENDAR

County Connections | Page 6

Become a Certified Supervisor



The Virginia Association of Counties, in partnership with Virginia Tech, offers the Virginia Certified County Supervisors' Program: an opportunity for county supervisors to learn how to more effectively and efficiently lead in their communities.

Since its inception in 2005, 70 supervisors representing more than 40 counties have completed this training program, earning credentials as a certified county supervisor. Of greater importance, each supervisor has gained the insight, perspective, and confidence needed to address the challenges and opportunities of the local governance experience.

VACo slightly revamped the Supervisors' Certification Program to adjust to our current time while enhancing your learning experience. The Managing While Leading: Understanding Your Powers, Duties, and Responsibilities course started via Webex Teleconference on May 29 and will end with another Webex Teleconference or an in-person meeting at the Albemarle County Office Building on July 24.

Between the two classroom sessions - there will be several lunch hour teleconferences to discuss course work, reading materials, current events, local issues, and whatever comes up in conversation.

VACo Contact: Karie Walker

Funding Public Services: The Role of Budgeting

Registration Form | Register Online

Opening Session | September 4 Albemarle County

Closing Session | November 6 | VACo Training Center

Registration Deadline | August 20



SIMPLIFY YOUR TELECOM NEEDS



CONTACT US

Granite Telecommunications 444 W. Railroad Ave Suite 200 West Palm Beach, FL 33401 E: SLEDTEAM@granitenet.com P:833-901-SLED W:www.granitegovernment.com

KEY BENEFITS



Carrier Agnostic



U.S. Based **Single Point of Contact**



Customized Billing



ONE PROVIDER FOR ALL SOLUTIONS

Granite provides customers with cost savings to voice, data and wireless inventory in order to meet the urgent needs of today & to plan for the future.

Proudly providing customized solutions to an ever changing industry since 2002, Granite centralizes billing and provides an award winning team at your side for all telecom related needs, costing you less money and time to manage.

BY THE NUMBERS





Mergers

Debt

THE GRANITE ADVANTAGE

COST SAVINGS: Granite leverages wholesale contracts with major carriers across the United States to provide discounts for premium services.

FLEXIBILITY: Granite understands that no two businesses are run the same way, and will create a flexible communications solution tailored to each customer's needs.

DEDICATED SUPPORT: With an industry leading Net Promoter Score, Granite's Premier Account Program offers unparalleled customer support.

PRODUCTS AND SERVICES

Internet • Fiber

Cable/ DSL

Mobile Hotspots

Wireless

Voice

- Analog
- PRI
 - VoIP
 - Cellular
- Network
- MPLS
- Managed VPN
- SD-WAN
- Layer 2, Point-to-Point

We want you to be among the first to know that the Virginia Housing Development Authority is changing its name to **Virginia Housing**. Our refreshed name and logo more clearly align with who we are and what we do.



For almost 50 years, Virginia Housing has relied on our network of agents, lenders, developers and nonprofits, along with government partnerships, to expand and preserve affordable housing for all Virginians, while reducing homeownership and rental costs.

With the COVID-19 pandemic, the importance of home has never been greater. Our continued work together during these difficult times will make the difference, as we take bold actions to help all Virginians.

Partnerships drive the heart of our collaborative approach, and we look forward to our continued collaboration. With partners like you, delivering on our mission is possible, even in these challenging times.

CONTACT

Chris Thompson | Director of Strategic Housing 601 S. Belvidere Street | Richmond, VA 23220 Phone: 804.343.5692 Email: <u>Chris.Thompson@VirginiaHousing.com</u> Website: www.VirginiaHousing.com

COVID-19

June 22 Deadline for Counties to Comment on Proposed Workplace Regulations for COVID-19



The Northam administration (per E.O. 63) has directed the Virginia Department of Labor and Industry (DOLI) to "... promulgate emergency regulations and standards to control, prevent, and mitigate the spread of COVID-19 in the workplace." The <u>draft regulations</u> are available for review with a public comment period that expires on Monday, June 22. On Wednesday, June 24, the <u>Virginia Safety and Health Codes Board</u> will hold an <u>emergency</u> <u>meeting</u> to consider and vote on adoption of the regulations and standards. For more information, including directions for submitting comments, go to <u>https://www.doli.virginia.gov/safety-and-health-codes-board-electronic-emergency-meeting</u>.

VACo notes that the draft standards include the following requirements (not inclusive) that counties will need to implement:

- Classification of all employees as "very high," "high," "medium," or "lower" risk, based on the potential level of exposure in performing their duties;
- Development and implementation of an "Infectious Disease Preparedness and Response Plan" per <u>CDC</u> <u>Guidance on Preparing Workplaces for COVID-19</u>, including designation of a person responsible for implementing the plan;
- Provision of respiratory protection and personal protective equipment (PPE) for "multiple employees" occupying the same vehicle for work purposes, and for employees whose "work or the work area does not allow them to observe physical distancing requirements."
- Screening of all "very high," "high" and "medium" classified employees for COVID-19 symptoms prior to each work shift;
- Installation of physical barriers (such as clear plastic sneeze guards) to mitigate the spread of the virus; and
- At a minimum, the cleaning and disinfecting of all common spaces (including bathrooms) at the end of each work shift.

VACo is reviewing the draft regulations for the potential fiscal impacts counties will face in implementing them, and to what extent Coronavirus Relief Fund (CRF) allocations may be utilized to pay for them.

VACo Contact: Joe Lerch, AICP

- Phase II allows and adds in-person learning for preschool through grade three students, English Learners (ELs), and summer camps.
- Phase III would allow for in-person instruction for all students.

A local school division may enter a phase up to the same level under which the locality that it serves is operating. However, for a school division to enter Phase II or Phase III, plans must be submitted to VDOE for review and in compliance with recently established guidance. Beyond Phase III, school divisions will resume "new-normal" for instructional and extracurricular operations in consultation with public health officials and as additional guidance becomes available. If COVID-19 conditions within a locality were to worsen in the future, school operations may need to revert to earlier phases.

Due to the ongoing threat of COVID-19, the CDC and VDOE guidelines contain social distancing and mitigation strategies to improve student and staff safety. Some mitigation strategies include creating six foot physical distance between children on school buses and other indoor spaces, requiring staff to wear masks if they are unable to maintain six foot distance between themselves and students, and creating remote learning and teleworking options for students and staff who are at a higher risk of severe illness, to name a few. According to the guidance from VDOE, the State Superintendent of Instruction may consider variances for other in-person instruction on a case by case basis. However, such programs should follow all mitigation guidance.

These mitigation strategies may impact school operations and capacity limits, thus requiring a multi-faceted instructional approach for Phase III. For instance, social distancing on school buses may significantly reduce a school division's transport capacity and necessitate tiered learning in which different cohorts of students attend in-person classes on certain days and use remote learning for others. Such changes are likely to require investment of resources that would not otherwise be required under normal school operations.

