

COUNTY CONNECTIONS

The Newsletter of the
Virginia Association of Counties

July 15, 2014



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State Budget Shortfall Deepens



By Dean Lynch
dlynch@vaco.org

Governor McAuliffe announced on July 10 that preliminary figures indicate the state concluded Fiscal Year (FY) 2014 on June 30 with an approximately \$438.5 million shortfall in general fund revenue collections. This represents a shortfall of \$89 million more than the \$350 million projected in the recently passed state budget. This additional loss could continue in the new biennium, potentially doubling the shortfall to \$178 million.

The state budget anticipated a revenue reduction of \$1.55 billion by creating a revenue reserve of \$842 million from a series of spending reductions. The remaining \$707 million in reduced revenues are expected to be covered by the state's Rainy Day Fund. It is too early to speculate the extent of the additional cuts needed to cover this higher than projected shortfall as the official new revenue forecast will be presented to the General Assembly's money committees on August 15.

Total general fund revenue collections declined by 1.6 percent in FY 2014, behind the revised revenue forecast of 1 percent growth. This marks the first time that Virginia revenues have declined outside of a national recession.

The main driver of the revenue decrease was a large drop in nonwithholding payments. Despite record-breaking increases in the stock market, it appears that the uncertainty about the federal Fiscal Cliff in December 2012/January 2013 shifted more realized capital gains from 2013 into 2012 than the state expected. Revenue collections during the last quarter of each fiscal year are significant in this regard because upper income individuals who have a significant portion of their income based on capital gains pay a substantial portion of their tax liability in the April to June period.

General Assembly to Debate Medicaid Expansion in September

Speaker William Howell and Senate Majority Leader Thomas Norment, Jr., announced last week that they intend for the House and Senate to debate Medicaid expansion the week of September 22. The exact date and time of the reconvened session will be formally set after Labor Day.

VACo launches 2014 Go Green program

The Go Green Virginia initiative has several components. Among them is the [scorecard](#) that is designed to encourage implementation of specific policies and practical actions that reduce emissions generated by both the local government and the broader community.

VACo, in cooperation with VML, has been working to develop what we hope will be a challenging, but more county-friendly [scorecard](#) that our members can use to achieve certification. (Please see step #4 below.)

The Green Government Challenge is a friendly competition designed to encourage implementation of practical actions to improve energy efficiency. Many of these actions can save local governments money.

Certified green governments will be recognized during VACo’s Annual Conference between November 9 and 10 at the Homestead.



Participating in the Green Government Challenge is easy.

1. Local governments must register to participate. To do so, you will need a Green Key. To obtain this unique password, click on the name of your locality and submit an e-mail address using the form at the bottom of [this page](#). Once you have received your Green Key via email, return to [this page](#), click on the name of your locality and enter your Green Key to register.
2. Once registered, look over the Challenge to get familiar with its action items. The Challenge score sheet includes helpful links to detailed explanations and examples of each of the action items that can be implemented in your community.
3. Start completing the Challenge and earn “green points” by implementing new actions and adopting new policies that will increase your total score. Amassing at least 100 green points out of a possible 200 will earn certification as a “Green Government.”
4. To complete the VACo Green Government Challenge [click here](#).
5. Submit the completed challenge to Larry Land at lland@vaco.org by October 10.

Questions about the Green Government Challenge may be submitted to Larry Land at lland@vaco.org or Joe Lerch at jlerch@vml.org.



Watch VACo on the Go

This summer’s episode of VACo on the Go focuses on the association’s commitment to education. Also, the legislative report provides updates on key issues as members prepare to give input into the development of VACo’s legislative program. Plus Jim Campbell gives the Member Services update by discussing the VIP program.

[Click here to watch entire VACo on the Go episode.](#)

- [Click here to watch the Legislative Report.](#)
- [Click here to watch the Member Services Report.](#)
- [Click here to watch the Education Report.](#)

NACo is you!

See how your efforts have advanced the association, counties, parishes & boroughs over the past year.

[Watch NACo’s Annual Report.](#)

CORRECTION

In the July 1 County Connections, it was reported that Ann Neil Cosby serves as a member on the Regulatory Advisory Panel (RAP) “in her capacity as Caroline County’s Attorney.”

Cosby serves on RAP as a representative of the Sands Anderson law firm. County Connections regrets the error.

RAP, convened by the Department of Mines, Minerals and Energy was established to assist with development of Virginia’s regulations on oil and gas drilling.

Altman promoted to Deputy County Administrator

J. March Altman, Jr. was promoted to Deputy County Administrator – Community Development for Powhatan County on July 1, 2014. The organizational change was a strategic initiative in the Fiscal Year 2015 Budget which was unanimously approved by the Powhatan County Board of Supervisors.

“The creation of this position is part of our ongoing intent to build high professionalism in our public officials. March brings the right skillset to the job, has a proven track record and models the can-do professional mindset that will serve Powhatan well both immediately and in the long run.” — **Carson Tucker**, Chairman, Powhatan County Board of Supervisors

Altman began with the County as the Director of Community Development in September 2013. He came to the County as a veteran of local government for more than 17 years. Immediately prior to coming to Powhatan County, Altman was the Assistant City Manager for Development for the City of Hopewell.

“In the past ten months, March has brought innovative ideas and a fresh perspective to the County. With his qualifications and reputation, we expected great things from him and he has exceeded our expectations. We have had very positive feedback from our business and development communities.” — **Patricia A. (Pat) Weiler**, Powhatan County Administrator

Altman earned an undergraduate degree from Virginia Tech and has a master’s in Urban and Regional Planning from Virginia Commonwealth University. Altman oversaw Hopewell’s downtown revitalization effort, including the design and construction of the downtown library and streetscape enhancements. Altman is a member of the American Planning Association, the Urban Land Institute and the International City/County Manager’s Association.

