Over 400 Attend Local Government Day

Thank you to all who participated and attended the VACo/VML/VAPDC Local Government Day on February 3 in Richmond. Attendees heard from Secretary of Public Safety and Homeland Security Bob Mosier, who has served as Fauquier County Sheriff since 2016. Also addressing local leaders was Deputy Attorney General Chuck Slemp, who hails from Southwest Virginia and has served as Commonwealth’s Attorney for Wise County and the City of Norton since 2015.

VACo and VML staff gave legislative reports on bills still active in the General Assembly so attendees could visit their legislators and advocate on behalf of localities. Many local leaders attended committee meetings, testified on bills, spoke to legislators about local concerns, and experienced the General Assembly Session in full swing. Again, thank you to all who participated to help advocate for localities.
The 2022 graduates of the VACo Chairpersons’ Institute. Not pictured - Clyde DeLoach, Patrick County; Debbie Donehey, Rappahannock County; and Margaret Franklin, Prince William County

Thirty chairs and vice chairs from across the Commonwealth engaged with experts and peers for a day-and-a-half of learning on February 4-5 in Richmond. The county leaders participated in VACo’s annual Chairperson's Institute, which focuses on the specific roles of the Chair - including meeting management, communications, work relationships, leadership, and goal setting. An overview of county government and the work of county supervisors are also covered.

VACo thanks our sponsors for their generous support of the event - Aetna, Baker Tilly, Blue Line Solutions, The Berkley Group, VAcorp, and VML/VACo Finance. VACo is a much better organization with these sponsors on our side.

[Click here to see photos] of the 2022 Chairperson’s Institute graduates. We already are looking forward to next year’s event.
Supervisor’s educational career keeps county past in perspective

Odessa Pride didn’t love her high school experience, being one of 15 Black students in recently integrated Charlotte County, Va. But despite the intimidation and overt acts of racism she experienced, she knew she had it better than her peers across the border.

In neighboring Prince Edward County, nearly 1,700 Black students spent five years fending for themselves for an education after the Board of Supervisors closed the public school system by eliminating its budget, the extreme end of Virginia’s “massive resistance” to the U.S. Supreme Court’s Brown v. Board of Education ruling. From 1959-1964, they lived with relatives near and far where they could go to school, traveled to a junior college in North Carolina or stayed home and worked, all of which begat long-term social, educational and economic consequences for a generation.

All of that was on the top of Pride’s mind throughout a career teaching English in Prince Edward County schools before serving as principal of the middle and high school she wouldn’t have been able to attend. She’s now in her second term as a county supervisor and is the vice-chair of the Virginia Association of Counties’ Education Steering Committee. And while she wants to help the county continue to move beyond its segregationist past, she doesn’t want those years to be forgotten.

“We thought about it all the time,” she said. “People say we’re still using [the closure] as an excuse, but the effects from segregation and the closure last for a long time. People’s families broke up so the children could go to school somewhere else, and some families are still suffering because of opportunities their parents and grandparents didn’t have.”
She compared the stunted educational development to the learning loss students have experienced during the COVID-19 pandemic, and that has motivated her to advocate for broadband expansion in her rural county of 23,000 to ensure educational resources are available to more people in their homes.

While she didn’t experience Prince Edward County’s school closures firsthand, she saw what it meant to people close to her. Her late husband, Roger, did not go to school for a year, and graduated late because of the closure, while his sisters moved away to different states. Her longtime assistant when she was principal, Rita Odom Moseley, lost two years of school before moving, by herself, to Blacksburg, Va. to attend school. In her 60s, Moseley earned a bachelor’s and a master’s and has since published several books, including one about the county school closure.

Those reminders motivated Pride not just to keep in mind the consequences of closure decades later on some of her students, but to forge ahead without holding grudges against the Board on which she now sits.

“My philosophy has always been ‘Do unto others as you would have them do unto you,’” she said. “We have a lot of problems we are trying to solve with student achievement that we won’t help with bitterness.”

In 2008, while returning home from a Prince Edward County basketball game, she and Roger were struck head-on in a crash that killed him and severely injured her. After recuperating for a year, she returned to school administration and defended her doctoral dissertation.

“Even when I was a kid, my father stressed the importance of education,” she said. “He only went to school until sixth grade, but he knew there was something about me that I would love learning.”

As she neared retirement, friends extolled her to stay active, and she began attending county Board of Supervisors meetings, and saw a new calling. With the encouragement from parents of students she had taught over the years, she ran and won in 2015.

Though the schools integrated 50 years prior to her taking office, she made it a point during her campaign to declare that the Board of Supervisors would not allow the schools to close again. As assistant principal of the middle school in the early 2000s, she worked with a program at neighboring Hampden-Sydney College to bring undergraduates into the school system to talk about the closure’s lasting legacy, which for many outsiders, was the first time they had learned in detail about the measures the county Board took to oppose integration.

In the county seat of Farmville, a museum preserves the Robert R. Moton School, which supported 400 Black students in a building designed for half that many. There, in 1951, students organized a walkout to protest the underfunded school’s conditions, which included tar paper shack outbuilding classrooms with no insulation that leaked during the rain.

A lawsuit challenging segregation in the county resulting from the walkout, Davis v. County School Board of Prince Edward County, was one of five combined into Brown v. Board of Education. That began a long-term planning process to assemble private schools for White students, in a process detailed by journalist Kristen Green’s Something Must Be Done About Prince Edward County and Bob Smith’s They Closed Their Schools.

The schools were reopened after the Supreme Court case Griffin v. County School Board of Prince Edward County found that the county’s defunding of the public school system violated the Constitution’s Equal Protection Clause because the county’s private school vouchers were useless when private schools did not accept Black students.

Fifty years to the date after the county supervisors voted to defund the public school system, the 2009 Board dedicated a Light of Reconciliation marker on the courthouse lawn. It commemorates the role the Moton school children, led by Barbara Rose Johns, had in ending legalized segregation and apologizing for the consequences that segregation and the closure had on the county’s Black children.

