

COUNTY CONNECTIONS

The Newsletter of the
Virginia Association of Counties

January 15, 2014



Chesterfield
County's Jim
Holland gets
the call...
Page 3



Visit Carroll
County
and Devil's
Den Nature
Preserve...
Page 5



Recommendations
regarding onsite
septic program
released ... Page 4



New state park to
be established in
Loudoun County...
Page 8



Governor McAuliffe sets legislative priorities



By Dean Lynch
dlynch@vaco.org

Just two days after his inauguration, Governor Terry McAuliffe told a joint session of the General Assembly that Medicaid eligibility should be expanded in the state.

In addressing lawmakers for more than 40 minutes, Governor McAuliffe said he wants to amend the state budget to expand Medicaid to serve as many as 400,000 uninsured Virginians, many of them working poor.

McAuliffe said, "we will forgo \$2.1 billion annually in federal funding over the next three years," if the state fails to expand. Under the Affordable Care Act, the federal government would cover the full cost of expansion through 2016

and then taper its share to 90 percent by 2020.

"This money represents tax payments that Virginians have sent—and will continue to send—to Washington regardless of whether we seize this opportunity or not," McAuliffe said.

This issue will be fiercely debated throughout the 2014 General Assembly session.

Republicans have opposed Governor McAuliffe's push to expand Medicaid, noting the program needs reform and the federal government can't be trusted to fund its share of the cost.

House Majority Leader Kirk Cox said getting Medicaid expansion through the House of Delegates is unlikely.

"I just don't see that happening," he

told the Associated Press.

Governor McAuliffe also spoke about finding a compromise on diversifying the state's economy as well as improving the state's Standards of Learning tests and strengthening an ethics reform plan.

Governor McAuliffe outlined other priorities such as spending an additional \$5 million to help the Northern Virginia area compete for top tier public school teachers, announcing a new goal of conserving 400,000 acres by the end of his term and expecting the Commonwealth Transportation Board to approve his plan to ease tolls set to begin February 1 on the Downtown and Midtown tunnels in Hampton Roads.

Virginia's 72nd governor took the oath of office on January 11, succeeding Bob McDonnell.

Transportation and Land Use Planning Forum

April 2
9 a.m.-3:30 p.m.
John Tyler Community College
Free event sponsored by VDOT

On April 2, Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) will hold a statewide forum on coordinating transportation and land use planning.

The forum will take place at John Tyler Community College's Chester campus, which is located at 13101 Jefferson Davis Highway, Chester, VA 23831. This will be a one-day event beginning at 9 a.m. and ending at 3:30 p.m. Lunch will be provided.

This is a free event sponsored by VDOT and its purpose is to encourage the coordination of transportation planning and land use planning. A forum agenda with additional details will be provided as our list of speakers is solidified. The principal intended audience is locality planners as well as planning district and metropolitan planning organization staff.

We have posted information about the forum at VDOT's "Transportation and Land Use" website at http://www.virginiadot.org/info/transportation_and_land_use.asp. Please check this site prior to April 2 for updates.

In order to register for the April 2 event, contact Lynne Wasz at 804.786.0966 or at lynne.wasz@vdot.virginia.gov by March 7.

If you have any questions about the forum, do not hesitate to contact Lynne or Robert Hofrichter at 804.786.0780 or robert.hofrichter@vdot.virginia.gov.

Nominations open for Governor's Volunteerism & Community Service Awards

Deadline

February 19

www.vaservice.org/go/volunteer/award/

Sign Up Today!

Please help up spread the word that nominations for the Governor's Volunteerism and Community Service Awards are now being accepted. These prestigious awards have been honoring exemplary Virginians for more than 20 years and recognize excellence in community service and volunteering.

The award categories include Individual Achievement Awards for Youth, Adult and Senior volunteers, and Group Achievement Awards in the following categories: Family, Faith-Based Volunteer Service, Educational Institution, Community Organization, Small Business, and Corporation. A nomination narrative and two letters of support are required.

Visit <http://www.vaservice.org/go/volunteer/award/> to download the nomination form or submit an online nomination through the website. The nomination process ends at 5:30 p.m. on Wednesday, February 19. The awards ceremony will be held in the month of April during Volunteer Week.

Please share this message with appropriate constituents, partners and colleagues.

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Chesterfield County's Jim Holland gets the call

Reprinted with permission from the [Virginia Society of CPAs](#).

The call from the governor's office came as something of a surprise for Virginia Society of CPAs member [Jim Holland, CPA](#). The answer he gave was no surprise at all.

Holland wasted no time in accepting his appointment from former Governor Bob McDonnell to the [Virginia Board of Accountancy](#) (VBOA). It's just the latest venture in a lifetime spent serving the Virginia citizens.

"I really look forward to serving the CPAs of Virginia, working with them and serving the public," he said. "I think it's a wonderful opportunity to serve a really great profession and the residents of the Commonwealth of Virginia who rely on the expertise of CPAs."

