

# COUNTY CONNECTIONS

The Newsletter of the  
Virginia Association of Counties

October 4, 2016



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## Local Government Policy Council Meets with Governor McAuliffe



**Pictured:** Governor  
Terry McAuliffe  
addresses the Joint  
Money Committees  
on August 26.

**Photo by** Michaele  
White | Governor's  
Office

The Virginia Association of Counties, the Virginia Municipal League and Virginia First Cities met with Governor Terry McAuliffe and his staff on September 29 to discuss key issues of importance to local government in the upcoming General Assembly session, beginning with an update from the Task Force for Local Government Mandate Review and concluding with a robust discussion among local elected officials about shared concerns.

Governor McAuliffe provided an overview of his Administration's recent accomplishments, including an agreement on improvements to Interstate 66, enhancements to the school breakfast program, efforts to expand the capacity of the Port of Virginia and work to assist Dulles Airport with retention of its major carriers (the Governor later announced United Airlines had agreed to a long-term lease extension that afternoon).

The Governor reiterated the need to diversify Virginia's economy and lessen its dependence on federal spending, particularly in light of a potential second round of sequestration scheduled to take place in October 2017. He signaled that Medicaid expansion remains a priority for his Administration, though he indicated that he remains at an impasse with the majority in the General Assembly on this issue.

Secretary of Finance Ric Brown discussed the current revenue situation, explaining that disappointing collections in payroll withholding and sales tax were the largest contributors to the shortfall ([See Brown's Presentation](#)). Although growth in employment was healthy in FY 2016, almost half of that growth was concentrated in lower-paying occupations, which generate less in withholding and provide employees less purchasing power. He suggested that an increase in participation in the freelance "gig" economy may worsen this imbalance. He also speculated that some of the losses in sales tax revenue may be attributable to online purchases, where sales tax owed may or may not be collected. Daniel Timberlake, Director of the Department of Planning and Budget, offered an overview of the process currently underway for state agencies to make spending reductions and outlined the process by which the Governor will assemble his budget amendments, which will be presented to the "money committees" on December 16. He noted that programs providing aid to localities are currently exempt from the requirement for agency spending reductions, but would not promise that they would remain so in the Governor's upcoming budget.

Secretary of Public Safety and Homeland Security Brian Moran discussed community policing – he applauded local efforts to promote Crisis Intervention Training for law enforcement, attributing recent declines in arrests for minor offenses such as trespassing or disorderly conduct to better training in de-escalating interactions with individuals with mental illness. His office is currently developing a grant application process to distribute federal funding for community-based policing and expects to use the funds to address resources for training, especially in smaller, rural jurisdictions and recruitment and retention of a diverse workforce.

The meeting concluded with an open discussion session, which ranged from the effects of last year's legislation on proffers to the approaches localities have taken to regulating short-term rentals such as those offered through Airbnb. The need to protect K-12 funding was a common interest. Northern Virginia representatives shared information on expected legislation to amend the compact governing the Metro system and encouraged representatives from other regions to view Metro as an asset to the entire state because it supports Northern Virginia's economy.

VACo Contact: [Katie Boyle](#)

## Region 12 and 13 combined meeting draws large crowd of county officials and state legislators

The 2016 round of VACo Regional Legislative Meetings concluded September 22 in Russell County where nearly 70 county officials engaged in a robust dialogue with five state legislators on pressing issues such as local taxation authority, funding for education, regional cooperation, loss of energy related jobs and the effects of opioid abuse on communities.

Representatives from 10 counties were in attendance including Timothy Reeves (Region 12) and Larry Moseley (Region 13) who serve on the VACo Board of Directors. Also in attendance was former VACo President Bob Adkins (Wise County). Participating from the state legislature were Senator Ben Chafin and Delegate Jeffrey Campbell, Delegate Terry Kilgore, Delegate James Morefield and Delegate Todd Pillion.

Mark Flynn, a practicing local government attorney with the firm of Woodley & Flynn PLLC, spoke about differences in tax authority between cities and towns. While cities have “carte blanche” authority to impose certain excise taxes, counties are more limited in their options for generating revenue. For example, with the exception of Arlington and Fairfax, counties cannot impose a tax on the sale of cigarettes. Additionally, counties wishing to impose a meals tax are required to get approval through voter referendum. By comparison, cities and towns need only council approval. And whereas counties that do adopt a meal tax cannot exceed 4 percent, there is no such limit on the rate for cities and towns.

Following the presentation legislators gave a brief overview of issues they are working on for the upcoming General Assembly session. Common themes addressed by the legislators were the loss of jobs due to the closure of coal mines, the need for expanding broadband internet for education and economic development opportunities, and the potential impacts of the proposed merger of Mountain States Health Alliance and the Wellmont Health System.

Up next was the Roundtable Discussion as counties shared their issues and concerns. In regards to revenue authority, many expressed interest in allowing counties to impose taxes on cigarettes and meals (or other local option taxes) so they could spread the tax burden that is heavily reliant on the local real estate tax. Additional items raised included the need for resources to address the opioid drug epidemic, the impacts of state and federal mandates on businesses, and support for greater regional cooperation.

[Watch the video of the Region 12-13 Meeting.](#)

VACo Contact: [Joe Lerch](#)

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## VACo wraps up another Regional Meeting Season

As a team, one of our favorite things to do is visit our members where they live, work and enjoy family and friends. It's invaluable for us to see you in your community and to hear about your legislative concerns and successes. VACo was thrilled to visit 9 of its 13 regions this season from May to September. This equated to directly or indirectly interacting with 63 counties.

In the past two years, VACo has visited all 13 regions and 4 regions twice.

Each 2016 regional meeting has been archived and posted on our website. [Please check it out.](#)

Also, here's a [video playlist](#) of regional meetings.

We hope to visit your region next year. Please contact [Dean Lynch](#) if you are interested in hosting a regional meeting in 2017.