For nearly 20 years, a state-funded scholarship program has funded educational pursuits by those affected students, like Pride’s assistant Moseley, who is pursuing a doctorate.

“She’s a living example of what a Black lady can do even when she’d been wronged the way she was,” Pride said.

And she inspires Pride a little, maybe enough to tip the scales as she considers going back to graduate school.

“I just love learning,” Pride said. “It’s what I want to do for the rest of my life.”
Visit Scott County and the Daniel Boone Wilderness Trail

One of the nation’s most historic routes, the Daniel Boone Wilderness Trail was blazed by the legendary frontiersman in 1775 from the Long Island of the Holston at what is now Kingsport TN, through the Cumberland Gap of Virginia into Kentucky. It would become the route for thousands of settlers to the western frontier.

Long before Columbus discovered America, the Wilderness Trail was a major link in the trail systems of the Indians on the North American continent, used for commerce and raids. Gabriel Arthur, a young indentured servant, was the first of record to travel the route and see the Cumberland Gap, a natural break in the mountains. Arthur was sent along the trail in 1674 by the Shawnee Indians to secure a trade agreement with settlers. The next recorded man to see the Gap was Dr. Thomas Walker in 1750.

The most daring effort to colonize the rich lands of the Kentucky River area were those of Colonel Richard Henderson, a Superior Court judge of North Carolina. Henderson decided the best way to secure the area was to deal directly with the Cherokee Indians. He discussed plans with friends, and they formed the Transylvania Company and solicited the assistance of Boone in negotiating with the Indians and blazing the trail.

On March 10, 1775, Boone led his 30 trail blazers from Long Island of the Holston to cut the trail through some 200 miles of wilderness northwest through the Cumberland Gap and into Kentucky.

Thanks to the Daniel Boone Wilderness Road Trail Association, today, travelers can follow the Wilderness Trail as closely as possible along the original route. Several historical stops are available along the route, and it makes a great day-long road trip through the scenic rolling hills and valleys of Scott County, VA into Lee County, VA to the Cumberland Gap into Kentucky.

Travelers may begin their journey at any juncture along the Wilderness Road. Some of the more significant stops are listed below. For detailed map: https://danielboonetrail.com/trail-map/.

SOURCE: Explore Scott County
MARK YOUR CALENDAR

FRIDAY, APRIL 29 AND SATURDAY, APRIL 30 | Omni Richmond Hotel

VACo COUNTY SUPERVISORS' FORUM

NAME ____________________________________________
TITLE ______________________ EMAIL ______________________

COUNTY/ORGANIZATION ______________________________________

CREDIT CARD NUMBER ______________________ EXPIRATION DATE __________

NAME ON CARD ____________________________________________

Hotel Reservation Details: Lodging costs are not covered in the registration fee. The Forum is held at the Omni Richmond Hotel, 100 South 12th Street, Richmond, VA 23219. Room rates start at $145 (single room occupancy). To reserve a hotel room, call 804.344.7000 by April 5, 2022, with this code: VACo Supervisors Meeting-One Day Chair or reserve a room at this Omni Richmond Hotel link.

Fax completed registration form with credit card information to 804.788.0083

Or please make check payable to VACo. Mail check and completed registration form to 1207 East Main Street, Richmond, VA 23219

Click here to register online

Registration Fee
$350 if you need Supervisors' Manual
$275 if you already have Supervisors' Manual
$175 Guest

Refund Policy: Requests for registration refunds are honored if received by April 8, 2022. Substitutions are allowed in the event a supervisor is unable to attend. For more information, call VACo at 804.788.6652.

www.vaco.org
Thanks to an extraordinarily successful public-private partnership, Lumos now offers consumers and businesses in the Alleghany Highlands access to a state-of-the-art, 100% fiber-optic network—a network that we believe will be an essential key to the region’s growth. We call the Lumos network “future-proof” because of its ability to easily handle the high demands for internet that will be required in years to come.

We worked on the Alleghany Highlands initiative with the US Department of Agriculture’s Rural Utilities Service initiative in collaboration with local leadership in the county, city, and towns in the Alleghany Highlands. The completion of the fiber expansion marks a significant increase of more than 12,000 fiber-capable addresses and the addition of more than 650 route miles of fiber within the Alleghany Highlands.

Our ultra-high-speed fiber internet service provides speeds the region has never had before, reducing the digital divide and placing Alleghany Highlands at the forefront of America’s emerging gig economy. With our 100% fiber network, Alleghany Highlands leapfrogs a generation, enabling an economic boom and the ability to continue attracting and retaining the best and brightest who want to live and work in this beautiful region.

Tomorrow’s gig economy will demand a fiber network like the one the Alleghany Highlands now has to provide the reliability and consistently fast download and upload connections necessary for applications including HD quality video meetings, virtual learning, latency-free VR gaming, e-commerce, and cloud computing. With the huge asset of a universal fiber-optic network, we believe the Alleghany Highlands is well-positioned for a bright future.

And we’re just getting started. Lumos passionately believes that completion of the Alleghany Highlands project demonstrates the effectiveness of public-private partnerships to bring ultra-high-speed fiber internet service to rural communities, helping close the digital divide. We have an eye to the future and look forward to expanding our 100% fiber network to other regions in the near future.

To discuss how Lumos can help your county reach your broadband goals, contact us at Community@LumosFiber.com.
VACo President Meg Bohmke (top photo, left of microphone) managed her first Board of Directors Meeting on February 3. Bohmke was elected President at VACo's 2021 Annual Conference.
Rockingham County is pleased to announce the promotion of Trish Davidson to Assistant County Administrator for Finance and Operations effective February 1, 2022.

Trish has served as the Director of Finance for Rockingham County since January 2016. The majority of Trish’s more than 20 years of professional experience has been spent serving in local County governments in Virginia.