Holland is no stranger to public service, having spent the past six years on the Chesterfield County Board of Supervisors, where he serves on the Budget and Audit Committee. It's a natural progression from a lengthy accounting career to county government to his new spot on the VBOA.

A full plate

Holland brings a wealth of experience to the VBOA, having spent nearly three decades in industry with Philip Morris. He's also worked as a sole practitioner and a professor in the business school at Virginia Commonwealth University (VCU).

"I bring a broad perspective, probably more than most CPAs have," he said. "I have industry experience, more than 27 years in industry, and more than 20 years as a sole practitioner. I've been practicing for the last three years with Holland and Brown. Also, I bring a wealth of experience in education. I

advise students who want to become CPAs. It gives me an opportunity to better serve them."

Wearing all of those hats — supervisor, regulator, educator and CPA — means that Holland has a lot on his plate, but can draw from that diverse background. His wife, Judith, brings her own perspective to the family — she's an accounting teacher at Meadowbrook High School in Chesterfield.

"She gives me a great perspective from the high school level," he said. "As a result of her being in high school, I can shape policy that really helps to shape high schools. Having her there helps me know the importance of accounting in high school. That's something we really need to focus on."

Family lessons

The two-educator family is a reflection of Holland's childhood and the challenges his parents faced growing up black in Jim Crow-era North Carolina. Holland, who served on the Virginia Public School Advisory Board under Governors Mark Warner and Tim Kaine, has made it a priority to protect Chesterfield's educational infrastructure and county residents' access to quality schools.

"My father passed away when I was 13," he said. "I was really raised by my mother on a small farm in North Carolina. In our county, there was no high school when my mother was studying, so she had to curtail her dreams of going to high school, which prevented her from going to college and fulfilling her dreams of being a nurse."

"I made it a personal mission to ensure that everyone can have an opportunity for an education to contribute to society."



Holland took that philosophy to heart, earning his bachelor's degree from Fayetteville State University and his master's in business administration from North Carolina Central University. As is the case with so many CPAs, he followed a professor's good advice into the accounting field.

"I went [to college] to study management. A professor told me that if I studied accounting, I'd always have a job," Holland said. "You know what? He was right."

A profession of integrity

For Holland, one of the most gratifying aspects of the CPA profession is the integrity the designation implies and the practitioners fulfill. He strives to live that value in other areas of his life — he's a deacon and a Sunday school teacher at First Baptist Church Centralia — and keeps it in the forefront of his mind in his professional dealings.

"I heard a story several years ago that when someone is at the end of life, they want two people — a priest and a CPA," he said. "So the CPA ranks pretty high in terms of integrity."

Are you a county board chair or vice chair?

If so, VACo's Chairpersons' Institute is for you.

It will be held at the **Richmond Marriott** between **February 6-8**.

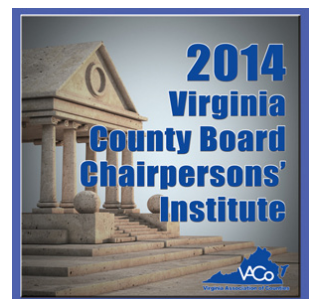
The Institute offers a professional learning experience that is carefully tailored to the needs of county board chairs.

These uncertain times require county leaders who are prepared for every eventuality, and balancing a tight budget is only the beginning. To succeed, board chairs must be active leaders who know how to encourage teamwork and manage conflict. They must be confident problem solvers as well as visionary leaders.

The Chairpersons' Institute was developed with the cooperation of an ad-hoc committee of board chairs. This Institute gives chairs a chance to learn practical strategies in critical areas including the duties, powers and responsibilities of board chairs.

This program provides details on the structure and functions of county government, active leadership, communications, meeting management, decision making, working strategically to achieve important goals, building partnerships with local staff, board colleagues, the media and other governments.

Click [here](#) for a registration form with hotel information.



Final recommendations regarding onsite septic program released

By Erik Johnston
ejohnston@vaco.org

The stakeholder advisory group convened by the Virginia Department of Health (VDH) to make recommendations on the appropriate level of private sector participation in the onsite septic program released a final report on January 2.

The Stakeholder Advisory Committee on Safety and Health in Facilitating a Transition (SHIFT) was composed of 25 individuals representing nine interest groups, including VACo, which met five times between July and November 2013.

The two most important consensus recommendations by the group were that VDH should continue its work as the regulatory oversight agency for the onsite septic program and that it should encourage the use of private sector providers of services for soil evaluation and design work. The remaining five consensus statements are strategies for achieving the preceding two recommendations.

Most of the onsite sewage system professionals involved in the process advocated for a transition of all soil evaluation and design work to the private sector in all regions of the state. VACo worked with other stakeholders groups to successfully oppose this proposed mandated change. Instead, VACo supported the recommendation of allowing VDH to encourage greater private sector participation, while maintaining VDH's



www.vdh.virginia.gov

capacity to provide these services. This policy is important to continuing the current practice of allowing localities and regions to encourage the right amount of private sector participation appropriate for their specific circumstances.

The amount of private sector participation already varies widely between regions of the Commonwealth due to different local and regional circumstances.

