

VIRGINIA ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES

ANNUAL CONFERENCE

REGISTER TODAY!

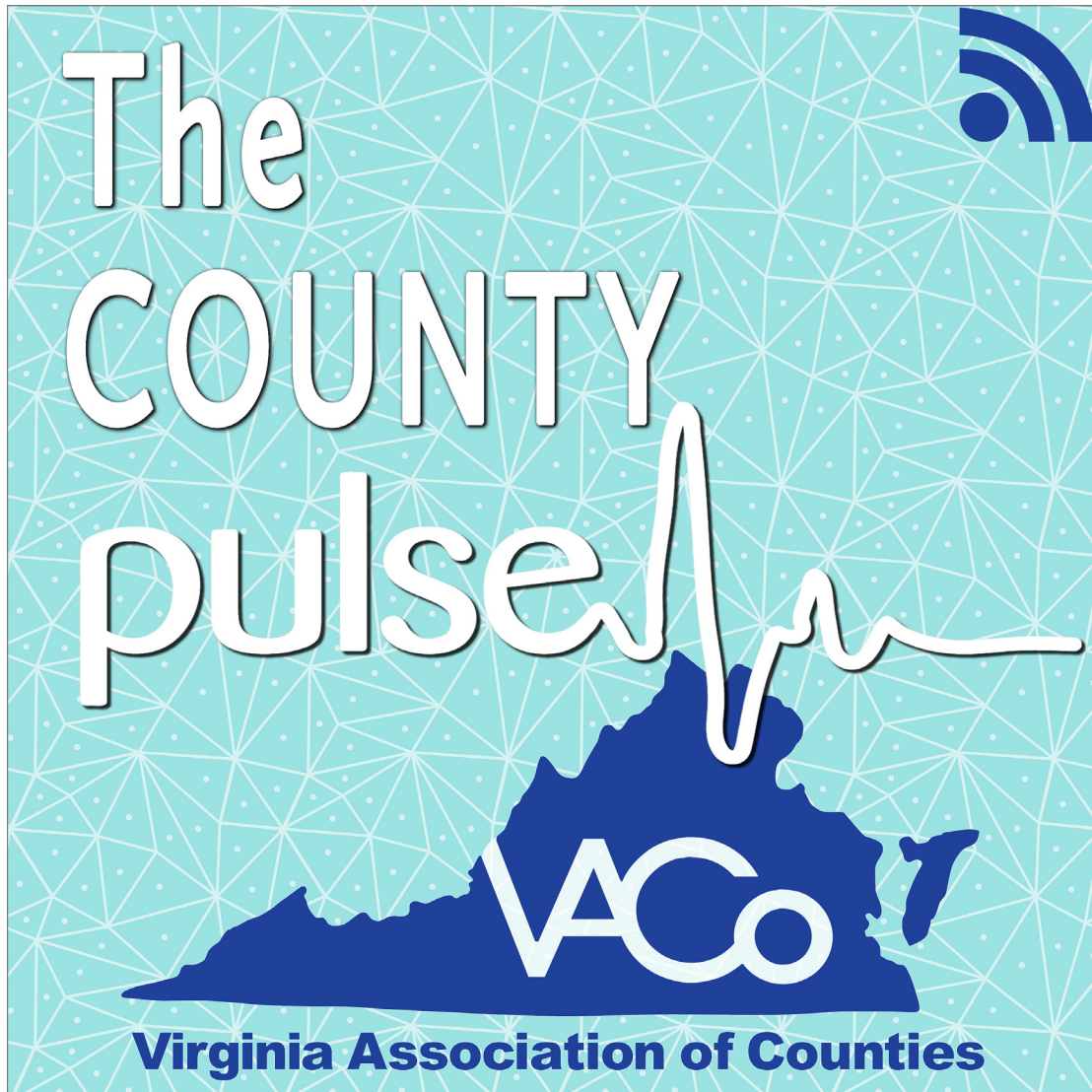


**NOV 10-12,
2024**

Omni Homestead
Bath County, VA
[Preliminary Agenda](#)

We cannot wait to pack the van for the 2024 Annual Conference! One of the best thing about every Annual Conference is the opportunity to come together to seek solutions in the best interest of counties and communities. Contact Valerie Russell at vrussell@vaco.org with questions.

REGISTER TODAY!



Season 4 | 2024

Episode 1 | Energy Landscape of Virginia | July 26 | Part 1



[Listen to the Podcast](#)

Part 1. Listen in as Joe Lerch interviews Chris Kimm, Senior Vice President of Global Customer Care and Experience at Equinix, an American multi-national corporation that builds and operates data centers. Learn about the data center business, and how they provide a seamless and instantaneous experience for commerce, industry, education, and social interactions. In so doing we touch on a range of topics including energy consumption, water use and how advances in artificial intelligence (AI) programs are driving demand for more computing power.