As previously <u>reported</u>, under the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act, Virginia received approximately \$238.6 million in federal funding to address the impact of COVID-19 on the K-12 system. 90 percent of this figure is to be disbursed to directly local school divisions based on Title I allocation formulas of the Every Student Succeeds (ESEA) Act. The remaining 10 percent remains in reserve for statewide efforts through the Virginia Department of Education. A memo from Superintendent of Public Instruction, Dr. James F. Lane providing further information on the disbursement and use of these funds and spreadsheet detailing each local school division's allocation of federal funds can be located <u>here</u> and <u>here</u> respectively.

Furthermore, Governor Northam recently <u>announced</u> the use of additional \$43.4 million in CARES Act funding through the Governor's Emergency Education Relief (GEER) Fund to help offset additional K-12 costs related to COVID-19 mitigation. Of this amount:

- \$26.9 million will be used to support short-term and long-term initiatives expanding highspeed internet access;
- \$10 million to expand early childhood education and childcare programs;
- \$3.5 million to support the expansion of the <u>Virtual Virginia</u> online learning program to provide content for elementary and middle school students; and

• \$3 million to cover unfunded costs for the continuation of school-based meals programs while schools remain closed, including hazard pay for school nutrition staff.

Though these funds are needed and appreciated, it remains to be seen whether they will be enough to meet the unique and extraordinary needs brought about by COVID-19. According to the American Association of School Administrators (AASA) and the Association of School Business Officials (ASBO) International, <u>nationwide</u>, the total additional expenses an average school division may incur to reopen is \$1.8 million. K-12 funding will likely be a topic of discussion when Governor Northam reconvenes the General Assembly for a special session to address budget reforecasting.

Additionally, the phased reopening guidelines scale up opportunities for in-person instruction, prioritizing the needs of the most vulnerable learners, for whom in-person instruction is most essential. Public schools in Virginia have been closed for in-person insurrection since Governor Northam issued Executive Order 53 in March as a means to minimize spread of COVID-19 and ensure the safety of students and school staff. This was shortly followed by U.S. Secretary of Education Betsy DeVos granting <u>waivers</u> to states to cancel all federally mandated testing under the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). VDOE suspended the administration of the Standards of Learning (SOL) tests and other standardized learning assessments for the 2019-2020 school year.

Although distance learning was allowed to continue to take place while schools were physically closed in accordance with Virginia's Continuity for Learning Framework, the closure of schools during this period could result in significant decreases in student learning gains, which has the potential to negatively impact long term development. This impact is often exacerbated in vulnerable and at-risk youth populations, further widening achievement gaps. With the reopening of schools for the coming academic year, local school divisions are expected to provide new instruction for students and administer SOL assessments in the spring of 2021.

One recommendation of the accreditation task force contained with "Recover, Redesign, Restart" is to waive the Standards of Accreditation (<u>SOA</u>) for the 2021-2022 school year. This could be beneficial to local school divisions and localities as it will be difficult to fully resume pre-pandemic methods of instruction even under the new guidelines. As such, it may be unfair to hold school divisions to pre-pandemic standards of accreditation, which have community wide implications such as public perception of education and impact to real estate values.

Additional K-12 reopening information can be found on VDOE's <u>website</u>, and in a June 15 <u>presentation</u> By Secretary Qarni and Dr. Lane to the House Education Committee. Virginia Phase Guidance for Schools includes details for each phase and can be found <u>here</u>. The May 2020 CDC Guidance for Schools is the foundational public health guidance which VDOE indicates should be used to guide local school division reopening plans and can be found <u>here</u>. Lastly, VDOE released "Recover, Redesign, Restart" which was released by VDOE for local school divisions to utilize in their planning and can be found <u>here</u>.

Governor Northam also recently <u>announced</u> reopening guidance for Higher Education, which can be found <u>here</u>.

VACo Contact: Jeremy R. Bennett

FY 2021 Virginia Telecommunications Initiative (VATI) Program Guidelines and Criteria Finalized and other Broadband Updates

On June 8, the <u>Commonwealth Connect Coalition</u> distributed copies of the FY 2021 Virginia Telecommunications Initiative (<u>VATI</u>) Program Guidelines and Criteria detailing the process by which \$19 million in state general funds will be awarded to eligible applicants seeking to expand broadband access in communities throughout the Commonwealth. VATI grants are available to local governments (including towns, cities, counties, economic and industrial development authorities, broadband or wireless authorities, planning district commissions, etc.) to extend broadband service to currently unserved areas. To be eligible the local government must include a private-sector provider as a co-applicant.

The release of the finalized guidelines follows a robust public comment period. VACo had submitted comments in favor of additional local flexibility to deploy broadband resources. The new guidelines can be read in full <u>here</u>, and contain the following changes:

- Unserved areas conform to the federal definition of 25/3mbps. Applicants are encouraged to prioritize areas lacking 10/1 mbps and will receive priority in scoring.
- DHCD encourages applicants to ensure all projects fit into a larger plan to achieve universal broadband for the locality or region. Applicants are strongly discouraged from submitting projects that focus on pockets of density while not including nearby unserved, less dense areas.
- Changed the public notice requirement to a notice of application.
- Timelines for awarded projects changed from 12 to 18 months. DHCD will consider longer project timelines if warranted.
- Further clarification on challenge process requirements.

Additional information on the new guidelines and how to apply can be found on the June 9 <u>webinar</u> and accompanying <u>presentation</u> from the Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD). Applicants are encouraged to reach out to VATI for application assistance by emailing: <u>vati@dhcd.virginia.gov</u>.

On June 16, VACo staff participated in a <u>webinar</u> hosted by the Virginia Local Broadband Network (<u>VLBN</u>) in conjunction with the Commonwealth Connect Coalition to discus potential uses of Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (<u>CARES</u>) Act funding for broadband. As previously <u>reported</u>, use of CARES Act funding by counties for specific broadband projects should be done in observance of the U.S. Treasury guidelines and consultation with legal counsel. However, several localities in Virginia shared how they are using CARES Act funding to help mitigate the impacts of COVID-19 in their communities by expanding broadband access. Furthermore, at the June 15 meeting of the <u>House Appropriations Committee</u>, Secretary of Finance Aubrey Layne provided additional clarification indicating that use of funds to pay to connect people to existing broadband networks or expand networks before the end of the year would likely be acceptable, but long term investments are probably not eligible.