Despite opposition from key stakeholder groups during the SHIFT process, there are legislative proposals such as [HB 409 \(Webert\)](#) which seek to mandate privatization of direct services. VACo opposes this bill and any other efforts that would no longer offer citizens the option to obtain soil evaluation and design services directly from VDH.

VACo membership adopted a policy at the 2013 Annual Conference that calls for maintaining a public sector role in the onsite septic program. The policy states that "VACo supports a program at the Virginia

Department of Health that protects public health and the environment in all regions of the Commonwealth. The state's program should allow localities to develop and implement policies that support the state's program.

VACo supports the private sector providing onsite sewage system design, installation and repair services, as long as the services can be provided at affordable rates and in a timely manner, and as long as VDH continues to provide these direct services as well."

Several counties and planning district commissions commented formally to the SHIFT advisory committee and others participated in the SHIFT meetings. Many of these localities expressed support for VDH's role in working to protect public and environmental health and urged opposition to proposals to end VDH's direct services in soil evaluation and design work.

To view the SHIFT final report, [click here](#).

Public Notice

RFP for Stormwater Plan Review and Inspection Services

Amelia, Buckingham, Cumberland, Charlotte, Lunenburg, Nottoway, and Prince Edward counties in Central Virginia are soliciting proposals from qualified Engineering or Consulting Firms for Plan Review and Site Inspection Services of projects falling within the Virginia Stormwater Management Program (VSMP) beginning July 1, 2014. Plan Review and Site Inspection Services will be requested by the individual communities on an as needed basis.

Firms can submit proposals for one or both of these services. Proposals will be received until January 31, 2014 at 2 p.m. at the Office of the Amelia County Administrator, P.O. Box A, Amelia, Virginia, 23002. Please contact Amelia County Administrator Taylor Harvie at 804-561-3039 if you wish to receive a copy of the Request for Proposals or have any questions regarding this RFP. In addition, the RFP may be obtained by visiting the Amelia County Website at www.ameliacova.com.

Visit Carroll County and Devil's Den Nature Preserve

The Devil's Den Nature Preserve is a unique 250 acre tract containing an abundance of cultural and natural resources. The preserve is situated on the eastern edge of the Blue Ridge Escarpment overlooking the North Carolina Piedmont.

Several trails cross the property, including one that follows the former road bed of the Good Spur Road - a historic route in the 18th and 19th centuries.

The Robert S. Harris Farmstead, a 1880s dwelling, is undergoing renovation as a future site exhibit. Rocks, some 40-50 ft in height, mark the entrance to the Devil's Den - a spectacular geological feature can be visited. The cave had a role in local history in association with the 1912 Carroll County Courthouse Shooting and was a major tourist attraction in the 1920s.

The Devil's Den Nature Preserve is open from Dawn to Dusk, May 1 to October 31.

Address: 80 Cemetery Road, Fancy Gap, VA 24328
Region: Blue Ridge Highlands
Locality: [Carroll County](#)
Phone: 276.730.3100/Jean Talley: 276.728.9651
Website: [Virginia is for Lovers](#)
E-mail: Tourism@VisitVirginiaBlueRidgeMountains.com

Mark Your Calendars

Sign up for the Supervisor Certification Program



Making a Governance Difference: Purpose Driven Policy, Deliberation and Decision Making

Opening Session: Friday, March 14, 2014

Closing Session: Friday, May 9, 2014

Location: Albemarle County (likely)

Cost: \$350 per person

Registration Deadline: February 24, 2014

Funding County Government: The Role of Budgeting

Opening Session: Friday, May 30, 2014

Closing Session: Wednesday, July 30, 2014

Location: Albemarle County (likely)

Cost: \$350 per person

Registration Deadline: May 13, 2014

Inventing Your County's Tomorrow Today: The Role of Community Planning

Opening Session: Friday, September 12, 2014

Closing Session: Saturday, November 8, 2014

Location: Albemarle County (Sept.) and The Homestead (Nov.)

Cost: \$350 per person

Registration Deadline: August 26, 2014

Local Government Day at the General Assembly

February 6
Richmond



81st Virginia Certified Planning Commissioner Program



Opening Session: March 31-April 1, 2014

Meeting Location: Richmond Marriott West Hotel (Henrico County)

Closing Session: June 9-10

Meeting Location: Richmond Marriott West Hotel (Henrico County)

Cost: \$450 per person

Registration Deadline: March 11

Registration information/form available care of www.planvirginia.com.

Contact: Michael Chandler, Director of Education, Land Use Education Program, Virginia Tech, 804.794.6236 or rmchan@vt.edu.

32nd Virginia Certified BZA Program



Opening Session: March 10- 11

Meeting Location: Richmond Marriott West Hotel (Henrico County)

Closing Session: May 19, 2014

Meeting Location: Richmond Marriott West Hotel (Henrico County)

Cost: \$450 per person

Registration Deadline: February 17, 2014

Registration information/form available care of www.planvirginia.com.

Contact: Michael Chandler, Director of Education, Land Use Education Program, Virginia Tech, 804.794.6236 or rmchan@vt.edu.

