

COUNTY CONNECTIONS

The Newsletter of the
Virginia Association of Counties

December 2, 2014



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K-12 public education funding at risk in 2015



Balancing the budget by cutting K-12 education funding and evaluating tax preferences will be hotly debated when the General Assembly convenes on January 14. [Linked here is an excellent analysis](#) of the issue by VACo Economist Jim Regimbal. The analysis was part of the Virginia Association of School Superintendents Blueprint that addressed Financing Public Education.

Below is a summary of Regimbal's analysis.

There is a fundamental mismatch in Virginia between the performance expectations and goals for K-12 public schools and the amount of state funding provided to meet our high expectations. State funding has been significantly reduced since the last recession and has not been restored. Given the performance of Virginia's economy and resulting state tax revenues over the last year, there is the threat of further reductions in fiscal year 2016.

Local governments have been hard pressed to make up the funding reductions from the state. Localities already provide more than double what is required to match state K-12 appropriations. Local revenues remain stressed from the slow recovery of the real estate market in Virginia.

Our school system is becoming more diverse. The recession also contributed to the rising number of at-risk students. The number of free and reduced lunch economically-disadvantaged students has risen by over eight percent since 2008 to about 41 percent of all K-12 students in Virginia. These students have traditionally been harder to teach as reflected in their substantially lower SOL scores.

At the same time, Standards of Learning, and accreditation and graduation requirements have become more stringent. Expectations and requirements for closing the achievement gap with at-risk students have also risen. While progress has been made in recent years in closing the achievement gap, it will take resources, quality teaching, and leadership to completely close the achievement gap and attain our ultimate goal of a quality education for all students in order to successfully compete in the global economy of the 21st century.

Virginia's economy has become dependent on federal spending. Reductions in federal spending, particularly in defense, have dramatically lowered the growth in our economy. Everyone recognizes that Virginia needs an economic transformation. Public policymakers in Virginia need to understand that transforming our economy requires a more qualified workforce – and that requires more resources.

Hard choices about priorities also need to be made about how our state resources can meet our education needs. Virginia's tax code is littered with tax preferences for special interests. Restoring proper balance to Virginia's tax base is the first step toward adequately funding public education. Without the necessary resources, it is tough to expect our school systems to meet the needs of our diverse population and to train the highly qualified workforce required for the 21st century economy.

[Click here to read Regimbal's entire analysis.](#)

VACo Contact: [Dean Lynch](#)

VACo members participate in Rural Summit

On November 17-18, the Virginia Rural Center presented the Governor's Summit on Rural Prosperity.

The Governor and many of his cabinet members joined some of the key rural members of the General Assembly to discuss the top economic issues facing rural Virginia with leaders from across the Commonwealth.

A large contingent of VACo members, led by VACo Rural Caucus Chair Gary Tanner, Supervisor in Appomattox County, participated and presented at the summit.

To learn more about the topics and presenters covered at the summit visit <http://www.cfrv.org/#lrural-summit-homepage/cap0>.



Pictured left to right are Richmond County Planner **Joseph Quesenberry**, King George County Supervisor **Ruby Brabo**, VACo Staffer **Erik Johnston**, Bath County Supervisor **Claire Collins**, Richmond County Administrator **Morgan Quicke**, Buckingham County Supervisor **Cassandra Stish** and Middlesex County Supervisor and former VACo President **Jack Miller**.

Virginia Local Government On The Move

Compiled by **Tedd Povar** on the [Virginia Local Government Management Association website](http://www.vlga.org/)

November 2014

- **Frank Bossio**, long-time Culpeper County administrator, announced his retirement effective April 2015.
- **Jack Tuttle**, city manager for Williamsburg since 1991, announced his retirement effective June 30 2015.
- **Hugh G. Cooper**, former city manager for Bristol and Emporia, Virginia, ICMA range rider and life member and ICMA-VA president, passed away at the age of 85.
- **Laura Fitzpatrick**, assistant city manager for Rio Rancho, NM, and former deputy manager for the city of Manassas Park, appointed assistant city manager for Hampton.
- **Marvin B. Milam**, Harrisonburg city manager from 1969 to 1988, and ICMA range rider and life member, died at the age of 84.
- **James H. Blount, Jr.**, former 19 year manager for the town of Woodstock, died at the age of 83.
- **Thomas C. Gates**, assistant city manager for Alexandria, appointed administrator for Roanoke County.
- **Mark Lauzier**, administrator for Page County since July, 2013, resigned.
- **Lance Terpenney**, town manager for Floyd, announced his retirement effective December 31.
- **Laszlo Palko** appointed town manager for Lovettsville. He has extensive military, private sector and public sector experience, and has a public policy masters degree from Harvard.
- **William (Bill) Rolfe**, retired administrator and multiple interim administrator, appointed part-time manager for the town of Glasgow.

October 2014

- **James "Mac" McReynolds**, administrator for York County, passed away at the age of 59.
- **Ken McLawhon** announced he is retiring as town manager for Warrenton effective January 1, and will become administrator for the town of Nolensville, Tennessee.