“In my new role, I am looking forward to continuing the work that the Board of Supervisors and County Administration have begun, as stewards of the community, to maintain the rural character and charm of Powhatan while ensuring a sustainable future for the citizens of Powhatan.” — **March Altman**



Mike Seigfried is Loudoun County’s new Director of Building & Development

Mike Seigfried has been selected as the new Director of the Loudoun County, Virginia, Department of Building & Development, County Administrator Tim Hemstreet announced.

Seigfried has been serving as Interim Director of the department since January 1, 2014, following the retirement of former director Terry Wharton.

“We conducted a nationwide search for this position and had a very strong and competitive applicant pool. Mike stood out as an exceptional leader and manager,” said Hemstreet. “I am confident that under his leadership, the Department of Building & Development will continue to provide for the public’s safety and welfare as it oversees all phases of construction within Loudoun County.”

Seigfried began his service in Loudoun County in 1987 when he was hired as a planner. Over the past 27 years, he has moved up through the department with progressively responsible positions, becoming Assistant Director in charge of Land Subdivision in 2005.

As Director of the Department of Building & Development, Seigfried will be responsible for overseeing all phases of new land development throughout the county, including approval of subdivision plans, construction plans, site plans, and building plans; all construction-related inspections; final occupancy inspections, and the issuance of county building, zoning, and grading permits. The department is also responsible for managing construction sites through the Erosion and Sediment Control Enforcement Program, managing public improvements through the bonding program, managing proffers and managing water resources.

Seigfried says he is looking forward to his new position. “Having worked in Loudoun for many years, I am proud of the great team of professionals we have developed in the department. I plan to continue to draw on their expertise and build on their successes,” he said.

Seigfried received a Bachelor of Science degree from Indiana University of Pennsylvania and completed coursework toward a Master’s degree in Urban and Regional Planning at the University of Pittsburgh.



Photo courtesy of Loudoun County

Great Meadow to host Equestrian Preparatory Trials

David O'Connor, Chef d'Equipe of the [US Equestrian Team](#) eventing squad, has named [Great Meadow](#) in Fauquier County as the site of the preparatory trials for the upcoming Alltech FEI World Equestrian Games and will conduct activities on the primary property.

Dressage and show jumping will be tested in the existing arena and cross-country will be tested on the existing racecourse. The trials are to be held July 26-27 at Great Meadow in advance of the international competition held in Normandy, France, August 23-September 7. The list of competitors will include the nation's finest horses and riders in the eventing discipline.

Dressage tests will begin Saturday morning, July 26 in Great Meadow's present arena. That evening, the trials resume in the same arena beginning with a bareback puissance class followed by the show jumping test.

While the competition is conducted in the arena, a VIP reception will be held in the pavilion on the berm overlooking to cheer on the team and celebrate the opening of the new event park on the Fleming Park property. The trials continue the next morning on the racecourse with the cross-country phase and return to the arena for the closing ceremony and press conference.

General admission tickets are \$30 a carload. Ringside boxes for 6-10, tailgates on a tree-lined berm overlooking the lighted

arena, space for larger groups on a covered entertainment deck, and tables in a tented VIP reception dinner on the tree-lined berm overlooking the arena for Saturday night will also be available. Saturday night will end with dancing for everyone in the pavilion and continue until late.

All are invited to attend and support the event. The team needs plenty of faces in the crowd to replicate the atmosphere they will face in Normandy. Please come to cheer the team on to victory in France and celebrate the opening of Great Meadow's brand new event park opening next year.

A detailed schedule for the entire weekend, as well as opportunities to purchase general admission and reserved area tickets will be posted soon.

You may get more information by e-mailing info@greatmeadow.org, or by calling 540.253.5000. The offices are located at 5089 Old Tavern Road, The Plains, VA 20118. See more at [here](#).

About the WEG

The FEI World Equestrian Games are the major international championships for equestrianism, and are administered by the Fédération Equestre Internationale.

The games have been held every four years, halfway between sets of consecutive Summer Olympic Games, since 1990. Prior to that year, all 10 of the FEI's individual disciplines held separate championships, usually in separate countries. The modern

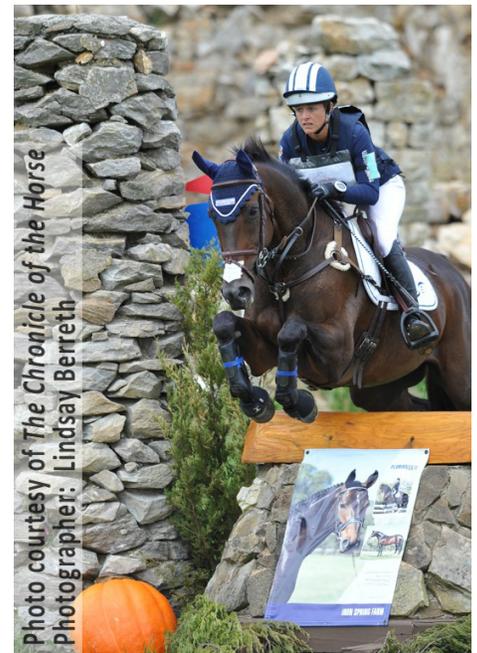


Photo courtesy of The Chronicle of the Horse
Photographer: Lindsay Berreth

WEG runs over two weeks and, like the Olympics, the location rotates to different parts of the world.

Riders and horses competing at WEG go through a rigorous selection process, and each participating country sends teams that have distinguished themselves through competition as the nation's best in each respective discipline.