The Commonwealth Connect Coalition also recently announced a partnership with the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) to host an informational webinar on the \$16 billion phase I of the Rural Digital Opportunity Fund (RDOF) on Wednesday, June 24, from 2pm - 3:30pm. The application window to participate in the RDOF phase I auction will open on July 1 and close on July 15, with the auction beginning on October 29, 2020. There are 211,043 preliminary eligible RDOF locations in Virginia. Registration for the webinar is open to all interested stakeholders. Please be aware, the online meeting has a maximum of 250 people. You must register to attend the webinar, which can be done here. A May 5 Webinar from the FCC detailing this process may also be viewed here.

Upcoming Events and Deadlines

- August 17 VATI Application Deadline
- October 22 Rural Digital Opportunity Fund (RDOF) Phase I Auction

VACo Contacts: Jeremy R. Bennett and Joe Lerch, AICP

Commission on Youth Begins Work for 2020



The Virginia Commission on Youth adopted its work plan for 2020 at its June 17 meeting, agreeing to examine the delivery of education in juvenile detention centers and the development of an additional legal arrangement to avert placement of children in foster care. The Commission will also be revising and updating its biennial publication, the *Collection of Evidence-Based Practices for Children and Adolescents with Mental Health Treatment Needs*, to include information on the complex trauma often suffered by children who enter the foster care system, as well as material on evidence-based treatments included in the clearinghouse established by the Family First Prevention Services Act.

Commission members received several presentations on the juvenile justice system at the June 17 meeting, including an <u>overview</u> of the Department of Juvenile Justice's work to develop alternatives to commitment to juvenile correctional centers for justice-involved youth. Department of Juvenile Justice Director Valerie Boykin pointed out that the population of juvenile offenders housed in correctional centers has dropped by 65 percent between January 2014 and January 2020 as the Department has worked to house offenders in alternative placements, as well as to establish evidence-based programs across the state. Marilyn Brown, Director of Chesterfield Juvenile Justice Services and President of the Virginia Juvenile Detention Association, <u>briefed</u> members on the state's Juvenile Detention Centers, which serve youth awaiting court action, as well as youth serving sentences. Laurie Cooper of the Virginia Department of Education <u>explained</u> how state-operated educational programs function, such as programs offered in juvenile detention centers and state hospitals. Education can be a challenge to provide in juvenile detention centers, as youth arrive at these centers with varying educational backgrounds and their stays vary from 24 hours to several years; Ms. Cooper likened the instructional model to a "one-room schoolhouse."

An advisory stakeholder workgroup began discussions of the other major study topic, development of a guardianship model, on June 15. Nannette Bowler, Deputy Commissioner for Human Services at the Department of Social Services, <u>presented a proposed model</u> for a court-ordered guardianship structure, which would allow a caregiver (often a grandparent or other relative) to make certain decisions on behalf of a child, such as school enrollment, without the formality of obtaining permanent custody of the child. Such a model has been successful in other states in situations where a parent needs time to recover from a substance use disorder, but may ultimately be able to reunite with the child. Virginia law provides for guardianship only in certain limited circumstances, such as the terminal illness of a parent. The advisory group discussed possible parameters for such a model in Virginia, including how guardians would receive services and other support.

VACo Contact: Katie Boyle

Virginia Employment Commission Resources for Unemployed Virginians and the Impact to County Governments



Since March 15, 822,300 unemployment claims have been filed in Virginia as a result of the impacts of COVID-19 and other economic factors. As the nation struggles to recover from unemployment rates not seen since the Great Depression, the Virginia Employment Commission (VEC) provided VACo with additional information and resources that counties are encouraged to share with their citizens.

VEC is responsible for the administration of the Commonwealth's unemployment compensation program, among other duties such as the collection and publication of extensive labor market information data that is used by policy makers and business to promote economic development and growth. The commission adjudicates claims for unemployment compensation and collects the payroll tax imposed on employers for purposes of such compensation. This includes county governments.

In addition to the normal Virginia Unemployment Insurance (UI) providing 12 to 26 weeks of weekly benefits ranging from \$60 to \$378 determined by wages earned, supplemental unemployment compensation and assistance has been provided through the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act. Specifically, three new programs are meant to aid unemployed workers struggling during the pandemic:

- Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA) provides a UI type benefit payment for individuals who are not eligible for traditional UI where the individual cannot work for a COVID-19 related reason, but excludes individuals who can telework or are receiving paid sick leave or receiving regular UI benefits. This benefit is meant to cover individuals who normally wouldn't be eligible for UI and who may be self-employed, business owners, or independent contractors. This program lasts 39 weeks is available through December 26, 2020.
- Pandemic Emergency Unemployment Compensation (PEUC) extends the length of UI by up to 13 weeks and applications and payments will begin in early July. The extension is available through December 26, 2020.
- Federal Pandemic Unemployment Compensation (FPUC) Adds \$600 to all UI, PUA, and PEUC benefit payments for which an individual qualifies and ends July 25, 2020.

On June 17, VEC staff provided VACo with a <u>presentation</u> on the state of unemployment in Virginia. According to VEC, of the 822,300 claims filed since March 15, approximately 75 percent of these claims have been

MORE ON NEXT PAGE

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 14

approved and received payment, with more than \$3.8 billion distributed to individuals who have lost wages during the COVID-19 pandemic. By comparison, during the Great Recession of 2007-2009, the payment rate was 42 percent. 91 percent of monetarily eligible claims resulted in payment within 14 days. However, as of June 6, 80,000 claims are still pending administrative hearings.

Regarding the 25 percent of claimants who made claims and have had issues receiving payment, monetary eligibility and separation qualification requirements may be the cause. This includes claimants who did not earn \$3,000 in the two quarters of their base period, claimants who voluntarily quit, and claimants who were terminated for misconduct. Additional reasons for issues with claims include claimants not filing weekly certifications or reporting certain conditions.

Additional information provided by VEC on the Unemployment Insurance tax should be of concern to counties as employers. Three components make up Virginia's unemployment insurance tax:

- The first is the base tax rate which is experience rated and unique to each employer depending on • their individual loss history.
- The second is the pool charge, which is the socialization across all covered employers of all benefit charges that cannot be charged to individual employers.
- The final component is the fund builder, which is imposed on all covered employers when the • trust fund balance factor defined in Code Section 60.2-533 falls to or below 50%. The fund builder assessment is an additional 2%. Employers also pay federal unemployment tax of \$420 per employee.