Congratulations!

York County was proud to celebrate 14 staff members who graduated from NACo's High Performance Leadership Academy. The program equips frontline county government professionals with practical leadership skills.

The ceremony took place on July 26, and VACo Executive Director Dean Lynch was honored to speak at the event. Lynch is also a graduate.

The NACo High Performance Leadership Academy is an innovative, completely online 12-week program with a robust curriculum.





The 14 York County graduates of the NACo High Performance Leadership Academy are...

Andrew Bell | Real Estate Appraiser

Caitlin Aubut | Planner II

Charles Harrison, III | Engineer I

Christine Zalameda | Revenue Tax Specialist

Corian Carney | Inspector IV

Jenelle Richards | HR Analyst II

Karen Hogge | HR/PR Administrator

Landon Prever | Grounds Maintenance Operations Superintendent

Leyda Vazquez | Family Services Coordinator

Margaret Mack-Yaroch | Director of Social Services

Mark Johnson | Senior Firefighter

Mitchell Outten | Lieutenant

Prennis Page | Program Manager III

Susan Stroup | Senior Administrative Coordinator



Visit Northampton County and the Northampton County Historic Courthouse

Old County Courthouse – Eastville

Location: 16404 Courthouse Road / Courthouse Square

Built: 1731 – 1732

Style: Federal

Architect: John Marshall

Contractor: John Marshall

Description: The building faces south and is a one story red colored brick and wood structure. The building is located on landscaped grounds in the center of Eastville. The arched entrance is on the south side. The building has a steep pitched roof. The building is now a museum.

History: The county was created in 1634 and Towne was selected as the county seat. The first courthouse was built in 1663 in Towne when Accomack County was created. In 1677, the county seat was moved to Eastville and the court met in the taverns. The second courthouse a frame structure was built in 1690. The third courthouse was a two story frame structure built in 1715. The third courthouse was a brick structure built in 1731 which is still standing. The fourth courthouse was built in 1795. The fifth courthouse was constructed in 1898 to 1899 and is still standing. The sixth and present courthouse was constructed in 2004 to 2006.

SOURCE: courthouses.co

VACo 2024 REGIONAL MEETINGS

IN-PERSON MEETINGS

REGIONS 1&4 - MAY 1 | PRINCE GEORGE

REGION 2 - MAY 22 | JAMES CITY

REGION 13 - JUNE 11 | SCOTT

REGIONS 10&12 - JULY 10 | FLOYD

REGION 3 - JULY 25 | HANOVER

VIRTUAL MEETINGS

REGIONS 5&9&11 - AUGUST 19

REGIONS 6&7 - SEPTEMBER 23

REGION 8 - SEPTEMBER 26



LUNCH AND LEARN

WITH **DARREN COFFEY**, BERKLEY GROUP PRINCIPAL AND OWNER
DR. SCOTT BAKER, BERKLEY GROUP EXECUTIVE MANAGER

LEARN
ADVANTAGES TO
DEVELOPING A
JOINT COUNTY |
SCHOOL
STRATEGIC PLAN

VACo County Members, please come join us for lunch and learn about ways to foster relationships and collaborate with your School Board to develop a strategic plan.

August 28, 2024 | 11AM-1PM

VACo Training Center
1207 East Main Street | Richmond, VA 23219

Lunch compliments of The Berkley Group
provided by **Sally Bell's Kitchen**

Please RSVP to Karie Walker
at kwalker@vaco.org by August 16.