The foundation for Trish’s professional expertise began at Virginia Commonwealth University where she earned her Bachelor of Arts degree in Business Administration. Furthering her specialized knowledge of finance, Trish earned her Master’s Degree in Professional Accounting from Strayer University. As the immediate Past President of the Virginia Government Finance Officers’ Association, Trish’s professional excellence and reputation extends throughout Virginia.

Trish will continue to serve as the County’s Director of Finance. In this role, Trish has consistently exemplified and faithfully fostered financial excellence in and for Rockingham County by skillfully and effectively managing all aspects of the County’s financial requirements. Trish is responsible for all accounts payable and payroll processes for the County and for Rockingham County Schools. She secures and oversees the procurement needs for all departments of the County; she spearheads the capital improvement planning; she serves on the investment team; she leads the development and creation of the annual budget and the annual financial audit, and Trish works cooperatively with the Rockingham County Commissioner of the Revenue and the County Treasurer. In addition to her duties relating to every aspect of the County’s finances, Trish serves as co-chair of the Children Services Act’s Community Policy and Management Team and serves on the Middle River Regional Jail Board.

Trish’s willingness to be the Rockingham County Assistant Administrator for Finance and Operations further fortifies the experiential and pragmatic leadership of the County’s executive management team including County Administrator, Stephen King; Assistant County Administrator for Development, Casey Armstrong; and County Attorney, Tom Miller.
Roanoke County Announces Personnel Changes

Roanoke County Administrator Richard L. Caywood, P.E. is pleased to announce the appointment of Rebecca E. Owens as Deputy County Administrator and Doug M. Blount as Assistant County Administrator. The appointments are effective today.

“Rebecca and Doug each bring unique skill sets to our organization and share a commitment to serving our community,” said Caywood. “Their experience and strong leadership skills will further guide the strategic direction of our organization. I look forward to their contributions as we look to the future.”

In her new role as Deputy County Administrator, Owens will have overall responsibility for the County’s financial operations. Her management responsibilities will include Police; Fire & Rescue; Social Services; Finance & Management Services; Communications & Information Technology; Real Estate Valuation; and Internal Audit. Additionally, she will serve as the liaison to the Commissioner of the Revenue, Treasurer, Sheriff, Commonwealth’s Attorney, and Clerk of the Circuit Court.

“I am happy about this opportunity to further serve Roanoke County,” said Owens. “Through continued collaboration with our experienced team, I believe we will build upon what we have accomplished for our citizens.”

Owens was appointed Assistant County Administrator in 2019. She previously served as Roanoke County’s Director of Finance since 2003 where she was responsible for oversight of Accounting, Purchasing, Payroll, Risk Management, Debt Management, Grant Management, and Financial Systems. Prior to coming to Roanoke County in 2000, Owens worked for the City of Salem in the Finance Department.

Owens holds a Bachelor of Business Administration degree from Roanoke College and a Master of Business Administration degree from Averett University. She is professionally active as a member of the Government Finance Officers’ Association, Virginia Government Finance Officers’ Association, Virginia Local Government Management Association, and International City/County Management Association. Owens has more than 29 years of experience in local government. She resides in Roanoke County.

Blount began his service with Roanoke County in 2011. He has served as the County’s Director of Parks, Recreation & Tourism and General Services departments. In his new role as Assistant County Administrator, Blount will have overall responsibility for the County’s capital program delivery. His management responsibilities will include Economic Development; Parks, Recreation & Tourism; General Services; Development Services; Libraries; and Planning.

Additionally, he will serve as the liaison for the Elections Office.

“I am delighted to bring my experience to the executive team,” said Blount. “I have a passion for the region and improving its livability. I look forward to working with departments on the County’s initiatives to benefit our citizens, visitors and businesses.”

Blount is a native of Roanoke County and has more than 26 years of experience in local government. Prior to joining Roanoke County, he worked for 15 years at the Prince William County Park Authority in various leadership roles.

Mr. Blount holds a Bachelor of Business Administration degree from East Tennessee State University. He and his wife Melissa have been married for 26 years and reside in Roanoke County. They have a daughter at Virginia Tech and a son at Glenvar High School.
VACo Board Member and Isle of Wight County Vice-Chairman William McCarty gave the invocation on February 7 in the House of Delegates.
York County Staff Announcements and Promotions

January 25, 2022

York County’s Department of Economic Development and Tourism Development Office have joined to become the Department of Economic and Tourism Development. The merger became effective at the end of 2021.

Jim Noel, Director of Economic Development for 28 years, helms the department. Under his leadership, in addition to promoting business expansion in the County, the Economic Development Department developed an award-winning home-based business program that is utilized by many localities in the state and nation.

Kristi Olsen, former manager of Tourism Development, has been promoted to Deputy Director. The County’s Tourism program began as an office of one (Kristi herself) in 2002 and has grown to become a dynamic function that has overseen the opening of the revitalized waterfront area – Riverwalk Landing – and the development of several events that have drawn visitors to historic Yorktown.

The County has hired Matt Johnson to serve as Assistant Director. Matt joins the Department of Economic and Tourism Development from the City of Newport News. He is a graduate of Christopher Newport University and is highly knowledgeable about many regional initiatives and partnerships of which York County is a member.

York County’s Department of Information Technology has new leadership effective February 1. Tim Wyatt, formerly the Deputy Director, has been promoted to Director of Information Technology (IT) upon the retirement of Dr. Adam Frisch. Tim joined York County IT in 2004 and prior to that served as an intern. Among other responsibilities, the IT department ensures the security of the public’s electronic interactions with the County. In furtherance of that mission, Tim developed and presented a citizen cybersecurity program that has been presented to many groups and has won both state and national awards.
The 2022 General Assembly session began last week as legislators deliberated on many issues of critical importance to local government, including the state budget, broadband, education funding, economic development, public safety, taxes and other policy matters.

VACo will continually provide updates during the session through Capitol Contact. VACo Members - To ensure that you are receiving Capitol Contact, please send Gage Harter your best email address.