At the 2010 World Equestrian Games, 57 countries were represented by 800 people and their horses.

Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation releases comprehensive plan for outdoor recreation, land conservation

Virginia's official guide for the planning of public outdoor recreation and land conservation has been revised and is now available online. The [Virginia Outdoors Plan](#), which is updated every five years, highlights the beautiful natural resources and historical attractions Virginia has to offer.

This is the 10th plan to be produced since the 1965 publication of "Virginia's Common Wealth," the first comprehensive study of Virginia's outdoor recreation facilities and resources. It is the first to be completely paperless, and its publication marks the debut of [VOP Mapper](#), a user-friendly online tool for mapping outdoor recreation resources and conserved lands.

[Click here](#) to view a video of First Lady Dorothy McAuliffe introducing the plan.

This plan's theme is "Virginia is for Outdoor Lovers," and recommendations focus heavily on expanding tourism opportunities and the economy through outdoor recreation and land conservation.

The **Virginia Outdoors Plan** is a requirement for Virginia to participate in the federal Land and Water Conservation Fund program. Since that program's inception nearly 50 years ago, Virginia has received more than \$76 million in LWCF grants through the National Park Service. DCR is tasked with dispersing these grant funds statewide for public outdoor recreation. More than 400 projects across the state have been made possible through this funding. These projects range from improvements at existing parks to land acquisitions for developing new parks.

The **Virginia Outdoors Plan** is developed using results of the [Virginia Outdoors Demand Survey](#). The survey helps gauge the level at which Virginians are participating in specific outdoor recreation activities. It also measures respondents' attitudes about the importance of outdoor recreation and land conservation, use of technology to find outdoor recreation opportunities and outdoor amenities they prefer.

The survey cited in this plan was administered in 2011 by the University of Virginia Center for Survey Research. The plan was developed using the responses from 3,100 Virginia households. In addition to the survey, input about outdoor recreation and land conservation was collected during 42 public meetings around the state.

Visit Scott County and the Wilderness Road Blockhouse

The Anderson Blockhouse was built in the late 1700s to protect European settlers from Indian attacks. The original location of the blockhouse can be visited along the [Daniel Boone Wilderness Trail](#) while a replica can be seen at [Natural Tunnel State Park](#).

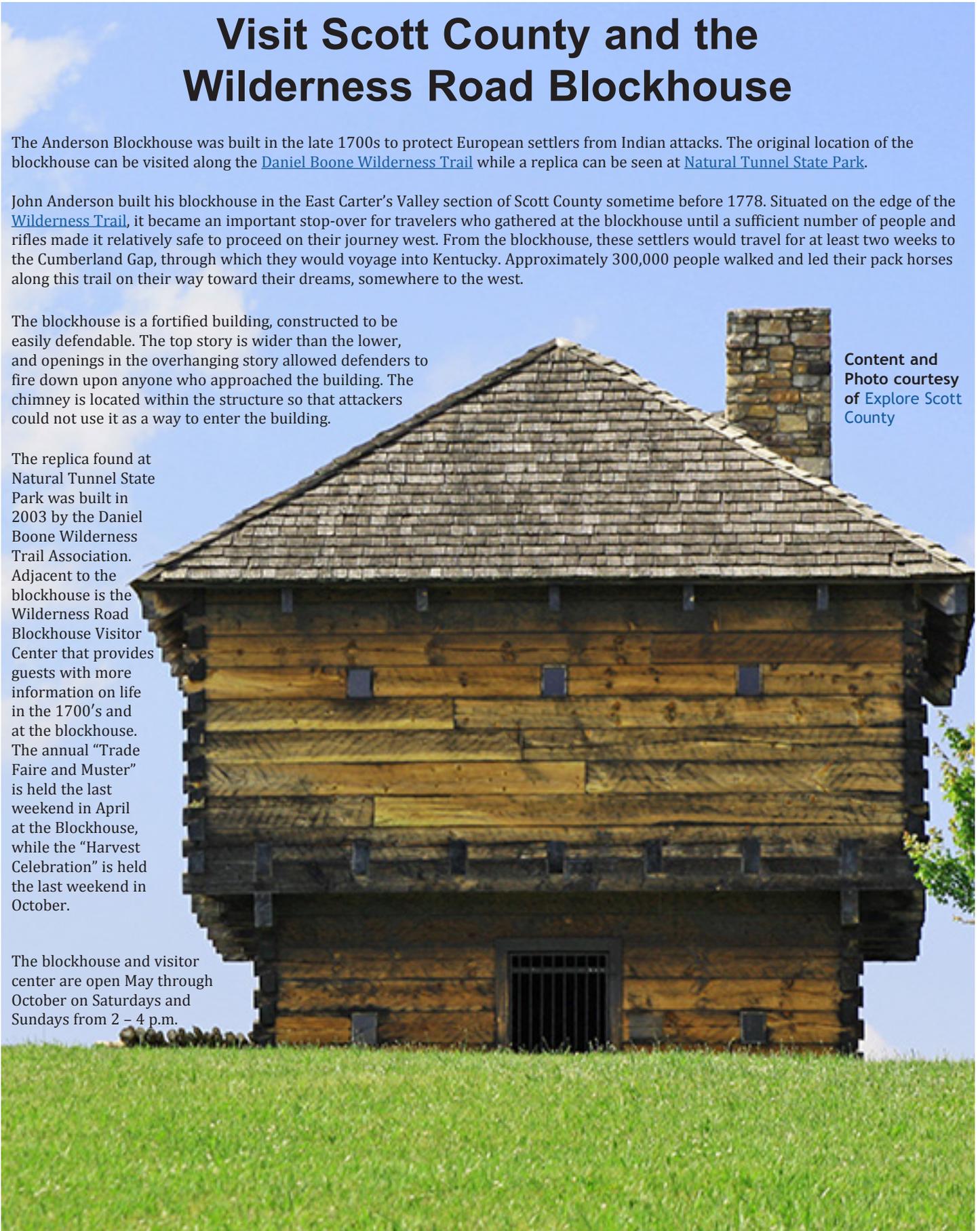
John Anderson built his blockhouse in the East Carter's Valley section of Scott County sometime before 1778. Situated on the edge of the [Wilderness Trail](#), it became an important stop-over for travelers who gathered at the blockhouse until a sufficient number of people and rifles made it relatively safe to proceed on their journey west. From the blockhouse, these settlers would travel for at least two weeks to the Cumberland Gap, through which they would voyage into Kentucky. Approximately 300,000 people walked and led their pack horses along this trail on their way toward their dreams, somewhere to the west.