September 2014

- **Frank Rogers**, assistant administrator for Bedford County for the past 10 years, appointed administrator for Campbell County, starting in October.
- **Aileen Ferguson**, Appomattox County administrator for 17 years, and a county employee for 36 years, announced her retirement effective June 2015.
- **Mary Zirkle**, a planner with Roanoke County, appointed the first town manager for Buchanan, effective October 1.
- **Noah Simon**, deputy administrator for Floyd County, Georgia, appointed city manager for Lexington, effective October 27.

Roanoke County Board names Administrator

The Roanoke County Board of Supervisors today announced the appointment of Thomas C. Gates as County Administrator.

"This is a significant day for Roanoke County," stated Chairman Joe McNamara. "I am pleased that my fellow supervisors and I can share that we have selected a new administrator, one who is passionate about public service and has the forward-thinking abilities to guide Roanoke County into the future."

Gates currently serves as Deputy City Manager and Chief of Staff for the City of Alexandria.

"I am honored to serve the residents of Roanoke County as their administrator," Gates said.

"I've spent nearly thirty years focused on working collaboratively with elected officials, citizens and employees to improve the functioning of government and delivering quality service to citizens. I believe there is much that we can accomplish when we work together for a common goal."

Gates began his service with the City of Alexandria in February 2009, as Assistant City Manager for Management Improvement. His responsibilities include organizational strategic planning, assessing and improving operational efficiency and improving operational performance and accountability.

In 2012, Gates was designated Deputy City Manager and given additional responsibility for the timely and effective implementation of key organizational initiatives including development of a city-wide ethics initiative, establishing effective civic engagement practices and instituting a comprehensive performance management system. Gates had direct oversight of the human resources, budgeting, internal audit and performance management operations of the City.

Prior to joining the City, Gates served as the Assistant County Administrator for Spartanburg County, South Carolina where he provided management oversight and coordination of administrative operations and public safety services.

Gates has served as the Management and Budget Director for both Spartanburg County, and the City of Greenville, South Carolina. He has twice been appointed to City Administrator positions serving the municipalities of Loris, South Carolina and Garden City, Georgia. His nearly 30-year public service career began with Montgomery County, Maryland in 1985.

Gates holds a Bachelor's Degree in Government and Politics from the University of Maryland and a Master's Degree in Public Administration, jointly awarded by the University of South Carolina and Clemson University. He has served as adjunct faculty for the University of South Carolina Upstate where he taught public administration and public financial administration.

Gates is formerly the Board Chair for the Spartanburg County Community Indicators Project and served on the board of the Urban League of the Upstate. He has served as the Alexandria City Manager's appointment to the Torpedo Factory Art Center, the Alexandria Convention and Visitors Association and the Alexandria Small Business Development Center. Gates currently serves on the Board of the American Society of Public Administration's Center for Accountability Performance.

Gates is an International City/County Manager's Association Credentialed Manager. He currently resides in Alexandria with his wife Laura and twin sons Brady and Owen.

Gates follows Clay Goodman who served five years as county administrator until retiring July 31. Gates will assume his new position December 29.



VACo Adopts 2015 Legislative Program

After several months of staff preparations, steering committee meetings and lively floor debate during the association's annual business meeting, VACo adopted its 2015 Legislative Program on November 11.

This year's Legislative Program addresses several new issues not seen in past legislative platforms. For example, VACo's membership expressed support for "common sense efforts to strengthen Virginia's public ethics and conflict of interests laws." In fact, the issue of ethics reform dominated many of the discussions in board and steering committee meetings during the Annual Conference.

Another item that received priority status emphasized the General Assembly's responsibility to "provide full state funding for public education including the Standards of Quality (SOQ) as recommended by (Virginia's) Board of Education." VACo's Education Funding statement expresses the need for the state to recognize how, in FY 2013, local school divisions cumulatively spent \$3.55 billion above the local effort mandated by the General Assembly in order to meet and exceed SOQ requirements. According to information provided by Jim Regimbal to VACo's Education Steering Committee, the General Assembly in FY 2014 underfunded the SOQ (as recommended by the Board of Education) by \$221.5 million.

During the 2015 legislative session, VACo plans to concentrate on beating back anticipated legislation to eliminate the authority of local governments to impose the Business, Professional and Licensing (BPOL) tax. Protection of county authority to impose local business taxes is another priority plank in VACo's 2015 platform.

The 2015 Program also calls upon the federal government to maintain "federal defense spending," which is necessary to protect the nation's security and support local economic growth. Other issues receiving heightened attention include hydraulic fracking, support for the cultivation of industrial hemp, helpful changes to Virginia's stormwater programs, adequate funding by the state to support constitutional officers, adequate funding to support local jails, funding to support Virginia's transportation system and replenishment of the Water Quality Improvement Fund as a way to assist local government with meeting certain stormwater and other requirements that pertain to water quality.

[VACo's 2015 Legislative Program is available here.](#)

VACo Contact: [Dean Lynch](#)

VRS Actuary provides update on Local Pension Plans

On November 20, the Virginia Retirement System (VRS) Board of Directors received the 2014 actuarial report regarding the funded status of local pension plans. The report is shared as information to assist localities in their budget planning as this is not a rate setting year for employer contributions.