- January 13, 2022: 2022 General Assembly Convenes
- January 18, 2022: CAPITOL CONTACT ALERT! Local Financing Authority for School Capital Construction to be Heard Tomorrow – Call Senate Finance and Appropriations Committee Members to Support
- January 18, 2022: Legislation Would Restrict County Taxing Authority
- January 20, 2022: Bills Would Impose Restrictions on Local Budget Process
- January 25, 2022: School Construction Bill Passes Senate with Bipartisan Support
- January 27, 2022: CAPITOL CONTACT ALERT! School Construction Bill to be Heard Tomorrow Morning – Call House Finance Subcommittee Members to Support the Bills
- January 27, 2022: Grocery Tax Elimination under Consideration
- January 28, 2022: CAPITOL CONTACT ALERT! Several Bills Limiting County Taxing Authority to be Heard Monday – Contact Your Legislators to Oppose
- January 28, 2022: Several Bills Limiting County Taxing Authority to be Heard Monday
- January 31, 2022: CAPITOL CONTACT ALERT! Bill Placing Restrictions on County Budget Process to be Heard Tomorrow – Please Contact Legislators to Oppose
- February 1, 2022: Problematic Bills Fail to Move Forward
- February 3, 2022: VACo Legislative Day Bulletin
- February 8, 2022: CAPITOL CONTACT ALERT! Grocery Tax Legislation to be Considered in Senate Finance and Appropriations Again This Week – Contact Legislators TODAY!
- February 8, 2022: Grocery Tax Legislation to be Considered in Senate Finance and Appropriations Again This Week
- February 9, 2022: CAPITOL CONTACT ALERT! Bill placing restrictions on local budget process to be heard tomorrow in House Finance – please call legislators to oppose
- February 10, 2022: Oppose Statewide Expanded Disclosure Requirements in Land Use Proceedings Bill that would Prevent Local Elected Officials from Voting in Certain Situations
Draper Aden Associates Releases Annual Water and Wastewater Rate Report

By Adrianna Dimperio and Rebecca Naurath | Draper Aden Associates

The 33rd Annual Virginia Water and Wastewater Rate Report 2021

Understanding water and wastewater rate trends is crucial for public utilities and municipalities, including counties, across Virginia. The Commonwealth boasts more than 250 public providers of water and wastewater services that are active in every size and type of community. This variety can make it difficult for providers to effectively analyze statewide trends and set benchmarks when considering their rates. Are your water and wastewater rates in line with similar communities? Perhaps those rates are lower than average, meaning that your community could be losing revenue. Similarly, when municipalities and water and wastewater providers consider rate changes it’s vital that they provide context for proposed rates.

That’s why Draper Aden Associates has produced the Virginia Water and Wastewater Rate report for
more than three decades. These reports are essential resources for public utilities and are eagerly anticipated. The 2021 edition of the report was released in November 2021.

Similar to previous years, the firm collaborated with the Virginia Association of Counties to conduct the water and wastewater rate survey.

The two most significant findings from the 2021 survey are related to rate changes. First, the average water rate across the Commonwealth increased by 3.3 percent in 2021 and the average sewer rate increased by 4.3 percent. The water rate increase was slightly lower than previous years and the wastewater rate was slightly higher. Since 2011, water rates have increased by approximately 3.5 percent per year and wastewater rates have increased by approximately 3.9 percent per year. These increases occurred across a control group of representative utilities that allows the report to extrapolate trends across the state.

Second, 48 percent of respondents reported a water rate increase in 2021 while 47 percent of respondents increased sewer rates in 2021. Thus, approximately half of all providers raised rates.

The most significant opportunity on the horizon for public utilities is funding related to the American Rescue Plan Act (APRA). These funds offer potential transformational resources for public utilities. For example, this money would allow public utilities to invest in water and wastewater infrastructure projects. Additionally, these funds could offset the need for higher rates and capital recovery charges in 2022. Creating a strategy to leverage these funds will be critical for public utilities. A recent ARPA Q&A for utilities offers helpful resources.

The 33rd Annual Virginia Water and Wastewater Rate Report was produced by Draper Aden Associates in collaboration with leading trade associations that support municipalities and utilities, including the Virginia Association of Counties. The 2021 Virginia Water and Wastewater Report and previous reports are available for download on the Draper Aden website.

*Adrianna Dimperio is the Utilities Division Manager and Rebecca Naurath is a Project Engineer with Draper Aden Associates, an engineering, surveying, and environmental services firm in the Mid-Atlantic. They are the primary authors of the annual Virginia Water and Wastewater Rate Report. Adrianna can be contacted at adimperio@daa.com and Rebecca can be contacted at rnaurath@daa.com.
JOIN US FOR A BUS TOUR:
NEXT GENERATION AGRICULTURAL PRACTICES TO FOSTER A RESILIENT RURAL ECONOMY

When: Thursday, March 31 - Friday, April 1, 2022
Where: Meet in Richmond and travel to the Lower Eastern Shore

- Experience a two-day peer-to peer learning exchange focused on next generation agricultural practices.
- Discover the Barrier Islands Center, enjoy a stop at the Chatham Winery, explore the Volgenau Virginia Coast Reserve on land and by boat at the Brownsville Preserve
- Connect with invited local and state leaders including State Senator Linwood Louis and State Delegate Rob Blossom

FREE of charge

Generously supported by Virginia Environmental Endowment

CLICK HERE FOR REGISTRATION INFORMATION
Calling all rural Virginia law enforcement! Are you interested in learning more about how alternative fuel vehicles can serve your fleets?

Join us on February 15th for a free webinar, to hear from experts and law enforcement fleets with experience. Joining us will be Major Wells from Spotsylvania County, VA, and Chief Koskinas from Westport, CT. Major Wells will be sharing their experience with propane vehicles in their fleet and Chief Koskinas will do the same for electric. We will also be joined by propane and electric vehicle experts, so please bring your questions!

The event will be on February, 15th from 2-3pm in a virtual webinar using the registration link button below.