In Partnership With

Partnership in Action



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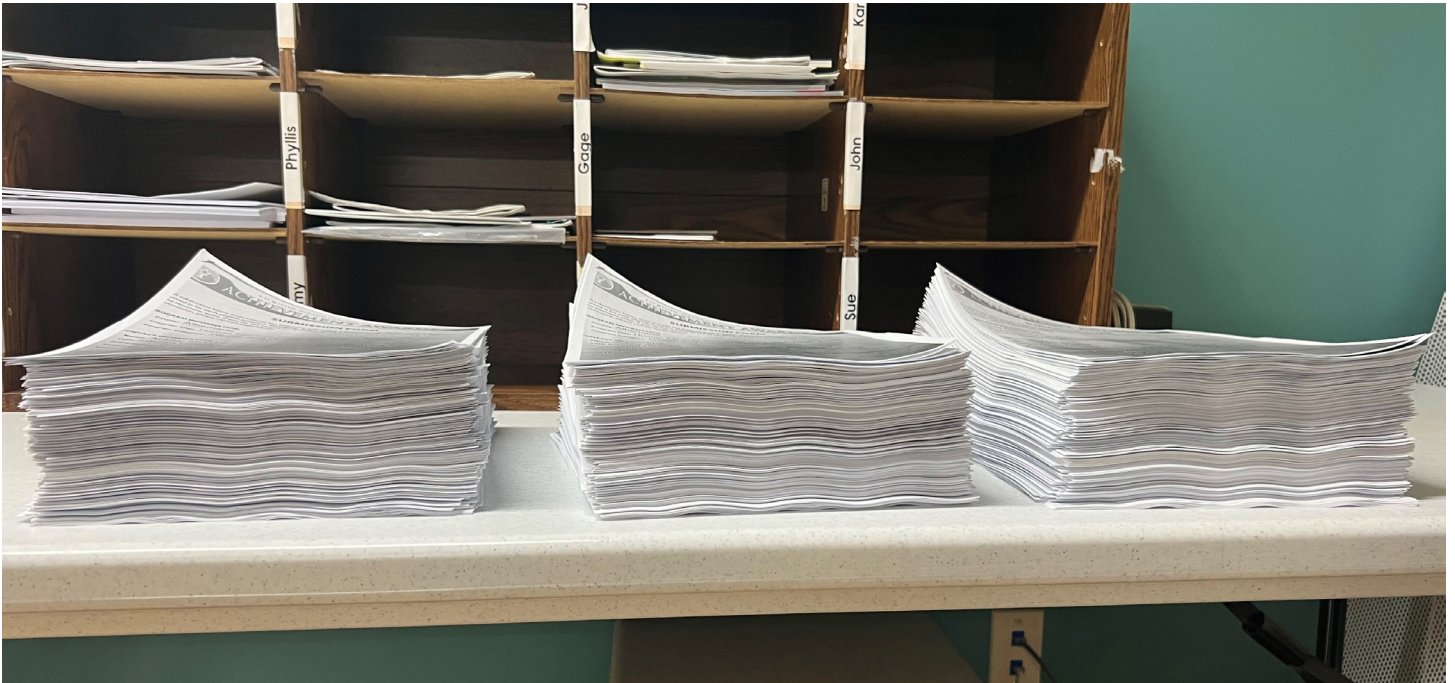
Lonnie Pierce, CEO/President
Lonnie@pierceins.com
Direct Telephone # 252-725-3064

Donna Pierce, Client Relations
Donna@pierceins.com
Direct Telephone # 704-576-0934



Congratulations on the recent launch of the Capitol Region Military Alliance of Virginia (CaRMA-VA) through the many efforts of **Becky McDonough**, CEO Hopewell-Prince George Chamber of Commerce, **Jeff Stoke**, County Administrator Prince George County and others.

We look forward to the opportunity to build important relationships in the region between our businesses and military communities.



VACo Receives 145 Submissions for the Achievement Awards Program

Winners will be announced in late August!

The judges for this year are **Charles Hartgrove**, ICMA-CM, Director of the Virginia Institute of Government; **Dr. Sheryl Bailey**, Visiting Professor of Practice at Virginia Tech, and former Chesterfield County Deputy County Administrator; and **W. Canova Peterson**, former Hanover County Supervisor.

Winners will be announced around the last week of August. Thank you and good luck to all who entered.



COUNTY OFFICIALS' SUMMIT

Join us for some nerdy fun!

Thursday, August 15, 2024

- 730AM - BREAKFAST
- 9AM - SUMMIT PROGRAM STARTS
- 1230PM - LUNCH
- 145PM - BLOCK A STEERING COMMITTEE MEETINGS
- 330PM - BLOCK B STEERING COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Check out the [Agenda](#)

[Register Today!](#)

CONFIRMED SPEAKER LINEUP



WELCOME | 9AM

The Honorable

Ann Mallek

VACo President | Albemarle County Supervisor



WELCOME | 9AM

The Honorable

Levar Stoney

Mayor | City of Richmond



GENERAL ASSEMBLY LEADERS

9:10AM - 10AM

The Honorable

Charniele L. Herring

Majority Leader | House District 4



GENERAL ASSEMBLY LEADERS

9:10AM - 10AM

The Honorable

Terry G. Kilgore

House District 45



LEGISLATIVE HOT TOPICS

10:10AM - 11AM

The Honorable

Lashrecse D. Aird

Senate District 13 | **TOPIC:** AI and Elections



LEGISLATIVE HOT TOPICS

10:10AM - 11AM

The Honorable

Carrie E. Coyner

House District 75 | **TOPIC:** Housing



VIRGINIA POLITICAL TRAILBLAZERS

11AM - 12:30PM

The Honorable

Winsome Earle-Sears

Virginia Lieutenant Governor



VIRGINIA POLITICAL TRAILBLAZERS

11AM - 12:30PM

The Honorable

Abigail Spanberger

Virginia 7th Congressional District



VIRGINIA POLITICAL TRAILBLAZERS

11AM - 12:30PM

The Honorable

Jason Miyares

Virginia Attorney General

Drought Disaster Designation Updates



Due to the [recent droughts conditions](#) across the commonwealth, Virginia Secretary of Agriculture and Forestry, Matthew Lohr convened a group of stakeholders for a brief presentation alongside Dr. Ronald M. Howell, Jr., Virginia State Executive Director for the USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA), on the USDA Disaster Drought Designation process.

