

COUNTY CONNECTIONS

The Newsletter of the
Virginia Association of Counties

March 1, 2009



VDOT schedules meetings to discuss proposed service changes ...Page 3



Is 95 the perfect number? ...Page 5



VACo welcomes OSPM as an associate member... Page 4



DEPARTMENT OF
GENERAL SERVICES
SERVICES PROPERTY PROGRAM

2009 County Chairs and Vice Chairs ...Page 7



Counties must register now to receive stimulus funding

FEDERAL STIMULUS



By Ted McCormack
tmccormack@vaco.org

In order to participate in some of the federal economic stimulus funding programs, counties are required to register with the federal government. This process entails three mandatory steps:

- * Obtain a Data Universal Number System (DUNS) number;
- * Register with Central Contractor Registration (CCR); and
- * Receive a username/password and authorization.

All of these steps are outlined on www.Grants.Gov, the federal government's Web site for grant information and registration.

If your county is not registered, it is vital that you take the steps to sign up

STIMULUS
Continued on page 9

VACo's preliminary summary of the GA's FY 2009-2010 budget amendments

By Mike Edwards and Dean Lynch
medwards@vaco.org and dlynch@vaco.org

The General Assembly adopted its amendments to the FY 2009-2010 budget on Saturday, Feb. 28. The VACo preliminary analysis can be read in its entirety on the VACo Web site and is intended to document budget actions impacting counties.

Gov. Timothy M. Kaine will propose recommendations to legislation passed by the 2009 General Assembly, including amendments to the budget, at the reconvened session on Wednesday, April 8. In addition to enacting

legislation into law, Gov. Kaine can propose vetoes or amendments. Virginia governors can also propose line item vetoes in the budget.

It is important to note that prior to April 8, specific federal government agencies may issue guidance about allowable uses of designated federal stimulus funding (ARRA), including for example the \$365 million appropriated

BUDGET

Continued on page 11

VACo and the 2009 American Recovery and Reinvestment Act

VACo's legislative team is assimilating the 2009 American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. The team will release a summary of the Act that includes key programs, provisions and allocations. In the meantime, please call the corresponding staff person (listed below) with your questions and comments.

VACo continues to host a site dedicated to the Act. "2009 American Recovery and Reinvestment Act" is available on the home page: www.vaco.org. The site includes VACo summaries and helpful links.

VACo's ARRA assignments—

- *Broadband, Jeff Gore: jeff@heftywiley.com/804-780-3143
- *Education, Mike Edwards: medwards@vaco.org/804-343-2503
- *Energy and Water, Larry Land and Mike Edwards: [lland@vaco.org](mailto:liland@vaco.org)/804-343-2504
- *Environment, Larry Land
- *Human Services and Medicaid, Dean Lynch: dlynch@vaco.org/804-343-2511
- *Labor and Economic Development, Ted McCormack: tmccormack@vaco.org/804-343-2506
- *Law and Justice: Phyllis Errico and Dean Lynch: perrico@vaco.org/804-343-2509
- *Tax, Mike Edwards
- *Transportation, Mike Edwards
- *General provisions including transparency and legal: Phyllis Errico

Registration

**PLEASE PRINT AND FAX
OR MAIL TO VACO**

To register for this workshop fill out the following information:

Name: _____

Title: _____

County/City/Town: _____

Address: _____

Phone number: _____

FAX: _____

E-mail address: _____

Registration fee: \$25. Requested in advance of the workshop. Make check payable to the Virginia Association of Counties. Check one:

Charge options: Circle one

American Express Master Card Visa

Expiration date: _____

Cardholder's name: _____

Card number: _____

Authorized signature: _____

_____ Check to pay registration fee enclosed with registration form.

_____ Registration submitted by FAX, registration fee to be mailed.

Deadline: By March 17, please submit registration form (with registration fee) to: Virginia Association of Counties, 1001 E. Broad Street, Suite LL-20, Richmond, VA 23219 or by FAX to (804)788-0083.

Any questions or special needs requirements may be directed to VACO's Larry Land: 804-343-2504 or Lland@vaco.org.

For refund information, contact VACO's Vicky Steinruck at 804-343-2501 or vsteinruck@vaco.org.

**Virginia Association of
Counties**

Virginia Municipal League

**Virginia Tobacco
Indemnification and
Community Revitalization
Commission**

Present

**A One-Day
Energy Forum
For Local
Government Officials**

March 24, 2009
Institute for Advanced Learning and
Research
Danville, VA

Sobering economic conditions, fluctuating fuel prices, economic stimulus funds, concerns about climate change, and the imperative to become less dependent on foreign sources of energy demand creative actions in the public and private sectors.

The chief objectives of this workshop are to:

- * Raise awareness of broad issues that should be considered by local officials as they develop new energy strategies;
- * Provide information about legislative actions relating to energy improvements and new energy sources; and
- * Provide information about innovations by businesses and communities to address new energy challenges.

