

# COUNTY CONNECTIONS

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Virginia Association of Counties

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October 1, 2008



2008 Annual Conference Update

Nov. 9-11/The Homestead



## 2008 Conference update: Legislators will join us!

In addition to House Speaker William Howell, VACO will be joined by other members of the General Assembly who will engage in panel discussions about budget issues, the status of state and local relations, and the effects on public services of the aging population of baby boomers.

During the conference's opening session on the morning of Nov. 10, Speaker Howell is expected to comment upon issues relating to local land use regulation, state finances and other issues of interest to local governments.

The Annual Conference will include breakout sessions on energy efficiency, green buildings, emergency services, coordination of land use and transportation, broadband in underserved areas, water quality issues, the effect of home foreclosures on local governments, retirement solutions for county officials and the latest developments in information technology.

An important purpose of the conference is the focus on VACO's legislative agenda. On Nov. 9, all eight of VACO's steering committees will consider final amendments to VACO's draft 2009 Legislative Program, a document voted upon by VACO's entire membership during our annual business meeting scheduled on Tuesday, Nov. 11. Please come and participate in the process!

## Kaine to announce new revenue projections and spending cuts

By Mike Edwards  
medwards@vaco.org

Virginia's state budget shortfall is growing in response to the economic news from Wall Street and Washington as well as a slumping real estate market in the Commonwealth. Soon after the Governor's Advisory Council on Revenue Estimates met in Richmond on Sept. 23, the Capitol Press Corp reported a mounting state revenue problem.

The Richmond Times-Dispatch reported the biennial shortfall may hit \$3 billion.

Prior to the most recent events on Wall Street, many Richmond budget watchers were predicting a biennial shortfall of less than \$2 billion. However, the national and regional news of the last few weeks has changed the landscape.

Gov. Timothy M. Kaine will announce a revised biennial revenue projection by mid-October. He ordered the revision in late August in reaction to changing national and state

### THE BUDGET



**Budget**

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### Recent press reports about Virginia's growing budget shortfall and reductions:

"Education and human services largely have been insulated from the [recent budget reductions]. But (Gov.) Kaine, in his mandatory budget report to lawmakers in August, warned that no longer may be possible."

-Richmond Times-Dispatch, Sept. 24

In Virginia, the cuts will be deep, officials said.

"We're facing a major reduction in state spending, a lot more than anyone predicted," said Sen. R. Edward Houck (D-Spotsylvania), one of the legislature's budget negotiators.

Virginia's latest budget shortfall stems from declines in sales, corporate and withholding taxes, among other factors.

-Washington Post, Sept. 24

The worst-case projection of \$2.9 billion would be a 9 percent reduction in revenue for the state's general fund, which pays for programs such as education, public safety and health care.

"I was surprised by the size of those numbers, but everything's been shifting in the last week," said House Majority Leader Morgan Griffith, R-Salem, referring to the turmoil in the nation's financial markets. Griffith is a member of the governor's advisory panel.

-Roanoke Times, Sept. 24

Any cuts ... to Virginia's public schools will likely be delayed until next year, Gov. Kaine said...

"Some cuts we may put into 2010, just to give some of the local governments the ability to see it coming and make adjustments."

-Richmond Times-Dispatch, Sept. 26

## Name that County Courthouse!



Don't know?

Here are some hints.

**The first non-Indian settler of this county was Col. John Mottrom around 1635-1640.**

**The county has an area of approximately 222 square miles and a population of 12,400 people.**

**A bridge constructed in 1926 opened this county to the western part of the state and led to unprecedented growth.**

Still don't know?

Here's one more.

**The chairman of the Board of Supervisors is Ronald L. Jett.**

If you haven't googled the answer, read the rest of County Connections.

The answer is hidden somewhere among these pages.

## VACo Notes



Larry Land presents a 2008 VACo Achievement Award to the Loudoun County Board of Supervisors. Pictured are Chairman Scott K. York and Kelly Burk.

Loudoun County's entry was recognized in the Organizational Development category. The title was Career Development Program.

It was the sixth time Loudoun received an Achievement Award in the six-year history of the program.

Here's a description of Loudoun County's 2008 entry.

The evolution of this professional career development plan contributes to the success of the county's overall mission.

Developed in response to individual career goals and expectations, the program answers a variety of county needs while using minimal resources.

This program has allowed the Office of the County Assessor to streamline the career development process of each employee by establishing a framework for succession planning, developing a reputation as a continuous learning organization and delivering exemplary service to internal departments as well as the entire county.

The Loudoun presentation was the third at a BOS meeting--the others were at Isle of Wight and Spotsylvania counties.

VACo representatives will also visit Albemarle, James City and Bath to recognize those respective counties for their Achievement Award winning programs.

# State and federal transportation revenues falling



By Mike Edwards  
medwards@vaco.org



John R. Layman

The numbers are in and they are not very positive. Fiscal year 2008 Commonwealth transportation collections were down compared to projected revenues by more than \$34 million, and 9 percent below the level recorded in FY 2004.

These key indicators confirm what most local leaders already knew—the economic downturn and more fuel efficient vehicles are

driving down transportation revenue collections.