Federal PILT Funding for Counties in Jeopardy

By Erik Johnston
ejohnston@vaco.org

On January 8, VACo and several state counties joined the National Association of Counties' (NACo) coalition [letter](#) to urge Congress to maintain support for the Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILT) program for FY14. VACo also sent out several federal action alerts on this issue in the latter part of 2013 and reached out to several members of Virginia's Congressional delegation.

Senator Tim Kaine responded to VACo's request by signing onto a bipartisan Senate [letter](#) in support of PILT. Representatives Bob Goodlatte, Robert Hurt and Morgan Griffith signed onto a similar bipartisan [letter](#) from members of the House of Representatives.

In 2013, Virginia counties received \$3.2 million in federal funding through PILT and despite the efforts of NACo, VACo and counties from across the country, the federal commitment to counties with public lands is in serious jeopardy for 2014. The federal budget resolution adopted late last year includes a deficit neutral reserve fund placeholder for PILT, but NACo confirmed reports from last weekend that Congressional leaders decided not to include PILT funding in the FY 2014 Omnibus Appropriations bill. This was a major setback as this was the



most likely vehicle for PILT funding.

Since 1976, the PILT program has provided critical funding to nearly 1,900 counties in 49 states and three U.S. territories. The PILT program funds offset losses in tax revenues due to the presence of substantial acreage of federal land in their jurisdictions. In many counties, more than 50 percent of their land is owned by the federal government.

Specifically, PILT payments allow local governments to provide critical government services for residents such as education, solid waste disposal, law enforcement, search and rescue, health care, environmental

compliance, firefighting and parks and recreation.

Action Needed: Unless Congress acts, counties will have received their last fully funded PILT disbursement in June of 2013. **County officials should contact both their Senators and House Members and urge swift Congressional action to secure full mandatory funding for the Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILT) program – either in the FY2014 Omnibus Appropriations Bill or another legislative vehicle.** More information about the PILT program is available at www.naco.org.

Virginia's Ethics Rules for Public Officials: The Need for Reform

By Quentin Kidd & Meyrem Baer

[In this new article](#), authors, Christopher Newport University political science professor Quentin Kidd and Meyrem Baer, a CNU undergraduate who is researching government ethics, urge the General Assembly to consider their recommendations for reforming the state's ethics rules for public officials.

"Virginia rightly prides itself as a national leader in many areas," they write. "Yet, despite the commonwealth's commitment to tradition and sense of moral exceptionalism, the corruption investigation that has engulfed Gov. Bob McDonnell's last year in office has brought heightened attention to the ethics of public officials and exposed many problems."

They note that in a recent study of all 50 states on the risk of corruption, conducted by the Center for Public Integrity in partnership with Global Integrity and Public Radio International, Virginia ranked 47th, with an overall grade of F. The Corruption Risk Report Card gave individual grades of F to the Old Dominion on public access to information, executive accountability, political financing, legislative accountability and ethics enforcement agencies, among others.

"Observers of Virginia politics worry that the lack of ethics oversight in the commonwealth is a recipe for a major scandal, especially as politics in the Old Dominion takes on a sharper partisan tone, given the state's newly minted status as a highly competitive battleground," Kidd and Baer write.

Their recommendations can be summarized as follows:

1. Improve what is already good about Virginia's public ethics rules.
2. Create a statewide independent ethics commission.
3. Clarify the rules for gifts and consider limits.
4. Clarify the rules of campaign expenditures.
5. Consider limitations on campaign contributions.

[Click here to see article.](#)



Former Governor McDonnell announced agreement to create new state park in Loudoun County

Former Governor Bob McDonnell announced that his administration has reached an agreement that will result in a 600-acre state park in Loudoun County.

"Thanks to the generosity of several outstanding Virginians, the state will be able to add a scenic new park to its award winning state park system," Governor McDonnell said. "I want to commend Robert and Dee Leggett, whose foundation acquired land that became the Blue Ridge Center for Environmental Stewardship in Loudoun County and will benefit future generations as a Virginia State Park."

Located in Western Loudoun County, the Old Dominion Land Conservancy of Purcellville has reached an agreement with the Department of Conservation and Recreation to donate 600 acres of woodlands and pasture to the Commonwealth for development of a state park. The conservancy received the land from the Leggett Foundation. The property includes historic farmsteads, deep woods and wildflower meadows, and borders the Appalachian Trail. Much of the land witnessed action of Mosby's Rangers and others during the Civil War.

"Through the work of the Leggett Foundation and now the Old Dominion Land Conservancy, lands of both natural and historic significance have been preserved in an area of the state where such lands are rapidly disappearing," said McDonnell. "Because of their most recent efforts many of these lands will be available to future generations as a Virginia State Park."

The ODLCL has signed agreements with the Commonwealth to donate the land for use as a state park. The transaction giving the Commonwealth final ownership is expected to close later this year.