This Energy Forum is made possible through financial support provided by the Tobacco Indemnification and Community Revitalization Commission.

Please do not hesitate to contact VACO's Larry Land if you have any questions at 804-343-2504. Also visit www.vaco.org/sitefiles/pdfs/frontpage/larrybrochure.pdf.

VDOT schedules meetings to discuss proposed service changes



The Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) will host 11 public meetings across the Commonwealth in March and early April to collect public input on a comprehensive plan to address long-term funding reductions.

During these meetings, VDOT will provide a brief presentation regarding the proposed changes that will impact drivers in each area including planned reductions to rest areas, Safety Service Patrols, mowing/roadside maintenance, ferry services and the closure of VDOT residency offices. Officials will also collect feedback from registered speakers.

“Federal and state revenue sources continue to steeply decline, forcing VDOT to adjust its construction program, services and organization,” said David S. Ekern, VDOT

Commissioner. “We are committed to discussing any changes that will impact our customers prior to finalizing our decisions, so we will host these meetings to gather public feedback on our proposed plans.”

These service changes support the three-part Blueprint for the Future.

The Commonwealth Transportation Board implemented the first phase of the blueprint — reductions in the number of new projects that will be built — when it adopted a revised Fiscal Years 2009-2014 Six-Year Improvement Program on Feb. 13. The revised program cut \$2 billion in funding, delaying or eliminating 808 projects statewide.

The second phase of the blueprint involves VDOT staffing changes and organizational restructuring. VDOT

announced that it will cut 1,000 full-time and 450 part-time staff in its construction development program, field operations and administrative functions, and will close 15 residency offices and 36 equipment repair facilities around the commonwealth in the next 18 months.

The third phase of the blueprint focuses on reducing spending for VDOT programs and services. These include reducing motorist amenities and maintenance contracts for services not affecting driver safety. These proposals include:

- Reducing Rest Areas and Welcome Centers
- Reducing Ferry Services
- Reducing Safety Service Patrols
- Reducing Interstate Maintenance Services
- Reducing Vegetation Management

Public meetings will be held as follows. All meetings begin at 6 p.m

March 10-Salem District
Northside Middle School
6810 Northside High School Road
Roanoke, VA 24019

March 11-Lynchburg District
Central Virginia Community College
3506 Wards Road
Lynchburg, VA 24502

March 12-Staunton District
Augusta County Government Center
18 Government Center Lane
Verona, VA 24482

March 16-Hampton Roads District
(general meeting)
Willoughby Elementary School
9500 4th View Street, Norfolk, VA
23503

March 17- Hampton Roads District
(Jamestown-Scotland Ferry-focused meeting)
Luther Porter Jackson Middle School
4255 New Design Road
Dendron, VA 23839

March 19-Culpeper District
Daniel Technology Center
18121 Technology Drive
Culpeper, VA 22701

March 25-Bristol District
Southwest Virginia Community College
Charles King Community Center
(Building 295)
724 Community College Road
Cedar Bluff, VA 24609

March 26-Richmond District
VDOT Central Office Auditorium

1221 E. Broad Street
Richmond, VA 23219

March 30-Fredericksburg District
(general meeting)
Caroline County Community Center
17202 Richmond Turnpike
Milford, VA 22514

March 31-Fredericksburg District
(Sunnybank and Merry Point ferry focus)
Lancaster Public Library
235 School Street
Kilmarnock, VA 22482

April 1-Northern Virginia District
Fairfax City Hall
Room 111
10455 Armstrong Street, Fairfax, VA
22030

news from our
associate members

VACo welcomes



DEPARTMENT OF
GENERAL SERVICES

SURPLUS PROPERTY PROGRAM

Serving Government. Serving Virginians.

“I used to visit the surplus property warehouse years ago, but I forgot about you.”

This is a familiar statement often heard from many town, city and county officials when asked about the surplus property program.

As a matter of fact, there are quite a few of our customers who have stopped visiting our warehouse, and private citizens more often than agencies or localities have been buying up the bulk of state government’s leftover goods.

But as the economy has affected so many fiscal budgets recently, it’s easy to see why buying surplus property has become an effective option.

The Office of Surplus Property Management (OSPM), a division of the Department of General Services (DGS) still exists and is fully operational.

Many changes have taken place over the past couple of years, including the acquisition of newer federal property and a retail store for citizens of the Commonwealth to shop for surplus as an alternative to attending a public auction.

For added convenience, there are two distribution centers — one in Richmond and the other in Wytheville.

There is a wide variety of surplus available on a regular basis at both warehouses or online through GSA (contact our office for details). And we’re not just talking about general supplies and furniture. Items that really make your localities work can be acquired—from cell phones and steam shovels to automobiles, tractors and generators. Other types of property offered for purchase include medical and laboratory, educational, food service and specialized equipment.