Over the next six years, VDOT's operating and maintenance fund will fall by an estimated \$739.9 million. The fund accounts for VDOT activities exclusive of road construction. The agency continues to transfer road construction dollars to the maintenance fund in order to close the state's annual road maintenance funding shortfall.

In accordance with state law VDOT must fulfill its annual maintenance activities before spending dollars on new construction. The annual transfer of construction funding to support maintenance activities reduces available dollars to the Commonwealth as well as counties, cities and towns.

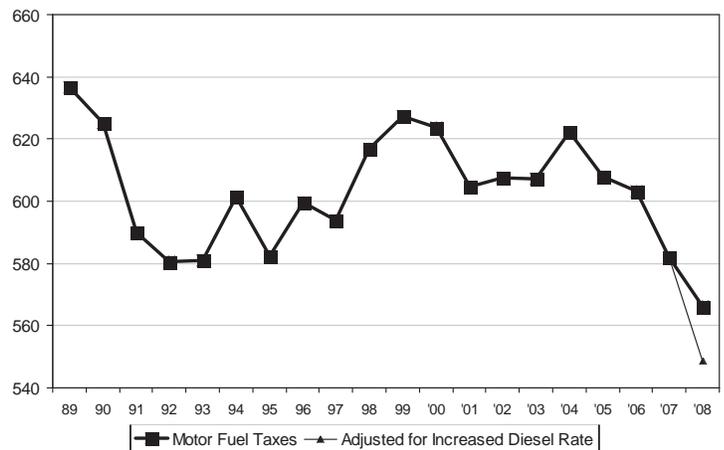
John R. Layman, the Virginia Department of Taxation's chief economist, provided an updated transportation revenue report to the Commonwealth Transportation Board (CTB) on Sept. 18 at its monthly meeting in Winchester.

Fifty percent of VDOT's operating and maintenance budget is supported by gas tax receipts. More fuel efficient vehicles mean less gallons of purchased gas.

Virginia's gas tax of 17.5 cents per gallon, unlike a sales and use tax, does not expand when fuel prices rise. The federal government's gas tax of 18.4 per gallon was designed to support the Federal Highway Trust Fund but does not grow with increased fuel prices.

President George W. Bush signed legislation last month buttressing the Federal Highway Trust Fund with an \$8 billion transfer from the U. S. Treasury. The action came on the heels of the U.S. Department of Transportation announcing that that the Federal Highway Trust Fund will experience a shortfall in federal FY 2009 of at least \$3.1 billion.

## Motor Fuels Tax Collections, FY89-08 (Adjusted for Inflation; Millions of Dollars)



## Summary of FY 08 Commonwealth Transportation Fund Revenue Collections

	Fiscal Year 2008		
	Forecast	Actual	\$ Variance
Motor Fuels Tax	\$ 883.5	\$ 851.2	\$ (32.3)
Motor Vehicle Sales Tax	568.3	541.7	(26.6)
Motor Vehicle License Fee	253.1	242.1	(11.0)
International Registration Fee	64.5	74.1	9.6
Retail Sales Tax	517.8	524.9	7.1
Interest Earnings	43.5	62.1	18.6
Miscellaneous	77.9	78.1	0.2
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 2,408.6</b>	<b>\$ 2,374.2</b>	<b>\$ (34.4)</b>

Source for the graph and chart:  
Virginia Department of Taxation  
CTB Sept. 18 meeting in Winchester

The department indicated that the revenue downturn would require the feds to cut state funding next year by more than \$24 billion absent a long term "fix." The Federal Highway Administration soon will begin paying state reimbursements on an as-available and pro-rata basis.

The Richmond Times-Dispatch reported that Layman told the

## Attention Virginians: Check your voter registration status before Oct. 6 deadline

### Virginia State Board of Elections

Gov. Timothy M. Kaine encouraged Virginians to check their voter registration status, reminding them that the deadline to register is Oct. 6.

The governor urges Virginians to take advantage of a State Board of Elections Web tool to confirm their registration status, polling location and other vital information ahead of the fall elections.



“By taking a few minutes to use this simple tool, Virginia voters can make sure they aren’t turned away on Election Day because they show up at the wrong precinct, have inaccurate voter information or are not registered to vote by the Oct. 6 deadline,” Gov. Kaine said. “With more than 4.8

million registered voters in the Commonwealth, our General Registrars and Electoral Boards need the assistance of the general public to make the election experience a positive one.”

Virginia residents can check their voter registration status a few ways:

- By visiting [www.sbe.virginia.gov](http://www.sbe.virginia.gov) and clicking on the “Check Voter Registration Status” link.
- By calling (804) 864-8901 or (800) 552-9745. Staff and volunteers answer phones at the Virginia State Board of Election Voter Registration Call Center from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.
- By calling their local registrar. Contact information for registrars is available in the blue pages of the phone book.

Gov. Kaine also announced that the State Board of Elections has nearly reached its goal of identifying 10,000 people to serve as Officers of Election, statewide – less than 50 additional officers are still needed.

An increased need for Officers of Elections stemmed from the creation of 300 precincts since 2004 and the projected increase in voter turnout for the November election.