## Governor McAuliffe Dedicates Natural Bridge as a Virginia State Park



**ROCKBRIDGE** – Governor Terry McAuliffe officially opened Natural Bridge State Park in Rockbridge County on September 24. Conveniently located 45 minutes from Lynchburg and Roanoke, the Commonwealth’s 37<sup>th</sup> state park is notable for its unique geology and range of recreational opportunities.

During the ceremony, Governor McAuliffe designated Natural Bridge State Park the 925<sup>th</sup> Virginia Treasure. The Virginia Treasures program is central to the Governor’s strategy for conserving land and creating opportunities for outdoor recreation.

“The historical and geological significance of Natural Bridge is beyond question, and I am pleased to announce that this property will now be operated for public benefit and enjoyment,” **said Governor McAuliffe**, speaking at the announcement. “The dedication of this magnificent new park is a tremendous milestone for Virginia and an excellent tribute to the Department of Conservation and Recreation’s 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary. The Natural Bridge joins the ranks of Virginia’s inimitable natural Treasures and further establishes our park system as one of the best in the nation.”

Virginia State Parks, a subdivision of the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation, will manage the 1,531 acres, including the bridge and Rockbridge Center. Admission costs \$6 for children and \$8 for adults.

“As our population and economy continue to grow, the Commonwealth must act to conserve and protect significant natural and historic resources, particularly those as our world-famous and awe-inspiring as Natural Bridge,” **said Virginia Secretary of Natural Resources Molly Ward**. “These agreements protect more than 1,500 immaculate acres from commercial development. This geologic gem will be now managed with the same commitment to public access and interpretation the Department of Conservation and Recreation has demonstrated for 80 years.”

Rising 215 feet above Cedar Creek, Natural Bridge supports the Lee Highway along U.S. Route 11. After being surveyed by George Washington, the iconic arch was purchased by Thomas Jefferson who described it as “the most Sublime of nature’s works.” The property was mentioned in Herman Melville’s “Moby-Dick” and has hosted notable figures including John Marshall, James Monroe, Henry Clay, Sam Houston, Martin Van Buren, and Calvin Coolidge. It was designated a National Historic Landmark in 1998.

“Travelers from all over the world visit Virginia each year to experience our natural beauty, scenic drives, and superior state parks,” **said Rita McClenny, president and CEO of Virginia Tourism Corporation**. “Virginia State Parks have an economic impact of more than \$200 million annually, and we’re thrilled to welcome a new—and iconic—state park to Rockbridge County for travelers to enjoy for many years to come.”

Secretary of the Interior Sally Jewell has designated Natural Bridge State Park as an Affiliated Unit of the National Park Service under the U.S. Department of Interior. Natural Bridge is only the 25th such site in the country and the fourth in Virginia.

“As a native Virginian and graduate of Natural Bridge High School who, as Boy Scout, escorted thousands of people under Natural Bridge for Easter Sunrise Services, this place has special meaning for me. I am very pleased to have the Commonwealth manage this incredible resource and to be their partner as an Affiliated Area of the National Park Service,” **said National Park Service Director Jonathan B. Jarvis**.

The property is owned by the Virginia Conservation Legacy Fund, Inc. (“VCLF”), a nonprofit organization that seeks to conserve Virginia’s natural resources for public access and enjoyment of the outdoors. VCLF purchased the parkland with \$9.1 million from the Virginia Clean Water Revolving Loan Fund. Once the loan is retired, the property will be transferred to state ownership. The adjacent Caverns at Natural Bridge and Natural Bridge Historic Hotel and Conference Center remains privately owned.

## **Changes considered for placement of children in residential care**

The Department of Medical Assistance Services (DMAS) recently announced regulatory changes to the process by which Medicaid-eligible children with behavioral health issues are placed in Residential Treatment Facilities. Under the new process, which will begin December 1, admission for all Medicaid-funded placements for residential treatment will be coordinated by an Independent Assessment, Certification and Coordination Team (IACCT).

The IACCT will assess the child's needs and certify the need for residential treatment, if appropriate. Localities will have the option to contract with Magellan (the Behavioral Health Administrator for DMAS) to serve as the IACCT through their local Community Policy and Management Teams, for which they would receive reimbursement from Magellan.

DMAS is strongly encouraging counties to participate and is asking for localities to indicate by October 14 whether they wish to serve as the contracted IACCT. If a locality opts not to participate, DMAS will work with the local Community Services Board or with a network of private providers to convene the IACCT.

This proposal represents a significant change to the residential treatment admissions process and local Children's Services Act (CSA) coordinators have raised many questions about how this new process would work, including concerns about the required deadlines for the IACCT to complete an assessment and the role of the physician member of the IACCT. There are also questions about how the IACCT will work with the existing Family Assessment and Planning Team process in localities that choose not to contract with Magellan.

DMAS staff have provided a [fact sheet](#), which is intended to provide more details on the new IACCT process. DMAS staff have also provided an email address – [RTCCChange@dmas.virginia.gov](mailto:RTCCChange@dmas.virginia.gov) – to which additional questions may be directed; DMAS plans to make answers to frequently asked questions available on a periodic basis.

VACo staff will continue to participate in discussions about this new process with DMAS staff and with local CSA staff as localities assess whether to take on the IACCT role.

**VACo Contact:** [Katie Boyle](#)



On September 26, GASB proposed a standard that would address various accounting and financial reporting issues that have been identified by state and local governments during the implementation and application of GASB rules. The exposure draft, *Omnibus 201X*, proposes guidance on numerous issues including:

- Blending component units when the primary government is a business-type activity currently reporting a single column for financial statement presentation.
- Reporting goodwill and “negative” goodwill.
- Classifying real estate held for both operations and investment purposes for insurance entities.
- Measuring certain money-market investments and participating interest-earning investments at amortized cost.
- Timing the measurement of pension and other Post-employment benefits (OPEB) liabilities and related expenditures recognized in financial statements prepared using the current financial resources measurement focus.
- Recognizing on-behalf payments for pensions and OPEB in employer financial statements.
- Presenting payroll-related measures in required supplementary information for purposes of reporting by OPEB plans and employers that provide OPEB.
- Classifying employer-paid member contributions for OPEB.
- Accounting for and reporting OPEB provided through certain multiple-employer defined benefit OPEB plans.
- Simplifications related to the alternative measurement method for OPEB.