In addition to distributing usable state and federal surplus property, recent legislation from the General Assembly allows DGS OSPM to assist localities with the disposal of their surplus property. This will be an opportunity for localities to utilize the state’s resources, maximize revenues and minimize local labor requirements.

Take a look at a few success stories of how OSPM has helped agencies, localities and organizations:
New Kent County Fire and Rescue

Fast Fact

Kim T. Hayes, Marketing Manager
OSPM/Department of General
Services

Ph: 804-236-3662
Fax: 804-236-3671
kim.hayes@dgs.virginia.gov
surplus.dgs.virginia.gov

acquired two mobile travel trailers. One trailer is used for fire safety training for area schools. The second trailer will be used for a mobile emergency communications facility. New Kent also acquired surplus military equipment for county use.

Matthew 25 Ministries acquired over 30 mattresses and box springs for only \$250. These items assist citizens who are experiencing a life crisis or recovering from addiction and making a new start back in society.

Surplus worked with the Virginia Department for the Blind and Vision Impaired (VDBVI) for surplus items they no longer needed.

Our offices provided guidance on items considered scrap, helped them recoup costs by decreasing their storage space and posted their items through our internet sales program. To date through October 2008, VDBVI returned revenue exceeded \$40,000.

New Beginning World Outreach Inc., located in Southwest Virginia assists impoverished people with temporary lodging. They purchased a tractor, refurbished it and are now using it to install roads and level the grounds for the mobile homes on their property.

For more information about OSPM, to schedule a visit or request property, contact us at:
Richmond - (804) 236-3670
Wytheville – (276) 228-6803
surplus.dgs.virginia.gov.



Is 95 the perfect number?

The last time the landscape of Virginia's counties changed was in 1972 when Nansemond County and the towns of Holland and Whaleyville merged to form the City of Nansemond.

Just two years later, the City of Nansemond became part of the City of Suffolk.

But since then, the number of counties in the Commonwealth has remained at 95.

"This is the longest stretch we've had with no local government consolidations in 100 years," said Ted McCormack, VACo's director of Governmental Affairs.

Despite the consistency, the question of whether there will be other modifications still looms. Is 95 counties the perfect number? Or should there be more merger attempts in the near future?

"Originally, counties were generally based on a day's ride to the courthouse," said James D. Campbell, VACo's executive director. "But over the years, as transportation has changed, it has become less necessary to use that geographic formula. Now in modern times, the changes have come because of economics, can you support

the services within your boundaries?"

The factors for consolidations are mostly based on revenue and services. For example, is there a need for two school districts? Two sets of constitutional officers? Or two local governments?

Currently, there is an effort to consolidate Alleghany County and the City of Covington. A citizen's petition to start that process, which includes the Town of Clifton Forge and the Town of Iron Gate, has been filed in circuit court. Now county and municipal officials have one year to reach an agreement and submit the merger question to the voters for final ratification in each jurisdiction.

"We've been meeting regularly and the meetings so far have been cordial and as productive as could be hoped for at this early stage," said John R. Strutner, Alleghany County administrator. "I expect the process to ramp up considerably in the coming months."

There have been other attempts in the recent past to move the needle from 95 counties. The last effort was in 1995 when Bedford County and City tried to change the county into the consolidated City of Bedford and with the former

city becoming the Shire of Bedford. But this citizen-initiated petition was voted down.

Alleghany County also was involved in another consolidation effort back in 1991 when it tried to merge with the City of Clifton Forge to become the City of Alleghany.

Roanoke County and the City of Roanoke proposed a plan in 1990 to merge and form the Roanoke Metropolitan Government. However, voters were not thrilled with the idea and nixed it.

Interestingly, counties failed 13 times to consolidate between 1961 and 1995. One that stands out is Henrico County, an original shire, attempting to merge with the City of Richmond in 1961. Another effort of note was the attempt to consolidate Pulaski County, Town of Pulaski and Town of Dublin in 1983.

On the flip side, there were five successful consolidations from 1952 to 1972 driven mainly by the need to forestall city annexation attempts. The first one was when Elizabeth City County, another one of the original

Mark Your Calendars

**EPA Asset
Management
Workshop**

March 10-11
Virginia Tech



If you are involved in asset management, then you won't want to miss Advancing Asset Management in Your Utility: A "Hands-On" Workshop for managing your facility for long-term sustainability.

The course will be held March 10-11 on the campus of Virginia Tech in Blacksburg.

The workshop focuses on demonstrating, step-by-step, how an agency would select and deploy appropriate asset management practices best suited for the agency.

Registrations after Feb. 10 will be \$225.