The report overall provides good news for localities as market gains have improved the funded status of most local plans and lowered the projections for future employer contribution rates. VRS will mail individual reports for each locality in early January.

The average employer contribution rate for local retirement plans decreased from 9.91 percent in 2013 (rate setting year) to 8.83 percent for 2014 (informational purposes only).

However, these rates vary widely among employers with localities that offer enhanced law enforcement benefits (LEOs) having higher employer contribution rates. The funded status (based on actuarial assets) of all local pension plans increased from 75.3 percent to 80.5 percent.

[Click here for the full VRS actuarial valuation presentation](#) and [here for the report from the VRS Benefits and Actuarial Committee](#), which summarizes the presentation.

VACo Contact: [Erik Johnston](#)



VACo urges support of funding to improve water quality

VACo is participating with a coalition urging Governor Terry McAuliffe to include adequate funding to support local efforts to improve water quality. Specifically VACo, along with coalition members, has requested that the Governor include at least \$50 million for FY 2016 to continue improvements to urban stormwater systems through the Stormwater Local Assistance Fund, which was created by the General Assembly in 2013.

VACo is also requesting continued financial support for the Agricultural Cost Share Program to help farmers utilize certain best management practices to reduce pollution from agricultural runoff.

The request for financial support was made through a joint letter sent to the Governor on October 29. In addition to VACo, other organizations signing on to the letter were the Virginia Municipal League, the Virginia Association of Municipal Stormwater Agencies, the Virginia Association of Municipal Wastewater Agencies, the Homebuilders Association of Virginia, the Virginia Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts, Virginia First Cities, the Chesapeake Bay Foundation, the James River Association, Virginia Forever and the Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay.

[A copy of the coalition's letter is available here.](#)

VACo Contact: [Larry Land](#)

Join a VACo Steering Committee

VACo seeks county supervisors and executive staff interested in serving on steering and operational committees. The steering committees consider proposals from member counties for inclusion in VACo's legislative program.

Steering Committees also provide direction to the VACo staff on policy issues arising from legislative and state agency studies. Steering committee members from VACo's 13 regions are selected to serve.

The operational and ad-hoc committees are responsible for helping direct the staff in the activities, programs and functions of VACo.

County officials who serve on committees need to submit a registration form by December 31 to be reappointed to a committee in 2015.

[Click for registration form.](#)

Financial Facts

By Vicky Steinruck
vsteinruck@vaco.org



Governmental Accounting Standards Board proposed new accounting rules on October 31 requiring disclosures of tax abatements that governments provide to businesses and individuals.

In a recent report by Wilshire Trust Universe Comparison Service, public pension funds lost a median 1 percent in the third quarter while the median drop for all plans was only 0.84 percent.

VACo Committee Interest Form



VACo seeks county supervisors and executive staff interested in serving on steering and operational committees. The steering committees consider proposals from member counties for inclusion in VACo's legislative program.

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Attendance will be expected of committee members at the VACo Annual Meeting, and other committee meetings during the year. VACo asks that committee members or the counties they represent assume responsibility for travel arrangements and costs associated with attending committee meetings. Appointments are made each year by the president of VACo. If you are interested in being considered for an appointment, complete this form and return it by December 31, 2014 to VACo-Attention: [Vicky Steinruck](#), 1207 East Main Street, Suite 300, Richmond, VA 23219-3827, fax 804.788.0083, or scan and e-mail to vsteinruck@vaco.org

County officials who serve on committees need to submit this form by December 31 to be reappointed to a committee in 2015.

Name _____
Title _____ County _____
Address _____
Phone _____ E-mail _____

STEERING COMMITTEES

☐ Economic Development and Planning
☐ Education
☐ Environment and Agriculture
☐ Finance
☐ General Government
☐ Health and Human Resources
☐ Transportation

OPERATIONAL COMMITTEES

☐ Budget and Finance
☐ Conference Planning
☐ Nominating



Visit Franklin County and the Blue Ridge Institute and Museum

Blue Ridge Institute and Museum

20 Museum Drive

Ferrum, VA 24088

540.365.4416

Website: www.blueridgeinstitute.org

For over 30 years the Blue Ridge Institute and Museum, on the campus of Ferrum College, has documented the folkways of the people living in and around the Blue Ridge Mountains.

Through gallery exhibitions, the Blue Ridge Folklife Festival, the Blue Ridge Farm Museum, the Blue Ridge Heritage Archives and innovative outreach programming, the institute promotes a special understanding of regional folklife for all ages and audiences.



Mark Your Calendars

NFWF Environmental Solutions for Communities Grant

Wells Fargo and the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) are accepting applications for approximately \$2.5 million in Environmental Solutions for Communities grants. Each grant will range from \$25,000 to \$100,000 and will be awarded to eligible entities.