The blockhouse is a fortified building, constructed to be easily defensible. The top story is wider than the lower, and openings in the overhanging story allowed defenders to fire down upon anyone who approached the building. The chimney is located within the structure so that attackers could not use it as a way to enter the building.

The replica found at Natural Tunnel State Park was built in 2003 by the Daniel Boone Wilderness Trail Association. Adjacent to the blockhouse is the Wilderness Road Blockhouse Visitor Center that provides guests with more information on life in the 1700's and at the blockhouse. The annual "Trade Faire and Muster" is held the last weekend in April at the Blockhouse, while the "Harvest Celebration" is held the last weekend in October.

The blockhouse and visitor center are open May through October on Saturdays and Sundays from 2 - 4 p.m.

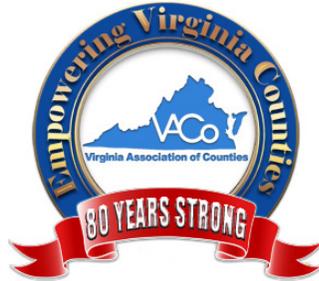
Content and
Photo courtesy
of Explore Scott
County



Mark Your Calendars

2014 Annual Conference update

On July 8, the VACo team met to discuss the Conference Planning Committee's suggestions made during their meeting held in mid-May. After much discussion on the topics suggested by the Conference Planning Committee and those that we feel most directly affect the majority of Virginia's counties, the VACo team divided topics and are in the planning stages.



Following the 16 breakout session format requested by the Conference Planning Committee, VACo is working to have repeat sessions of topics. This will provide attendees with more flexibility when choosing which sessions to attend. As for general sessions, the Roanoke Color Guard will return to start Monday's Opening General Session, and Bob Holsworth has agreed to speak during the Tuesday morning General Session. Veteran's Day is Tuesday morning and VACo is putting together a commemorative slide show honoring our nation's veterans.

Be on the lookout on August 15 for the VACo Conference Registration Form. It will be sent by e-mail to the VACo Board of Directors, county administrators and confirmed exhibitors. If you did not receive a copy of the registration form or wish to have a copy mailed to you, please contact Carol Cameron at ccameron@vaco.org.

We would like to thank all of our sponsors for their support. Sponsorships provide attendees with additional conference benefits and better quality services at a reduced registration cost. They also provide the sponsor with an excellent opportunity to advertise and come in direct contact with county decision makers. Several sponsorships are still available. If your organization has yet to take advantage of one or more of the benefit levels, [please see the 2014 Sponsorship Form](#). As the VACo team continues to organize the conference, the options listed will increase. Check back often for an updated list of available sponsorship levels.

VACo Annual Conference Contact: [Amy Elizabeth Vealey](#)

2014 Achievement Awards Update

VACo received 61 entries for the 2014 [Achievement Awards Program](#). All submissions have been processed and are in the judges' hands.



Winners will be announced August 4 via e-mail. One submission will be named the "Best Achievement" Award.

VACo will issue press releases announcing winners as well as publishing a booklet. VACo staff will visit winners at their Board of Supervisors meetings.

Thank you to all who entered and good luck.



**SAVE THE DATE :
SEPTEMBER 11-12, 2014**



Presented by: The Office on Volunteerism and Community Service and the Virginia Service Foundation

Calling all: Volunteer Service Leaders, Nonprofit Directors, Organizational and Faith-Based Leaders, Local Government and Public Organization Volunteer Coordinators

- tools and training
- volunteer management
- non-profit resources
- leadership development
- collaborations and partnerships
- service projects
- AmeriCorps launch (nationwide simultaneous swearing-in ceremony)
- Anniversary Celebration and Network Reception

...more details soon on vaservice.org

Location: DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel Richmond-Midlothian
1021 Koger Center Boulevard, Richmond, VA

VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES
COMMUNITY & VOLUNTEER SERVICES

Plan on attending the

County Officials Summit



August 14-15

Marriott West
Henrico County

[Registration Form](#)
[Agenda](#)

Appomattox County adopts official song: 'Twelve Unknown'

Katrina Koerting
Lynchburg News & Advance



Like many localities in Virginia, Appomattox County has an official seal, flag and vision statement. And now it is one of the first to have an official song.

"Twelve Unknown," by county resident Gene Williams, was unanimously adopted as the county's official song at the Board of Supervisors meeting on Monday.

"I love it," Courthouse District Supervisor Samuel Carter said, adding it was a great tribute to the county's history and the United Daughters of the Confederacy.