**VACo Contact:** [Vicky Steinruck, CPA](#)

# Visit Lee County and Cowan Mill

Cowan Mill  
Route 698  
Indian Creek Rd  
Ewing, VA 24248  
276.346.4629

This beautiful and authentic gristmill was built in 1890 and used by locals to grind their grain. This rare treasure is considered one of the most photographed places in Lee County. It has been well maintained and is in magnificent condition considering its age. This is private property and suggested only as an opportunity to take a memorable and beautiful photo. Please respect the property owners' signs and enjoy this rare view!

SOURCE: <http://www.virginia.org/listings/HistoricSites/CowanMill>



# Mark Your Calendars



## 2016 Holidays at The Executive Mansion

Thank you to counties that have RSVP'd to the request for an ornament to decorate the 2016 Executive Mansion Tree. If your county has not RSVP'd, there is still plenty of time to participate.

We are honored to be asked to participate in the collecting of artisan-made ornaments from Virginia counties that display the theme "Home for the Holidays." Be sure to look in future issues of County Connections for county ornaments as they come in and tips on how your county can be represented on the Executive Mansion Tree.

Many counties have reached out to let us know they're participating. If your county plans to submit an ornament just let us know by sending an email to [Amy Sales](mailto:amy.sales@vaco.org).

Guidelines for the artist/artisan-crafted ornaments are:

- Each participating locality is asked to submit one holiday ornament
- The theme is "Home for the Holidays," but we ask that it be something that uniquely represents your county
- The size of the ornament should be no larger than 6". Shape and material is up to the artist/artisan. The finished ornament should be sent along with the name of the locality and artist placed on the back of the ornament
- The artist/artisan should reside in or near the locality. As a children-themed tree may be featured in the future, we ask that this year's ornaments be created by adults
- No purchased ornaments
- Deadline for submitting the ornament is November 1



Once complete, please send to VACo. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Amy Sales at 804.788.6652 or [asales@vaco.org](mailto:asales@vaco.org).

Celebrate the holidays with Virginia's localities!

VACo Contact: [Amy Sales, CMP](mailto:amy.sales@vaco.org)

**Land Use Education Program**  
*education that brings Virginia's future into the present*



## Board and Commissioner Chair Seminar October 10 at the Thomas Jefferson PDC (9am- 4pm)

The view from the dais can be intimidating, especially if you are the chair of your board or commission. This training is designed to provide hands-on and interactive skill-building for chairpersons. Throughout the course of this one-day training, we will work together, through lecture and group exercises. Newly elected and long-serving chairpersons alike will benefit from this training, designed to enhance your meeting management, leadership, and communication skills.

Following the educational event, attendees are invited to join members of the LUEP Advisory Council for a reception. The reception provides a chance for attendees to hear from the Council about its role in LUEP's future, and socialize with fellow thought leaders from across the Commonwealth. We hope you can join us!

[CLICK HERE TO REGISTER](#)

news from our associate members

PRESS RELEASE



VACo/VML Pooled OPEB Trust Elects New Board Members, Officers

RICHMOND (September 29, 2016)—Four local government officials were elected at the 2016 Annual Meeting of the VACo/VML Pooled OPEB Trust to serve on its Board of Trustees. The VACo/VML Pooled OPEB Trust manages the assets invested by political subdivisions to fund retiree health insurance and other post-employment benefits (OPEB). Founded in 2008, it is the largest of its kind in the nation with \$837 million in assets.

Joining the Board of Trustees for the first time are Ronald H. Williams of Suffolk and Scott W. Zaremba of Chesterfield County. Incumbent members Kevin S. Boggess of Salem and Susan S. Quinn of Fairfax County Public Schools were reelected to the Board. The Board elected Ms. Quinn to serve as Chairman and Eugene H. Walter of Henrico County to serve as Vice Chairman.

Ronald Williams has served as Treasurer of the City of Suffolk since January 1982. Mr. Williams has been re-elected to eight successive terms without opposition since 1985. He serves on State Non-Arbitrage Program Advisory Council and was a founding member of the VACo/VML Virginia Investment Pool (VIP).

Scott Zaremba serves as Deputy County Administrator for Chesterfield County. In this capacity, he focuses on compensation, benefits and HR systems. He also is a member of the County's Executive Leadership Team.

Kevin Boggess has served as Salem's City Manager since 2008. He is responsible for an annual budget of \$140 Million and about 500 full-time employees. Mr. Boggess was first elected to the VACo/VML Pooled OPEB Trust Board in 2014.

Susan Quinn, who has served on the VACo/VML Pooled OPEB Trust Board since 2009, was elected as its Chairman following the annual meeting. She is the Chief Operating Officer for Fairfax County Public Schools and has more than 27 years of experience in budgeting and financial management.

Gene Walter was elected by the Board of Trustees to serve as Vice Chairman. Mr. Walter is the Director of Finance for Henrico County and has more than 29 years of budget and finance management experience in state and local government. Mr. Walter has served on the VACo/VML Pooled OPEB Trust Board since 2012.

VML/VACo Finance is a leading provider of financial services to Virginia local governments and the administrator of the VACo/VML Pooled OPEB Trust. ###

For more information:
Phone: 804-648-0635
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info@valocalfinance.org

VML/VACo Finance
919 East Main St., Suite 1100
Richmond, Va. 23219
www.valocalfinance.org

# Annual Conference Update



## VACo ANNUAL CONFERENCE AGENDA RELEASE

We have finalized the [conference agenda](#)! Attendees can get information on all conference events, including breakout session topics, times and speakers, and create their own conference schedule. This conference update will provide additional information on several events. [Check out the conference agenda here.](#)

## DINING DURING THE CONFERENCE

The only meal included in the registration fee is the Monday afternoon bagged lunch sponsored by SunTrust.