The primary purpose for these Officers of Elections is to assist voters on Election Day.

Those interested in serving as an Officer of Election should visit the Virginia State Board of Elections web site at [www.sbe.virginia.gov](http://www.sbe.virginia.gov) or contact your local registrar.

## State announces launch of community broadband toolkit

### Office of Telework Promotion and Broadband Assistance

Secretary of Technology Aneesh Chopra announced the launch of Virginia’s Community Broadband Toolkit, a Web-based resource to assist localities in attracting broadband service providers, especially in the more remote communities where coverage gaps remain.

The toolkit is a product of the Broadband Roundtable led by Former Gov. Mark Warner and Sec. Chopra who were charged by Gov. Timothy M. Kaine to support his goal of providing universal access to broadband services for all Virginia businesses by 2010.

“The toolkit provides a single location for local and regional officials to find the information needed to initiate a successful community-led broadband deployment,” said Gov. Kaine. “This simplifies the process, speeds up the transaction time, and

helps eliminate barriers created by a lack of technical knowledge and staff.”

The toolkit provides an easy-to-use guide to facilitate local decision-making including information on technologies, applications and business elements such as legal structure and financing. An online calculator is designed to help community leaders identify and leverage existing sources of funding.

“Access to affordable broadband services is critical if we are to remain globally competitive,” Warner said. “Despite record public investments in our rural infrastructure, we must look for smart and creative ways to tackle the ‘last-mile’ challenge.”

The launch of the toolkit marks the culmination of the activities of the Commonwealth’s Broadband Roundtable, a broad stakeholder group including nationally regarded experts

assembled in 2007 to analyze broadband availability in the Commonwealth and offer solutions for bridging remaining gaps.

“Our year-long journey across all corners of the Commonwealth made clear we have a hunger for broadband access but no easy path to deliver it,” said Secretary Chopra. “Thanks to our group of committed Roundtable members, we’ve captured the best learning and have established a foundation that will improve with time.”

The toolkit is available under the Office of Telework Promotion and Broadband Assistance homepage and will also be available as a link from many agency and organization Web sites.

To visit the toolkit, please go to [www.otpba.vi.virginia.gov](http://www.otpba.vi.virginia.gov)

“I’M AN ADMINISTRATOR AT HEART. I THINK THAT WAY WHEN I SERVE AS A SUPERVISOR.”



Grand opening of Camping World on Gander Way in Hollins. Richard Flora (left) shakes hands with store manager, Nick Breese, with State Sen. Ralph Smith (center) looking on..



Grand opening of the Kroger store in Bonsack on Challenger Avenue. Flora (center) stands between store manager Robert Biggs (right) and Roanoke County Board of Supervisors Vice Chairman Mike Altizer.



Grand opening of Gander Mountain on Gander Way in Hollins. Flora (right) celebrates the opening with store manager Jayson Jongquist.

The answer to the Name that County Courthouse question is Northumberland.

The man who wears two hats

Please excuse the sports analogy, but it’s a good one to help explain Richard Flora’s dual role as a county administrator and a Board of Supervisor member.

“I’m like a player/coach,” Flora said, “but for different teams.”

The career public servant is the current Craig County administrator and the Roanoke County Board of Supervisors chairman.

He has served in Craig County since December 2005 as well as a stint from 1991-94. His county administrator position is part-time, working about three weeks out of a month. Flora’s tenure in Roanoke County goes back to 1972-75 when he was elected as a first-term supervisor. He returned to the Board in 2002 and won re-election in 2005.

It is believed that Flora is the only known person in Virginia’s history to serve two counties as a supervisor and as an administrator simultaneously. There have been examples of a person working as a supervisor and town manager at once.

“Obviously, Board of Supervisor members are policy makers and shouldn’t involve themselves in the actual running of the county while county administrators enforces those policies,” explained Flora when asked to define the different positions.

“Of course, supervisors and administrators regularly confuse those roles,” Flora added with a slight chuckle.

Flora insists he’s not a politician and most of his experience is proof to that claim. He’s worked as city manager for Clifton Forge (1980-83), Covington (1983-86) and Buena Vista (1994-96).

Flora was hired in Craig County for the second time when word spread that he was retiring from Roanoke County Schools as director of operations. It was Helen Abbott Looney, chair of the Craig County Board of Supervisors, who acted first.

“We had an opportunity to hire an administrator so I called him immediately and asked if he would be interested,” said Abbott Looney, who knew Flora from his first stint in Craig. “He came to the next Board meeting and was hired on the spot. The other Board members didn’t consider anyone else.”

It was Flora’s idea to make the position part-time. He convinced the Board that he could do the job in fewer hours. He was right.

“He has so much experience and talent that he’s done more part-time than any county administrator we’ve had in



Flora

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**Mark Your Calendars**

**PanFlu Exercise**

Nov. 20-21



The Virginia Department of Health will sponsor an exercise on Nov. 20 -21 designed to challenge the state on issues surrounding a flu pandemic.

This exercise, FluEx '08, will provide the framework for government agencies and non-governmental organizations to participate in an interactive, function-based learning opportunity addressing a pandemic influenza scenario.