Eligible applicants include nonprofits, state, local, tribal and municipal governments, and educational institutions. The grant will support projects that include:

- Support sustainable agricultural practices and private lands stewardship
- Conserving critical land and water resources and improving local water quality
- Restoring and managing natural habitat, species, and ecosystems that are important to community livelihoods
- Facilitating investments in green infrastructure, renewable energy, and energy efficiency
- Encouraging broad-based citizen participation in project implementation.

Grants will be offered once a year to support priority projects in states and communities where Wells Fargo operates. Applications are due December 10. [Learn more.](#)

VACo County Government Day 2015



Join us
February
5

The Virginia Association of Counties invites county officials to VACo County Government Day on February 5 at the Richmond Marriott.

VACo staff will report on legislation affecting local governments, then county officials are encouraged to go to the Capitol to participate in committee meetings and lobby state legislators. In the evening, county officials are strongly encouraged to invite their state legislators to dinner.

- | | |
|------------------|---|
| 9 a.m. | VACo Board of Directors' meeting |
| 11 a.m. | Registration |
| Noon | Keynote Speaker VACo staff legislative briefings (box lunch provided) |
| Afternoon | Visit Capitol and lobby legislators |
| Evening | Make plans to take your state legislators to dinner |

[Click for registration form](#) | [Click for online registration](#)

Key 2015 dates for VACo members



VACo Executive Committee

January 7 | VACo Headquarters

General Assembly Convenes

January 14 | Richmond

Rural Caucus Reception and Dinner

February 4 | [Richmond Marriott](#) | [Registration Form](#)

VACo Board of Directors Meeting

February 5 | [Richmond Marriott](#)

VACo County Government Day at the General Assembly

February 5 | [Richmond Marriott](#) | [Registration Form](#)

Chairperson's Institute

February 5-7 | [Richmond Marriott](#) | [Registration Form](#)

Certified County Supervisors Program

March 13 and May 1 | Albemarle County

NACo Legislative Conference

February 21-25 | Marriott Wardman Park Hotel, Washington, D.C.

VACo Board of Directors Meeting

May 2 | Fairfax County

Certified County Supervisors Program

May 22 and July 17 | Albemarle County

NACo 2014 Annual Conference & Exposition

July 10-13 | Charlotte, North Carolina

VACo County Officials Summit

August | [Richmond Marriott](#)

VACo Board of Directors Meeting

August | TBA

Certified County Supervisors Program

September 11 and November 7 | Albemarle County and [The Omni Homestead Resort](#)

VACo 81st Annual Conference

November 8-10 | [The Omni Homestead Resort](#)

Ethics Commission proposals sent to Governor



The Commission to Ensure Integrity and Public Confidence in State Government submitted its [final interim report](#) to Governor Terry McAuliffe by the December 1 deadline. The most significant proposal is the recommendation to empower a newly established seven-member Ethics Review Commission to oversee ethics issues related to executive and legislative branch officials, local government officials and members of boards and commissions. The recommendation states that the enabling legislation should require the Governor to appoint one former county official and one former city official, to the commission, after consultation with local government associations.

The proposed Ethics Review Commission would oversee and enforce additional recommendations related to gifts and loans, conflicts of interest, disclosure requirements and post-public service restrictions. These recommendations include a new proposed rule to ban all gifts (tangible and intangible) to executive and legislative branch officials, local government officials and members of boards and commissions, and their spouses and dependents exceeding \$250 in aggregate, over a calendar year, from any one source, and require officials to disclose any gift exceeding \$100. The recommendations describe standard exemptions that will be provided for government reimbursed travel and a waiver process for gifted travel directly related to public duties.

The 10-member commission, appointed by Governor Terry McAuliffe in September, is co-chaired by former Lieutenant Governor Bill Bolling and former U.S. Representative Rick Boucher. Fairfax County Chair Sharon Bulova also serves on the commission. VACo sent [a letter](#) to Supervisor Bulova prior to the commission's final meeting outlining county concerns and issues. The commission recognized several of VACo's points during the meeting and incorporated several of these concerns into the recommendations. [Read the letter.](#)

VACo President Penny Gross is leading a VACo task force that is analyzing the recommendations and will work with the Governor and General Assembly to address additional county concerns.

VACo Contact: [Dean Lynch](#)

Legislators consider impacts of proposed greenhouse gas rules

On November 19, the Senate and House Committees on Commerce and Labor met to consider the possible statewide impacts from a proposed Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) rule to limit greenhouse gas emissions from power plants. EPA is expected to finalize the rule on carbon emission by the end of 2015 with it taking full effect by 2020.

Under EPA's proposed rule, each state is assigned a specific goal for limiting emissions of carbon dioxide. Virginia's goal is to reduce emissions by 38 percent from 2012 levels by the year 2030. The proposed rule also requires all states to submit to EPA implementation plans by a specific deadline. During the Joint Committee meeting, presentations about the proposed rule's impact upon Virginia were made by representatives from the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ), the State Corporation Commission (SCC), Dominion Resources, PJM (responsible for constructing and maintaining a large part of the electrical grid), Appalachian Power, Virginia Electric Cooperatives, the Southern Environmental Law Center (SELC) and the office of the Attorney General. Most presentations had information critical of the proposed rule and concluded that the impacts upon Virginia would be significant, both in terms of the state's economic competitiveness, the effect upon rates paid by customers and service reliability.