Annual Banquet tickets will be collected by VACo staff at the door. Please remember to have your ticket with you; this will allow everyone to quickly get seated. If you do not have a ticket, you will be asked to purchase one. If you forgot your ticket, you will be asked to retrieve it. If you receive a ticket, but do not attend, you will be charged \$75 for your banquet meal. Please make sure a VACo team member collects your ticket.

Monday's VLGMA Luncheon is a separate, ticketed event for county managers and key members of their management teams. You can sign up for this \$40 event on your Conference Registration form.

## ANNUAL GOLF TOURNAMENT

Registrations for VACo's Annual Golf Tournament on Saturday, November 12 are rolling in, and it looks like we'll have a good turnout this year. Please refer to our [golf registration form](#) for more information.

Thank you to our many sponsors for their generosity. Milestone Communications will be supplying each golfer with a tech-friendly gift, and all golfers will be able to enjoy goodies on the refreshment cart sponsored by United Healthcare. If your company is interested in a golf sponsorship, please contact Amy Sales at [asales@vaco.org](mailto:asales@vaco.org).

Last year, we started donating the proceeds from Mulligan Sales to a Bath County nonprofit organization and raised nearly \$200 for Bath Animal Welfare Foundation ([bawf.org](http://bawf.org)). This year's recipient will be Bath County Christmas Mother Inc. They are a registered 501c3 that provides assistance to needy families during the holidays. Not only do they provide gifts, they also provide food, clothing, heating assistance, and help with utility bills. Purchasing Mulligan tickets onsite will help this local organization and your golf score.

## CONNECT COLLABORATE INNOVATE

This year's conference theme is "Building Bridges: Connect Collaborate Innovate" and we are asking that counties to tell us how they build bridges. There will be sticky notes and markers at the registration desk and we ask attendees to let us know by placing their answers on the Virginia map. We'll share your ideas with others in County Connections.

We have also scheduled a session just after the Monday lunch where we ask attendees to enjoy free time in the Exhibit Hall. Participants can use this opportunity to network and meet with our exhibitors and other attendees before the final block of concurrent sessions.

## WIN, LOSE, OR DRAW: CONFERENCE INFORMATION

Curious to see if your golf team won something at the tournament? Misplace an item and want to see if it was found? Think you won a fishbowl drawing? Answers to all of these questions, plus the wifi log in and password, will be posted on corkboard at the attendee registration desk.

Still can't find what you're looking for? If you have a questions during the conference, ask a VACo Team member who will be wearing a blue "STAFF" ribbon. Remember, "Don't have a clue? Look for the blue!"

## STEERING COMMITTEE INTEREST FORMS

Don't forget to sign up for a Steering Committee. Forms found in packets or [online](#) and are due by December 15. Remember, you must sign up every year. Your 2016 committee status does not automatically roll over. If you do not submit a [form](#) for 2017, you will not be on a committee.

VACo Contact: [Amy Sales, CMP](#)

## Local Mandates Task Force hears from Education and Transportation Departments

On September 28, the [Task Force for Local Government Mandate Review](#) continued its ongoing dialogue with state agencies, receiving presentations from both the Department of Education (VDOE) and the Department of Transportation (VDOT). VDOE gave a brief update on the redesign of high school curriculum mandated by the legislature and to be implemented by the Board of Education for 9<sup>th</sup> grade students entering the Fall of 2018. Some of the preliminary reforms under consideration include reducing the number of required tests and increasing opportunities for internships and project-based learning.

Also discussed was VDOE recommendations for consideration by the Board of Education to revise certain standards of quality (SOQ) requirements for a vote at its October 27 meeting. These include increasing the number of state-funded assistant principals and eliminating the cap on state funding for support positions. (*see article below for more detail*)

VDOT reviewed with the task force the current funding programs for (1) repairing roads and bridges; and (2) construction of new transportation infrastructure known as [Smart Scale](#).

Representatives from VACo and VML provided the task force with items for their consideration when making recommendations to the Governor on items before the 2017 General Assembly. Chief among these is the concern that the General Assembly will reduce funding for locally provided state-mandated services in order to compensate for the budget shortfall due to declining revenues. Both organizations also emphasized the need to preserve local land use authority.

VACo Contact: [Joe Lerch](#)

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## Board of Education Considering Revisions to School Staffing Standards

As part of its biennial review of the Standards of Quality, the Board of Education is considering changes to the provisions of the Standards of Quality that deal with staffing requirements. Several of these changes would be helpful to localities by recognizing prevailing practices in local school divisions and providing state assistance in funding positions that are currently paid for by local funds, rather than relying on artificially low estimates of staffing needs. Other changes would require staffing standards for the first time, potentially imposing new costs on local school divisions.

- **Support position cap:** The Board is proposing to remove the cap on funding for support positions (such as clerical staff and technology professionals) that was imposed in 2009 as a cost-saving measure for the state during the recession. The Board notes that this cap (of one support position per 4.03 instructional positions) does not reflect the prevailing practices of school divisions, which are funding these essential support positions out of local dollars. VACo's legislative program has advocated the removal of this cap for several years.
- **Assistant principals and elementary school principals:** The Board of Education is considering recommending that the staffing standard for assistant principals be set at one assistant principal per 400 students. Currently the state shares the cost for 924 assistant principal positions, out of the 2554 assistant principal positions that were filled by local school divisions, with the remaining positions filled at local cost. Similarly, the Board is considering a staffing requirement for one full-time principal per elementary school. The state currently shares the cost for 1756 principals, but 1927 are employed, with the 171 remaining principals funded by local dollars. It should be noted that the Board has made these recommendations to the General Assembly since 2003.
- **School counselors:** The Board is considering a requirement for a staffing ratio of one counselor per every 250 students; in FY 2015 there was approximately one counselor for every 329 students. The rationale for this proposal is that school counselors' duties have increased and are expected to grow further as a result of the redesign of high school graduation requirements in the coming years. This proposal would require additional local dollars in addition to the state's share of these new positions.
- **School psychologists, social workers, and nurses:** Currently, the state provides some funding for support staff, including school psychologists, social workers, and nurses, but local school boards are given discretion as to how support services are deployed; the Code provides that "[e]ach local school board shall provide those support services that are necessary for the efficient and cost-effective operation and maintenance of its public schools." The Board's proposal would set ratios of one school nurse per 550 students, one school psychologist per 1,000 students, and one school social worker per 1,000 students. This proposal would require a local share and would remove some flexibility in managing the staffing needs of local school divisions.
- **Waivers of staffing standards:** In 2010, the General Assembly allowed school divisions to increase pupil to teacher staffing ratios by an additional student in certain circumstances, and waived staffing ratios for elementary resource teachers, English as a second language teachers, and newly-hired librarians, among others. The Board is proposing to remove these provisions and continue to discuss flexibility in staffing standards with interested parties.