For full schedule and registration, visit www.cpe.vt.edu/epaaam or contact: Sunil Sinha, workshop coordinator, at ssinha@vt.edu or 540-231-9420

**Ecosystem Services:
Marketing
Environmental
Solutions**

March 12-13
Charlottesville



Balancing economic and environmental sustainability is the challenge for the 21st Century. This two-day conference at the Charlottesville Omni Hotel will explore the design and implementation of ecosystem service markets and the development of tools to enhance landowner participation in these markets.

Industry, government, non-governmental organizations, academia, and landowners will all benefit from the information presented.

For More Information Contact:

Neil Clark
Assoc. Extension Agent
Virginia Tech
757-657-6450, ext. 406
E-mail: southeast@vt.edu

Buck Kline
Director of Forestland Conservation
Virginia Department of Forestry
434-220-9035
E-mail: Buck.Kline@dof.virginia.gov

Sunshine Week

March 15-21



Sunshine Week is a national initiative to open a dialogue about the importance of open government and freedom of information. Participants include print, broadcast and online news media, civic groups, libraries, nonprofits, schools and others interested in the public's right to know.

Sunshine Week is led by the American Society of Newspaper Editors and is funded primarily by a challenge grant from the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation of Miami.

Though spearheaded by journalists, Sunshine Week is about the public's right to know what its government is doing, and why. Sunshine Week seeks to enlighten and empower people to play an active role in their government at all levels, and to give them access to information that makes their lives better and their communities stronger.

Sunshine Week is a non-partisan initiative whose supporters are conservative, liberal and in between.

Visit www.sunshineweek.org for more information.

**Engineering
Unplugged**

Tuesday March 17
8 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Ted Constant Convocation Center
ODU Norfolk Campus



What is Engineering Unplugged?

The Premier Green Event in Hampton Roads. Presented by the Professional Development Center of Old Dominion University, Engineering Unplugged is the first green conference of its kind in Hampton Roads, providing a unique opportunity to expand your understanding of Green Building, Green Manufacturing and Green Research.

Register early and save!

- Between Feb. 6 and March 3 — \$295 per person
- After March 3 — \$495 per person

Visit www.vatpdc.com/pdc/engineering_unplugged for more information and to register now.

2009 County Chairs and Vice Chairs

VACo would like to recognize the 2009 board chairs and vice chairs from each Virginia county. We wish them all a productive and successful year.

Accomack County

Chair: Steve D. Mallette
Vice Chair: Laura Belle Gordy

Albemarle County

Chair: David Lee Slutzky
Vice Chair: Ann Huckle Mallek

Alleghany County

Chair: Stephen A. Bennett
Vice Chair: Rickey D. May

Amelia County

Chair: Franklin D. Harris
Vice Chair: Ellsworth J. Bennett

Amherst County

Chair: Leon J. Parrish
Vice Chair: Christopher R. Adams

Appomattox County

Chair: William H. Craft
Vice Chair: Thomas H. Conrad

Arlington County

Chair: Barbara A. Favola
Vice Chair: G. N. Fisetta Jr.

Augusta County

Chair: Larry C. Howdyshell
Vice Chair: Gerald W. Garber

Bath County

Chair: Jon R. Trees
Vice Chair: Richard B. Byrd

Bedford County

Chair: John R. Sharp
Vice Chair: Roger W. Cheek

Bland County

Chair: John C. Thompson
Vice Chair: Karen Harless Hodock

Botetourt County

Chair: Don A. Assaid
Vice Chair: Donald L. Meredith

Brunswick County

Chair: Barbara Jarrett Drummond
Vice Chair: Welton Tyler

Buchanan County

Chair: James Carroll Branham
Vice Chair: William P. Harris

Buckingham County

Chair: I. Monroe Snoddy
Vice Chair: Joe N. Chambers Jr.

Campbell County

Chair: Charles W. Falwell
Vice Chair: Hugh W. Rosser

Caroline County

Chair: Wayne A. Acors
Vice Chair: David M. Rozell Jr.

Carroll County

Chair: David V. Hutchins
Vice Chair: Wesley G. Hurst

Charles City County

Chair: Gilbert A. Smith
Vice Chair: Sherri M. Bowman

Charlotte County

Chair: Garland H. Hamlett Jr.
Vice Chair: Ashley L. Myers

Chesterfield County

Chair: Arthur S. Warren
Vice Chair: Daniel A. Gecker

Clarke County

Chair: John R. Staelin
Vice Chair: J. Michael Hobert

Craig County

Chair: Helen Abbott Looney
Vice Chair: Larry Burk

Culpeper County

Chair: William C. Chase Jr.
Vice Chair: Larry W. Aylor

Cumberland County

Chair: William F. Osl Jr.
Vice Chair: Van H. Petty

Dickenson County

Chair: Roger C. Stanley
Vice Chair: Franklin Delano Sykes

Dinwiddie County

Chair: Donald L. Haraway
Vice Chair: Harrison A. Moody

Essex County

Chair: Edwin E. Smith Jr.
Vice Chair: Angelo S. Stevens

Fairfax County

Chair: Sharon S. Bulova
Vice Chair: Penelope A. Gross

Fauquier County

Chair: R. Holder Trumbo Jr.
Vice Chair: Terrence L. Nyhous

Floyd County

Chair: David W. Ingram
Vice Chair: Jerry Wayne Boothe

Fluvanna County

Chair: Marvin F. Moss
Vice Chair: Charles W. Allbaugh Jr.