Here is a summary of the major concerns voiced by DEQ, utilities, and organizations representing ratepayers to the joint committee about the proposed EPA rules:

- Virginia's 38 percent target for reducing CO2 emissions from power plants is more strict than many other states.
- EPA's proposed rule severely limits (to 6 percent) the level to which Virginia can be credited with emissions reductions from nuclear power. (Currently, nuclear power provides about 30 percent of Virginia's electricity needs. Nuclear power emits no greenhouse gases.)
- The proposed rule will significantly increase rates paid by consumers. According to SCC, the estimated increase for the average residential consumer will be about \$300 per year. According to Dominion's estimates, rates will increase by approximately 30 percent.
- The proposed rule will require costly retrofits for existing power plants. Normally, it's typical for new federal environmental regulations to only affect newly constructed facilities.
- Because the rule is scheduled to take effect in 2020, utilities are concerned they will not have enough time to prepare.

Not all presenters at the meeting were critical of EPA's proposed rule. For example, the SELC presented information supporting EPA's proposal and produced estimates that the rule will generate about 38,000 new jobs in Virginia because it will drive up production of renewable energy sources. SELC also testified that rate increases have been overestimated by the utilities and SCC.

VACo will continue to monitor this issue.

VACo Contact: [Larry Land](#)

NACo creates unified discount program by adding dental to prescription - health

NACo is pleased to announce that we have added the NACo Dental Discount Program to the NACo Prescription & Health Discount Program to create one easy to administer health discount solution. NACo has renewed its contract with CVS Health, which will administer all three programs. This change will make all of the programs easier for you and your residents to understand and to take advantage of the great savings.

The current name of the program is the NACo Prescription – Health – Dental Discount Program. New marketing materials are being developed and the name could change to enhance the promotion of the program.

The NACo Prescription & Health Discount Program offers amazing discounts on prescriptions, vision care, LASIK & PRK vision procedures, hearing aids & screenings, prepaid lab work, prepaid diagnostic imaging and diabetic supplies. The prescription portion of the program continues to grow, providing average savings of 24 percent on thousands of medications. The savings range from 15 to 75 percent, and the free discount card is accepted at more than 65,000 pharmacies nationwide.

Since the prescription program began, residents nationwide have saved \$590 million on 46 million prescriptions. The beauty of this program is that residents can begin saving on prescriptions as soon as they receive a free prescription discount card.

To receive savings on health services, memberships are available on a monthly or annual subscription basis for both individuals and families. The best part is that the discounts are available immediately upon enrollment. For individuals, the fees are \$6.95 a month or \$69 a year. For families, the fees are \$8.95 a month or \$79 a year.

Adding the dental discount program enables residents to save on all health services through one program. This program helps residents of NACo member counties save 15 to 50 percent on dental care, and is accepted by more than 110,000 participating providers nationwide. The dental discounts help people who are uninsured, but can also complement health insurance plans or work with health savings accounts and flexible spending accounts. For individuals, the fees are \$6.95 a month or \$69 a year. For families, the fees are \$8.95 a month or \$79 a year.

- **Prescription Drug Discount Card:** Free for Residents
- **Dental Discount Program:** \$6.95 month or \$69 year for individuals. \$8.95 month or \$79 year for families
- **Medical Services:** \$6.95 month or \$69 year for individuals. \$8.95 month or \$79 year for families

More information on all of these great programs is available here: www.naco.org/health.

As a county participating in the prescription program, if you wish to maintain the current program, you do not need to take any action. The amended and restated agreement does not require you to sign a new agreement. The amended terms will automatically become part of your agreement.

If you wish to add the new dental and/or health discount programs, you can simply fill out the form that is in the **Program Brochure**. Check the appropriate boxes for the programs you are adding and submit the form to NACo. Both programs can provide great savings for your residents. Regardless of your county's decision, there will be no disruption to current participants using the program.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Tom Goodman (Phone: 202.942.4222) or Andrew Goldschmidt (Phone: 202.942.4221). Download the **Frequently Asked Questions** and a **Discount Program Brochure** to add the new dental program.

Thank you for being a member of NACo. We look forward to continuing to work with you to assist you and your county residents.



Did you miss a concurrent session at the annual conference?

VACo has posted some presentations on www.vaco.org.

Check it out.

<http://bit.ly/1xQvfPc>

Loudoun County selected to host 2015 Wine Tourism Conference



Governor Terry McAuliffe recently announced that Loudoun County will host the 2015 Wine Tourism Conference. Secured in coordination with the Virginia Tourism Corporation and Visit Loudoun and with assistance from the Virginia Wine Marketing Office, the conference will make its East Coast debut in 2015. Wine tourism leaders from across the country and world will travel to Virginia November 18-20, 2015 for the fifth annual Wine Tourism Conference at Lansdowne Resort in Leesburg. Jackie Saunders, Vice President of Marketing with Visit Loudoun, was present for the announcement at the 2014 Wine Tourism Conference held earlier this month in Paso Robles, California.