FluEx '08 will focus on preparation, response and recovery actions and will involve coordination among health, hospital, emergency management, law enforcement and critical infrastructure/key resources compromised by widespread illness, while simultaneously maintaining continuity of government, of private and public sector operations and supply chain management.

**ArcGIS Workshop**

Nov. 7 – 8

**Virginia Commonwealth University**  
**Hibbs Building, Room 407**  
**Park Avenue & Shafer Street**  
**Richmond**



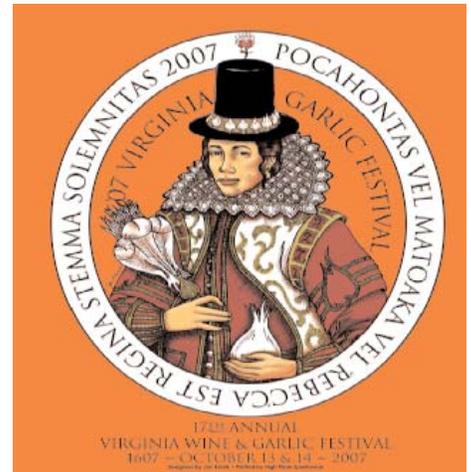
Virginia Commonwealth University's Wilder School of Government and Public Affairs with the Performance Management Group is offering a two-day comprehensive ArcGIS Workshop on Nov. 7-8.

This workshop is offered to anyone interested in gaining experience with ArcGIS software.

In addition, 12 APA-AICP credits will be provided for participants. The workshop will be held at the Hibbs Building on the VCU campus.



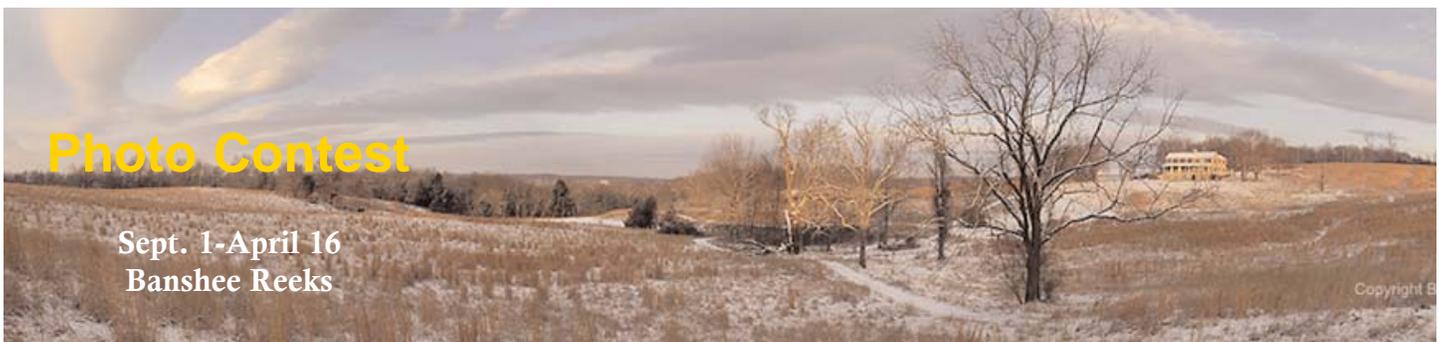
**Oct. 11-12**  
**10 a.m.- 5 p.m.**  
**Amherst County**



For more information and to purchase tickets, visit [www.rebecwinery.com/page10.html](http://www.rebecwinery.com/page10.html)

**Photo Contest**

Sept. 1-April 16  
 Banshee Reeks



Friends of Banshee Reeks, Inc., is proud to announce its first photo contest, "Banshee Reeks: Nature's Oasis, Give Us Your Best Shot!"

Banshee Reeks is a 700-acre nature preserve that is operated by Loudoun County Department of Parks, Recreation and Community Services. It is supported by the Friends of Banshee Reeks, Inc., a volunteer, nonprofit organization. The preserve strives to protect natural habitats and wildlife populations, to conduct and coordinate ecological, historical and other scientific research, and to provide the public with an opportunity to enjoy and learn from this unique reserved area.

Photographic opportunities abound in forested, hillside, meadow, wetland and streamside landscapes. An abundance of flowering plants and trees provide a constantly shifting palette of colors throughout the year and around any bend in the trail. Wildlife species can present unexpected opportunities and challenges for both the professional and amateur photographer.

This contest runs Sept. 1 to April 16, 2009. Cash and gift certificate prizes will be awarded. Guidelines and brochure are available online at [www.bansheereeks.org](http://www.bansheereeks.org).

## Remembering Calvin Perrow Carter

Long-time Campbell County Board of Supervisors member Calvin Carter passed away on Sept. 15 at the age of 83. Carter was a supervisor for 28 years and retired in 2007 after declining to seek an eighth term.



laugh that eased the tension of Board meetings. He was well-respected and well-liked by peers and constituents.

“Calvin was clearly one of the most honorable and respected public servants I’ve ever had the opportunity to work with,” County Administrator David Laurell said in the News & Advance.