Due to the surge in demand for UI benefits, expenditures from the VEC Trust Fund are currently projected to exceed fund balances by the Third Quarter of 2020:



VEC Trust Fund Expenditures and Balance*

MORE ON NEXT PAGE

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 15

County Connections | Page 16

This has the potential to have a fiscal impact to all employers, including local governments by requiring significant increases in Unemployment Insurance Taxes required to maintain the solvency of the VEC Trust Fund. For context, the average tax rate paid by Virginia employers in 2020 is 0.87% which equates to \$69.92 per employee. This figure could rise substantially:

Unemployment Insurance Tax Forecasts

- Below are the forecasts for average Virginia unemployment tax rates under low end and high end scenarios.
- These projections are based on certain modeling assumptions that may change given the fluid nature of the COVID-19 crisis circumstances.
- These are average rates and individual employers' rates will vary, but could reach as much as \$550 per employee, for employers that become rated at the maximum of 6.20%.
- For context, the average tax rate paid by Virginia employers in 2020 is 0.87% which equates to \$69.92 per employee. There is currently no fund builder tax imposed and the pool charge is so small that it does not impact employers taxes.

Low End	Fund Builder		POOL		AVG Tax		Tax Per Emp
2021	0.20% \$	16.00	0.531%	\$42.45	1.78%	\$142.11	\$200.56
2022	0.20% \$	16.00	0.534%	\$42.73	1.70%	\$136.38	\$195.11
2023	0.20% \$	16.00	0.526%	\$42.10	1.48%	\$118.58	\$176.68

High End	Fund Builder		POOL		AVG Tax		Tax Per Emp
2021	0.20% \$	16.00	0.531%	\$42.45	2.22%	\$177.60	\$236.05
2022	0.20% \$	16.00	0.534%	\$42.73	2.35%	\$187.60	\$246.33
2023	0.20% \$	16.00	0.526%	\$42.10	2.34%	\$187.40	\$245.50

Additional information can be found in a <u>presentation</u> that VEC Commissioner Ellen Marie Hess gave to the House Appropriations committee on June 15.

Navigating the COVID-19 crisis requires attention to numerous interrelated issues on many different fronts. Unemployment and the impacts it has on workers and communities is one such area. The following documents may also be of use in helping constituents navigate the unemployment insurance process:

- <u>Eligibility for Unemployment Benefits</u>
- <u>Navigating the UI Process during COVID-19</u>
- Top 5 Reasons Why Applicants have not Received Benefits
- <u>Unemployment Insurance Local Offices</u>
- <u>VEC Quick Reference Guide</u>

VACo staff will continue to provide updates and learning opportunities on this issue.

VACo Contact: Jeremy R. Bennett

asts der low change buld reach maximum 0.87% der tax ers taxes. Tax Per Emp \$200.56 \$195.11 \$176.68 Tax Per Emp \$236.05 \$246.33 \$245.50 Virginia Employment Commission

State General Fund Revenues Fall in May; Decline Tracking Within Expectations

Secretary of Finance Aubrey Layne struck a note of guarded optimism in briefing the House Appropriations Committee June 15 on May General Fund (GF) revenue collections, predicting that once June collections are tallied, state revenue losses will be well within the estimated \$1 billion reduction predicted earlier this spring. State revenues have been shielded to a certain degree from the economic contraction caused by the COVID-19 pandemic by Virginia's large number of jobs connected to the federal government and by actions taken by the federal government to keep interest rates low and infuse cash into the economy through lending and direct payments to individuals and businesses. However, Secretary Layne warned that local revenues could be more severely affected.

Total state GF revenues fell 20.6 percent in May, in part due to the Governor's action to defer the due date for individual and corporate income tax payments to June 1. On a fiscal year-to-date basis, collections have declined by 1.2 percent, trailing the annual forecast of 3.1 percent growth. Individual income tax withholding declined by 13 percent in May, in part due to there being two fewer deposit days in this month relative to May 2019; on a fiscal year-to-date basis, collections have grown by 3.1 percent, but lag the forecasted 4.7



Aubrey Layne

percent growth. Secretary Layne pointed out in his presentation that reductions in withholding collections have been concentrated in small businesses, which represent the bulk of employers but generate a comparatively small share of tax collections.

Individual income tax nonwithholding collections, which were projected to decline by 4.3 percent in FY 2020 as taxpayers adjusted to the federal income tax provisions enacted in the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act, have dropped 22.6 percent on a fiscal year-to-date basis, but Secretary Layne pointed out that June collections would likely make up for a significant portion of this reduction. Sales tax collections fell by 12.5 percent in May; although collections have grown by 5.4 percent on a fiscal year-to-date basis, this performance still lags the forecast of 7.4 percent growth. Secretary Layne noted that collections from online sales had increased, but bricks-and-mortar retailers continue to struggle, and some may not survive the pandemic.

The National Bureau of Economic Research <u>announced on June 8</u> that the United States entered a recession in February 2020, with the end of 128 months of expansion, pointing out that this extended run of good times represented "the longest in the history of U.S. business cycles dating back to 1854." The Congressional Budget Office (CBO) <u>released revised economic projections</u> for 2020 and 2021 in May, predicting that real inflationadjusted Gross Domestic Product would contract by 11 percent in the second quarter of 2020 (equivalent to an annual decline of 38 percent), although CBO acknowledges significant uncertainty surrounding this prediction. CBO staff expect economic growth to resume in the second half of 2020, projecting an average of 15.8 percent annual growth over that time, but express concern that the sharp contraction will have short- and long-term effects on the labor market, and warn that "[e]mployment is expected to remain low in the third quarter of 2020...a notable drop in state and local government tax revenues is expected to lead to more layoffs in the state and local government sector."

The Governor is scheduled to announce the FY 2020 revenue shortfall on July 10, which is expected to trigger a revenue reforecast. The Joint Advisory Board of Economists and the Governor's Advisory Council on Revenue Estimates are scheduled to meet on July 20 and August 3, respectively, laying the groundwork for a revenue reforecast that will be the basis for a special session to rework the biennium budget sometime later this summer.

VACo Contact: Katie Boyle

STATE NEWS

Commonwealth Transportation Board Meeting Reviews Impact of COVID-19 on Traffic Volume and Revenues



On June 17, the Commonwealth Transportation Board (<u>CTB</u>) held a workshop and regular meeting that discussed numerous issues, including COVID-19 traffic trends. This information is useful in correlation with declines in transportation revenue sources and measuring regional impacts of COVID-19 on traffic volumes. The agenda and a video recording of the meetings can be found <u>here</u> and <u>here</u> respectively.

Using data from 512 continuous count stations on roadways throughout the Commonwealth, the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) provided the CTB with a report on traffic volume trends and other items as of June 5. As to be expected, the declaration of a state of emergency, closure of schools and non-essential businesses, and other restrictions put in place to mitigate the public health threats posed by the initial spread of COVID-19 significantly reduced all vehicle traffic volumes in every region and on interstate and non-interstate roadways. Though traffic volumes have since increased towards pre-emergency declaration levels, at the height of this period, all vehicle traffic volumes were 64 percent lower on April 12 than they were last year. The full presentation and infographics may be found here.