Should the Board approve these recommendations at its October 27 meeting, the Governor and General Assembly would then need to act on them. Cost estimates for the state funding required to implement these changes are not complete, but the largest expense in the current estimates would be eliminating the cap on support positions, which is projected to cost the state \$332.5 million in FY 2017. Given the large costs to the state, it can be expected that the General Assembly will not implement these recommendations in their entirety in the current biennium.

VACo Contact: [Katie Boyle](#)

# Child Care Study Recommends State Oversight of Local Parks Programs



## VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

The Virginia Department of Social Services (VDSS) was directed by [SJ 63](#) to study child day programs that are exempt from licensure and make recommendations on whether to retain those exemptions or make modifications to them. The study committee, which released a draft report last week, is recommending that several of the 14 current license exemptions in [§ 63.2-1715](#) should not be classified as child care at all, such as competition in organized sports leagues, participation in Early Intervention services under Part C of the Individuals with Disabilities Act, or supervision in nurseries offered by religious institutions to allow parents to attend services on-site.

Those programs remaining in the category of child day programs that are exempt from licensure would need to register with VDSS, comply with basic VDSS health and safety standards and post signage indicating that the programs are not licensed. Recreational activities offered by local governments that are staffed by local government employees, such as parks and recreation summer camps, would fall into this category, which would also encompass programs where school-aged children may come and go by parental consent and on-site child-minding services offered in commercial establishments (such as child care services offered at health clubs, for example).

Although the minimum health and safety standards discussed by the work group should not present problems for local parks and recreation programs, VACo and other local government representatives expressed concern at locally-administered programs being required to register with the state. This issue will likely be a subject of discussion during the 2017 General Assembly session.

VACo Contact: [Katie Boyle](#)

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## Deadline looms on VACo Go Green Challenge!

VACo members have until October 10 to achieve certification under the 2016 Green Government Challenge, a friendly competition designed to encourage implementation of specific policies and practical actions to protect the environment and promote energy efficiency by local governments and the broader communities they serve. As in years past, those qualifying with at least 100 "green" points, for completing certain action items, will be recognized at the VACo conference in November.

This year's Go Green Challenge has more action items than in the past. The Go Green Score sheet has 55 items for which counties may obtain credit compared to 44 last year. These additional items present more opportunities to accumulate the 100 points needed for certification. For example, points can be earned by participating in the FEMA Community Rating System (CRS) program, a certification process that reduces risks and damages due to flooding with the reward of lower insurance premiums for policyholders. Another example is the ability to earn points by facilitating or supporting a "solarize" initiative in your community to lower the cost of solar panel installations through bulk purchasing.



Again, completed scorecards need to be submitted by October 10, 2016.

For more information and to register for the challenge go to [www.gogreenva.org](http://www.gogreenva.org). If you have any questions contact Larry Land, VACo's Director of Policy Development, at [lland@vaco.org](mailto:liland@vaco.org) or by calling 804.343.2504. Completed scorecards need to be submitted by October 10.

VACo Contact: [Larry Land, CAE](#)

news from our associate members



As one of the fastest growing and largest full service engineering firms in the Mid-Atlantic, Draper Aden Associates is pleased to announce new roles for two leaders within the firm. Walt Ingram, LS has been named the Division Manager of Surveying and Subsurface Utility Engineering and Lee White, LS has taken on the sole responsibility of Managing Principal of Marketing and Business Development.



Mr. Ingram has over 28 years of surveying experience, working his way from a crew member to Division Leader at DAA. Mr. Ingram is a member of the Richmond Area Municipal Contractors Association, the Hampton Roads Utility and Heavy Contractors Association, the Associated General Contractors of Virginia, and Associated Builders and Contractors. In addition to his position as Surveying and Subsurface Utility Engineering Division Manager, Ingram will continue as the firm's Eastern Regional Manager and Richmond Team Leader.

Walt Ingram, LS  
wingram@daa.com

Mr. White has over 36 years of experience in surveying and subsurface utility engineering. Mr. White currently serves our industry as Vice President of the Board of Directors of the Hampton Roads Utility and Heavy Contractors Association, a member for the Executive Group of the Associated Builders and Contractors, and former Board member of the Richmond Area Municipal Construction Association. He is a Vice President with DAA and currently sits on our Board of Directors. Mr. White has been instrumental in the growth of DAA offices across Virginia and North Carolina and now has expanded his leadership position as Managing Principal of Marketing and Business Development. White's primary focus will be to build off of the firm's tremendous success in recent years.



Lee White, LS  
lwhite@daa.com

"We're pleased to announce these expanded roles for Walt and Lee," said Jeff Lighthiser, PE, CEO and President of DAA. "Every day they help us meet our mission of creating a lasting positive impact on the world by providing our clients with exceptional results and forward-thinking strategies. Their commitment to Draper Aden Associates and our local communities is commendable and we are excited for them to take on these new positions."



For 47 years, The National Association of Counties (NACo) has recognized innovative programs in county government through the Achievement Awards Program – an excellent opportunity for counties to promote successes and share best practices.

As a non-competitive awards program, each application is judged on its own merits and not against other submissions. Awards are given in 18 categories, culminating with an awards luncheon at the 2017 NACo Annual Conference and Exposition in Franklin County/Columbus, Ohio.