The song was written by Williams, 68, of Falling River, during a three-day period in February. He was inspired by the annual ceremony the United Daughters of the Confederacy hold at the cemetery, which honors 19 Civil War soldiers found and buried by the Daughters after the war. Of those, 12 graves are marked as unknown.

It is believed 18 of the soldiers buried there are Confederates and one is a Union soldier.

The song begins with "Taps" and a reading of names before going into a bluegrass tune where Williams sings about the history of the spot. The cemetery is located on a hill about half a mile from where Gen. Robert E. Lee surrendered to Gen. Ulysses S. Grant.

"I love history and I've just always wanted to write something about Appomattox," Williams said.

Williams, a lifelong county resident except for two years, said when he wrote the song he had no idea it would become the county's official song.

He initially planned to record the song on a full-length CD, but after people heard it, they insisted it be released as a single. He's working on an album and has several songs already completed.

After the song was written, he gathered eight area musicians to play it and Jacob Clayton to engineer it.

Williams played it for several organizations, business owners and elected officials, including Carter. At first he shared it to get input, but after urging from various people, he began getting feedback on using it as the county song.

After Carter heard it, he told Williams it would be a great song for the county and had Supervisor Chairman Ronald Spiggle listen to Williams perform it. When they and other people in the community started talking about making it the county song, Williams said he didn't think they were serious or that it would actually happen.

"I just kind of laughed and didn't think anything of it," he said.

[Click here to read the rest of the story and to listen to the song.](#) | Contact Katrina Koerting at kkoerting@newsadvance.com.

Governor McAuliffe orders Climate Change Commission to convene

Governor McAuliffe visited First Landing State Park on the shores of the Chesapeake Bay in Virginia Beach to sign Executive Order 19, convening the Governor's Climate Change and Resiliency Update Commission.

The bipartisan Commission is made up of leaders from around the state including local elected officials, members of the General Assembly, business leaders, environmental advocates, faith leaders, and industry representatives.

"We need to prepare Virginia's coastal communities to deal with the growing threat of climate change, which is why I've re-convened the Climate Commission for the first time in four years," stated Governor McAuliffe. "Virginia has the opportunity not only to be a leader in finding creative ways to mitigate climate change in the future but also to adapt to the effects of climate change that we have already begun to see here in the Commonwealth. I have asked Secretary of Natural Resources Molly Ward and Secretary of Public Safety Brian Moran to co-chair the Commission, which will focus on protecting Virginia's citizens, our environment, and our industries in every region of Virginia."

This Commission will evaluate the recommendations made by then-Governor Kaine's Climate Commission, determine what actions were taken on those recommendations, and issue an updated final report. The Executive Order gives the Commission one year to complete its work.



Regulatory Advisory Panel meets to discuss fracking regulations

By Rachael Sharp
rsharp@vaco.org

A Gas and Oil Regulatory Advisory Panel (RAP) formed by the Department of Mines, Minerals, and Energy (DMME) met in Richmond on July 2 to continue its discussion of new regulations for Virginia's hydraulic fracturing, or fracking, industry.

The meeting was the second in a series initiated by DMME in the fall of 2013. The goal of the meeting was to discuss disclosure requirements for chemicals used during the fracking process. Following a presentation on fracturing fluids by Nabors Servicing Company, the panel conversed about its "discussion document," which contains draft amendments to Virginia's regulations on gas and oil drilling.

In addition to disclosure of chemicals, the issue of transparency about the permit-approval process emerged as another major concern among RAP members representing local government and the conservation community.

To ensure proper notification of local officials when fracking operations might occur, there were discussions among RAP members about possible provisions in DMME's regulations that would require direct notification of local governments when an application for a permit to frack is submitted to DMME for approval.

While RAP members appeared to be in general agreement that this provision is

necessary, it was not added to the document due to concerns over whether DMME has the legal authority to incorporate such provisions in its regulations.

The RAP is also conscious of the fact that it is attempting to develop a state-wide policy, not just regional policy, and therefore is actively considering issues and perspectives from all regions of Virginia.

The panel did reach agreement on the following proposals:

- Service companies should be required to disclose the chemicals used during the hydraulic fracturing process, as well as the proportions of those chemicals used, to DMME

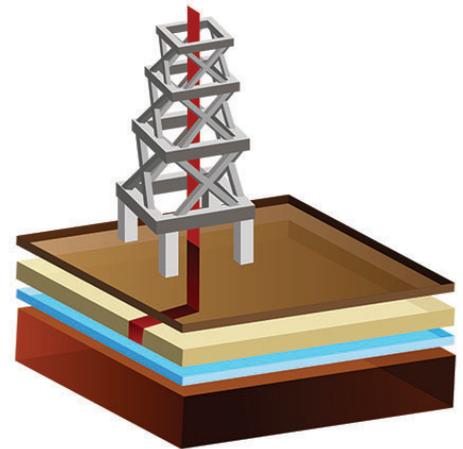
- * Chemicals and proportions determined by DMME to be trade secrets shall be treated as confidential

- * Chemicals and proportions that DMME does not grant trade secret protection shall be treated as public record and will be published as such

- Virginia should require the use of FracFocus by service companies and operators for post-fracturing disclosure of chemicals used during the fracturing process

- DMME should create and operate a secondary regulatory database that is complementary to FracFocus

- Pre-Fracking disclosure of chemicals planned for use during the fracturing process should be required of the operator of a well site with the ability to provide



supplemental permit forms in the event of a change in plans on the part of the operator

- A list of chemicals likely to be used, as well as the proposed location of the well, should be published when a permit application is submitted to DMME

- A provision requiring the notification of local government authorities of a proposed well site should be added

The panel's next meeting will be held on July 23 in Abingdon, Virginia; meetings are open to the public. The focus of that meeting is planned to be a discussion of industry best practices.