On the call, staff at the FSA went over the two types of USDA Secretarial disaster designation, the regular process and the expedited process for drought. USDA Secretarial disaster designations must be requested of the USDA Secretary of Agriculture by a governor or the governor's authorized representative, by an Indian Tribal Council leader or by an FSA State Executive Director. Local governments across Virginia can have a role to play in this process. If a county's Board of Supervisors determines that drought conditions have adversely affected the agricultural community in their locality and subsequently pass a resolution seeking disaster area designation, such resolutions should be forwarded to the Executive Director of the FSA for Virginia. The FSA Executive Director, Dr. Ronald Howell's contact information can be accessed [here](#).

The Fast Track Secretarial disaster designations for severe drought provides for a nearly automatic designation when, during the growing season, any portion of a county meets the D2 (Severe Drought) drought intensity value for eight consecutive weeks or a higher drought intensity value for any length of time as reported in the [U.S. Drought Monitor](#). The 15 Virginia localities (as well as counties contiguous to the initial 15 counties) designated as disaster areas on July 30 were done so through the Fast Track process.

All types of designation or declaration immediately trigger the availability of low-interest FSA Emergency Farm Loans (EM) loans to eligible producers in all primary and contiguous counties. Staff on the call also wanted to highlight that through the disaster designation, the Small Business Administration makes available [Economic Injury Disaster Loans](#) as disasters that affect crop loss may well in fact affect agribusiness and aquaculture ventures. More information about EM loans are available [here](#), or can be quickly reviewed using [this brochure](#). To find your local FSA service center location and contact information click [here](#) and for more information regarding the disaster designation and declaration process click [here](#).

VACo Contact: [James Hutzler](#)

Chesapeake Gateways and Watertrails Network Grant Application Open Now



The grant application cycle for the third round of Chesapeake Gateways and Watertrails Network grants will opened **July 29, 2024** with an application deadline of **October 21, 2024**.

The National Park Service Chesapeake Gateways Office is offering this competitive grant opportunity to strengthen communities' ability to enhance public education of and access to the Chesapeake Bay watershed as detailed in the *Chesapeake Bay Initiative Act of 1998*.

The two grant types available are:

Linking Tourism and Economic Development Grants (Award Range: \$50,000 to \$100,000)

Proposals submitted should demonstrate that the projects reflect a community need; link local recreation, culture, history, and/or nature tourism to economic impact of the community; and involve a collaboration among community partners. Projects should link nature-based and cultural tourism with economic initiatives for local resilience and community sustainability, especially tied with sectors closely linked with Chesapeake heritage, such as historical or cultural crafts and trades, working lands, or maritime activities.

Event Support Grants (Award Range: \$10,000-\$25,000)

Proposals should demonstrate how the event or festival celebrates the rich cultural, historical, natural, or recreational legacy and ongoing story of Chesapeake Gateways communities. Public events and festivals should encourage exploration and enjoyment of the wealth of cultural, historical, natural, and recreational experiences available in the Chesapeake Bay watershed. The events encourage new and enhanced opportunities to connect with underrepresented communities through inclusive and welcoming events, festivals, places, and programming.

Non-Federal cost share or match **is not** required for these grants.

For more details and a link to the application, go to: [Chesapeake Gateways Grants - Chesapeake Bay Watershed \(U.S. National Park Service\)](#)

VACo Contact: [James Hutzler](#)

**CONTACTS:****Office of the Attorney General**

Contact: Kyle Woods

Email: Kwoods@oag.state.va.us

Attorney General Jason Miyares Takes the Lead on Combating Organized Retail Crime

RICHMOND, VA - Organized Retail Crime (ORC) is a significant and growing concern in Virginia, mirroring coast-to-coast trends. The National Retail Federation indicates that ORC costs retailers an average of \$700,000 per \$1 billion in sales, with the total annual loss in the United States reaching approximately \$30 billion. In Virginia alone, the value of merchandise stolen due to ORC is estimated to be around \$1.3 billion annually in reported loss, translating to substantial economic impacts, including over \$80 million in lost tax revenue for the Commonwealth.