As well as signifying a decrease in mobility and economic activity, the decrease in traffic volume had direct fiscal impacts to transportation funding. The three principle state sources of transportation funding accounting for approximately 55 percent Highway Maintenance and Operating Fund (HMOF) and Transportations Trust Fund Revenues all declined. In his report to the House Appropriations Committee on June 15, Secretary of Finance Aubrey Layne presented data showing that in the month of May, Motor Fuels Tax, Motor Vehicle Sales Use Tax, and State Sales and Use Tax were down 24.1 percent, 33.3 percent, and 11.6 percent respectively compared to May of 2019. As previously reported, legislation enacted from the 2020 General Assembly session Is expected to yield significant state and regional transportation revenues. However, much of this revenue is tied to increases in motor fuel taxes. Though traffic volume and by extension fuel purchases are rebounding, the data from VDOT shows the vulnerability of these revenue sources to economic slow downs brought on by COVID-19 and stay-athome orders.

VACo Contact: Jeremy R. Bennett

EDUCATION

VIRGINIA TECH.

The <u>Graduate Certificate in Local Government Management</u> provides the next generation of local government managers and leaders with the tools to advance their careers and to provide exceptional leadership within the communities where they work. The central goal of the program is to offer graduate-level training in local government management that both prepares pre-career students for capable public service at the local level and enhances the capacities of existing local government employees who aspire to be town, city, or county managers or assistant/deputy managers.

The Graduate Certificate in Local Government Management will be holding two information sessions via Zoom in July; Monday, July 13, 2020 at 11 am and Monday, July 20, 2020 at 11 am. The session will review the program, costs, instructors and benefits. Please note that all certificate courses will be offered by Zoom in the Fall and this delivery method provides a convenient method for employees to join the classes. In addition, we have financial assistance available for employees in Virginia local government.

The Zoom connection information is below: https://virginiatech.zoom.us/j/99316511899

For more information on the program, please contact Dr. Stephanie Davis, sddavis@vt.edu or visit www.spia.vt.edu

COVID-19



For all Virginians having difficulty coping with COVID-19

Virginia COPES

You don't have to go it alone. (877) 349-6428 Mon-Fri 9am - 9pm Sat-Sun 5pm-9pm

Toll-free. No-cost. Anonymous.



Virginia Department of Behavioral Health & Developmental Services

LEGISLATIVE NEWS

VACo Releases 2020 Legislative Summary



The <u>Legislative Summary</u> details the actions of the 2020 General Assembly and information on legislation of interest to counties.

This edition contains links to bills through the General Assembly's Legislative Information System. Also included in the document are studies and statistics of importance to counties.

Read VACo's 2020 Legislative Summary

VACo Contact: Legislative Team

COUNTY NEWS

Chesterfield's Deputy County Administrator for Human Services Announces Retirement

After 25 years with Chesterfield County, Deputy County Administrator for Human Services Sarah C. Snead announced her plans to retire, effective October 1.

Snead, whose career in human services spans nearly five decades, has served as deputy county administrator since July 2010.

"It's been a remarkable journey," Snead said. "I have been incredibly fortunate to work with dedicated and talented Chesterfield County team members including each of the leaders of Human Services Departments. There are so many people capable of upholding all the good work we have started."



As deputy county administrator for human services, she oversees the departments of Citizen Information and Resources, Community Corrections Services, Drug Courts, Juvenile Justice Services, which includes the Juvenile Detention Center, an array of community-based juvenile justice programs, and the Davis Child Advocacy Center, Mental Health Support Services, and Social Services.

Before becoming deputy county administrator, she served as director of Chesterfield-Colonial Heights Department of Social Services, where in that role, she worked with its nine-member board to implement new and existing policy measures, while insuring some of the county's most vulnerable population received proper benefits and treatment.

"Sarah's diligent dedication to some of the county's most vulnerable residents is a testament to her commitment as a public servant," said Dr. Joe Casey, county administrator. "Her commitment and leadership has helped several county departments address important community needs through lasting partnerships."

Since coming to Chesterfield, Snead has been an advocate for numerous new initiatives and serves as liaison for Lucy Corr, the courts and the Chesterfield Health District. She is a member of and past chair of the Chesterfield Colonial Heights Criminal Justice Board and current chair of the Community Policy and Management Team (CPMT).

Snead is currently the vice president of Senior Connections, The Capital Area Agency on Aging -- a nonprofit dedicated to helping seniors and their caregivers maintain their quality of life and independence as they age. She also serves on the Board of Directors for Richmond-based Homeward, a planning and coordinating organization for homeless services in the greater Richmond region; and Leadership Metro Richmond, the region's premier leadership development and engagement organization where she was a graduate in 2014.

"We regard Mrs. Snead as a role model for all of us," said Dr. Thelma Watson, Executive Director of Senior Connections, The Capital Area Agency on Aging. "Her leadership, personal energy and advocacy for older adults, caregivers and their support networks is immeasurable. As Vice-Chair of the Board of Directors for Senior Connections, she has worked tirelessly to provide guidance and assistance to all of us, and while we're sad to see her go, we know she will continue to be a strong voice and advocate for older adults in the region upon her retirement. We know her retirement will be a time of opportunity and adventure for her and her wonderful family."

Outside of Chesterfield, Snead has been a champion in advocating and advancing human services needs across the state – serving as the current past president of the Virginia Association of Local Human Services Officials,



CONTINUED FROM PAGE 22

and president of the Virginia League of Social Services Executives from 2005 to 2009. She also is a member of the Virginia Local Government Management Association (VLGMA) and the International City/County Management Association (ICMA).

Snead also has been a champion for several other county nonprofits and regional boards including the Chesterfield-Colonial Heights Christmas Mother, the Chesterfield-Colonial Heights Alliance for Social Ministry (CCHASM), the Fallen Heroes Initiative, the Chesterfield Historical Society of Virginia, and the Henricus Foundation Board among others. She was also an integral part of Opioid Solutions RVA, a regional committee that included the public awareness campaign meant to educate residents about opioid addiction.

While there are several key career milestones Snead is proud of, it is her work assembling a team of leaders that remain passionate about human services and the opportunity to meet and work on behalf of Chesterfield County citizens that means the most.

"As a recent graduate from VCU's MSW program, Chesterfield County was where I began my career in social work in 2001," said Kiva Rogers, Chesterfield County Department of Social Services director. "Sarah hired me when she was the director of social services, the department that I now lead. During the course of my career with the county, Sarah has been a role model for the social work profession and embodies the principles of a servant leader. Her ability to listen without judgement, see the best in people and challenge them to reach their full potential; her ability to show compassion and empathy in the midst of tough times and difficult situations, set her apart as a leader and has inspired countless people whose lives she has touched throughout her career."