“He served Campbell County with the highest esteem for 28 years. He always liked to think he was a special supervisor for all people,” Seneca District supervisor Hugh Rosser told the Lynchburg News & Advance. “He took work seriously, yet he was able to make you feel like your business was his business.”

Carter will be remembered as a soft-spoken gentleman with a kind

Carter also served on the Board of Directors for Southside Electric Cooperative and for Old Dominion Electric Cooperative. He was the owner/operator of Carter’s Store.

“Mr. Carter’s service was well-noted and highly regarded,” said James D. Campbell, VACo executive director. “Many people considered Mr. Carter a good friend.”

## Commission meets to learn about alternative fuel sources

By Larry Land  
lland@vaco.org



State Senator Mary Margaret Whipple chairs the Commission on Energy and the Environment.

The Governor’s Commission on Climate Change is not the only panel concerning itself with issues relating to energy. On Sept. 9, the Commission on Energy and the Environment (chaired by Senator Mary Margaret Whipple) held its second meeting of the year. Under SB 464 (Whipple), the 15-member Commission on Energy and the Environment is required to make recommendations for implementing the Virginia Energy Plan released last year.

### The Virginia Energy Plan’s chief goals are to:

- \*Achieve a 40 percent reduction in the rate of energy growth.
- \*Achieve a 20 percent increase in production of energy by utilizing indigenous energy sources.
- \*Expand consumer education.
- \*Achieve in Virginia a 30 percent reduction in Greenhouse Gas emissions by 2025.
- \*Encourage research and development in areas of alternate fuels, nuclear technologies, coastal energy, carbon capture and storage.

During its first meeting on July 10, Dr. Robert L. Hirsch, Senior Energy Advisor to Management Solutions, Inc. (MISi) made a presentation suggesting

**Climate Change**  
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## Betty Sutphin Thomas remembered for her kindness

Photo courtesy of the Roanoke Times



Betty Sutphin Thomas, one of the first female county administrators in Virginia, passed away Sept. 21 in Christiansburg. She was 70.

Thomas served as administrator of Montgomery County for 16 years until her retirement in 1997 because of health reasons. She joined the county in 1972 as assistant administrator. Nine years and two stints as acting county administrator later, Thomas was

appointed to the top job.

“I find that you can accomplish almost anything if you have the right approach,” Thomas told the Roanoke Times in a 1996 article. “I always respect people. That’s just the way to run a government.”

Thomas proved that statement true by ascending to county administrator despite the lack of a college degree and gender barriers.

Early in her career, Thomas worked as a secretary for her father, Paul Sutphin, who was sheriff of Floyd County.

While on the job, she often talk with young girls detained at the sheriff’s office. Many wrote her later and thanked her for caring.

“Betty had a gentle air about her in the way she interacted with people,” said James D. Campbell, VACo executive director. “This gentleness brought people together to deal with tough issues. She was highly successful and her approach to government was refreshing. She will be missed.”

# Stormwater rule approved for public comment



Virginia Department of Conservation & Recreation

By Larry Land  
lland@vaco.org

On Sept. 24 the state's Soil and Water Conservation Board unanimously approved for public comment the newly proposed Virginia Stormwater Management Program (VSMP) permit regulations.

Over the past two years, these proposed stormwater rules (detailed by VACo in recent issues of County Connections) have been under development by the Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR).

DCR developed the proposed rules in consultation with a technical advisory committee (TAC) comprised of many local government employees with expert knowledge in stormwater management issues.

Although approved for public comment on Sept. 24, it is likely the statutorily prescribed 60-day comment period will not begin until some time next year, perhaps late winter/early spring of 2009.

Prior to the formal public comment period (that will commence upon publication in the Virginia Register) the proposed VSMP rule will be reviewed by the Governor's office.

This review, expected to transpire over a period of several months, will include consideration and analysis of a highly anticipated report on VSMP's economic impacts.

This report - expected for release in mid-October--is being prepared by Professor Kurt Stephenson of Virginia Tech. Once released, this report is one that local officials would be very interested in reviewing.

During the "public comment" segment of the Board's Sept. 24

meeting, VACo joined with the Virginia Association of Municipal Stormwater Agencies (VAMSA) and local government representatives who served on the TAC to request that the Soil and Water Conservation Board defer for approval until a later date the section of the VSMP regulations containing several technical requirements that appear particularly onerous.

One of these requirements limit stormwater discharges from construction sites to no more than .28 lbs. of phosphorus per year per acre. Another technical criterion requires a person with a land disturbing permit to demonstrate that on sites with at least 40 percent impervious cover, loadings from phosphorus will be 20 percent below "pre-development" levels.

VAMSA and local government TAC members have been arguing that the "technical criteria" section of the VSMP regulations should not be approved for public comment until achievability of these standards have been tested in "real world" situations.

Members of the Soil and Water Conservation Board, along with high-ranking members of DCR's staff assured VACo, VAMSA and local government TAC members that the upcoming public comment process will provide adequate opportunities for technical criteria undergo "real world" testing prior to the time that the VSMP regulations go into effect.

Following administrative review and the public comment process, final approval of the new VSMP rule is expected sometime around September of 2009.