Franklin County

Chair: Charles D. Wagner
Vice Chair: W. Wayne Angell

Frederick County

Chair: Richard C. Shickle
Vice Chair: Gene E. Fisher Jr.

Giles County

Chair: Richard K. McCoy
Vice Chair: Paul W. Baker

Gloucester County

Chair: Michelle R. Ressler
Vice Chair: Gregory Woodard

Goochland County

Chair: Andrew W. Pryor
Vice Chair: Malvern R. Butler

Grayson County

Chair: Thomas M. Maynard
Vice Chair: Larry K. Bartlett

COUNTY CHAIRS

Continued from page 7

Greene CountyChair: Stephen Catalano
Vice Chair: Clarence Buggs Peyton**Greensville County**Chair: Peggy R. Wiley
Vice Chair: Michael W. Ferguson**Halifax County**Chair: William I. Fitzgerald
Vice Chair: James E. Edmunds II**Hanover County**Chair: John E. Gordon Jr.
Vice Chair: G. E. Via III**Henrico County**Chair: David A. Kaechele
Vice Chair: Patricia S. O'Bannon**Henry County**Chair: Debra P. Buchanan
Vice Chair: H.G. Vaughn**Highland County**Chair: Don "Robin" Sullenberger III
Vice Chair: David W. Blanchard Jr.**Isle of Wight County**Chair: James B. Brown Jr.
Vice Chair: Phillip A. Bradshaw**James City County**Chair: James G. Kennedy
Vice Chair: Mary K. Jones**King and Queen County**Chair: Milton W. McDuff
Vice Chair: Doris H. Morris**King George County**Chair: Joseph W. Grzeika
Vice Chair: James B. Howard**King William County**Chair: Otto O. Williams
Vice Chair: Thomas G. Smiley**Lancaster County**Chair: Jack S. Russell
Vice Chair: Ernest W. Palin Jr.**Lee County**Chair: Carl L. Bailey
Vice Chair: Larry R. Mosley**Loudoun County**Chair: Scott K. York
Vice Chair: Susan Klimek Buckley**Louisa County**Chair: Willie L. Harper
Vice Chair: Willie L. Gentry Jr.**Lunenburg County**Chair: Alvester L. Edmonds
Vice Chair: Jane Gatling Atkinson**Madison County**Chair: Edward L. Dean Jr.
Vice Chair: James L. Arrington**Mathews County**Chair: Kevin L. Mitchem
Vice Chair: Charles E. Ingram**Mecklenburg County**Chair: Glenn E. Barbour
Vice Chair: Gregg Gordon**Middlesex County**Chair: Robert A. Crump
Vice Chair: Wayne H. Jessie Sr.**Montgomery County**Chair: Annette S. Perkins
Vice Chair: James D. Politis**Nelson County**Chair: Allen M. Hale
Vice Chair: Constance Brennan**New Kent County**Chair: W. R. Davis Jr.
Vice Chair: David M. Sparks**Northampton County**Chair: Jeffrey K. Walker
Vice Chair: H. Spencer Murray**Northumberland County**Chair: Ronald L. Jett
Vice Chair: Richard F. Haynie**Nottoway County**Chair: Clarence A. Simpson
Vice Chair: Stephen W. Bowen**Orange County**Chair: Lee H. Frame Jr.
Vice Chair: S. Teel Goodwin**Page County**Chair: Tommy R. LaFrance
Vice Chair: Carol Lee Fischer-Strickler**Patrick County**Chair: Crystal P. Harris
Vice Chair: Ronald C. Knight**Pittsylvania County**Chair: Coy E. Harville
Vice Chair: Tim R. Barber**Powhatan County**Chair: Robert R. Cosby
Vice Chair: Charles D. Green**Prince Edward County**Chair: William G. Fore Jr.
Vice Chair: Howard F. Simpson**Prince George County**Chair: Henry D. Parker Jr.
Vice Chair: Jerry J. Skalsky**Prince William County**Chair: Corey A. Stewart
Vice Chair: W. S. Covington III**Pulaski County**Chair: Joseph L. Sheffey
Vice Chair: Dean K. Pratt**Rappahannock County**Chair: Robert P. Anderson
Vice Chair: Ronald L. Frazier**Richmond County**Chair: Randall W. Packett Jr.
Vice Chair: Walter S. Ball**Roanoke County**Chair: Richard C. Flora
Vice Chair: Michael W. Altizer**Rockbridge County**Chair: Carroll R. Comstock
Vice Chair: Mack R. Smith**Rockingham County**Chair: Frederick E. Eberly
Vice Chair: Pablo Cuevas

STIMULUS

Continued from page 1

as soon as possible. It can take up to 21 days for certification to be completed, and must be completed in order to apply for law enforcement/public safety funding and energy/environmental grant funds, for example.