ORC involves the concerted efforts of criminal groups to illegally obtain retail merchandise, cash, confidential data, and/or consumer information for financial gain. Unlike individual shoplifting, ORC is a large-scale operation often tied to broader criminal enterprises, including human and drug trafficking.

To combat this growing issue, Virginia has introduced a new code section, [§ 18.2-103.1](#), under the Code of Virginia, which comprehensively addresses organized retail theft. This legislation is a crucial tool in combating and encompassing various elements of ORC, from defining retail property and retail property fences to stipulating severe penalties for those engaged in these criminal activities. One of the most versatile and significant features of [§ 18.2-103.1](#) is its provision for selecting the jurisdiction of venue. The section allows for the aggregation of larceny incidents across multiple counties or cities into a single charge, simplifying the legal process and ensuring a more efficient prosecution. Additionally, the venue for the trial can be in the county or city where any act was performed in furtherance of the offense or where the accused resided at the time of the offense, providing strategic flexibility.

Attorney General Jason Miyares knows that change happens by those that show up, combating ORC is a priority of the Attorney General, that is why he has established a dedicated Organized Retail Crime Unit, which has quickly become a central resource for jurisdictions seeking guidance and assistance with investigations, prosecutions, and deploying critical resources where they are needed most. By functioning in this clearinghouse capacity and maintaining real-time information exchange through platforms like the Virginia Organized Retail Theft Exchange (VORTEX), the unit enhances collaboration between local law enforcement agencies, prosecutors, and retail loss prevention teams.

The dedicated resources and enhanced collaboration facilitated by this legislation are rapidly demonstrating to be crucial steps toward mitigating the economic and social impacts of ORC, making Virginia a safer place for both businesses and consumers.



OFFICE OF BROADBAND



[Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment Program \(BEAD\)](#)

- The National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) has approved Virginia's Initial Proposal Volume 2 for the BEAD Program! Once Virginia receives certification on challenge process results, the application phase for BEAD funding will commence.
- To help stakeholders become more prepared for BEAD, the Office of Broadband will continue to deliver presentations at relevant events and meet with broadband providers to review BEAD processes and requirements. If you would like to request a presentation or schedule a meeting, please reach out to broadband@dhcd.virginia.gov!
- The Office of Broadband has also released BEAD technical assistance documents and how-to-apply materials for both broadband providers and local governments! Check these out at dhcd.virginia.gov/bead

[Digital Opportunity](#)

- The Office of Broadband is still accepting applications for the **Virginia Affordability and Adoption Planning Grant!** The purpose of this program is for local and Tribal governments to conduct needs assessments, identify priorities, and develop plans with implementation strategies to address digital opportunity gaps in their communities. *Submitted applications are reviewed on a rolling basis on the 15th of every month. The Office will stop accepting applications by the end of the calendar year.*
- The Office is still waiting for NTIA approval of the Commonwealth's Digital Equity Act Capacity Grant Program application. Once approved, the Office can begin the implementation phase of Virginia's Digital Opportunity Plan. *Schedule a meeting with our Digital Opportunity Team to discuss how you can help support digital opportunity initiatives throughout the Commonwealth through this program at digitalopportunity@dhcd.virginia.gov!*

[Virginia Telecommunication Initiative \(VATI\)](#)

- Governor Glenn Youngkin has announced more than \$41 million in grants through VATI, extending broadband service to 20 localities across the Commonwealth. Congratulations to the 10 broadband projects who were approved!
- VATI provides funding to public/private partnerships to extend broadband service to unserved areas across the Commonwealth. Just last month, more than 6,698 locations received broadband access through VATI. In total, more than 119,004 homes, businesses, and community anchor institutions now have access to broadband through VATI investments made since FY2021!

[Line Extension Customer Assistance Program \(LECAP\)](#)

- LECAP is an initiative designed to support the extension of existing broadband networks to reach low- to moderate-income residents. So far, over 1,000 applications have been submitted! 107 households have received high speed internet access from this program and 225 are undergoing active construction!

**VCU**

L. Douglas Wilder School of
Government and Public Affairs

47th Board of Zoning Appeals Program: October 17 - December 13 (VIRTUAL)

October 17, 2024 – December 13, 2024
8:30AM-4PM

BZA Event Registration Information

The Certified BZA Program is designed to provide each registrant with a comprehensive overview of zoning in Virginia and the critical role the BZA plays in deciding issues involving zoning and zoning decisions. The course covers the legal foundations of zoning as well as the duties, powers and responsibilities of the BZA. The program also reviews the role of procedural and substantive due process in BZA deliberations as well as principles of meeting management and decision making.