REGISTER HERE
The Virginia Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) is providing notification of an opportunity for public comment on the proposed changes to the Virginia Solid Waste Management Regulations, 9 VAC 20-81 (Amendment 9).

The Virginia Solid Waste Management Regulations establish standards and procedures for the siting, design, construction, operation, maintenance, closure, and post-closure care of solid waste management facilities in the Commonwealth. The regulations also establish standards and procedures pertaining to the general management of solid wastes.

**Proposed Changes to the VA Solid Waste Management Regulations**

The regulations are being amended in response to a 2019 periodic review to strengthen some requirements to be more protective of human health and the environment, to clarify some existing requirements, to address recommended regulatory changes in the Secretary of Natural and Historic Resources’ report to the Governor in response to Executive Order 6 (2018), and to include editorial corrections.

The main goal of this amendment is to improve standards for the siting, operation and monitoring of landfills. Operational requirements for non-landfill facilities (such as transfer stations, materials recovery facilities, compost facilities, incinerators, etc.) have also been updated. This amendment also proposes to prohibit open burning of household waste (except for vegetative waste, clean wood, and clean paper products) on private property in order to be more protective of human health and the environment. Under the proposal, only vegetative waste, clean wood and clean paper products will be allowed to be open burned on private property when no regular collection services are available.

The Proposed Text of the regulations and an Agency Background Document summarizing the proposed changes are available on the Virginia Regulatory Town Hall website at https://www.townhall.virginia.gov/L/ViewStage.cfm?stageid=9457.

**Public Comment Period February 14, 2022 – May 16, 2022**

DEQ will accept written public comments on the proposed changes to the regulations starting on February 14, 2022 and continuing through May 16, 2022.

Comments on the proposed regulation can be submitted through the Public Comment Forum on the Virginia Regulatory Town Hall website. DEQ also accepts written comments by e-mail, fax, postal mail, and hand-delivery. Comments must be received by DEQ in writing no later than 11:59 pm on the last day of the public comment period. Comments must include the full name, address, and telephone number of the person commenting. All testimony, exhibits and documents received are part of the public record.

If you would like to sign up to receive free email notifications from Virginia Regulatory Town Hall concerning regulatory actions, please register as a town hall public user.
Opportunity for Public Comment on VA Regulated Medical Waste Management Regulations

The Virginia Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) is providing this notification of an opportunity for public comment on the proposed changes to the Virginia Regulated Medical Waste Management Regulations, 9 VAC 20-120 (Amendment 3).

The Regulated Medical Waste Management Regulations establish standards and procedures pertaining to regulated medical waste management, including permit requirements for regulated medical waste transfer stations and treatment facilities. Requirements for packaging, labeling, storing and transporting regulated medical waste, as well as exemptions from the regulation, are also included. More information is available on DEQ's medical waste webpage.

Proposed Changes to the Regulated Medical Waste Management Regulations
The regulations are being amended in order to modernize the standards for general handling and treatment of regulated medical waste based on current industry best management practices.

The goals of the amendment are to clarify the requirements for regulated medical waste generators (doctor's offices, hospitals, pharmacies, etc.) and permitted regulated medical waste management facilities, improve permitting procedures, and streamline the regulations for ease of use while still protecting the health, safety, and welfare of citizens.

This amendment also clarifies requirements for citizens to safely package and dispose of household sharps/needles as well as updates requirements for the management of public sharps drop boxes.

The Proposed Text of the regulations and an Agency Background Document summarizing the proposed changes are available on the Virginia Regulatory Town Hall website at https://townhall.virginia.gov/L/ViewStage.cfm?stageid=8858.

Public Comment Period January 31, 2022 - April 18, 2022
DEQ will accept written public comments on the proposed changes to the regulations starting on January 31, 2022 and continuing through April 18, 2022.

Comments on the proposed regulation can be submitted through the Public Comment Forum on the Virginia Regulatory Town Hall website. DEQ also accepts written comments by e-mail, fax, postal mail, and hand-delivery. Comments must be received by DEQ in writing no later than 11:59 pm on the last day of the public comment period. Comments must include the full name, address, and telephone number of the person commenting. All testimony, exhibits and documents received are part of the public record.

If you would like to sign up to receive free email notifications from Virginia Regulatory Town Hall concerning regulatory actions, please register as a town hall public user.
Acknowledging State Graduates from NACo Leadership Academy

Eighteen Virginia County staff members participated in the NACo Leadership Academy, a 12-week online program that empowers front-line county government employees with fundamental leadership skills. Across the country, 4,500 county employees participated.

Virginia County staff to complete the Academy are:

- **Timothy Heck**, Assistant Director, Campbell County
- **William “Billy” Ferguson**, Director of Public Safety, Franklin County
- **Kenneth Parker**, Programs Coordinator, Greensville County
- **Jamie Orrison**, Recreation Enterprise Manager, Prince William County
- **Vernon Payne**, Sports Services Manager, Prince William County
- **Sara Wheeler**, Division Manager, Prince William County
- **Jennifer Chitwood**, Technical Services Supervisor, Roanoke County
- **Bill Dingus**, Director of Public Works, Scott County
- **Shenandra Usher**, Assistant CFO for Operations, Albemarle County
- **Tara Smith**, Senior Library Assistant, Youth Services, Roanoke County
- **Sherry Bowman**, Division Manager, Prince William County
- **Grace Boone**, Director General and Capital Services Department, James City County
- **Paul Santay**, Director of Citizen and Community Development, Stafford County
- **Betsy Strawderman**, Deputy Director, Prince William County
- **Roderick Burton**, Director of Information Technology, Albemarle County
- **Hashim Taylor**, Recreation Program Manager, Prince William County

Congratulations to all these individuals who completed the program. To learn more about the Academy, visit the NACo website here. Enrollment is now open for 2022.
Blue Line Solutions’ TrueBlue Highway Safety Program in School Zones and Construction Zones is not about revenue generation.