"We are thrilled that the 2015 Wine Tourism Conference will be hosted by Virginia and held in Loudoun County, one of the most iconic wine destinations in Virginia," said Governor McAuliffe. "I congratulate Loudoun County and the Virginia team for securing this nationally recognized conference. As the nation's fifth largest wine producer, Virginia is quickly becoming the premier international destination for wine and culinary travelers. The conference will offer an exciting opportunity to showcase our award-winning wines and world-class wine industry."

The Wine Tourism conference is organized by Zephyr Adventures and is expected to attract more than 200 wine tourism professionals from across the world. Open to winery owners, journalists, wine associations, wine destination marketing organizations and tour operators, the conference serves as a networking forum and provides extensive educational opportunities for this growing industry. Previous conferences have been held on the West Coast in the premier wine destinations of Napa and Sonoma in California and Portland, Oregon.

"Securing the Wine Tourism Conference is another win for Virginia's efforts to become the premier East Coast destination for wine and wine tourism," said Virginia Secretary of Agriculture and Forestry Todd Haymore. "With our wines garnering international acclaim, sales at a new all-time high – surpassing 521,000 cases in the last fiscal year – and more people visiting our wineries than ever before, Virginia is already recognized as a rising star in the global wine trade. The 2015 Wine Tourism Conference will further that well-deserved attention and reinforce all that we have to offer as a wine destination."

"Virginia is a top destination for wine lovers across the country, with more than 1.6 million tourists visiting our wineries last year bringing instant revenue to the Commonwealth," said Virginia Secretary of Commerce and Trade Maurice Jones. "By hosting the 2015 Wine Tourism Conference, Virginia becomes the first East Coast destination for this annual event, once again showing the country and the world that we are a top location for wine tourism."

"We are excited to be bringing the Wine Tourism Conference to Loudoun County and to Virginia," said Allan Wright with Zephyr Adventures. "We know both the county and the state have done a great job at promoting wine and tourism and think our attendees from other areas will be very impressed with the local hospitality."

"Loudoun is thrilled to be hosting the 2015 conference and that organizers recognize Loudoun and Virginia's important and growing role in the wine tourism industry," said Visit Loudoun President & CEO Beth Erickson.

Recognized as one of the top wine destinations in the world by Wine Enthusiast Magazine, the Virginia wine industry continues to thrive in both Loudoun County and across the Commonwealth. Currently, there are 3,100 acres of vineyards and around 250 wineries in Virginia, more than 40 of which are in Loudoun.

Virginia currently ranks fifth in the number of wineries in the nation with around 250. Virginia is also the nation's fifth largest wine grape producer. According to a 2012 economic impact study, the Virginia wine industry employs more than 4,700 people and contributes almost \$750 million to the Virginia economy on an annual basis. In addition, more than 1.6 million tourists visited Virginia wineries in 2013 according the Virginia Tourism Corporation.

Virginia has been listed as one of the best wine travel destinations in numerous media outlets including Wine Enthusiast, USA Today, Food & Wine Magazine and the Washington Post, noting the state's picturesque landscapes and friendly winemakers set Virginia apart as an excellent wine destination. Visit www.virginia.org/wine to learn more about wine travel in Virginia or call 1-800-VISITVA to request a free Virginia is for Lovers travel guide to start planning a trip to Virginia. For more information, please visit www.virginia.org.

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.

TREASURER | Town of Louisa

SALARY: Negotiable Depending on Qualifications and Experience. In addition to salary the Town of Louisa offers full benefits including health care, paid vacation, holiday and sick time, participation in VRS and Employee Life Insurance. The Treasurer is appointed by the town council and serves as tax collector, payroll manager, accounts payable and accounts receivable clerk and other duties assigned by the Town Council or Town Manager. Send resume and completed job application to: Town Manager, Town of Louisa, P.O. Box 531, Louisa, VA 23093. For more information on the Town of Louisa and a complete job description, visit www.louisatown.org.

COMMUNICATIONS DIRECTOR | Wake County, N.C.

The Communications Director provides leadership and guidance to the organization in external/internal communications, media relations and multimedia services within Wake County Government. This leader with ensure that all County communications, news, information, directives, decisions, policies, resolutions, ordinances and regulations issued by the Board of County Commissioners, County Manager and other agencies are communicated to the public and employees as needed. Position reports to the County Manager's Office and leads a Team within the Communications Office. TO APPLY PLEASE VISIT OUR CAREER SITE: <http://www.wakegov.com/employment>, include resume when applying. Position closes on: December 21. FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT COMMUNICATIONS DIRECTOR RECRUITMENT WEBSITE: <http://www.wakegov.com/employment/communicationsdirector>. Compensation and Benefits. Wake County Government offers a competitive salary and benefits package. Salary range is \$97,000 - \$165,000, hiring salary is dependent on qualifications.