The class consists of three parts:

Opening Session:

- October 17, 8:30 AM to 4:00 PM and
- October 18, 8:30 AM to 4:00 PM

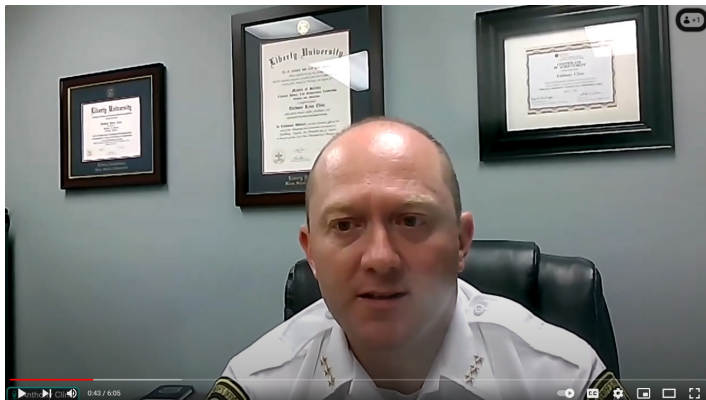
At-home Study:

- October 19 - December 12

Closing Session:

- December 13, 8:30 AM to 4:00 PM

[**REGISTER HERE**](#)



Thank you Wythe County Chief Deputy [Anthony Cline](#) for sharing your experience with Blue Line Solutions!



Thank you Sussex County Sheriff [Ernest Giles](#) for sharing your experience with Blue Line Solutions!

Premier Partner Spotlight

Blue Line Solutions Testimonials

Blue Line Solutions is making a positive impact on communities all over Virginia. In Smyth County - **Blue Line Solutions** recorded during a five-day period that there were 3,530 vehicles traveling through school speed zones at 10mph or higher above the speed limit. That's over 12,000 speeding vehicles a month during school days.

Blue Line Solutions uses information and communications rather than focus on enforcement to reduce speeds in school zones.

During **Blue Line Solutions** Public Information Phase of its program in Smyth County - the number dropped to 213 over a five-day period. That's without writing one ticket. The community heard the problem and reacted to it. During the warning phase - the number dropped to 175. Then during the enforcement phase - it dropped to 72. That's a 98 percent reduction of speeders compared to before the **Blue Line Solutions** program.

"That's absolutely fantastic that we can make a difference in a community," Blue Line Solutions CEO/Founder Mark Hutchinson said.

VACo 90th Annual Conference

November 10 – 12, 2024

The Omni Homestead | Bath County



This year's Annual Conference theme - **“Energizing County Governments”** - was selected because of VACo's collective energy and momentum that has jolted counties to many successes. We are proud of our accomplishments and service to our communities.

Join county and state leaders from all over the Commonwealth on November 10-12 at the Omni Homestead for [VACo's 90th Annual Conference](#).

PREMIER PARTNER SPOTLIGHT

Talking Solar with **Michael Zehner**
Director of Planning & Community Development
The Berkley Group

Part 1

*Helping Counties Navigate the Land Use
Challenges and Opportunities*

WITH THE BERKLEY GROUP



PREMIER PARTNER SPOTLIGHT

Talking Solar with **Michael Zehner**
Director of Planning & Community Development
The Berkley Group

Part 2

*The Legislative and Regulatory Framework
for Approving Applications in Virginia*

WITH THE BERKLEY GROUP



PREMIER PARTNER SPOTLIGHT

Talking Solar with **Michael Zehner**
Director of Planning & Community Development
The Berkley Group

Part 3

The Future Energy Landscape of Virginia

WITH THE BERKLEY GROUP



Talking Energy with the Berkley Group's Director of Planning & Community Development **Michael Zehner.**

Join us for this 3-part series. Click on each panel to view videos.

See how **Blue Line Solutions** helped **Smyth County** become a safer community **VIDEO**



**Mark Hutchinson | CEO/Founder
Blue Line Solutions**



What makes **Blue Line Solutions** stand out? **VIDEO**



Aetna® Statewide Wellness Campaign Brings Comprehensive Master Planning and Wellness Programming to Your County

VACo Premier Partner Aetna believes healthier happens together. That's why Aetna has teamed up with [National Fitness Campaign](#) to address health disparities by increasing access to health and wellness solutions for Virginia Counties.

In Part 1 of this video series, you'll hear from **Dean Lynch**, VACo Executive Director, **Trent Matthias**, National Fitness Campaign Director, **Bill Deal**, Head of Sales, Public Sector and Labor, Keystone and Capital Markets of Aetna on the exciting new statewide sponsorship and what it can deliver for your county.

In Part 2, learn more about the feasibility study process available for your county and hear from leaders in Virginia like [Pulaski County](#) and the [Town of Dumfries](#) who have successfully launched and integrated the comprehensive wellness campaign in their communities.