## Climate Change

Continued from page 7

that it may not be long before gasoline prices rise somewhere between \$10 and \$15 per gallon, a phenomenon that would virtually shut down economic activity.

With this gloomy prospect in mind, the Commission on Energy and the Environment was urged by Dr. Hirsch to recognize with urgency the approaching catastrophe.

He pressed Commission members to consider actions that should be taken immediately to encourage, through any means possible, production of alternative fuel sources.

At its Sept. 9 meeting, the Commission on Energy and Environment heard a series of presentations on alternative, renewable energy sources that might hold some promise in the future.

These renewable sources include switch grass, wind, solar and an exotic bean with a high-oil content that grows wild in southern China.

At its next meeting scheduled for Oct. 14 at Old Dominion University the Commission on Energy and the Environment will learn more about renewable energy sources that can be derived from the harvesting of algae.

In addition to Senator Whipple, legislative members of the Commission on Energy and the Environment are delegates Charles Poindexter (Commission Vice Chair), Samuel Nixon, Clarke Hogan, Joseph Johnson and Mark Sickles.

The Senate members of the Commission are Chap Peterson and Richard Stuart. There are also five citizen members and two ex-officio members.

The ex-officio members are Davie Paylor (Department of Environmental Quality Director) and Benny R. Wampler representing the Department of Mines, Minerals and Energy.

Additional information about the Commission on Energy and Environment is available at this Web site: [dls.state.va.us/GROUPS/energy/meetings/071708/materials.htm](http://dls.state.va.us/GROUPS/energy/meetings/071708/materials.htm).

**Budget**

Continued from page 1

**Visit [www.vaco.org](http://www.vaco.org) for all the latest news on the budget. VACo will release a report when Gov. Kaine announces his revised biennial revenue projection.**

economic indicators.

The administration has ordered state agencies to submit 15 percent reduction plans. The plans were due to the governor the week of Sept. 22.

VACo expects the governor to institute cuts when he releases the new revenue numbers. Note that Gov. Kaine is authorized to make executive cuts, without legislative approval, of up to 15 percent.

Local governments may not be immune from the governor's October reductions. Gov. Kaine stated on Sept. 25 that he hopes to avoid public school reductions in FY 2009.

Local governments should expect school cuts in FY 2010. VACo will report on the new revenue projections and resulting budget cuts as soon as they are released.

To make matters worse, a significant number of regions are experiencing significant local revenue reductions. In addition to declining state budget revenues, local revenues are recessed due to poor real estate markets. The problem is pronounced outside the Capital Beltway in Northern Virginia.

According to Prince William officials, the average sale price of single family county homes has dropped by more than 37 percent (July 2007 to July 2008). As of July, less than 16 percent of active monthly listings had sold.

The county is experiencing a rising number of home foreclosures and declining property assessments.

According to Scott and Stringfellow, Inc., a subsidiary of BB&T Corporation, American housing starts fell 6.2 percent in August to an annualized rate of 895,000, or 60.6 percent below the recent national peak of late 2006 and into 2007. Single family starts are down 36 percent over this time last year.

**Transportation**

Continued from page 3

CTB at the Winchester meeting "Things are continuing to deteriorate. There's no 'up' in this [revenue] presentation right now."

**Key facts from the Sept. 18 presentation to the CTB:**

- Adjusted for inflation, the state's motor fuels tax collections have hit a 20-year low.

**Flora**

Continued from page 5

years," Abbott Looney said. "This is not a knock on anyone else. It's just a testament to the great work Richard has done."

Abbott Looney can't give the exact figures, but Craig County has received more grants under Flora. For example, the county was award a HUD grant for a medical center and tourism money to create a Web site.

"I'm an administrator at heart," he said. "I think that way when I serve as a supervisor. I'm not a politician, and I don't like to be thought of as a politician."

John Chambliss, acting county administrator in Roanoke, agreed.

"From the standpoint of his thought process, he understands where the staff is coming from when it presents reports and analysis," said Chambliss, who first met the chairman when Flora was on the Board in 1973. "But you can't discount his experience with our schools. He has good perspective and knowledge inside the school system, especially when it comes to budgeting and capital-related issues."

Flora admits the tougher job is being a county administrator because that person is at the mercy of the Board.

"As a supervisor, I can sit up there and vote and basically say what I feel and what I want to say," Flora said. "But as a county administrator, I have to choose my words very carefully. Also, part of your job is to simultaneously

- Since FY 1995, the average annual percent change in motor fuels tax collections has been 2.1 percent. Over the last four years the average annual growth rate has been only 0.3 percent.

- The average price of a new vehicle has fallen to spring 2003 levels. The state's motor vehicle sales and use tax also is a key transportation revenue accounting for 25 percent of VDOT's operating and maintenance activities. (Motor vehicle registrations account for almost 20 percent of the operating and maintenance fund).

please all the Board members, but that's difficult especially when you have members with differing opinions."

He added that the administrator position has evolved a lot more than the supervisor's role. County administrators now need to be more versed in the law, especially with Virginia being a Dillon Rule state.

"I was a town manager in 1965 and the biggest things you had to worry about were water, sewer and the police department," Flora said. "Nobody was looking over your shoulder. But today, everyone is looking over your shoulder."