VACo Environment and Agriculture
Contact: [Larry Land, CAE](mailto:Larry.Land@CAE.org)

2015 Citizen Water Monitoring Grants

The Virginia Department of Environmental Quality is pleased to announce the acceptance of applications for the 2015 Citizen Monitoring Grant Program. As during previous grant cycles, the agency is requesting applications that will support citizen volunteer and related water quality monitoring efforts in the Commonwealth. Grant applicants may apply either for the regular grant or for the mini grant.

The regular grant application is open to any organization that involves volunteer monitoring of water quality in the Commonwealth, the grant may be used in a variety of ways, including purchasing water quality monitoring equipment, training citizen volunteers, lab analysis costs, and promoting stream monitoring efforts in locations where DEQ is not currently collecting water quality samples. Applicants must either have an approved Quality Assurance Project Plan (QAPP) or submit a QAPP to DEQ to review near the start of the grant cycle. The maximum possible award under the regular grant program is \$4,000.

The mini-grant application is for organizations new to water quality monitoring. Funds may go towards capacity building of the group through recruitment and similar activities as well as water quality monitoring. To apply for the mini-grant, applicants must not have received a DEQ Citizen Monitoring Grant for the past three grant cycles. In addition, mini-grant recipients must use at least one third of the award directly for water quality monitoring activities. The maximum possible mini-grant award is \$1,000.

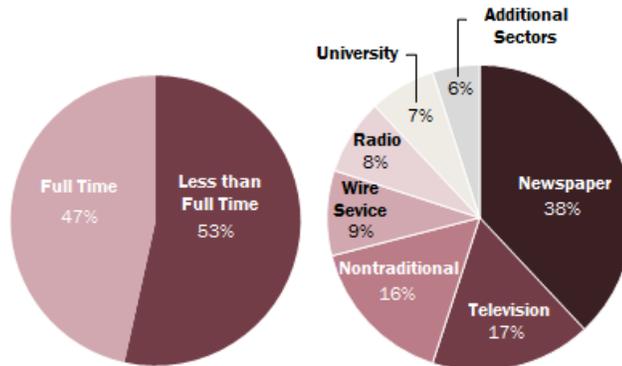
Both the regular and mini-grant applications are due September 2. Additional information regarding the grant as well as the application is available in the attached Microsoft Word file. If there are any questions regarding the application process, please contact Stuart Torbeck at [804.698.4461](tel:804.698.4461) or by e-mail at Charles.Torbeck@deq.virginia.gov.



America's Shifting Statehouse Press

Who Reports from U.S. Statehouses?

% of all statehouse reporters



Note: The "less than full time" category includes part-time, students (temp.), reporters working during session only and other staff such as interns and videographers. Additional sectors represent the following: professional publications, multi-platform media companies and "other," which includes freelancers, magazines and alternative weeklies. Figures may not add to 100% because of rounding.

N=1,592

Source: Pew Research Data Aug. 2013 to March 2014.

PEW RESEARCH CENTER

Story and graphic from the [Pew Research Center](#).

Within America's 50 state capitol buildings, 1,592 journalists inform the public about the actions and issues of state government, according to new data from the Pew Research Center.

Of those statehouse reporters, nearly half (741) are assigned there full time. While that averages out to 15 full-time reporters per state, the actual number varies widely—from a high of 53 in Texas to just two in South Dakota. The remaining 851 statehouse reporters cover the beat less than full time.

In this study, statehouse reporters are defined as those physically assigned to the capitol building to cover the news there, from legislative activity to the governor's office to individual state agencies.

Newspaper reporters constitute the largest segment of both the total statehouse news corps (38 percent) and the full-time group (43 percent). But the data indicate that their full-time numbers have fallen considerably in recent years, raising concerns about the depth and quality of news coverage about state government.

Between 1998 and 2009, American Journalism Review conducted five tallies of newspaper reporters assigned to the statehouse full time. Each tally since 1998 showed decline. The most precipitous drop occurred between 2003 and 2009, coinciding with large reductions in overall newspaper staffing prompted by the recession and major changes in the news industry. To gauge the loss of reporters through 2014, Pew Research went back to the 2003 AJR list and examined statehouse staffing levels at newspapers that were accounted for in the last two AJR tallies—2003 and 2009 and in our 2014 accounting.¹ Those papers lost a total of 164 full-time statehouse reporters—a decline of 35 percent—between 2003 and 2014. That percentage is slightly higher than the decline in newspaper newsroom staffing overall. According to the American Society of News Editors, full-time newspaper newsroom staffing shrunk by 30 percent from 2003 through 2012 (the latest year for which data are available).

As newspapers have withdrawn reporters from statehouses, others have attempted to fill the gap. For-profit and nonprofit digital news organizations, ideological outlets and high-priced publications aimed at insiders have popped up all over the country, often staffed by veteran reporters with experience covering state government. These nontraditional outlets employ 126 full-time statehouse reporters (17 percent of all full-time reporters). But that does not make up for the 164 newspaper statehouse jobs lost since 2003.

The cutbacks have led to other changes as well. State officials themselves have attempted to fill what they say is a reduction in coverage by producing their own news feeds for public television, broadcast outlets or the Internet. Newspapers and other media have tried to compensate for the changes by hiring students and increasing collaboration among outlets. It is not uncommon these days for former competitors to share reporters or stories, a trend that would have been unheard of in years past.

