

Update

The newsletter of the
Virginia Municipal League

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GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Sales tax bills advance; outcome is uncertain

As a result of actions taken by the House Appropriations and Senate Finance Committees, there were three sales tax bills alive at the midway point of the 2002 session of the General Assembly. One addresses transportation needs in Northern Virginia; one addresses transportation needs in Hampton Roads; and one addresses transportation and education statewide. The three sales tax bills that were reported were scheduled to be voted on by their respective chambers as this issue of *Update* went to press. The bills generated considerable controversy during committee debates, and they are likely to experience further changes as they make their way through the legislative process.

HB1296 (Rollison) would require that a referendum question be placed on the ballot this November asking residents of the nine cities and counties in Northern Virginia whether the sales and use tax shall be increased by one-half percent. The additional revenues would be used solely for transportation purposes. The House Finance Committee heard the bill Feb. 9 and recommended that it be reported by a vote of 15-7. At the request of Speaker of the House S. Vance Wilkins Jr., the bill was referred to

the House Appropriations Committee, which voted 23-2 to report the bill Feb. 11. The additional revenue generated by the half-cent sales tax would be used to issue bonds that would fund projects totaling approximately \$2.2 billion in the Northern

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Cross-over marks mid-point of session

THE 2002 GENERAL ASSEMBLY session marked cross-over day Feb. 12, the day each house completed work on its own bills. The money committees were scheduled to release their respective versions of the state budget on Sunday afternoon, Feb. 17. The last scheduled day for committee action is March 4. Adjournment is slated for Saturday, March 9.

Local officials are encouraged to closely review the most recent issue of the *Legislative Bulletin* to determine which bills that are still alive are of high interest. Please let your legislators know your position on these issues. ❖

Manufactured housing bill reported

HB1299 (Jones, J.) removes the authority of local governments to designate mobile home parks (consisting of manufactured housing) as nonconforming uses. It allows the owners of the manufactured houses to replace the individual manufactured houses with comparable units that meet HUD codes.

This is a major change in nonconforming use law in Virginia — that a nonconforming structure may not be expanded to increase the nonconformity, nor may it be replaced or improved by more than 50 percent of its value. This bill ends that principle for manufactured houses. This raises the

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FROM THE CAPITOL

2002 GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Sales tax bills advance continued ...

Virginia Transportation District Program. In the event that the measure passes, Northern Virginia's authority to enact a local option income tax for transportation would lapse.

SB668 (Williams) would require that a referendum question be placed on the ballot this November asking residents of Hampton Roads to decide whether to increase their sales tax by 1 percent for transportation. The Senate Finance Committee reported the bill Feb. 12 by a vote of 10-5. The additional revenue from the 1 percent sales tax increase would be used to issue debt to support approximately \$6.6 billion for six transportation projects that are named in the legislation. Several members of the committee said they could not support the bill either because it did not address statewide transportation needs, or because it did not address education.

SB170 (Colgan) will allow voters statewide to decide whether to

increase the sales tax by 1 percent. The additional penny on the sales tax would generate \$355 million; the rate increase would not apply to food. Half of the revenue generated by the 1 percent increase would be distributed through the Transportation Trust Fund formula. The other half would be returned to cities and counties for education. The distribution formula would have two components: half would be sent back based on the number of school-age children in the jurisdiction; the other half would be based on where the sales tax is collected (i.e. "point of sale"). The bill was reported by a vote of 8-7.

A bill that received considerable attention but did not survive is HB1170 (Dillard). The bill was reported by the House Finance Committee on a vote of 12-10. The speaker asked that this bill also be referred to the House Appropriations Committee, where it died on a vote of 15-10. The bill would have increased the sales tax by one-half percent and required that the additional revenue be used solely for public school capital improvements includ-

ing, but not limited to, technology infrastructure; additions, renovations, and retrofitting of existing school buildings; new school construction; and site acquisition. The tax increase would have only taken effect if approved by a majority of voters in a statewide referendum this November. The money would have been returned to localities based on the number of school-age children, but the bill also guaranteed that no locality would receive less than 50 percent of the amount of sales tax collected in its jurisdiction (i.e. "point of sale").