By applying for the 2017 Achievement Awards, entries will also be in the running for NACo President Bryan Desloge’s 2016-2017 presidential initiative, [The Counties Matter Challenge: Brilliant Ideas at Work](#).

For more information on the application process and program criteria, [click here](#) or contact [awards@naco.org](mailto:awards@naco.org).

We look forward to hearing from you and learning about the outstanding accomplishments of counties across America!

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# employment opportunities



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

**DIRECTOR OF PARKS AND RECREATION | City of Buena Vista**

This is a unique opportunity for a highly motivated and creative professional to promote and be a steward of the day to day outdoor experience of a 352-acre park fronting along the Maury River in Buena Vista, Virginia. This year the park was host to 23 music venues, including festivals from Blue Grass to Beach Music. Salary range based on experience is \$42,000 to \$48,000, including benefits. The Director of Parks and Recreation job description can be obtained on the City of Buena Vista web page. Please send a completed resume and a Commonwealth of Virginia application for employment to Mr. Jay Scudder, City Manager, City of Buena Vista, ATTN: DIRECTOR OF PARKS AND RECREATION, 2039 Sycamore Avenue, Buena Vista, VA 24416 no later than November 4. Open until filled.

**PARK AIDE | Gloucester County Part-time**

Limited Hours: No set number of hours per week; hours and days worked may vary from week to week and will include holidays and weekends. Under general supervision, performs a wide variety of tasks in the day-to-day operation and maintenance of the County parks to provide a safe environment for visitors; performs related work as required. For complete job descriptions and to apply please visit: [www.gloucesterva.jobs](http://www.gloucesterva.jobs).

**PLANNER II OR III | Gloucester County**

Hiring Salary Range: \$42,606 or higher ~ Depends on Qualifications. This position offers career ladder advancement. Performs professional work in the Planning Division of the County's Department of Planning and Zoning to help ensure the orderly growth and efficient administration of public resources. Employee must exercise considerable initiative and independent judgment in all phases of work. For complete job descriptions and to apply, visit [www.gloucesterva.jobs](http://www.gloucesterva.jobs).

**DIRECTOR OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY & GIS | Gloucester County**

Under general direction, performs complex professional and administrative work in the planning, development, implementation, and maintenance of information and telecommunications systems and related information resources operations. Responsible for IT infrastructure, networks, communications, telephone systems, websites, office automation systems, IT hardware and management of the portfolio of software systems and technical solutions across the enterprise. For complete job descriptions and to apply please visit: [www.gloucesterva.jobs](http://www.gloucesterva.jobs).

**CLINICIAN (LCSW OR LPC) CHILD & ADOLESCENT OUTPATIENT | Hanover County**

The Hanover County Community Services Board is seeking a licensed (LCSW or LPC) Clinician to work with children and adolescents (age 3 -18) in an outpatient setting. Experience with play and expressive therapies desirable. The Clinician will work with a large caseload of clients designated as Seriously Emotionally Disturbed in a CSB setting, providing individual and family therapy, as well as case management services. The incumbent will also complete VICAP assessments, and mental health assessment and may be involved in group facilitation. General work hours will be 8:30am -5pm Monday - Friday with one late night. For more information and to apply, visit [www.hanovercountyjobs.com](http://www.hanovercountyjobs.com) or call 804.365.6075 (TDD #365.6140).

**DIRECTOR OF TOURISM | Bedford County**

The Director of Tourism will be responsible for rebuilding their own program in a manner consistent with present-day tourism program practices and will develop our program into a regional, state, and national leader. While we have some components of a tourism program in place, the new Director will be responsible for building a program that is developed from new partnerships, new ideas, and new strategies to bring as many people to Bedford County as is possible. The official description for this position is

found at <http://www.co.bedford.va.us/Res/Jobs/jobs.asp>. Qualified applicants should forward the County of Bedford application, resume, and cover letter to: Dawn Fields, Human Resources Manager; [dfields@bedfordcountyva.gov](mailto:dfields@bedfordcountyva.gov); 122 E. Main Street, Suite 202; Bedford, Virginia 24523; 540.586.7601 ext. 1309. <http://www.bedfordcountyva.gov>. The application deadline is October 28. We welcome portfolio submissions upon request for an interview.

**GOVERNMENT & PUBLIC SCHOOLS JOB FAIR | Fauquier County**

Thursday, October 13 | 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. Lord Fairfax Community College; 6480 College Street; Warrenton, VA 20187. Speak with representatives about current & future opportunities! Mark your calendar today! For more information call 540.422.8300 To apply online and view full job descriptions, visit <http://eportal.fauquiercounty.gov>.

**LIBRARY DIRECTOR | Mecklenburg County**

Duties: Serves as the administrative officer to the Library Board. Advises the Board on Library issues and matters of policy including implementation of said policies and goals as set by the Board. Develops the proposed budget and works with County Administration. Employment applications and a complete job description may be obtained from and returned to: Office of the County Administrator; Goode Bank Building; 350 Washington Street; Boydton, Virginia 23917; 434.738.6191. Applications are due by 4 p.m. on Friday, October 21.

**CHILDREN'S SERVICE ACT COORDINATOR | Fluvanna County**

Duties include: Primary program administrative support for CSA functions in the County. The Coordinator performs responsible, professional, and administrative work coordinating the CSA program, preparing and maintaining files and records, reviewing and processing bills for payment of services, and handling sensitive, confidential, possibly contentious and controversial information. Serves as a liaison between CSA and various other

local and state agencies. Performs work under the general supervision of the Deputy County Administrator with latitude for independent judgement. Please go to [www.fluvannacounty.org](http://www.fluvannacounty.org) for full job description. Salary range \$19.25 per hour (\$40,040 annually) plus benefits, DOQ. Position open until filled. Submit a County application, resume, cover letter, and references [jobs@fluvannacounty.org](mailto:jobs@fluvannacounty.org). Applications are available at the county website, [www.fluvannacounty.org](http://www.fluvannacounty.org).