In addition to guiding and mentoring various leaders in the Human Services Division, Snead is a career advocate and vocal proponent for Chesterfield's most vulnerable, including abused children and those with disabilities.

Along with tireless champions, Snead advocated for the establishment of Galloway Place – a 12-bed intermediate care facility for people with intellectual disabilities and medical complications who require intensive 24-hour support, opening in 2014. She also was integral in helping establish the Davis Child Advocacy Center, which helps children who have experienced trauma from abuse by providing forensic interviews, advocacy and support for child abuse victims in Chesterfield and Powhatan counties and the City of Colonial Heights during the investigation and prosecution of child abuse cases.

"Establishing a child advocacy center was one of the first major initiatives that retired Honorable Bonnie Davis and I wanted when I came here 25 years ago," Snead recalled. "With the leadership of Judge Davis, leaders from numerous County Departments and significant help of our community, the Center was established in 2018 and has served over 655 children and their families."

Prior to Chesterfield, Snead served as director of King George County Department of Social Services. She is an alumna of Virginia Commonwealth University and Meredith College in Raleigh.

Upon retirement, Snead said she plans to remain active in the greater Richmond community, while being the primary caretaker to her immediate family members. She also is seeking to pursue several mentoring opportunities for people looking to advance their career within the human services profession.

"Chesterfield has such a rich history and amazing assets" Snead said. "I'm glad I have had the opportunity to help and serve a community I have come to appreciate and love."

A nationwide recruitment process will occur over the summer. Snead's successor is expected to be announced by September.

Shawn Utt to be next Smyth County Administrator

STORY REPRINTED WITH PERMISSION FROM THE SOUTHWEST TIMES

By MELINDA WILLIAMS | melinda@southwesttimes.com

He's spent 14 years focused on improving the economic future of Pulaski and Pulaski County, but Shawn Utt says the time has come for him to turn the reigns over to someone else.

The Pulaski town manager and former Pulaski County community development director submitted his resignation to town council Tuesday night during a special meeting designed for council to conduct his annual evaluation. Upon acceptance of his resignation, Utt drove to Smyth County to accept a position as county administrator there.



Utt's last day is July 2, three days before the effective date of Deputy Town Manager Nichole Hair's resignation. Hair resigned June 5, with a July 5 effective date. She is taking a position as economic development manager for Virginia Industrial Advancement Alliance.

"I believe we have made great strides during my tenure as town manager and there are amazing opportunities for the town on the horizon," Utt said is a press release issued Wednesday. "I have truly loved my time here, but it's time for me to explore other career opportunities and allow for the torch to be passed to the next leader."

He noted he was honored to have worked with nine different town council members and three mayors "to help grow this great community into a better place for all of its citizens. I wish the town of Pulaski, its elected leadership and the incredible town staff nothing but success and continued growth in the days, months and years ahead."

Mayor David Clark, whose time on council ends June 30, said, "I have worked with Shawn for the last seven years and watched as he put his heart and soul into making Pulaski a better place for everyone who lives here. The work he has done will be a great foundation for whoever comes next. He leaves us a much better place and I am proud to have served with him."

A search for Utt's replacement begins immediately. Council hopes to have a new town manager selected by the end of summer "to ensure the positive progress continues to move the town forward."

Utt accepted the position of town manager in September 2013, after serving seven years as the county's community development director. During his time as town manager, Pulaski experienced increased private investment in the town, including renovations and expansions at Calfee Park, development of Al's On First and Jackson Park Inn, and recruitment of Falls Stamping-New River Valley.

During Utt's stint as town manager, Pulaski also has launched a downtown revitalization project along with several investors "now believing in the great economic potential the town has to offer," the press release states.

Utt was a regional planner for New River Planning District Commission and a public relations director for Radford City before going to work for Pulaski County. A native of Galax, he received his bachelor's degree from Radford University and master's degree in public administration from Virginia Tech.



COUNTY OF FAUOUIER OFFICE OF THE COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

Paul S. McCulla, County Administrator 10 Hotel Street, Suite 204 Warrenton, Virginia 20186 PHONE 540-422-8001 FAX 540-422-8022 E-mail: paul.mcculla@fauquiercounty.gov

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE June 15, 2020

Contact: Paul S. McCulla **County Administrator** Fauquier County Government 10 Hotel Street Warrenton, Virginia 20186 (540) 422-8001

Kozanecki Named Deputy County Administrator

Warrenton, Virginia – Fauquier County Administrator Paul McCulla recently announced that Erin Kozanecki has been named the Deputy County Administrator for Fauquier County. Ms. Kozanecki has worked for Fauquier County for the past 10 years. Prior to being named Deputy County Administrator, Ms. Kozanecki held the position of Director of the Office of Management and Budget for Fauquier County for the past 7 years.



In naming Ms. Kozanecki his deputy County Administrator Paul McCulla stated: "Of the 67 candidates considered, Erin's combination of skills, temperament and judgement made her the perfect choice for the position. As a longtime County employee Erin understands both the culture and history of the organization. Her ability to work with the County's boards, commissions, departments and the citizens of the County made her the logical choice for the position."

Ms. Kozanecki started her new position on June 15, 2020.



VAPDC Announces the Slate of Officers & Directors for 2020-2021

Elections to be held on Thursday, July 16, 2020, following the Summer Series event: Travel, Tourism and Leisure – Seeking to be Stronger!

2020-2021 Board Nominations

Officers for 2020-2021

- President: Allen Kimball "Kim" Callis, Southside Planning District Commission
- First Vice President: Donald Hart, Accomack-Northampton Planning District Commission
- Second Vice President: Martha Shickle, Plan RVA (Richmond Regional Planning District Commission)
- Secretary/Treasurer: Kevin Byrd, New River Valley Regional Commission
- Immediate Past President: Robert K. Coiner, Rappahannock-Rapidan Regional Commission

Directors for 2020-2021

- Board Member: Deborah Gosney, Southside Planning District Commission
- Board Member: Robert Lazaro, Northern Virginia Regional Commission
- Board Member: Patrick Mauney, Rappahannock-Rapidan Regional Commission
- Board Member: Linda Millsaps, George Washington Regional Commission
- Board Member: Dwayne Tuggle, Central Virginia Planning District Commission
- Board Member: Lou Ann Wallace, Cumberland Plateau Planning District Commission

VACo PARTNER

summer series

July 9, 2020 • 10:00 AM-11:30 AM The Other Side of COVID-19: A Futurist's View July 16, 2020 • 10:00 AM-11:30 AM Travel, Tourism and Leisure - Seeking to be Stronger July 23, 2020 • 10:00 AM-11:30 AM Transportation and Mobility Reimagined - Making It Future Ready July 30, 2020 • 10:00 AM-11:30 AM Virginia PDCs: Regional Responses and Resources

virginia association of planning district commissions

Like most other organizations, VAPDC is adjusting to the COVID-19 pandemic and has cancelled its annual Summer Conference for 2020. And like most other organizations, we do not want to lose touch with you! Conferences provide an opportunity to present timely educational and informational content, while providing a forum for connecting with one another to exchange ideas and information. Since we are unable to do that in person, VAPDC is bringing these things to you in a Summer Series, Four Thursday's in July.