If your locality is already registered, keep your username and password close at hand and ready to use.

In addition, VACo officers and staff participated in an economic stimulus conference call with Gov. Timothy M. Kaine and his staff yesterday to discuss state action on the federal stimulus

funding. Briefly, here are some things discussed during that call:

1. Governors must inform the federal government by April 3 if their state is planning to participate in the stimulus program. Federal funding likely will not come to any program before this date. Virginia plans to participate.
2. The deadline for submitting projects on the Virginia stimulus Web site is Friday, March 6. The message VACo received is err on the side of caution and register any potential projects your county believes may be eligible for stimulus funding, even if state agencies (such as VDOT) already have your projects in their work plan. The state's stimulus Web site is www.Stimulus.Virginia.Gov.

Virginia.Gov. Once federal funding begins and projects are chosen and underway, the state's Web site will serve as a public informational source with data about projects chosen, funding provided, etc.

3. Currently, state agency staffs continue to analyze the stimulus package to determine requirements and rules for the federal funding. As we get information about this analysis, we will forward it or direct you to the proper Web site or contact for this information.

VACo has put together a federal stimulus page with current stories and links. Visit www.vaco.org and click on the photo of the U.S. Capitol.

COUNTIES

Continued from page 5

eight shires, merged with the City of Hampton and the Town of Phoebus to form the City of Hampton.

Warwick County, the second original shire to change, became a part of the City of Newport News in 1958. The two other consolidations during that 20 years stretch were Princess Anne County turning into the City of Virginia Beach and Norfolk County becoming the City of Chesapeake. Both happened in 1963.

While consolidation is often cited as a way to improve government efficiency, history shows that it is hard to merge two localities. "Citizens are often reluctant to vote for a new form of government that is not familiar to them." McCormack said. He noted that most successful consolidations in Virginia and nationally have come about because of a crisis, such as an economic downturn or public health issues, or an outside threat, like annexation or state intervention.

Since 1634 when the original eight shires were established, Virginia has had

as many as 166 counties. Many of them were lost when West Virginia was formed. Some of the names include Cabell County, Kanawha County and Wyoming County. In fact, some of Virginia's other former counties stretch as far as Michigan and Minnesota.

But is there an answer to whether there will be a change to the current total of 95 counties? At this point, it may be unfair to speculate. However, based on the state's history, successful consolidations have come in bunches. So maybe if one county does indeed merge soon, then others may follow.

COUNTY CHAIRS

Continued from page 7

Russell County

Chair: Danny L. Brown
Vice Chair: C. Michael Puckett

Scott County

Chair: David S. Redwine
Vice Chair: Paul S. Fields

Shenandoah County

Chair: David E. Ferguson
Vice Chair: Conrad A. Helsley

Smyth County

Chair: Charles C. Clark Jr.
Vice Chair: Darlene Rowland Neitch

Southampton County

Chair: Dallas O. Jones
Vice Chair: Walter L. Young Jr.

Spotsylvania County

Chair: Henry L. Connors Jr.
Vice Chair: Gary F. Skinner

Stafford County

Chair: George H. Schwartz
Vice Chair: Harry E. Crisp III

Surry County

Chair: M. Sherlock Holmes
Vice Chair: John M. Seward

Sussex County

Chair: C. Eric Fly
Vice Chair: Rufus E. Tyler Sr.

Tazewell County

Chair: David R. Anderson
Vice Chair: Bill B. Wimmer

Warren County

Chair: Archie A. Fox
Vice Chair: Glenn L. White

Washington County

Chair: Kenneth O. Reynolds
Vice Chair: Jack R. McCrady

Westmoreland County

Chair: Darryl E. Fisher
Vice Chair: W.W. Hynson

Wise County

Chair: Robert E. Robbins Jr.
Vice Chair: J.H. Rivers Jr.

Wythe County

Chair: Wythe B. Sharitz
Vice Chair: James E. Hagee

York County

Chair: Walter C. Zaremba
Vice Chair: Don E. Wiggins

Employment Opportunities

Employment ads are edited due to space considerations.

To view the full versions, visit www.vaco.org and click the man at the typewriter on the right rail of the page.

Director of Finance/Brunswick County

This full-time position works under the general supervision of the County Administrator. The duties of this position include planning, organizing and directing operations of human resources, budget and financial management. Plans and directs the County's budget development process. Serves as liaison for various fiscal agencies, working with state and local authorities to ensure fiscal responsibility. A complete job description is available at the Office of the County Administrator or at www.brunswickco.com. Submit resume' to the Office of the County Administrator, 102 Tobacco Street, Lawrenceville, VA 23868 no later than 1 p.m. Friday, March 20. Telephone 434-848-3107 or toll-free 1-800-848-3199.