ASSISTANT COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR | Bedford County

The County of Bedford, Virginia is currently accepting applications for the position of Assistant County Administrator. A complete Position Profile and application information is available from Bedford County's official website: <http://www.bedfordcountyva.gov/acaposition.html>. Anticipated initial starting

salary range \$92,916 - \$99,110 DoQ, DoE with benefits. Resumes with letters of interest, salary history and references accepted through 5 p.m., January 16, 2015.

CITY CLERK | City of Chesapeake

Under the administrative direction of the Mayor, the City Clerk is responsible for planning, managing and overseeing the operations and services of the City Clerk's office including the preparing, posting and maintenance of agendas, minutes, and records for City Council; conducting or coordinating municipal elections and performing related duties as prescribed by statute or as may be assigned. The City Clerk is appointed by City Council. Interested candidates should apply online, jobs.cityofchesapeake.net. For more information about the position and City, review <http://www.cityofchesapeake.net/government/City-Departments/Departments/Human-Resources-Department/Human-Resources-Announcements/city-clerk-recruitment.htm>.

REAL ESTATE ASSESSOR | City of Chesapeake

Appointed by City Council, the Assessor is responsible for planning, managing and overseeing the operations and services of the Real Estate Assessor's office. The Assessor performs supervisory administrative and technical work to manage the Office of Real Estate for determining and coordinating the valuation and classification of all real estate in the City of Chesapeake. Interested candidates should apply online, jobs.cityofchesapeake.net. For more information about the position and City, please review <http://www.cityofchesapeake.net/government/City-Departments/Departments/Human-Resources-Department/Human-Resources-Announcements/real-estate-assessor-recruitment.htm>.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR | Shenandoah Valley Partnership

As Executive Director of the nonprofit Shenandoah Valley Partnership serving seven counties and five cities in the central Shenandoah Valley of Virginia, the successful candidate will lead efforts to expand and relocate businesses to this vibrant economic region with a population of approximately 357,000 inhabitants. The successful candidate will possess the unique ability to work with an energized public-private Board of Directors. The Executive Director serves as the Chief Executive of

the Partnership with the direction of the Board Chair and its Executive Committee, but is employed through James Madison University. This is a grant funded position and is contingent upon continued funding. To apply go to joblink.jmu.edu and reference posting number 0406365. Salary range is \$80,000 - \$100,000. Apply Here: <http://www.Click2Apply.net/zdr52g6>.

CSA COORDINATOR | New Kent County

This position is responsible for implementing, coordinating the overall program management and supervision of the Comprehensive Services Act (CSA) program in New Kent County. The CSA Coordinator reports to the County Administrator. Salary Based on Experience. Apply by accessing Employment Opportunities under New Kent County website: www.co.new-kent.va.us. Human Resources, PO Box 150, New Kent, VA 23124.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT MANAGER | Town of Warrenton

The Town Council voted on October 14, 2014 to hire an Economic Development Manager who will work with the Fauquier County Department of Economic Development to nurture the Warrenton economy. The salary range of \$40,000 to \$75,000 is for the Economic Development Manager. Whether this is handled on a contract basis or employee basis, compensation would be commensurate with experience and salary history and any benefits would be subject to negotiation. Please send your information to: Fauquier County Department of Economic Development, Attn: Economic Development Manager Position, 35 Culpeper St., Warrenton, VA 20186. Or by email to: Miles.Friedman@Fauquiercounty.gov. Applications must be received by close of business on December 15.

ENGINEER-WATER RESOURCES | Loudoun County

This position is responsible for performing independent application reviews, team application reviews, and peer/ESI reviews of stormwater management plans. This includes drainage/adequate outfall and Best Management Practice (BMP) components of site plans (STPLs) and construction plans and profiles (CPAPs). These reviews ensure the technical integrity and quality of

EMPLOYMENT

Continued from page 10

applications as related to good engineering practice as well as the applicable regulations set forth in the Loudoun County Zoning Ordinance (ZO), Land Subdivision Development Ordinance (LSDO), and Facilities Standards Manual (FSM). The job requires strong written and oral communication and problem solving skills. (Hiring Range: \$47,838-\$64,477) #15-S233C-850 Closes: December 2. Visit our online employment center at www.loudoun.gov for more information and to apply.

CITY ATTORNEY | City of Hopewell

SALARY: \$85,000 - \$150,000 annually DOQ/DOE. City of Hopewell is currently accepting applications for our City Attorney position. Appointed by City Council, the City Attorney directs and provides legal counsel to City Council and staff and serves as its legal representative. The incumbent will be required to become a resident of the City of Hopewell within six months of employment, if not already a resident. To review the complete job posting and apply, please go to www.hopewellva.gov. Closing Date: December 8.

OFFICE ASSOCIATE V | Albemarle County

This position is employed by the Sheriff. The Office Associate V work consists of varied duties involving a wide range of processes and methods relating to the established practices of office administration. Work requires a broad knowledge of County and/or school operations and frequent contacts with top-level officials. Work is performed under general supervision with considerable latitude for independent judgment. **PAYGRADE:** 10, Benefits-eligible, VRS-eligible. **HIRING SALARY RANGE:** \$31,357 - \$37,628/Per Year, depending on experience and qualifications. **DEADLINE FOR APPLICATIONS:** Friday, December 19, 5 p.m. For additional information visit: Albemarle County Human Resources at <http://www.albemarle.org/hr>.