These four online meetings will cover a variety of topics and be $1\frac{1}{2}$ hours in length. So, mark your calendar for July 9, July 16, July 23, and July 30 (10 am - 11:30 am) to connect and learn with VAPDC!

Meeting Schedule

Week 1—July 9, 2020 The Other Side of COVID-19: A Futurist's View Speaker: John Martin, CEO & Managing Partner, Southeastern Institute for Research

Week 2—July 16, 2020

Travel, Tourism and Leisure - Seeking to be Stronger

VAPDC Annual Business Meeting will be held after this session 11:30-12pm

Business Meeting Agenda | Slate of Officers and Directors | Minutes from FY2020 Business Meeting | Proposed Bylaw Changes

Week 3—July 23, 2020 Transportation and Mobility Reimagined - Making It Future Ready

Week 4—July 30, 2020

Virginia PDCs: Regional Responses and Resources

Registration

Participants can register for each of these sessions individually or the series of four at a discounted rate. All Four Meetings: \$35 *Best Deal* | Per Session: \$10

Participants will receive login information prior to the event(s) they have registered for with instructions for joining the meeting and any applicable details and handouts. More information to come!

REGISTER FOR SUMMER SERIES



NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE VACo CONTACT: Karie Walker | <u>kwalker@vaco.org</u> NACo CONTACT: Paul Guequierre | <u>pguequierre@naco.org</u>

Virginia and National Associations of Counties Partner to Strengthen Public Sector Cybersecurity

With new cyber threats emerging every day, the Virginia Association of Counties (VACo) has partnered with the National Association of Counties (NACo) to strengthen local governments' cybersecurity efforts. The NACo Cybersecurity Collaborative will provide Virginia's counties with access to top tier technology security professionals, information, intelligence, best practices and other resources to prepare for, prevent and mitigate cybersecurity threats.

"The best way to address escalating cybersecurity challenges is to collaborate in a peer-to-peer network and share expertise," said Dean Lynch, VACo's executive director. "Through the Cybersecurity Collaborative, counties will be better equipped to protect residents' data and defend against potentially devastating cyberattacks."

Public sector security practices continue to evolve and improve. Once focusing mainly on physical security and natural disaster preparedness, counties now address security of networked and personal devices, mobile applications and cloud-enabled solutions.

"The Cybersecurity Collaborative provides access to world-class expertise and actionable information to prepare for and respond to cyber threats and attacks," said Matthew Chase, NACo's executive director. "This cutting-edge program is designed to help counties mitigate risks and navigate complex security dynamics as new threats emerge every day."

The NACo Cybersecurity Collaborative is a peer-based network that shares proven action plans to drive cyber readiness, implementation guides and comprehensive checklists. Members of the collaborative have access to customizable policies and procedures for governance controls and compliance, and the ability to connect with experts to ask real-time questions for guidance on real-time issues. Learn more at https://www.naco.org/resources/cost-saving-tools/cybersecurity-collaborative.

###

The National Association of Counties (NACo) strengthens America's counties, including nearly 40,000 county elected officials and 3.6 million county employees. Founded in 1935, NACo unites county officials to advocate for county government priorities in federal policymaking; promote exemplary county policies and practices; nurture leadership skills and expand knowledge networks; optimize county and taxpayer resources and cost savings; and enrich the public's understanding of county government. <u>www.naco.org</u>



STRONGER COUNTIES. STRONGER AMERICA.

VACo Achievement Awards Deadline Moved to



It's time for the 2020 Achievement Awards Program.

Any county department is eligible to compete so ENTER NOW!

Achievement Awards submission form

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 **gharter@vaco.org**. **Submissions must be received by July 1, 2020**.

Last year we processed 96 entries and selected 26 winners from 21 Counties. VACo presented awards at 21 Board of Supervisors Meetings, recognized winners at the Annual Conference, issued a news release to statewide media and highlighted winning Counties in an Achievement Awards booklet. The judges for the 2020 Achievement Awards will be announced soon.

VACo has received more than 800 entries over the past decade. Last year's Best Achievement winner was Chesterfield County for its "Chesterfield County Police Experience Program."

VACo encourages all Counties, big and small, to enter the 2020 Achievement Awards Program. Please contact **gharter@vaco.org** with questions or for more information.

Achievement Awards Submission Form | 2019 Achievement Awards Press Release Browse all of the 2019 Entries | 2019 Achievement Awards Book | Past Achievement Award Winners

TOURISM



The Scenic Virginia 2020 Virginia Vistas photo contest is now open. I'm thrilled to share that this year the **Rivers & Waterways category is exclusive to designated Virginia scenic rivers**!

This is a wonderful way to highlight the <u>50th anniversary</u> of the Virginia Scenic Rivers Program. The annual contest promotes the preservation and protection of our beautiful resources.

I encourage you to submit your photos by the July 31 deadline. Please view the <u>list of designated scenic rivers</u>, and then visit <u>Scenic Virginia</u> for details and an entry form.

Many thanks to Scenic Virginia for being an excellent partner to the Virginia Scenic Rivers Program!

CONTACT

Lynn Crump, PLA, ASLA Scenic Resources Coordinator Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation <u>lynn.crump@dcr.virginia.gov</u>

VACo MOBILE APP



The Virginia Association of Counties (VACo) mobile application is a valuable tool for County officials and staff to better serve their communities. With the VACo mobile app, users can easily stay informed about issues important to Counties with many features, including:

- * VACo Events Registration and Info
- * VACo Member Directory
- * Legislative News and Alerts | Capitol Contact
- * VACo Chat
- * County Pulse Podcast
- * Employment Opportunities

Downloading the app is easy...

- Scan the QR Code or search "Virginia Assn of Counties" from the iTunes or Google Play Store
- Opt-in for VACo Push Notifications to receive important VACo alerts
- For access to the most features, request an account with your email and a password
- Once your account is approved, members will have access to all the features.

* * *

AVAILABLE NOW

¥ 👱 ¥

VIRGINIA COUNTY SUPERVISORS' MANUAL

EIGHTH EDITION, 2019

ORDER YOURS TODAY \$75 EACH

orreased exercisives or concerns

(SHIPPING IS INCLUDED)





Virginia County Supervisors' Manual 8th Edition - NEW FOR 2019





The Eighth Edition (2019) of VACo's *Virginia County Supervisors' Manual,* is now in stock. The Supervisors' Manual is the number one resource on the framework of county government and the responsibilities of the county board.