**PARALEGAL/LEGAL ASSISTANT | Fluvanna County**

The Fluvanna Commonwealth's Attorney's office seeks a full-time paralegal/legal assistant. The ideal candidate must possess a professional demeanor, demonstrate excellent communication skills and attention to detail and be able to work with minimal supervision. Prior experience in a prosecutor's office or criminal law firm is required. Salary range beginning at \$18.00 per hour (annually \$37,440) plus benefits. DOQ. Submit a County application, resume, cover letter, and references to [jobs@fluvannacounty.org](mailto:jobs@fluvannacounty.org). Applications are available at the county website, [www.fluvannacounty.org](http://www.fluvannacounty.org).

**TRANSIT BUS OPERATOR | James City County**

Williamsburg Area Transit Authority (WATA) is seeking Operators to provide safe transportation and excellent customer service to residents and visitors of the Williamsburg area. Starting wage of \$13.85 per hour, plus paid training, and excellent Part-Time County Benefits. Candidates must be able to work evening and/or weekend shifts and should have the flexibility to work morning and weekday shifts as needed. Accepting applications until position is filled. Only online applications to our website will be considered. To apply, please visit the James City County Career Center at [jobs.jamescitycountyva.gov](http://jobs.jamescitycountyva.gov).

**UTILITY ACCOUNT REPRESENTATIVE | James City County**

\$28,538 / year or higher DOQ + Full-Time County Benefits. James City Service Authority (JCSA) Customer Service seeks an individual to perform responsible administrative and fiscal work assisting new and existing customers in JCSA's water/sewer connection and billing/payment processes. Accepting applications until position is filled. Only online applications to our website will be considered. To apply, please visit the James City County Career Center at [jobs.jamescitycountyva.gov](http://jobs.jamescitycountyva.gov).

**ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT | James City County**

\$12.76 / hour On-Call. James City County Social Services seeks an individual to perform responsible work supporting staff, drafting and editing various reports and documents, maintaining databases, providing customer service, and assisting with daily operations. [Click here for full job description](#). Accepting applications until position is filled. Only online applications to our website will be considered. To apply, please visit the James City County Career Center at [jobs.jamescitycountyva.gov](http://jobs.jamescitycountyva.gov).

**UTILITY LOCATOR | James City County**

\$15,340 / year or higher DOQ + Part-Time County Benefits (20 hours / week). James City Service Authority seeks an individual to perform responsible technical work in locating existing James City Service Authority (JCSA) underground utilities. Locating is performed in accordance with the Commonwealth of Virginia "Miss Utility" program. Accepting applications until position is filled. Only online applications to our website will be considered. To apply, please visit the James City County Career Center at [jobs.jamescitycountyva.gov](http://jobs.jamescitycountyva.gov).

**MAINTENANCE TECHNICIAN | Frederick County**

Northwestern Regional Adult Detention Center. Perform maintenance and minor repairs of heating, ventilation, and air conditioning (HVAC) systems. Perform minor electrical and plumbing repairs. Inspects, maintains and performs minor repairs of the Detention Center's power generation systems. Installs and repairs both mechanical and automated lock and high security control systems. Position is primarily Monday - Friday 0800hrs-1600hrs, however sporadic weekends and holidays may be required. Salary Range: \$32,300 - \$51,700, dependent on experience and/or qualifications. Position will remain open until filled. Public Safety Application available on our website: [www.fcva.us/jobs](http://www.fcva.us/jobs). Only applicants selected for interview will be contacted.

**INMATE SERVICES PROGRAM SPECIALIST | Frederick County**

Northwestern Regional Adult Detention Center. Identification of inmates with employment, life skills, and/or substance abuse deficits and determines client education, training and/or counseling needs. Assistance in the coordination of enrollment in rehabilitation, education and vocational programs. Position will remain open until filled. Northwestern Regional

Adult Detention Center Application (NRADC) must be completed, in full, for position consideration. Resume only submissions will not be reviewed for position consideration. NRADC Application available on our website: [www.fcva.us/jobs](http://www.fcva.us/jobs). Only applicants selected for interview will be contacted.

**VICTIM/WITNESS PROGRAM OFFICE ASSISTANT | Frederick County**

Responsible for assisting victim/witness Coordinator and Assistant Coordinator in administering the Victim / Witness program to include direct services and clerical support. Provides written materials to victims and witnesses which explain how to obtain services. Assists victims in completing victim's compensation applications. Salary Range: \$29,500-\$47,100, dependent on experience and/or qualifications. General Application must be completed, in full, for position consideration. Position will remain open until filled. General Application available on our website: [www.fcva.us/jobs](http://www.fcva.us/jobs). Only applicants selected for interview will be contacted.

**PART-TIME LABORER | Frederick County**

Operation of a trash compactor and other baling/compactor equipment. Traffic control at convenience site. Polices refuse and recycling collection areas. General upkeep of convenience site and landfill grounds, including but not limited to litter control, fence mending, mowing, raking and snow and ice removal. General Application must be completed, in full, for position consideration. Position is Part-Time, no benefits, \$10/hour. Approximately 28 hours per week. Position will remain open until filled. General Application available on our website: [www.fcva.us/jobs](http://www.fcva.us/jobs). Only applicants selected for interview will be contacted.

**CSA ACCOUNT SPECIALIST | Frederick County**

Frederick County Government is seeking applicants for a Children's Services Act Account Specialist to perform financial, administrative, and clerical work pertinent to the department's function to ensure efficient operations. Data entry into client management information system. General Application must be completed, in full, for position consideration. \$32,300-\$51,700, dependent on experience and/or qualifications. Position will remain open until filled. General Application available on our website: [www.fcva.us/jobs](http://www.fcva.us/jobs). Only applicants selected for interview will be contacted.