Additional Resources

- [Virginia Campaign](#) – Funding Outdoor Fitness Courts across the state
- [Campaign Video](#) – How the fitness court campaign got started, how it works, and how it involves and impacts communities.
- [Outdoor Fitness Court in Pulaski County](#)
- [Outdoor Fitness Court in the Town of Dumfries](#)
- Please click [here](#) to learn more about getting started!

Aetna Contact

Marcus Duckworth, VP, Client Management | DuckworthM@aetna.com



Part 1

[Discover how Aetna's exciting new statewide wellness program can help your county](#)



Part 2

[Hear from Pulaski County and the Town of Dumfries, which have successfully launched and integrated Aetna's comprehensive wellness campaign](#)



Equipment Lease-Purchase Financing is a great tool to make your locality's and school division's budget go further!

Contact us for details.

VML/VACo Equipment Lease-Purchase Financing offers:

- Competitive rates and low closing costs.
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- Streamlined process – we handle the details for you.

Budget less in the current year by spreading payments out over the useful life of the equipment – perfect for school buses, fire engines, and police cars.

CONTACT US TODAY

Questions?

Contact Steve Mulroy

804-648-0635

smulroy@valocalfinance.org





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- ORGANIZATIONAL ASSESSMENT
- PUBLIC EDUCATION
- PUBLIC OUTREACH & FACILITATION
- PUBLIC SAFETY
- PUBLIC WORKS
- STRATEGIC PLANNING
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Berkley Group is the go-to consultant for local governments and other public agencies. 100% of our services are dedicated to serving public agencies. We understand local government because we have worked in local government and continue to serve them proudly.

Contact us today at 540-208-5188 or info@bgllc.net for any of your community's needs.

VACo Seeks to Create Mentorship Program for Supervisors



Dear Members/County Administrators...

VACo is blessed to have many smart and experienced Supervisors. This year we welcomed a slew of newly elected Supervisors, some of whom have expressed interest in being mentored. VACo thrives when Supervisors connect and share experiences and challenges. Therefore, we would like to establish an informal, voluntary mentoring program to offer opportunities for personalized connections among Supervisors.

If you are interested in being a mentor or being connected with a mentor, please contact Karie Walker, kwalker@vaco.org or 804-343-2504.

We look forward to hearing from you!

Sincerely,

Karie Walker
Director of Programs and Development
Virginia Association of Counties



You are VAcorp

You are not merely a customer of VAcorp; you **are** VAcorp! We are both owned and governed by you – our members! VAcorp is created under 15.2-2700 of the local government code where all assets and surplus belong to the members. In addition, VAcorp is controlled by a Supervisory Board that is elected from and by our members. The Board determines and approves all major risk pool decisions, and as a voting member, you have a voice in the decisions that matter most.

Know Who You Are

Because you are VAcorp itself, we think it is critical that you understand exactly what VAcorp is and why it exists. Many simply think of us as their “insurance carrier” – writing customized coverages and handling claims when they occur – but we are so much more!

Our History

The Birth of Risk Pools

VAcorp is not an insurance company, but rather a Risk Pool.

Unstable economic conditions in the mid-1980s led to a commercial insurance crisis with ballooning premiums and widespread policy cancellations. As a result, Risk Pools began to form as an alternative to volatile traditional carriers, allowing Pool members to exert more control over their coverages and costs. Today, almost all public sector entities throughout the country get their coverage from Risk Pools rather than from commercial insurance companies.

VAcorp’s Origin

VAcorp was founded by a handful of Virginia counties in 1993. The ultimate goals of the program were to provide **cost stability**, the most **comprehensive coverages** possible, and **custom services** tailored specifically to the unique needs of our members. While we are pleased by how well our prices compare against the competition, our goal was never to guarantee the lowest cost. Instead, we promised to avoid the wild price swings that we’ve seen in other providers and provide stable pricing year after year, and that is exactly what we have delivered. VAcorp rates are actually **lower today in 2024 than they were in 1993!**

VAcorp’s Growth

Today, VAcorp is the **largest self-insurance risk pool** for public sector entities in the Commonwealth with a membership retention rate of better than 98%. Over the years, we have expanded beyond counties to include municipalities, school divisions, authorities, volunteer fire & rescue companies, state agencies, and non-profits funded by taxpayer dollars. **Over 560 members** have joined VAcorp, including 8 of the 10 largest counties, 8 of the 10 largest cities, and 8 of the 10 largest school divisions. We believe that the extraordinary success of the program can be attributed to our unwavering commitment to our founding principles.