To gather as complete of an accounting as possible of the nation's statehouse reporting pool, Pew Research spent months reaching out to editors and reporters, legislative and gubernatorial press secretaries and other experts on state government. This report puts a first-ever number on statehouse reporters not just from newspapers, but from all media sectors. It details how they break down by state and media sector and looks at how those numbers relate to state demographics and legislative activity. For this report, the key requirement was that a statehouse reporter physically work in the state capitol building—whether full-time or less than full time.

Story continued at the Pew Research Center. [Click here to read the rest of the story.](#)

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.

ASSISTANT ASSESSOR | Albemarle County

The Assistant Assessor performs difficult and complex professional work engaged in real property appraisal; facilitates and supports staff in the delivery of competent and accurate real property appraisals; Responsibilities include planning, organizing, supervising and directing the appraisal staff. Hiring Range: \$55,058 - \$66,070/annual equivalent based on experience and education. Internal candidates will receive pay adjustments in accordance with County Government Policy, §P-60. DEADLINE FOR APPLICATIONS: August 15. APPLY: External Applicants - Apply online. Internal Applicants – Submit internal application. <https://albemarleva.cloud.talentedk12.com/hire/internalLogin.aspx>.

SITE INSPECTOR | City of Manassas

Salary range: \$48,443.20 – \$79,892.80. The successful candidate shall be responsible for the review of site and development plans and the daily site inspection of multiple construction projects to ensure compliance with local, state, and federal codes and standards. Reviews civil engineered site and subdivision plans and revisions to determine conformance with local, state, and federal standards, specifications, and regulations and determines if plan is acceptable for approval. TO APPLY, complete the City application at <http://www.manassascity.org/hr/jobs>. Applications accepted until position is filled.

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR | Roanoke County

County of Roanoke, Virginia (pop. 92,376) County Administrator. The County of Roanoke invites applications from qualified candidates to replace its retiring County Administrator who has served the County since 2009. The County is governed by a five (5) member Board of Supervisors, elected for four year staggered terms, with the County Administrator serving as Chief Executive Officer under a legislatively approved charter. The County provides a full range of services to a growing community and operates with a \$367.9 million annual budget. The salary for the position is negotiable based on the candidates qualifications and experience

and is supplemented by an excellent benefit package. To be considered, please submit a letter of interest, detailed résumé outlining career accomplishments including salary history and a minimum of five (5) professional references to: John A. Anzivino, Senior Vice President. Springsted Incorporated. 1564 East Parham Road. Richmond, VA 23228. Fax 804-726-9752 or e-mail Richmond@springsted.com. Résumés received by August 12 will receive priority consideration. Position remains open until filled. For a complete community/position profile related to the position please visit www.springsted.com.

DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT | Town of Duck, NC

The Town of Duck, a coastal community on the northern Outer Banks of North Carolina, is currently seeking candidates for the position of Director of Community Development. Join our dedicated team as a key staff member committed to maintaining high professional standards in support of the Town of Duck’s 2022 Vision, <http://www.townofduck.com/2022-vision>. Salary DOQ, range \$67,958 - \$86,647 - \$110,475, hiring range is anticipated to be at the salary mid-point. If you would like to invest your community development skills to help preserve and guide a town with a very special sense of place, please submit your resume and letter of interest to Christopher Layton, Town Manager, Town of Duck, PO Box 8369, 1200 Duck Road, Duck, NC 27949. Position is open until filled; however, initial review of applications is expected to begin in early August.

DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT | New Kent County

We are seeking qualified applicants for the position of Director of Community Development. This position leads the county’s business attraction and retention efforts and oversees Planning, Environmental and Economic Development functions and all personnel in those areas. The Director will ensure that technical and legal requirements of all projects are met successfully. Educational requirements include a degree in planning, public administration or related field with significant professional experience, preferably in the public sector. A complete job description is available online at www.co.new-kent.va.us where applicants may submit applications and resumes.

HUMAN RESOURCES ANALYST - HRIS (CD) | Hanover County

If you are interested in career growth and a challenging/rewarding work environment, then Hanover County is for you! Hanover County’s Department of Human Resources has a unique and exciting opportunity for a dynamic HR professional to join our innovative team as we seek to implement new HR systems. The Human Resources Analyst – HRIS will set up and manage all Human Resource Information Systems (HRIS) and associated systems, to include performing tests and audits to ensure system accuracy, integrity and functionality. Hiring range is \$45,000 to \$64,000 annually plus excellent benefits. For more information and to apply, please visit our career site at www.hanovercountyjobs.com or call 804.365.6489. (TDD # 365.6140). EOE/MFDV.

UTILITY OPERATIONS MANAGER | Prince George County

Utility Operations Manager: Prince George County is now accepting applications for the position of Utility Operations Manager. For a County application and complete job announcement, please visit the County’s website at www.princegeorgeva.org.

WATER/WASTEWATER OPERATOR | Charles City County

The County has small water/wastewater facilities serving mainly domestic customers. Current Class 5 Water license required and Class 4 Wastewater license preferred. Application and detailed description available at www.co.charles-city.va.us. Salary DOQ/DOE. Applications accepted until COB August 11.

DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF REAL ESTATE ASSESSMENTS | Hanover County

The ideal candidate for this executive level professional position will be a strategic, customer service oriented individual. The incumbent will work with and assist the Board of Equalization, confer with taxpayers on assessment grievances, coordinate CAMA Projects and train appraisers in use of computer resource. Salary range \$73,974 to \$99,870 plus excellent benefits. For more information and to apply, please visit our career site at: www.hanovercountyjobs.com. Phone: 804.365.6075, (TDD# 365.6140) EOE/MFDV

EMPLOYMENT

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FIRE AND EMS CHIEF | Powhatan County

The Chief directs all activities and programs of the Fire and EMS Department which encompasses the County's fire, rescue, emergency medical services, and emergency management functions. Salary negotiable up to \$99,500, based on qualifications and experience. Submit completed County application, letter of application, resume, salary history and work related references to County of Powhatan, VA, 3834 Old Buckingham Road, Powhatan, VA 23139. Position open until filled. Official Powhatan County applications can be downloaded and printed from the County's website at www.powhatanva.gov.