"This is an exciting development that will benefit Virginians and visitors to Virginia forever," said Virginia Secretary of Natural Resource Doug Domenech. "Having lived in Loudoun County for 16 years, I know firsthand how important this Park will be to many individuals, organizations, and officials in Loudoun County."

"I want to thank Secretary Domenech and the staff at State Parks, the Department of Conservation and Recreation, and the Governor for all their work to make this happen," said Bob Leggett. "I have enjoyed this land for a long time and now I am

pleased to share it with the people of the state."

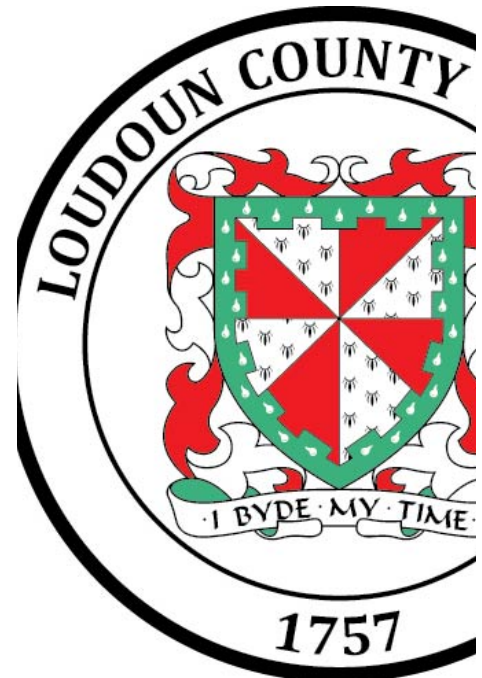
Delegate Dave LaRock, who represents the district in which the parkland is located, said "I'm excited about this new parkland being made available and thankful for the Leggett's generosity and Governor McDonnell and Secretary Domenech's efforts to bring this to pass. This Park will be a great addition to Western Loudoun's already-vibrant winery and tourism industries."

"As a Loudoun County Scoutmaster, I have had the opportunity to spend many campout weekends at the Blue Ridge Center for Environmental Stewardship enjoying its wonderful and scenic attributes," said Delegate Randy Minchew (R-10th). "Now, as our newest Virginia State Park, this land will provide our citizens with both active and passive recreation opportunities and an beautiful venue for conservation education and environmental stewardship training. As a member of the Virginia House of Delegates, I join Governor McDonnell and Secretary Domenech in thanking Bob and Dee Leggett for their generosity and leadership."

"As a lifelong outdoorsman who grew up in the Everglades of Florida, I have a fine appreciation for State Parks," said Dick Black, Senator of Virginia's 13th District. "I want to thank Governor McDonnell and Robert and Dee Leggett for their fine work in acquiring such a beautiful tract of land for public enjoyment. Such a beautiful addition to our state park system will certainly add to the tourism industry in Northern Virginia."

"The significance of this new state park is immense. This park will be a jewel to Loudoun County, the Commonwealth of Virginia and the Nation" said Supervisor Geary M. Higgins, Loudoun County Board of Supervisors. "From a historical perspective alone, Governor McDonnell has preserved a considerable piece of history as this land includes the route Mosby's Rangers took to attack the federal camp of Cole's Cavalry one-hundred and fifty years ago on January 10, 1864. I commend Governor McDonnell and Secretary Domenech for the foresight to create this park that will be enjoyed not only by residents of Loudoun County but by many future generations."

"The announcement of this new park is very exciting news for us in Loudoun County



and the region," said Loudoun Board of Supervisors Chairman Scott York. "On behalf of the Board of Supervisors, I would like to thank Governor McDonnell for his continued support of preservation efforts, economic development and transportation funding in Loudoun County. Additionally, I'd like to thank Secretary Domenech for all of his hard work on this project that presented many challenges along the way. Through his guidance and perseverance, we have been blessed with this generous gift of land from the Leggett Foundation."

Virginia has 36 state parks open for the public. This new property will join state lands in Stafford, Shenandoah, Gloucester, Henry and Albemarle counties that are in various stages of development as future state parks. The Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation, who manage the state park system, will work to develop master plans for the Loudoun County property once acquisition is completed. They will then develop timelines for future development.

Virginia State Parks host more than eight million visits per year with an annual economic impact to communities of approximately \$206 million. State parks help local economies generate more than \$12 for every \$1 of general fund money allocated to state parks in the state budget.

Virginia leaders complete year-long experience

LEAD VIRGINIA, the statewide leadership program educating Virginia's leaders about the issues most relevant to the Commonwealth, graduated its ninth class after having completed a seven-month journey across Virginia. The graduates now join *LEAD VIRGINIA*'s 400-plus alumni network of informed, engaged and connected leaders.

The 50 members of the Class of 2013 graduated on Friday, November 22, at The Jefferson Hotel in Richmond with over 225 in attendance, including past *LEAD VIRGINIA* alumni, sponsors and family and friends of the current class members. The members of the Class of 2013 selected their fellow classmate, Dr. Susan Short, Associate Vice President for Engagement at Virginia Tech, as graduation speaker.