DIRECTOR OF ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES | York County

SALARY: \$90,525 - \$104,727 Annually. **CLOSING DATE:** Continuous. Responsible and accountable for managing the operations of the Department of Environmental Services. Plans, organizes, and directs the activities of the Department to ensure service of current and anticipated needs of the County; anticipates municipal growth and develops strategies to render

services; ensures compliance with State and Federal regulations; projects manpower and staffing requirements to meet current and anticipated needs. Determines these needs by surveying and conferring with residents and public officials. Directs the activities of employees of the County's solid waste, water and sewer utilities, stormwater management, and drainage and mosquito control. **INTERVIEWS WILL BEGIN ON OR AFTER JANUARY 5, 2015** For a more detailed description: [View Document](#). Apply online at <http://www.yorkcounty.gov/humanresources>.

PRINCIPAL PLANNER-TRANSPORTATION | Albemarle County

The Principal Planner - Transportation position undertakes assignments related to a full range of project management responsibilities in the Department. Primary functions include multi-modal transportation planning and priority setting; liaison with neighborhood and community interests regarding transportation issues and program development; identification and costing of projects for inclusion in VDOT/MPO transportation improvement programs, the County's CIP and transit budgeting; coordination with various transportation providers in implementing projects. **PAYGRADE:** 18, Benefits-eligible, VRS-eligible. **HIRING SALARY RANGE:** \$55,058 - \$72,465/Per Year, depending on experience and qualifications. **DEADLINE FOR APPLICATIONS:** Open Until Filled (this posting will remain open for a minimum of 10 days). For additional information visit: Albemarle County Human Resources at <http://www.albemarle.org/hr>.

SENIOR ACCOUNTANT | Town of Culpeper

Full-Time - Excellent Benefits. Salary Range - \$46,238 - \$73,985. The successful candidate will plan, design, and implement systems of accounts and procedures in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles; coordinate the input and output of the accounting system including all required reports; oversee successful management of cash and investments; reconcile bank transactions; manage LGIP and SNAP accounts; establish and maintain sound internal controls per prudent fiscal policies and procedures; act as backup to payroll and accounts payable processing; and is responsible for directing and assisting the auditor in preparation of regular and special financial reports. Application and position profile are available at www.culpeperva.gov. Open until filled.

HUMAN RESOURCE DIRECTOR | James City County

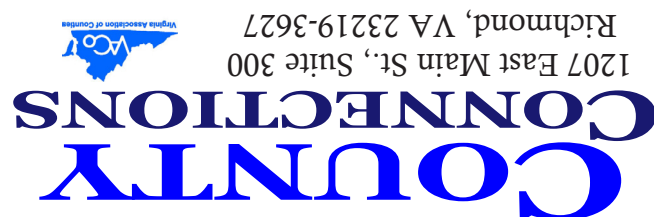
Salary dependent on qualifications + benefits; James City County is seeking candidates with considerable experience in human resource management and supervision, preferably in the public sector, to plan, direct, and evaluate comprehensive human resource programs, policies, and strategic initiatives in support of the County's mission, vision, and values. **TO BE CONSIDERED:** Please submit a James City County application, including a resume and a cover letter. Applications will be accepted until the position is filled with an initial screening December 5. To be considered for this position a James City County online application must be submitted. Please visit: <https://jobs.jamescitycountyva.gov>.

HUMAN RESOURCES MANAGER | Rockbridge County

We seek a professional with demonstrated, progressively responsible experience in the areas of benefits administration, employee recruitment process, records management, leave tracking and overall human resources principles and practices. Excellent benefits package including state retirement. Starting salary is to the mid \$40s, DOQ. Visit www.co.rockbridge.va.us/jobs.aspx for application and full job description. Complete position description and application may be accessed at www.co.rockbridge.va.us/jobs.aspx. Application, cover letter and resume can be emailed to brandy_whitten@co.rockbridge.va.us (please reference HR Manager in the subject line) or mailed to: Rockbridge County Administrator, 150 S. Main St., Lexington, VA 24450. Preference given to applications received by December 5. Open until filled.

CHIEF OF FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT | Albemarle County

The Chief of Financial Management oversees the financial operations in compliance with state and federal laws and in accordance with Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP) and Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB). Performs complex, professional and administrative work in the planning, organizing and directing the financial activities of the County. Oversees the County's accounting, payroll, purchasing, financial reporting, treasury management, as well as fixed assets systems. **SALARY:** Hiring Range: \$72,958 - \$119,090 | annual equivalent based on experience and education | Internal candidates will receive pay adjustments in accordance with Local Government Personnel Policy, SP-60. **DEADLINE FOR APPLICATIONS:** January 5.



Executive Committee

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1st Vice President: Judy S. Lyttle, Surry County
2nd Vice President: Mary W. Biggs, Montgomery County
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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.

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