Senior Assistant County Attorney/Bedford County

The County of Bedford seeks a Senior Assistant County Attorney to perform legal services for the Bedford County Department of Social Services (DSS). Applications are available on our Web site: www.co.bedford.va.us and are also available from the Bedford County Human Resources Department, Bedford County Administration Building, 122 East Main Street, 2nd Floor, Bedford, VA 24523, (540) 586-7601, ext. 1221.

Annual salary is competitive DOQ. Benefits include: life, medical, dental, and vision insurance, flexible spending plan, retirement, direct deposit, paid holidays, vacation and sick leave. Closing date: March 20.

Transportation Planner/Town of Leesburg

Grade 13 (\$55,390 –\$92,969)

Closing Date: March 13
Extensive Benefits Package
The Town of Leesburg in Virginia seeks a Transportation Planner to maintain and run a travel demand transportation model which is used for policy development and to assess transportation impacts associated with land development cases. Request required application from Human Resources Department, Town of Leesburg, 25 West Market Street, Leesburg, VA 20176. 703-737-7177 or www.leesburg-va.gov. Applications will be accepted via mail, fax (703-737-7190) and must be received in the Human Resources Dept. by 5 p.m. on March 13.

Associate Director/University of Georgia

The Carl Vinson Institute of Government at the University of Georgia invites applications and nominations for a public service faculty position as Associate Director of its Governmental Training, Education, and Development Division (GTED). The position will be available June 1. For a complete position description, qualifications, deadlines, and contact information please visit our Web site at: www.hr.uga.edu/ad-gted.pdf. Application review will begin immediately. Candidates will be considered for the position until it is filled. Application materials should include a cover letter, a curriculum vita, and three letters of recommendation. E-mail submissions with attachments are preferred. Please send to: executivesearch@uga.edu
In lieu of email submission, written application materials may be directed to:
University of Georgia, Human Resources Search Committee, GTED Associate Director
C/o Executive and Faculty Search Group
215 S. Jackson Street
Athens, GA 30602
Confidential requests for information

should be directed to the primary consultant, Lindsey Van Note, Executive & Faculty Search Group, University of Georgia, 706-542-6240.

Senior Water Resources Engineer/Northern Virginia Regional Commission

SALARY: mid-\$70's to mid-\$80's, DOQ, + benefits.
Manage and administer nationally acclaimed Four Mile Run watershed mgmt. plan and Cameron Run watershed programs. Involves diverse mgmt. activities including modeling, stakeholder coordination, research, outreach and project mgmt. Position provides resources and technical ass't. on regional issues associated with protection of water resources. Cover letter & resume to NVRC, 3060 Williams Drive, Suite 510, Fairfax, VA 22031, e-mail to info@novaregion.org. Deadline: March 15.

County Administrator/Montgomery County

Requires comprehensive knowledge of principles and practices of public administration, high levels of performance in the areas of finance and budget, long range and strategic planning, capital improvement projects, policy development and implementation, and written and verbal communication. Bachelor's degree in business or public administration, finance or related field, extensive public management experience in a chief or assistant chief administrative capacity in state or local government; master's degree preferred. Salary \$125,000 to \$150,000 DOQ; excellent benefits. Please submit county application available at www.montgomerycountyva.gov, confidential letter of interest, detailed resume and salary history by March 16 to Annette Perkins, Chair, Montgomery County Board of Supervisors, 1407 Valley View Dr., Blacksburg VA 24060.

BUDGET

Continued from page 1

for public education (see the details below). Gov. Kaine presumably will react to federal guidance in the form of proposed state budget amendments that again, the legislature will consider on April 8.

The entire conference committee report approved by the General Assembly is available online.

BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS-

Public Education

* The budget appropriates \$365 million in federal stimulus funding to localities. The dollars are allocated "... based upon the proportion that each school division represents to the statewide total funding reduced from [the governor's] introduced [budget] for the change in the support position funding methodology, the elimination of the school construction grants program, and elimination of the school construction component funded from the Lottery Proceeds Fund."

* In appropriating the dollars, the General Assembly defers specific programmatic and policy decisions until next year, including whether or not to adopt the governor's recommendation to cap administrative support costs.
 * In association with the above, the budget "redistributes" \$60.9 million in the second year from the Lottery Proceeds Fund's Funding Loss Cap account (i.e. the governor's proposed "Stop Loss" that was coupled with his proposed change in administrative support cost funding) into the Additional Support for School Construction and Other Operating Costs account.