BUILDING/CODE OFFICIAL | Franklin County

BUILDING/CODE OFFICIAL- FT-FRANKLIN COUNTY, VA (Population 56,574) Western VA's fastest growing community known for its scenic beauty, nestled between Philpott & Smith Mountain Lakes along the Blue Ridge Mountains, located approximately 10 miles south of Roanoke, VA. Annual 60K+ salary depending on qualifications, education and experience of the candidate. Excellent Benefits. Application and job description available at the Franklin County Government Center, 1255 Franklin Street, Suite #111, Rocky Mount, VA 24151 or online at www.franklincountyva.gov. Applications will be reviewed weekly after the first review on July 25. Open Until Filled. AA/EOE.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT BUSINESS MANAGER | Prince William County

Closing date: July 28 11:59 p.m. The Business Development Manager reports to the Director of Business Development and Investment and works closely with marketing, existing business, and research staff of the Economic Development Department. Key activities of this position are lead development and project management. ENTRY SALARY RANGE: \$65,832 - \$88,803. View the Full Job Posting and Apply Online at: <http://agency.governmentjobs.com/pwcgov/default.cfm>.

DIRECTOR — LAND DEVELOPMENT SERVICES, DPWES | Fairfax County
\$98,270 - \$163,784. The director is a strong leader with proven ability to work with

multiple stakeholders, boards, associations, residents, county staff and build positive relationships in a dynamic regulatory environment. The director provides leadership to LDS staff, develops strategic goals, and creates a positive work culture that enables LDS divisions/branches to meet short-term and long-range strategic objectives. The position serves as a member of the DPWES executive team. [Please click here for a detailed position profile](#) (PDF format). TO APPLY: Apply online at agency.governmentjobs.com/fairfaxcounty by 5 p.m. on August 15.

DEPUTY FINANCE DIRECTOR | Warren County

Warren County is known for its prime location; scenic beauty; tourist attractions such as the Skyline Drive, Skyline Caverns, and the Shenandoah River; proximity to numerous colleges and universities; strong school system; and its diverse economy and workforce. Beginning salary \$54,271.21 and is negotiable based on qualifications and experience, with an excellent benefits package. For employment application, including job description, contact Warren County Administrator's Office, 220 North Commerce Avenue, Suite 100, Front Royal, VA, or by calling 540.636.4600, or by visiting our website at www.warrencountyva.net. This position will be open until filled. EOE.

ACCOUNTING DIVISION DIRECTOR | Hanover County

This is an excellent career opportunity to serve in a County that is recognized for its tradition of financial stewardship. The candidate selected will work closely with County and School Administration and staff to maintain sound financial practices and internal controls. If you are looking for a rewarding job with a dedicated team of professionals that allows you to use your talents, then Hanover County, Virginia is for you! Salary range \$73,974 - \$110,775 plus excellent benefits. For more information and to apply, please visit www.hanovercountyjobs.com or call 804.365.6489 (TDD# 365.6140). EOE/MFDV.

PATROL DEPUTY AND COURT BAILIFF | Hanover County

The Hanover County Sheriff's Office is seeking motivated individuals for the position of Patrol Deputy and Court Bailiff. Applications will be accepted until July 31. Patrol Deputy: Salary will increase to \$43,387 upon successful completion of field training. Starting salary: \$41,321.

Court Bailiff: Starting salary is \$33,893. Each sworn officer in the Hanover County Sheriff's Office must maintain the ability to perform the essential job functions of a sworn law enforcement officer as described under the "Deputy Sheriff-Patrol" job description, regardless of their current assignment. If you have any questions, you may contact Sergeant Timothy Simpson at 804.365.6230 or tesimpson@hanovercounty.gov. Visit www.hanoversheriff.com and click on the Employment Tab.

DEPUTY CLERK | New Kent County

This position provides critical support to the Board of Supervisors as well as to numerous county boards and commissions ensuring that all meetings, actions and documents are conducted and prepared according to the specific provisions in the Code of Virginia. Attention to detail and the ability to unfailingly meet deadlines are critical. New Kent County offers a complete benefit package. Review complete job description/job posting and submit application and resume: www.co.new-kent.va.us.

DIRECTOR OF FIRE AND EMS | Rockbridge County

SALARY: \$57,255 – \$83,726. Starting up to \$69,000. Rockbridge County is currently accepting applications for a Director of Fire and EMS to lead an all-volunteer department consisting of 12 volunteer agencies. The successful candidate will be responsible for all aspects of Fire, EMS and emergency management. Salary requirements MUST be submitted with application. Competitive benefit package. Position open until filled. Preference will be given to applications received by July 18. For application and job description, visit <http://www.co.rockbridge.va.us/jobs.aspx>.

PURCHASING AGENT | Town of Herndon

Position available in the Department of Finance. Responsible for organizing, conducting, and directing the operations of the town's purchasing division. Oversees the purchasing operation and enforcement of state and local procurement policies, procedures and ordinances. Ensures proper procurement procedures have been followed; the appropriate expenditure account has been cited and that adequate budget balance exists prior to releasing purchase order. Salary \$54,841 – \$94,030. Position is open until filled. Town of Herndon job application is required. To obtain, visit www.herndon-va.gov, e-mail jobs@herndon-va.gov or call 703.481.1185.



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

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