VAcorp Exists to Serve You

VAcorp was created solely to serve Virginia's public sector entities, and from day one until now, we have never lost sight of that purpose. Because we answer only to our members, every decision is designed to benefit the group over the long haul.

VAcorp advocates for local government through a myriad of partnerships with affiliated associations including: VACo, VSBA, VLGMA, VASS, VFGOA, VASBO, LGA, Regional Jail Association, PDC, etc. While there is a cost associated with these partnerships, they add value to the group by aiding in our ability to lobby the General Assembly on behalf of our members.

You may not always see the immediate payoff, but every VAcorp decision is made in alignment with our vision to serve our members and promote the health and longevity of your program.

Take a look at a few of VAcorp's milestones over the years:

- **1993** - VAcorp is established with 12 founding members and less than \$700,000 in annual contribution.
- **1998** - VAcorp terminates service contract with claims administration vendor and hires staff to promote more control and efficiency.
- **1999** - VAcorp offers coverage to K-12 Public Schools across the Commonwealth.
- **2001** - VAcorp begins offering Public Officials Liability coverage in response to VARisk offering limited coverage.
- **2004** - VAcorp begins providing Environmental Liability coverage to all members at no additional cost. Even in 2024, VAcorp is the only provider offering this coverage with a low \$25,000 deductible. Other providers offer this coverage with a \$250,000 deductible.
- **2008** - VAcorp responded to the great recession by freezing rates and providing financial relief with over \$8,000,000 in dividends to members.
- **2011** - VAcorp introduces Line of Duty Act (LODA) coverage, creates the only LODA trust in the state, and absorbs existing LODA losses in response to the state pushing this cost to the local level. VAcorp paid all of its members' 2010 past liability for over \$1,000,000.
- **2013** - VAcorp merges with the VSBA Self-Insurance Group and assumes their liabilities to prevent School Boards from being assessed. This action saves Local Governments in excess of \$5,000,000.
- **2013** - VAcorp becomes the first to offer Cyber Risk coverage in Virginia offering the broadest coverage available to local governments anywhere in the US.
- **2016** - VAcorp offers Student Accident and Catastrophic Accident coverage in order to fill VHSL coverage gaps.
- **2020** - VAcorp provides over \$5,000,000 in rate credits during the COVID pandemic to assist members.
- **2023** - VAcorp includes security risk management coverage (active shooter) for all members (coverage has been included for Schools since 2013).





Aetna® Statewide Wellness Campaign Brings Comprehensive Master Planning and Wellness Programming to Your County

Accessible world-class outdoor wellness infrastructure for communities and schools across Virginia is now being made possible thanks to the new sponsorship [announced last month](#) between [National Fitness Campaign](#) and [Aetna®](#). Here's what this means for your County:

- Ability to work with experts on comprehensive wellness master-planning services in alignment with County goals;
- Support with community consensus, to engage people to spend more time outdoors to improve physical and mental well-being;
- Invitation to qualify for grants from a pool of \$350,000 in funding that is now available for municipalities and schools across Virginia to build a wellness culture as part of the Aetna® campaign.



Most recently, the Town of Dumfries and Mayor Derrick Wood [celebrated the first Fitness Court® Studio in the state this past fall](#) after responding to community voices who were asking for enhanced outdoor recreation options in their community. Residents can now walk, jog or cycle to their free Fitness Court® Studio at Ginn Memorial Park. Dumfries joins Loudoun County, Pulaski County and a number of other municipalities as the campaign continues to grow across Virginia.

Grant funding and comprehensive planning services will be allocated to support municipalities, schools, and organizations across the state in joining the growing NFC wellness campaign, an award-winning initiative now celebrating its 500th Healthy Community in America.

VACo is pleased to share this opportunity with our members who may be interested in qualifying for funding and sponsorship. If you would like to learn more about the Aetna® wellness campaign in Virginia and how to qualify, please fill out the short contact form at nationalfitnesscampaign.com/virginia.

Briefings with NFC require attendance from the Park Director, Public Health Director and/or County Manager/Administrator to qualify for funding and participation in Virginia.

Let's build a healthier Virginia, together.

[Learn More About the Campaign in Virginia](#)



OneDigital is thrilled to be one of VACo's newest Premier Partners.

What truly distinguishes OneDigital as a leading **insurance, financial services, and HR consulting advisory firm** is our holistic approach to creating environments that enable people to do their best work and live their best lives. OneDigital understands that counties face rising insurance costs while still struggling to attract/retain talent. This is why we use proprietary software to provide accurate and predictable insurance consulting projections for those core benefits that impact your bottom line and incorporate solutions to improve retention. While voluntary benefits may be the focus of other providers, OneDigital has the expertise in alternative funding strategies, best-in-class analytics, and an in-house actuarial team.

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