LEAD VIRGINIA's 2013 curriculum centered on the key themes of economy, education and health and cultivated a shared vision and statewide perspective by examining the technology, economic development, demographics, transportation, growth management and quality of life issues impacting the Commonwealth in each of the regions visited.

"*LEAD VIRGINIA* gives leaders insight into regional and statewide problems and access to essential resources to determine solutions by engaging class participants on issues relevant to their communities and others throughout the state," said Susan Horne, president and CEO of *LEAD VIRGINIA*. "Graduates of the *LEAD VIRGINIA* program are better equipped to facilitate change throughout the Commonwealth and offer innovative solutions that will positively affect citizens in the years to come."

The 2013 sessions were held in seven regions throughout the state. The leaders participated in an orientation and opening session in Williamsburg April 18-20 and visited Southern Virginia, Shenandoah Valley, Northern Virginia, Southwest Virginia, Hampton Roads and Central Virginia. Additionally, an alumni conference was held in the Northern Neck, Middle Peninsula, and Chesapeake Regions, October 3-4, 2013. The Conference program focused on key themes of environmental and economic sustainability, the importance of the area's ties to the Chesapeake Bay and its tributaries, and how the region is creating a culture of philanthropy to meet the social needs of the communities.

More information about *LEAD VIRGINIA* can be found at www.leadvirginia.org.

[Click here to see the class of 2013.](#)



U.S. economic recovery remains uneven, fragile across counties

U.S. economic growth continued last year for the 3,069 county economies, but the recovery remained uneven and fragile, according to an analysis of four economic performance indicators by the National Association of Counties (NACo). As a result of the fragile and uneven recovery, many counties are continuing to struggle with their budgets, meet financial obligations and provide essential public services.

NACo's new study, [County Tracker 2013: On the Path to Recovery](#) assesses the performance of the nation's county economies by studying annual changes in four indicators – economic output (GDP), employment, the unemployment rate and home prices. The report also contains case studies to illustrate how specific county economies fared during the recession and recovery. The counties profiled include, Tarrant County, Texas (population 1.9 million), Los Angeles County, Calif. (10 million), Linn County, Iowa (215,000) and Mountrail County, N.D. (9,000).

The economic indicators analyzed by NACo suggest that 2013 was a year of growth, but the recovery remained fragile. By 2013, the economic output (GDP) in about half of all county economies recovered or had no declines

over the last decade. Home prices were in the same situation. But this is only part of the story. Jobs recovered in one quarter of county economies and in only 54 county economies unemployment is back to pre-recession levels. The low unemployment recovery rates show the fragility of the recovery.

The recovery has been also uneven. All counties, large, mid-sized or small, have been affected by the recession but the patterns of recovery vary significantly.

Large county economies were at the core of the recession and the recovery. Only 4 percent of the nation's large county economies – in counties with more than 500,000 residents – delivered around 58 percent of the county economies' output (GDP) growth and a similar share of the added jobs over the recovery. Large county economies in the South such as in Tarrant County, Texas bounced back quickly.

Employment in medium-size county economies was more stable during the recession, but had a mixed record in 2013. About half of the medium-sized county economies – in counties with populations between 50,000 and 500,000 residents – had shorter and/or shallower job recessions than the national average.

The recovery in small county economies covered the entire scale of potential outcomes. Twenty-seven small county economies – in counties with fewer than 50,000 residents – had no recession or fully recovered across all four indicators by 2013. The housing market downturn was mild in small county economies, with more than half not going through home price declines or already returned to pre-recession home price levels by 2013.

This fragile and uneven recovery across county economies adds to the challenges that counties face currently. Most counties survived through the recession because of their fiscally prudent approaches.

Counties with fast growing economies, such as Mountrail County, N.D. have a hard time to keep up with the necessary service delivery.

Other counties, with challenged economies are finding new ways to maintain services and prepare their counties for the future.

For economic performance data for each of the 3,069 county economies and comparisons across county population groups, please see the County Tracker interactive at www.naco.org/countracker.

Employment Opportunities

Employment ads are edited due to space considerations. Visit www.vaco.org to view the full versions. Click on the [County Employment](#) link on the menu bar.

Deputy Commonwealth Attorney/Orange County Commonwealth's Attorneys' Office

Responsibilities include, but are not limited to, prosecution of cases of felonies and misdemeanors in General District, Juvenile and Domestic Relations, and Circuit courts. Salary: Grade 26 (\$69,565 – \$111,304). Application packets may be picked up in the County Administration Office located at 112 West Main Street, Orange, VA 22960; by calling 540.672.3313; or downloaded and/or completed at the County website: <http://www.orangecountyva.gov>. Applications must be submitted to: Diana H. Wheeler. Commonwealth's Attorney. 110 North Madison Road, Suite 220. P.O. Box 310 Orange, Virginia 22960. The position is open until filled.