Their photo speed enforcement public safety program is a data driven, solutions approach that includes public information and education throughout the life of the program and a 30-day initial warning period in new programs before citations are issued.

This short video outlines their background, mission, and remarkable program results: https://youtu.be/xamPdkBCa0U

The Blue Line Solutions Mission:
We Strive for Zero
  Zero Injuries
  Zero Fatalities
  Zero Crashes

Please contact Greg Hogston for more information: ghogston@bluelinesolutions.org or 276.759.8064
Interested in the Graduate Certificate in Local Government Management?

Attend an info session. Get your questions answered.

During these info sessions, we will review the benefits and opportunities available through the local government program; course requirements, and the connection to our MPA program (electives and course substitutions).

- **February 15, 2022**: 12pm-1pm | Register to attend: [Click here]
- **March 15, 2022**: 12pm-1pm | Register to attend: [Click here]
- **April 12, 2022**: 12pm-1pm | Register to attend: [Click here]
- **May 10, 2022**: 12pm-1pm | Register to attend: [Click here]

**About the Program**

The Virginia Tech Center for Public Administration and Policy (CPAP), in partnership with the Virginia Local Government Management Association, offers a graduate certificate program in [local government management](#) that 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, department directors or others.

For more information, please contact Stephanie Davis, [sddavis@vt.edu](mailto:sddavis@vt.edu) or 804-980-5549.
Virginia Association of Counties Regions

Share your thoughts to the VACo Region Reapportionment Committee

VACo’s reapportionment committee has been formed under the leadership of Chair Steve Bowen and Vice Chair Penny Gross and is in the process of collecting information to assist in the reapportionment process. The committee seeks your input on regional representation on the VACo Board of Directors.

Please share your thoughts by clicking on this link and filling out the form.
It is our pleasure to share with you all of the topics we covered in 2021 with our partners across the country. The links below highlight the great work of our clients across the nation who contend with the same challenges that you do everyday.

We had some amazing developments in 2021, including but not limited to: completing the BNY Mellon Accelerator program, awarded the Texas BuyBoard contracts, as well developing a new client portal that will release the first quarter of 2022. In case you missed any of the incredible insights from 2021, those resources are recapped at this link.

VACo Webinar

During this April 14th presentation you will hear from Garrett Macdonald, Vice President of cashVest® by three+one®, discusses how cashVest® by three+one® helps counties maximize the value of every dollar on deposit.
More than 250 government agencies across all 50 states use Qualtrics to improve the citizen experience, increase employee engagement, improve their reputation and to boost public trust in government by utilizing their robust research, cloud-based, platform. Qualtrics is also ECOS approved in Virginia. Please watch as Dean Lynch and Jeff Steinberg discuss the many different applications of Qualtrics for government organizations.

For more information, please visit www.qualtrics/government.com.

Watch the Premier Partner Video
OMNIA Partners is excited to announce new cooperative contracts you can access immediately.

**Arts, Crafts, Framing, and Related Services**
This cooperative contract with Michaels offers core pricing on over 800+ Core Education items and contract pricing on over 100,000 items. The new MichaelsPro Education Platform allows participants of OMNIA Partners to purchase items using POs or P-Cards.

**Warehousing, Material Handling, and Production Support**
Global Industrial is an industry leader for public agencies specializing in solutions that help you focus on your agency's needs. Participants have access to a large selection of products, low prices, and extensive account management tools. Kaman Industrial Technologies provides power transmission, automation, and control products to participants.

**ATI Restoration, LLC**
Participants can now access ATI Restoration, LLC's 24-hour emergency response services to address environmental hazards and mitigate damage following a fire, water, and other natural or man-made disasters.

**IT Security Tools**
Fischer Identity is a provider of enterprise-grade Identity Governance & Administration ("IGA") solutions available via on-premise, private or public cloud with varying levels of administrative and professional services support provided via Managed Identity Services® through the OMNIA Partners cooperative contract.

Click here to view more contracts and to see how OMNIA Partners can help save you money.
Celebrate Your County’s Most Innovative Programs

2022 NACo Achievement Awards

Applications are now open for the National Association of Counties (NACo) [2022 Achievement Awards. Please join us in celebrating 52 years of county innovation by applying today.

Since 1970, the NACo Achievement Awards have recognized outstanding county government programs and services. Through a non-competitive application process, noteworthy programs receive awards in 18 categories that cover a vast range of county responsibilities. By participating, your county can earn national recognition.

NACo will highlight the 18 “best of category” winners, as well as feature all winners in NACo materials and online. We also provide a customizable press release for you to share the good news with the media and residents.

We encourage all counties, parishes and boroughs to apply.

**EARLY BIRD APPLICATION DEADLINE:** March 4, 2022 (save $25 off the application fee)

**REGULAR APPLICATION DEADLINE:** March 31, 2022

For more information, please review the Achievement Awards [online brochure], or email [awards@naco.org] with any questions.

**APPLY TODAY**
VACo along with VML hosted representatives from the Office of the Attorney General, local government attorneys, and law firms involved in litigation with opioid manufacturers and distributors for a webinar on October 25 to inform localities about participation in the $26 billion national settlement with Janssen (a manufacturer of opioids) and several opioid distributors. Virginia stands to receive approximately $530 million over the course of the settlement period, with the exact amount dependent on participation by local governments. Local governments must join the settlement by January 2, 2022, to receive funds; participation requires a locality to adopt resolutions approving a Memorandum of Understanding with the Commonwealth and entering into the settlement agreement.

Under the terms of the settlement, 15 percent of the funds will be distributed to participating localities and are not restricted in their use, 15 percent will be distributed to participating localities for abatement purposes, 15 percent will remain with the Commonwealth, and 55 percent will be deposited to the Opioid Abatement Fund, which was established in the 2021 legislative session.