Compensation Board

* The budget restored funding for reductions taken in Gov. Kaine's introduced budget in sheriff's offices, Director of Finance offices, Treasurer's office, Commissioner's of Revenue offices, Commonwealth Attorney's offices and Clerk's of Court offices.
 * The budget provides general fund support for the additional fringe benefit costs of circuit court clerks resulting from the proposed change in the excess

circuit court clerks' fees to be retained by the Commonwealth. The proportion retained by the state would increase from one-third to two-thirds. Accordingly, by law, the Commonwealth would be required to reimburse two-thirds of the fringe benefit costs for circuit court clerks, instead of one-third.

Health and Human Resources

* The budget reflects additional revenue from the federal government in the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) of 2009 for Medicaid. The change in reimbursement for Medicaid, increases the federal share of Medicaid from 50 percent to approximately 56.85 percent in fiscal year 2009 and 60.19 percent in fiscal year 2010, allowing the Commonwealth to reduce its share of Medicaid spending by \$368.8 million in fiscal year 2009 and \$593.7 million in fiscal year 2010.

The enhanced Medicaid funding will continue through Dec. 31, 2010. This additional federal funding is designed to offset higher caseloads in Medicaid and mitigate the need for further reductions in services and provider rates. Accepting this additional federal funding precludes the state from reducing eligibility levels below those established on July 1, 2008 and imposing additional cost-sharing by localities.
 * The budget restored funding to reverse the closings authorized in the Gov. introduced budget for Southeastern Virginia Training Center, Commonwealth Center for Children and Adolescents and Southwestern Virginia Mental Health Institute (adolescent unit).

Public Safety

* The budget specifies that the distribution of \$23.3 million from Virginia's allocation from the Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant program shall be used for sheriffs' offices and local and regional jails to the extent such funds are made available as part of the federal economic stimulus legislation. The Governor is authorized to use \$23.3 million from the 2009 American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) for this purpose.
 * The budget restores \$6,644,182 in FY 2010 for state aid to localities with

police departments (pursuant to House Bill 599 of 1979). With the addition of these funds, the House Bill 599 program will be level funded in FY 2010, rather than reduced by \$6,644,182 below the fiscal year 2009 amount in the budget as introduced.

Compensation / Virginia Retirement System

* Budget language allows counties, cities, towns, and local public school divisions to utilize optional actuarial assumptions for retirement plans, consistent with those used by the Commonwealth. In FY 2010, as an alternative to the employer contribution rates certified by the Virginia Retirement System (VRS) Board of Trustees, the rates paid to the VRS on behalf of employees of participating counties, cities, towns, and local public school divisions may, at each participating employer's option, be based on the results of the June 30, 2007 actuarial valuation of assets and liabilities assuming an investment return of eight percent, a cost of living increase of three percent, and an amortization period of 30 years.

Counties, cities, towns, and local public school divisions electing to utilize the optional actuarial assumptions must certify to the board of the Virginia Retirement System by resolution adopted by the local board that they: 1) are electing to exercise such option, and 2) have reviewed and understand the information provided by the Virginia Retirement System outlining the potential future fiscal implications of such election.

Prior to electing to utilize the optional actuarial assumptions local public school divisions must receive the concurrence of the local governing body.

* The budget delaying a 2 percent state and state supported local employee pay raise. This delay creates \$44.7 million in state general funds. This delay was first authorized in the Gov. introduced budget.

* The budget eliminates teacher and support staff pay raise in FY 2010. This elimination creates \$71.6 million in state general funds. This elimination was in Gov. Kaine's introduced budget.



1001 E. Broad St., Suite LL 20
Richmond, VA 23219

Executive Committee

President: Donald L. Hart Jr., Accomack County
President-Elect: Phillip A. Bradshaw, Isle of Wight County
1st Vice President: Robert R. Adkins, Wise County
2nd Vice President: Barbara A. Favola, Arlington County
Secretary Treasurer: Catherine M. Hudgins, Fairfax County
Immediate Past President: William B. Kyger, Jr., Rockingham County

Staff

Executive Director: James D. Campbell, AICP, CAE
General Counsel: Phyllis A. Errico, Esq., CAE
Deputy Director for Legislative Affairs: Michael L. Edwards
Director of Policy Development: Larry J. Land, CAE
Director of Intergovernmental Affairs: Dean A. Lynch, CAE
Director of Governmental Affairs: Ted McCormack, AICP
Director of Administration: Vicky D. Steinruck, CPA
Director of Technical Services: John N. Kandris, A+, ACT, CCA
Director of Member Services: Carol I. Cameron
Director of Communications: Gage Harter
Administrative Assistant: Pricilla Wallace
VACo Risk Management Programs: Chris Carey, Administrator,
(888) 822-6772

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

1001 E. Broad St.
Suite LL 20
Richmond, VA 23219
(804) 788-6652
Fax: (804) 788-0083
www.vaco.org

County Connections is a semimonthly publication.

Editor: Gage Harter
(804) 343-2502