ORDER YOUR ALL-NEW VOLUME NOW

ORDER FORM
NAME: TITLE:
COUNTY (OR ORGANIZATION):
SHIPPING ADDRESS:
CITY / STATE / ZIP:
PHONE: EMAIL:
PAYMENT INFORMATION
Manuals are \$75 per copy. Number of Copies
Check enclosed for \$ Make payable to VACo Services, Inc.
CREDIT CARD AUTHORIZATION:
Charge Options: American Express MasterCard VISA
Card No: Exp. Date
Cardholder Name:
Authorized Signature:
Email for credit card receipt:

Mail completed form to:Virginia Association of Counties1207 East Main Street, Suite 300Richmond, VA 23219-3627

Or FAX credit card purchases to 804.788.0083



Questions? Call 804.788.6652.

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.



TAX TECHNICIAN I Montgomery County | Posted June 16



COMMUNICATIONS OFFICER | NRV Regional Authority Montgomery County |Posted June 16

Winchester Administration Viegencia- CITY MANAGER | City of Winchester | Posted June 15



DIRECTOR OF FINANCE Fauquier County | Posted June 15



COORDINATOR OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT | Smyth County | Posted June 12



HOUSEKEEPER Montgomery County | Posted June 12



<u>CITY CLERK</u> | City of Hopewell | Posted June 12



ENGINEER I – III Spotsylvania County | Posted June 12

Lawrenceville

TOWN MANAGER Town of Lawrenceville | Posted June 11



FIRE MEDIC PT | Prince George County | Posted June 11



FIRE MEDIC I | Prince **George County** | Posted June 11



DISTRIBUTION & COLLECTION MANAGER | City of Manassas | Posted June 10



ASSISTANT COMMONWEALTH'S ATTORNEY I **Gloucester County** | Posted June 10



ZONING TECHNICIAN City of Harrisonburg | Posted June 10



BENEFIT PROGRAM SPECIALIST | Hanover County | Posted June 10

County Connections | Page 34



DIRECTOR OF HUMAN

RESOURCES | Prince William County | Posted June 10

Chesapeake FACILITY

MAINTENANCE TECHNICIAN | City of **Chesapeake** | Posted June 9

VIRGINIA TREASURY DIRECTOR OF

UNCLAIMED PROPERTY | Virginia **Department of Treasury** | Posted June 8



DEPUTY COUNTY

ADMINISTRATOR FOR HUMAN **SERVICES** | Chesterfield County | Posted June 8



ASSISTANT DIRECTOR PERSONAL PROPERTY, STATE **INCOME & LICENSE** | Fairfax County | Posted June 8



EMERGENCY SERVICES

DEPUTY COORDINATOR Montgomery County | Posted June 8



SENIOR ENGINEER

(PW) | City of Manassas | Posted June 4



STORMWATER

ADMINISTRATOR | City of Manassas | Posted June 4



Manassas | Posted June 4

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

County Connections | Page 35



MAINTENANCE WORKER (AIRPORT) | City of Manassas | Posted June 4



PAYROLL MANAGER Hanover County | Posted June 3



E-911 DIRECTOR Bedford County | Posted June 3



DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL

SERVICES | Prince George County | Posted June 2



REAL ESTATE SPECIALIST | Albemarle County | Posted June 1



REAL ESTATE APPRAISER | Albemarle County | Posted June 1



ASSISTANT ELECTIONS

MANAGER | Albemarle County | Posted June 1



PUBLIC SAFETY **COMMUNICATIONS OFFICER** Albemarle County | Posted June 1



SENIOR ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT Orange County | Posted May 29



CONSTRUCTION **INSPECTOR** | City of Fredericksburg | Posted May 29



NETWORK ENGINEER Orange County | Posted May 29



UTILITY LOCATOR James City County | Posted May 29



CLINIC SECRETARY James City County | Posted May 29



CONVENIENCE CENTER

ATTENDANT | James City County | Posted May 29



CUSTODIAN PART TIME/

TEMPORARY | Prince George County | Posted May 28

Chesapeake ASSISTANT CITY

ATTORNEY | City of Chesapeake | Posted May 26



INTERN ENGINEERING & STORMWATER SERVICES Montgomery County | Posted May 26



RECYCLING ATTENDANT

& ALTERNATE RECYCLING **ATTENDANT** | Montgomery County | Posted May 22



SUMMER CAMP **COUNSELOR** | New Kent County | Posted May 21



REGIONAL IAIL SUPERINTENDENT | Piedmont Regional Jail | Post May 19

lampbell Count

GIS PROGRAM

MANAGER | Campbell County | Posted May 15



BUILDING **MAINTENANCE LEADER** | James City **County** | Posted May 15



SECURITY & CUSTODIAL SUPERINTENDENT **James City County** | Posted May 15



ANIMAL CONTROL

OFFICER | James City County | Posted May 15



MAINTENANCE **SPECIALIST** | Frederick County

| Posted May 14



ADMINISTRATOR | Goochland County | Posted May 13

BACK PAGE

County Connections | Page 36

VALUE OF VACo



ADVOCACY

VACo's lobbying efforts have helped stem the tide of unfunded mandates and have saved Counties millions of dollars every year.



EDUCATION

Our educational programs offer County leaders and staff opportunities to become more effective in their communities.



MEMBERSHIP ENGAGEMENT

Some of VACo's best moments are when members convene and work to improve communities all over the Commonwealth.



BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT

Our business development opportunities offer savings and innovative approaches to delivering services at the County level.

VACo LEADERSHIP



President Stephen W. Bowen Nottoway County



First Vice President Meg Bohmke Stafford County



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



President-Elect Jeff C. McKay Fairfax County



Second Vice President Jason D. Bellows Lancaster County



Immediate Past President Sherrin C. Alsop King and Queen County

VACo STAFF

Executive Director Dean A. Lynch, CAE
Director of Intergovernmental Affairs Jeremy R. Bennett
Director of Government Affairs Katie Boyle
Director of Member Services Carol I. Cameron
General Counsel Phyllis A. Errico, Esq., CAE
Director of Communications A. Gage Harter
Director of Technical Services John N. Kandris, A+, ACT, CCA
Director of Local Government Policy Joe Lerch, AICP
Director of Government Relations Chris J. McDonald, Esq.
Administrative Secretary Valerie M. Russell
Director of Administration and Finance Vicky D. Steinruck, CPA
Coordinator of Programs and Development Karie Walker

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

1207 East Main Street | Suite 300 Richmond, VA 23219-3627 Phone: 804.788.6652 | <u>www.vaco.org</u>



County Connections is a semimonthly publication.