The Opioid Abatement Fund, which will be administered by the Opioid Abatement Authority, will divide its funds as follows: 15 percent to participating localities, 35 percent to participating localities’ regional partnerships, 15 percent to state agencies, and 35 percent for any of the preceding purposes or for administrative expenses. The statute creating the Authority states that its purpose is “to abate and remediate the opioid epidemic in the Commonwealth through financial support from the Fund, in the form of grants, donations, or other assistance, for efforts to treat, prevent, and reduce opioid use disorder and the misuse of opioids in the Commonwealth.” The Honorable James Holland, Chair of the Chesterfield County Board of Supervisors, serves on the Board of Directors of the Authority.

A recording of the October 25 webinar as well as the slide presentation and sample resolutions to approve the Memorandum of Understanding and participation in the settlement may be found on VACo’s website at this link: [https://www.vaco.org/legislative/virginia-opioid-abatement-information/](https://www.vaco.org/legislative/virginia-opioid-abatement-information/).

VACo Contacts: Katie Boyle and Phyllis A. Errico, Esq., CAE
SAVE THE DATE!

VACo Supervisors' Forum

Friday, April 29, 2022 and Saturday, April 30, 2022
Omni Richmond Hotel
New initiative will help counties improve public safety, enhance justice systems

Apply now: National Association of Counties will select five additional participants this spring

Arlington, VA (February 4, 2022) - The National Association of Counties (NACo) selected five counties to participate in a new program that will help improve public safety, enhance justice systems, and save taxpayers money. This spring, they’ll select five more. There is no cost for counties to apply or participate in the program called Convening County, Court & Justice Leaders: A Framework for Cross-System Collaboration Initiative.

Participating counties will evaluate how to best invest American Rescue Plan funds in their communities to support partnerships across different government branches. They’ll benefit from a full year of expert consulting which will help them create ways for courts and other justice system elements to work together. First, they’ll identify and prioritize local needs and review available resources. Then, they’ll work on developing evidence-based strategies to address those challenges by improving policies, practices and programs. The initiative concludes with a written implementation plan that addresses each county’s unique justice-related and public safety priorities. Counties will be able to showcase their efforts and outcomes in a nationally disseminated toolkit.

Criminal justice expert Tara Kunkel is one of the project leaders. She has served as a drug court administrator, probation officer, and criminal justice planner. As founder of Rulo Strategies and a former Senior Policy Advisor to the U.S. Department of Justice, Kunkel is well known for helping government agencies and departments collaborate. “I just love facilitating connections. By bringing together courts, jails, substance abuse providers, public health officials, and other stakeholders, we can make a real difference for justice-involved individuals and their communities all while saving taxpayers money.”

NACo launched the initiative with its partners at Rulo Strategies and Praxis Consulting. Funding comes from the State Justice Institute.

More Counties are Invited to Participate
NACo will select five more participants by the spring. Counties interested in participating should apply at https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/countyandcourts. The deadline is February 11 at 5pm eastern. Counties with application questions should contact NACo Justice Program Manager Elynn Lee at elee@naco.org.

Maintaining safe and secure communities is one of the most important functions of county governments. Effective collaboration between the county, the local court system, justice system partners and community-based organizations can increase public safety, improve communities and make it easier for people to access the services and supports they need to thrive. Courts also have a vested interest in developing relationships with county officials. “SJI is pleased to support this opportunity to enhance a collaborative and sustainable relationship between county leaders, judges and justice stakeholders,” said Jonathan Mattiello, Executive Director of the State Justice Institute (SJI).
Thank you for registering for the 2022 National Association of Counties (NACo) Legislative Conference. The mayor of the District of Columbia has issued a COVID vaccination mandate for all patrons entering indoor facilities, including conference venues. Per the D.C. mayoral requirement, all NACo Legislative Conference attendees must show proof of vaccination to enter meeting spaces, hotel common areas, restaurants, bars, coffee shops, gyms and other facilities included in the order. Click here to read the order and learn more at coronavirus.dc.gov/vaxdc.

REGISTRATION
Register today to secure early bird rates and hotel availability.

REGISTER TODAY | VIEW SCHEDULE

QUESTIONS?
We’re happy to help. Contact nacomeetings@naco.org or call 202-942-4292.
End To End Computing (EEC) a vetted GSA HACS approved contract holder has developed ...

**A Tailored Cybersecurity Program for VACo members**

Carlton Harris CTO of EEC will join Dean Lynch Executive Director of VACo in this month’s premier partner spotlight to discuss how VACo members can take advantage of our tailored cybersecurity program to make cybersecurity services more accessible. This program will feature:

**01 Cyber Hygiene Assessment**
A complementary cyber hygiene assessment program for members to identify gaps in their cybersecurity program and strategize methods for closing those gaps.

**02 Informative Training**
A series of joint training sessions scheduled throughout the year to registered members. Sessions will also include training collateral for combating common threats and best practices.

**03 Special Membership Pricing**
A catalog of discounted pricing to VACo members. (Ability to leverage GSA schedule for ease of procurement.)

[View this VACo Premier Partner Spotlight Video](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RnmFDyiHk00)

[www.eecomputing.com](http://www.eecomputing.com)  info@eecomputing.com  833-720-7770
With the release of the American Rescue Plan Act (ARP) funds, local governments have the opportunity to address the economic fallout and unequal impact of COVID-19. This is an incredible opportunity to increase trust in local government and tell your community’s story of recovery. The Berkley Group can help your community develop a roadmap to maximize return on investment and take the pressure off of managing all aspects of the funds and projects by offering the following services:

- Community Engagement;
- Strategic Planning;
- Capital Improvement Planning;
- Project Management; and
- Program Administration.

Take this time to reimagine your community — building a strong and socially equitable foundation for the future.
February 4, 2022

Re: ADA Coordinators Meeting on March 15, 2022 at 2 pm.

Dear Colleagues:

Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act ("ADA"), 42 U.S.C. §§ 12132, prohibits discrimination on the basis of disability in a range of critical areas, including the programs, services, and activities of all state and local governmental entities.