Another big difference is in the governing of both counties. Roanoke County has around a \$160 million budget that does not include schools. Craig County's budget is about \$5-6 million.

"It's an entirely different philosophy from one county to the other," Flora said. "So I have to think differently in that respect as a supervisor and administrator."

One question Flora gets a lot is how he avoids a conflict of interest. He said that Roanoke and Craig don't have any legislative conflicts and only one time was there any form of it. The story goes that Roanoke wanted to give a surplus piece of equipment to Craig. Flora's solution to this was to abstain from voting during the Board of Supervisor's meeting.

"Being a supervisor and administrator is not for everyone," Flora said. "You have to change hats often. But I really enjoy it."

**Employment Opportunities**

Employment ads are edited due to space considerations.

To view the full versions, visit [www.vaco.org](http://www.vaco.org).

**Director of Economic Development/  
Amherst County**

Amherst County seeks a Director of Economic Development to develop, manage, and coordinate the county's local, regional, and state economic development programs. Hiring Range: mid-\$40k to mid-\$50k depending on qualifications along with a comprehensive and competitive benefits package. A complete job description and an Amherst County Application form are available from the Office of the County Administrator 434-946-9400 or [www.countyofamherst.com](http://www.countyofamherst.com). Submit a letter of interest, résumé, professional references, and a completed Amherst County Application to the Office of the County Administrator, P. O. Box 390, 153 Washington Street, Amherst, VA 24521 by Friday, Oct. 17.

**Assistant County Attorney  
III/Henrico County**

The Henrico County Attorney's Office seeks to hire a full-time attorney with a strong academic background, excellent research and writing skills, and experience in education law to handle legal matters for the School Board and School Administration. The successful applicant must have a Juris Doctor degree, be a member of the Virginia State Bar, and have at least five years experience in the practice of law. The salary range for this position is \$75,390 to \$132,331. Actual starting salary will depend on the qualifications of the successful applicant. Deadline for completion of an online Henrico County application form is Oct. 19. Applications accepted only via Henrico County's online JOSH site at [www.henricojobs.com](http://www.henricojobs.com).

**Planner (I-II)/Gloucester County**

Salary: \$33,747/yr or higher DOQ. Seeking experienced Planner to join our dynamic planning team, assisting with

updates to the Comprehensive Plan and working on various local and regional planning initiatives, subdivision plat and development plan reviews. Experience with ArcGIS a plus. Complete details, list of qualifications and job description are available online at [www.gloucester-va.info](http://www.gloucester-va.info). Deadline: Oct. 24. Submit cover letter & resume with Gloucester County Application to HR Department: 6467 Main Street, Gloucester, VA 23061; Phone: 804-693-5690.

**Executive Director/Chesterfield  
County**

Chesterfield County Community Services Board seeks an Executive Director with a demonstrated knowledge of the managed care environment, and of related critical issues and concerns of residents. Salary is negotiable depending on qualifications. This recruitment will remain open until Oct. 23. For job description and additional information please visit [www.chesterfield.gov/CSBProfile.pdf](http://www.chesterfield.gov/CSBProfile.pdf) and [www.chesterfield.gov/csb](http://www.chesterfield.gov/csb). Interested applicants should submit a confidential resume with cover letter to: Karla J. Gerner, Director  
Chesterfield County Human Resource Management  
P.O. Box 40  
Chesterfield, VA 23832  
Or [executivesearch@chesterfield.gov](mailto:executivesearch@chesterfield.gov)

**Director of Planning & Zoning/  
Mathews County**

Mathews County, a historic and environmentally-conscious community on the Chesapeake Bay, seeks a Director of Planning & Zoning to oversee the development of the comprehensive plan and implementation and enforcement of the county's zoning ordinance, subdivision ordinance and other land use ordinances. Director will supervise staff of four persons. Salary Negotiable. A county employment application, along with resume and cover letter, is required. To obtain an application and complete job description, contact the County Administrator's office, P.O. Box 839, Mathews, VA 23109, call 804-725-

7172 or go to [www.co.mathews.va.us](http://www.co.mathews.va.us). Position remains open until filled.

**Attorney/Orange County**

The County of Orange is soliciting applicants for County Attorney. Applicants must have: (1) a degree from an accredited law school and Virginia State Bar membership; (2) a minimum of three years experience in local government representation; and (3) experience or demonstrated competency in conducting civil litigation. County residency within one year of employment is required. Salary: \$85,000-\$105,000, depending on experience. Deadline for Submissions: Nov. 14. Mail a resume, with salary history, to: County of Orange, Human Resources Department, P.O. Box 111, Orange, VA 22960.

**Real Estate Appraiser (II or Senior)/  
Gloucester County**

Competitive Salary; DOQ. Complete details, list of qualifications and job description are available online at [www.gloucesterva.info](http://www.gloucesterva.info). First review of applicants will be Oct. 10. Submit cover letter & resume with Gloucester County Application to Human Resource Department: 6467 Main Street, Gloucester, VA 23061; Phone: 804-693-5690.