Finance Director/Carroll County

Performs complex professional work developing, monitoring and executing a financial plan for the County that is fiscally sound, meets near and long term goals and objectives of County administration and the Board of Supervisors, and related work as apparent or assigned. All candidates for this position must provide a completed Virginia State Application to the Carroll County Human Resources Office at 605-1 Pine Street, Hillsville, VA 24343. For more information candidates are welcome to contact Human Resources at 276.730.3103. A Complete Job Description and Application may be found at CarrollCountyVA.org. Position will remain open until filled. Application review will begin February 12.

Engineering Manager/Hanover County

This is a management level, professional position supervising administrative and technical matters for the engineering section including stormwater regulatory program implementation, road and building capital projects, interdepartmental coordination, personnel management and budget. Extensive knowledge of modern principles of civil engineering, required. Incumbent must have the ability to develop and evaluate project bids, estimates, plans and specifications; also the ability to manage projects, budgets, programs, personnel and enforcement actions. For more information

and to apply, visit www.hanovercountyjobs.com or call 804.365.6489. (TDD #365.6140)

Construction Coordinator/Hanover County

This is a paraprofessional position ensuring compliance with contract terms, construction plans and specifications for County and private projects, performing inspections for compliance with the County's erosion and sediment control requirements, drainage requirements and stormwater requirements, and/or investigating drainage complaints and activities involving illegal land disturbance. For more information and to apply, visit www.hanovercountyjobs.com or call 804.365.6489. (TDD #365.6140)

Accounting Manager/City of Hopewell

Salary Range: \$60,502 to \$86,431. Primary duties: oversight and maintaining the general ledger; day to day supervision of the Finance Department including staff in accounts receivable, accounts payable, payroll, grants management and other financial functions; preparation of monthly, quarterly, and annual financial reports and work closely with the Director of Finance in preparation of schedules and journal entries in preparing the CAFR. To review the complete job posting and apply, please go to www.hopewellva.gov. Closing Date: January 20.

Director of Public Affairs/Chesterfield County

The director serves as the primary point of contact for public information, media relations, and internal employee communications, and has the primary responsibility of keeping the public and employees informed about Chesterfield County Government. Chesterfield, a suburban county of 446 square miles, is centrally located in the Commonwealth with a population of approximately 323,000 residents. Chesterfield is the corporate location for many small businesses as well as large international companies and has a national reputation as one of the most affluent and most educated localities in the country. A pre-employment drug test and an extensive background investigation including fingerprinting for an FBI criminal check are required. This recruitment will remain open until January 31 at 5 p.m. Interested applicants should submit a confidential resume with cover letter and must include salary requirements to: Mary Martin Selby, Director of HR Services. Chesterfield County Human Resource Management.

P.O. Box 40. Chesterfield, VA 23832.

E-mail: executivesearch@chesterfield.gov
804.748.1551

Executive Director/Joint Industrial Development Authority of Wythe County, Wytheville, and Rural Retreat

The Joint Industrial Development Authority of Wythe County, Wytheville, and Rural Retreat is recruiting an experienced economic developer to lead community economic development efforts, including both recruitment and existing business/industry retention and expansion. Position description and application are available at www.WytheIDA.org. Submit application form and resume with cover letter to Town of Wytheville, Attn: HR Dept., P.O. Box 533, Wytheville, VA 24382. (Open until filled; Initial review January 24)

Emergency Communications Center Director/Shenandoah County

This position performs difficult technical and administrative work planning, organizing and managing the operation of the Shenandoah County Emergency Communications Center. Responsible for ensuring effective emergency communications services to various public safety and public service agencies in the County and the Towns in the County. Provides supervision of all Communications Center Staff. Salary is on Grade 26 of the County pay scale with a starting salary of \$55,909. Benefits include Virginia Retirement System, health and dental insurance, vacation, sick leave and holidays. Complete job description available by contacting the Office of the County Administrator, 600 North Main Street, Woodstock, VA 22664, 540.459.6165, or visit our web site at www.shenandoahcountyva.us and look at Employment. County application is required. Position open until filled.

Public Works Director-County Engineer/Charles City County

Salary DOQ/DOE. Applications accepted until COB January 28. Performs difficult professional work planning, organizing, directing and coordinating activities associated with the Public Works Department and related work as required. Work involves setting policies and goals under the direction of the County Administrator. Departmental supervision is

EMPLOYMENT

Continued from page 10

exercised over all departmental personnel. This is a working supervisory position, which requires time outside of an office environment as well as in. This work regularly requires preparing and analyzing written or computer data. Duties may involve any number of tasks related to water/wastewater utilities and a variety of buildings/grounds maintenance.

Water and Wastewater Operator/Charles City County

The County operates small water and wastewater facilities serving primarily domestic customers. Current Class 3 Wastewater and Class 4 Water licenses preferred, or ability to obtain within 6 months required. Salary DOQ/DOE. County applications required and is accepted until COB January 28. General knowledge of the principles, practices, equipment and methods used in water and wastewater treatment and pumping operations; general knowledge of the occupational hazards connected with water and wastewater plant operations and related activities and of necessary safety precautions; general knowledge of chemistry as applied to wastewater treatment; ability to adjust pumps, chemical feed machines and other plant equipment; ability to check the operation of equipment and to detect defects in operation.