The ADA’s Title II regulations require public entities to take affirmative steps to ensure compliance with the ADA. One such affirmative step is to assign a responsible employee to coordinate a governmental entity’s ADA compliance. The ADA regulations require public entities that have 50 or more employees to designate at least one responsible employee to coordinate its ADA compliance. 28 C.F.R. § 35.107(a). State and local governments commonly refer to the individual with this responsibility as the "ADA Coordinator.

The ADA Coordinator’s role is to coordinate the public entity’s efforts to comply with the ADA and investigate any complaints that the entity has violated the ADA. For example, the Coordinator may serve as the point of contact for individuals with disabilities to request auxiliary aids and services, policy modifications, and other accommodations in order to participate in the services, programs, or activities of the public entity. The ADA Coordinator is also responsible for a public entity’s process for individuals to file a complaint or grievance with the entity, and addressing ADA concerns of the general public. Through the coordination role, the ADA Coordinator can communicate requirements to other individuals in the agency who may be unaware of their responsibilities. Contact information for the ADA Coordinator is to be provided to interested individuals, including the name, office address, email address, and telephone number. State and local governments typically provide such information in a prominent location on their websites and post such information in other public locations.

During the course of our ADA investigations, we have found that public entities that do not have an ADA Coordinator, or do not have an ADA Coordinator who is knowledgeable of the ADA’s requirements, are far more likely to misunderstand their obligations under the ADA, and more likely to violate the ADA.

My office is organizing an online video meeting of ADA Coordinators for state and local governmental entities in Virginia on March 15, 2022, at 2 pm, in order to provide information on steps that state and local governmental entities can take to comply with the ADA and provide an opportunity for questions and collaboration. Counties are invited to participate in the meeting. To register for the meeting click here.

If you currently do not have an ADA Coordinator, please have your entity’s representative register. See the adjacent letter.

Sincerely,

Jessica D. Aber
United States Attorney

By: ________________

STEVEN GORDON
Assistant United States Attorney
United States Attorney’s Office
2100 Jamieson Avenue
Alexandria, Virginia 22314
Telephone: (703) 299-3817

Email: steve.gordon@usdoj.gov
SUPERVISORS’ MANUAL

VIRGINIA COUNTY SUPERVISORS’ MANUAL

EIGHTH EDITION, 2019

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Virginia County Supervisors' Manual
8th Edition

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

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Or FAX credit card purchases to 804.788.0083
Questions? Call 804.788.6652.
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.

**New Kent**

**UTILITY SPECIALIST I** | New Kent County | Posted February 9

**FINANCE DIRECTOR** | Rockbridge County | Posted February 8

**BENEFIT PROGRAM SPECIALIST I** | Montgomery County | Posted February 8

**SEASONAL LANDSCAPING LABORER** | Montgomery County | Posted February 8

**IT COORDINATOR** | Mathews County | Posted February 7

**PROBATION OFFICER** | Prince George County | Posted February 7

**POLICE OFFICER** | Prince George County | Posted February 7

**COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR** | Gloucester County | Posted February 7

**DIRECTOR OF HUMAN RESOURCES** | Roanoke County | Posted February 7

**COURT SERVICES DIRECTOR** | Frederick County | Posted February 7

**SENIOR PLANNER** | City of Harrisonburg | Posted February 7

**DIRECTOR OF PLANNING & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT** | City of Colonial Heights | Posted February 4

**ENGINEERING SERVICE DIRECTOR** | Gloucester County | Posted February 4

**PLANNING DIRECTOR** | Warren County | Posted February 4

**LEGAL ASSISTANT** | Montgomery County | Posted February 4

**TAX TECHNICIAN I** | Montgomery County | Posted February 4

**PARK AIDE** | Gloucester County | Posted February 4

**ASSISTANT BRANCH MANAGER** | Chesterfield County | Posted February 4

**SOLID WASTE EQUIPMENT** | Hanover County | Posted February 4

**CHIEF OF OPERATIONS** | Hanover County | Posted February 4

**ENGINEERING SERVICE DIRECTOR** | Gloucester County | Posted February 4
EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

ASSISTANT COMMONWEALTH ATTORNEY | Carroll County | Posted February 4

SECRETARY | Carroll County | Posted February 4

IT PROJECT/APPLICATION ANALYST | Spotsylvania County | Posted February 4

RECREATION SPECIALIST | New Kent County | Posted February 4

CUSTODIAN FULL TIME | New Kent County | Posted February 4

DIRECTOR OF HUMAN RESOURCES | York County | Posted February 4

JUDICIAL LAW CLERK | Montgomery County |Posted February 4

COMMUNICATIONS DIRECTOR (ADMINISTRATIVE AIDE) | Fairfax County | Posted February 4

ENVIRONMENTAL SPECIALIST III | Fauquier County | Posted February 2

ZONING ADMINISTRATOR | Northampton County | Posted January 31

ANIMAL CONTROL OFFICER | Prince George County | Posted January 31

MANAGER I, ANIMAL CONTROL | Prince George County | Posted January 31

CLINICIAN – SCHOOL BASE CSB CLINICIAN | Hanover County | Posted January 31

PEER RECOVERY SPECIALIST | Hanover County | Posted January 31

PROJECT MANAGER | Town of Hamilton | Posted January 28

TAX TECHNICIAN I | Montgomery County | Posted January 28

PARKS & RECREATION SUMMER OPENINGS (SEASONAL & PT) | Montgomery County | Posted January 28

FAMILY SERVICES SPECIALIST | Montgomery County | Posted January 28

FINANCE DIRECTOR | Rockbridge County | Posted January 28

DIRECTOR OF FINANCE | Shenandoah County | Posted January 27

COMMUNICATIONS OFFICER | NRV Emergency Communications Regional Authority | Posted January 26

BUDGET & MANAGEMENT ANALYST I | Fauquier County | Posted January 26

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT (EMS) DIRECTOR | Patrick County | Posted January 26

RISK MANAGER | City of Chesapeake | Posted January 24
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.

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

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