**Public Assistance Bureau Chief/  
Arlington County**

Salary Negotiable Up to \$115,000. Visionary leader and change agent needed to guide staff in developing and implementing high quality systems for providing local, state and federal public assistance programs and for collaborating with other human service programs to provide integrated customer service for residents of Arlington County. Open until filled. Candidates are encouraged to apply as soon as possible. Visit [www.arlingtonva.us/pers](http://www.arlingtonva.us/pers) (click on "County Jobs" on the right of the

**Employment**

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screen). You may attach your resume to the Internet Employment Application if you wish. E-mail any questions to [pers@arlingtonva.us](mailto:pers@arlingtonva.us) (no resumes to this address, please).

**Assistant Director of Finance/City of Chesapeake**

Salary: \$74,401 (+) excellent benefits package equivalent to 54 percent of the salary. The City of Chesapeake seeks an individual with strong leadership qualities and management exp to oversee and direct the City's financial operations. Position requires BS/BA or equiv and over 6 years related supervisory/management experience. For more info and/or to APPLY, please visit [www.jobs.cityofchesapeake.net](http://www.jobs.cityofchesapeake.net). Job closes Oct. 19.

**Director of Public Utilities/Caroline County**

This is a professional, administrative position responsible for managing underground utilities including treatment and distribution, solid waste collection and disposal and capital improvement projects. Starting salary DOQ. Excellent benefit package including state retirement benefits. Interested candidates should submit a completed county application, resume and cover letter to County Administrator Percy Ashcraft at P.O. Box 447, Bowling Green, VA 22427, 804-633-5380. Position open until filled. Applications may be obtained from the County Administrator's Office or online at [www.visitcaroline.com](http://www.visitcaroline.com).

**Engineer/Washington County**

The County of Washington is presently seeking applications from qualified individuals for the new position of County Engineer. A complete Position Description along with an Application for Employment may be obtained through the County Department of Accounting, County of Washington, 205 Academy Drive, Abingdon, VA 24210 or through the County Web site

[www.washcova.com](http://www.washcova.com). Applications accepted until position filled.

**Assistant Director of Finance/ Brunswick County**

Qualifications include a Bachelor's degree in accounting or related field. Salary for this position is negotiable. A complete job description is available at the Office of the County Administrator. Submit resume' to the Office of the County Administrator, 102 Tobacco Street, Lawrenceville, VA 23868. Telephone 434-848-3107. Position open until filled.

**Clerk to the County Board/Arlington County**

Salary: \$85,841-\$115,544  
TO APPLY: Submit REQUIRED Internet Employment Application. Click here to go directly to the Internet Employment Application and the full job announcement (new window will open). You may go to [www.arlingtonva.us/pers](http://www.arlingtonva.us/pers), click on COUNTY JOBS, scroll down the alphabetical list and click on the job title – you will see the full job announcement and the APPLY link. Call 703-228-3500 and press 4 if you have questions or e-mail questions to [pers@arlingtonva.us](mailto:pers@arlingtonva.us).

**Project Manager-Economic & Community Development/Bland County**

Applications accepted until position is filled. Interested candidates should submit a state application and resume to: Jonathan Sweet, P.O. Box 510, Bland, VA. 24314. Visit our Web site at [www.bland.org](http://www.bland.org) or call 276-688-4622 for more information.

**Public Works Engineer/Gloucester County**

The County of Gloucester is presently seeking a qualified professional to perform engineering & project management. Salary \$47,872/yr or higher DOQ. With an excellent, benefit package. Deadline: 4:30 pm Oct. 1. Details along with an application for employment may be obtained online at [www.gloucesterva.info](http://www.gloucesterva.info). Gloucester

County Human Resource Department  
6467 Main St. Gloucester, VA 23061.  
804-693-5690.

**Public Information Officer/King William County**

Hiring range \$39,000 - \$48,000, DOQ. Applicants must submit a completed King William County Employment Application (found at [www.king-williamcounty.us](http://www.king-williamcounty.us)) and/or resume (including references and salary history) and writing sample to County Administrator, King William County, P. O. Box 215, King William, VA 23086. Open until filled.

**Cable Television Coordinator/Falls Church Public Schools**

Falls Church City Public Schools is looking for a cable television coordinator for its local PEG station. Anyone interested can see the posting and apply through the Web site at this link: [www.fccps.org/hr/jobs.htm](http://www.fccps.org/hr/jobs.htm).

**Director of Planning & Zoning/Charles City County**

Individual will work closely with the Board of Supervisors and County Administrator and provide staff support to the Planning Commission, Board of Zoning Appeals, Wetlands Board and others. Director will serve as Zoning Administrator, Subdivision Agent, supervise environmental codes enforcement. Salary DOQ. Position will be open until filled. More information on position can be found at [www.co.charles-city.va.us](http://www.co.charles-city.va.us)

**IT Support Technician/Charles City County**

Qualified applicants should possess at minimum an Associate's degree, or Vocational/Technical degree with training. To apply, submit an application and resume to County Administrator, Charles City Government, P. O. Box 128 Charles City, VA 23030. Applications may be secured via the Web site [www.co.charles-city.va.us](http://www.co.charles-city.va.us) or call 804-652-4701 for more information. Open until filled.



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

#### **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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