Executive Assistant/Washington County

Under the direction of the County Administrator or his/her Designee, the scope of work includes secretarial and clerical support, public relations services to the Office of County Administrator/Deputy County Administrator and handling sensitive and confidential matters. Serves as Recording Clerk to the Board of Supervisors and County Records Management Coordinator. Must have strong interpersonal and public relations skills to work effectively with elected officials, staff, and citizens. Salary DoQ, DoE. A complete Position Description with needed job requirements along with an Application for Employment may be obtained through the Human Resources Department, Washington County Government Center, 1 Government Center Place, Suite A, Abingdon, VA. 24210 or via the County website www.washcova.com. Applications will be accepted until filled.

Police Captain/City of Fredericksburg

Starting Salary: \$59,904 – \$85,523 DOQ. Applicants not currently employed by the

Fredericksburg Police Department will compete with internal candidates for the position. Under the general supervision of the Chief of Police, Captains manage one of three assigned divisions within the Police Department: Patrol, Support Services, or Investigations. The successful candidate for this position will initially be assigned to oversee either the Patrol or Support Services division with the responsibility of supervising approximately 25-50 employees.

While the position is open until filled, completed City Applications and resumes should be submitted before the close of business on Friday, January 24 to be considered with the initial applicant pool. Applicants who are currently Lieutenants with the Fredericksburg Police Department only need to submit a resume. For City application or more information, visit www.fredericksburgva.gov or the HR Department at 715 Princess Anne Street, Room 217, Fredericksburg, VA 22401, 540.372.1028.

Assistant Director of Public Transit/City of Fredericksburg

Starting Salary: \$61,655-\$74,840 DOQ. This is a full-time position with FREDericksburg Regional Transit (FRED), a department of the City of Fredericksburg. The purpose of the position is to assist the Director of Public Transit; ensure the safe and efficient operation of a 29-bus, 21-route, regional transit system; supervise employees including, but not limited to: instructing, assigning, and reviewing work, hiring new employees, discipline, and termination; assist with the creation and submittal of grants for State and Federal funding; manage grants through fruition; help plan for service expansion and route/schedule adjustments; ensure that FRED is in compliance with all applicable regulatory requirements; manage the development and implementation of policies and plans; liaise with Federal, State and local officials, auditors, and citizens; and manage significant projects and procurements. While the position is open until filled, completed City Applications and resumes should be submitted before the close of business on Friday, January 24 to be considered. For City application or more information, visit www.fredericksburgva.gov or the HR Department at 715 Princess Anne Street, Room 217, Fredericksburg, VA 22401, 540.372.1028.

Chief of Planning/Fauquier County

A large rural county in the Virginia Piedmont, Fauquier has a long established planning philosophy of developing thriving service districts surrounded by active agriculture. The County also seeks

to preserve environmental and historic resources while encouraging economic development. This position is involved in a great variety of challenging cases and projects. Hiring range is from \$74,700 to \$95,700, with salary commensurate with qualifications and experience. Interested applicants must submit an online Fauquier County classified application, available on the County's website www.fauquiercounty.gov. Please attach a cover letter and resume. Position is open until filled. For assistance with the online application call the Human Resources Department at 540-422-8300. Please direct specific position-related questions to Kimberley Fogle, AICP; Director of Community Development at 540.422.8200 or e-mail kimberley.fogle@fauquiercounty.gov.

Planner II-Transportation Planner/Fauquier County

Located in the Virginia Piedmont, the County has a long established planning philosophy of developing thriving service districts surrounded by active agriculture. The County also seeks to preserve environmental and historic resources while encouraging economic development. Planners are therefore involved in a great variety of challenging cases and projects. Interested applicants must submit an online Fauquier County classified application, available on Fauquier County's website at www.fauquiercounty.gov. Position is open until filled. For assistance call 540.422.8300.

Jail Superintendent/Albemarle County

Albemarle-Charlottesville Regional Jail is looking for the region's next Jail Superintendent. 155-member staff, 400 inmates, supported by a forward-thinking tri-jurisdictional board, operated under Direct Supervision model. The salary range is \$76,681-\$122,689, DOQ. Deadline Jan. 31. Apply at www.albemarle.org/jobs.

Deputy Director of Finance/Town of Herndon

The Town of Herndon, population 23,570, located in the Dulles Corridor of Northern Virginia, in the Washington, DC, metropolitan area, seeks qualified candidates for the position of Deputy Director of Finance. Responsible for accounting functions to include payroll, accounts payable, general ledger; oversee utility customer services; assist in development, execution of the town's budget. \$70,288-112,460 DOQ (may under fill \$67,712-111,592 if selected candidate does not currently possess a CPA license). Closing Date: Jan. 31. Call 703-481-1185, e-mail jobs@herndon-va.gov or visit our website at www.herndon-va.gov.



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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.

1207 East Main Street
Suite 300
Richmond, VA 23219-3627
Phone: 804.788.6652
Fax: 804.788.0083
www.vaco.org

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Editor: Gage Harter
804.343.2502