**POWER GENERATION MECHANIC | James City County**

\$38,146/year or, higher DOQ + Full-Time County Benefits. James City County Service Authority (JCSA) is seeking a skilled individual to perform advanced work in the maintenance and repair of power generation and associated control systems, including electrical and electronic subassemblies, microprocessor and variable frequency drives, and electro-mechanical applications. Accepting applications until the position is filled. Only online applications to our website will be considered. To apply, please visit the James City County Career Center at [jobs.jamescitycountyva.gov](http://jobs.jamescitycountyva.gov).

**PARK SUPERVISOR FULL TIME | James City County**

\$28,538/year or higher DOQ + Full-Time County Benefits; FULL-TIME position; includes nights, weekends, and holidays. Are you skilled in responsibly managing daily parks and facilities operations including directing staff, assisting patrons, monitoring activities, and maintaining cleanliness? Then James City County Parks and Recreation want you to join our team! Only online applications to our website will be considered. To apply, please visit the James City County Career Center at [jobs.jamescitycountyva.gov](http://jobs.jamescitycountyva.gov).

**WATA INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY ADMINISTRATOR | James City County**

\$47,424-\$55,000/year + Full-Time County Benefits including holidays, health & dental, life insurance, and retirement. Williamsburg Area Transit Authority (WATA) is seeking an individual to perform responsible technical work involving the effective use of computers and servers within WATA's network environment. The incumbent will function as the Authority's technician for the assembly, installation, and troubleshooting of computers, servers, mobile devices, ancillary equipment, related software, and transit related equipment. Accepting applications until October 7 or until filled. Only online applications to our website will be considered. To apply, please visit the James City County Career Center at [jobs.jamescitycountyva.gov](http://jobs.jamescitycountyva.gov).

**WATER DISTRIBUTION APPRENTICE | James City County**

\$26,540/year or higher DOQ + Full-Time County Benefits (2 Positions Available). James City County Service Authority seeks two individuals to perform responsible manual labor in the maintenance, repair and construction of the water and wastewater systems. Accepting applications until

position is filled. Only online applications to our website will be considered. To apply, please visit the James City County Career Center at [jobs.jamescitycountyva.gov](http://jobs.jamescitycountyva.gov).

**SENIOR ELECTRICAL FACILITIES TECHNICIAN | James City County**

\$35,477 or higher DOQ + Full-Time County Benefits. James City County General Services seeks and individual to perform experienced electrical work including installation, maintenance, and repair work on electrical wiring systems, controls, and machinery in all county facilities. Accepting applications until November 7. Only online applications to our website will be considered. To apply, please visit the James City County Career Center at [jobs.jamescitycountyva.gov](http://jobs.jamescitycountyva.gov).

**WASTEWATER FACILITIES APPRENTICE | James City County**

\$26,540/year or higher DOQ + Full-Time County Benefits. James City Service Authority (JCSA) seeks an individual to assist with work in the operation, maintenance, and repair of the JCSA's wastewater collection facilities to include related wastewater mechanical equipment. Accepting applications until position is filled. Only online applications to our website will be considered. To apply, please visit the James City County Career Center at [jobs.jamescitycountyva.gov](http://jobs.jamescitycountyva.gov).

**PARK SUPERVISOR PART-TIME | James City County**

\$17,836/yr or higher DOQ + Part-Time County Benefits (Part-Time, 25 Hours/Wk). James City County Parks and Recreation seeks and individual to perform responsible work managing the daily operation of parks and facilities including directing staff, assisting patrons, monitoring activities, and maintaining cleanliness. Accepting applications until November 16 or until filled. Only online applications to our website will be considered. To apply, please visit the James City County Career Center at [jobs.jamescitycountyva.gov](http://jobs.jamescitycountyva.gov).

**FIREFIGHTER/EMS PROVIDER | Goochland County**

The Goochland County Fire-Rescue Department will be accepting applications for the position of Firefighter/EMS Provider. Goochland County Fire-Rescue is an all hazard, full service, combination fire-rescue department. We currently operate out of 6 stations that are strategically positioned within the +/- 280 square miles of the county and serve a population of 22,500. Goochland County is located just west of Richmond, Virginia and is home to several Fortune 500 and nationally

known companies. Individuals interested in sitting for the written entrance exam must complete an online application, found at [www.goochlandva.us/231/Employment-Opportunities](http://www.goochlandva.us/231/Employment-Opportunities). The hiring range is \$40,917-\$46,846. The online application and copies of all applicable certifications must be submitted by October 14.

**HUMAN SERVICES ASSISTANT III | New Kent County**

New Kent County is seeking a Human Services Assistant III. The person in this position will screen clients for benefits and services; assist with applications, evaluate and approve agency providers. Schedules and coordinates appointments for clients to meet with benefit, employment or services staff. Analyzes needs and coordinates resources in support of families/clients. Must have a valid Commonwealth of Virginia driver's license or able to obtain one upon employment. Visit the New Kent County website, Employment Opportunities <http://www.co.new-kent.va.us>. Or see full Job Description and apply: <https://virginiajobs.peopleadmin.com>.

**COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR | Essex County**

Essex County (11,229), situated on the Middle Peninsula of Virginia, and consisting of over 261 square miles, invites applications from strong candidates to serve as the County's next County Administrator. The County operates with a four member Board of Supervisors who serves as the legislative body of the local government, with each member representing a different jurisdiction within the County and serving a four year term. The County Administrator is appointed by the Board and serves at the pleasure of the Board, carrying out the Board's adopted policies, directing business procedures and overseeing day-to-day operations and activities of all County departments. Essex County is operating with a Fiscal Year 2017 General Fund budget of \$21.6 million, which supports over 15 department areas ranging from economic development and facilities management to parks and recreation and building and zoning. A full profile may be found at <http://waters-company.com/wp-content/uploads/Essex-PROFILE-FINAL-2016-09-16.pdf>. Salary for this position is negotiable dependent upon candidate education and experience. The application deadline is October 16. To be considered, please submit a cover letter, résumé with salary history and five (5) professional references online by visiting Waters & Company (W&C) at <https://waters-company.recruitment.com>. For more information, please contact us at richmond@[waters-company.com](http://waters-company.com).



#### **Executive Committee**

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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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