Legislators voting against HB1170 gave various reasons for doing so. They included concerns that the distribution method would exacerbate educational disparity across the state; that tax measures on the ballot this November would jeopardize bond proposals for parks and higher education facilities; and that the measure is premature because the legislature is in the midst of a tax restructuring study. ❖

Manufactured continued ...

question of what nonconforming use is next? Gas stations? The bill also exacerbates a safety issue, in addition to being a harmful policy shift. Often, in mobile home parks, the trailers are very close together, to maximize the rents for the parcel of land. When one trailer catches fire, the fire can jump to other trailers. Firefighting apparatus has a hard time moving among the trailers to stop the fire.

The bill was amended on the House floor. The amendment is some small improvement, but does not address the major problems the bill creates. The bill will be heard by Senate Local Government Committee. Please contact your senator on the committee to oppose the bill. ❖

Remaining bills of interest require involvement of local governments

Here is a summary of some of the other legislation of interest to local governments as the 2002 session of the General Assembly reached its mid-point.

Compromise reached on Realtor BPOL bill

HB503 (Drake) has been amended to reflect concerns expressed by VML. The bill as introduced would have done two things: 1) clarified that commissions received by real estate agents and brokers cannot be subject to the BPOL tax twice, and 2) allowed real estate brokers to decide whether real estate agents should be licensed through the broker or separately.

VML objected to the second provision for several reasons: it would have given businesses the authority to decide how a local tax is to be collected; it would complicate the administration of the BPOL

tax; and it would have resulted in revenue losses for some localities. The patron agreed to delete the second provision provided that local governments and the realty industry evaluate the manner in which brokers and agents are licensed across the state, and develop a recommendation for the General Assembly's consideration next year.

The amendment directing such an effort to occur was deleted on the House floor because it was construed to conflict with House policy that studies shall not be included in legislation.

VML has assured the patron that it will work with the industry to address the licensing issue regardless of whether there is legislation directing VML to do so.

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Remaining bills continued ...

Telecommunications tax study amended favorably

HJR209 (Bryant) has been amended to require the joint subcommittee established to study telecommunications taxes to submit its recommendations to the joint subcommittee studying Virginia's tax structure by Aug. 1. VML sought this amendment to ensure that any proposed changes to telecommunications taxes be considered in the broadest possible context. There is strong interest in seeing local telecommunications taxes reduced. VML has argued that changes to local taxes should not be considered in isolation, but must be considered in light of overall tax levels and the resources needed to provide services. The study resolution was reported unanimously from the House Rules Committee.

Transportation issues abound: Governor calls for VDOT investigation; 6-year plan to be scaled back

At the same time that the Senate Finance Committee sent to the full Senate a referendum bill (SB170) proposing a 1 percent statewide sales tax increase — one-half cent for education and one-half cent for transportation (see related story above) — Gov. Mark Warner announced an operational and performance audit of financial and cash management practices and procedures of the Virginia Department of Transportation.

The governor also directed VDOT to scale back the six-year plan. VDOT was scheduled to release a preliminary estimate of the amount of money that must be cut out of the six-year plan as this issue of *Update* went to press. As previously reported, VDOT was likely to reduce the current six-year plan by as much as \$3 billion or approximately 30 percent.

The audit will help determine the validity of allegations of fiscal mismanagement and develop better transportation financing policies and procedures. The governor wants the answer to the following question:

Why did VDOT approve construction and maintenance projects after Oct. 1, 2001, totaling \$250 million when the money was neither available nor forecasted to be available? As reported in the Feb. 8 edition of the *Legislative Bulletin*, the new administration has suspended or delayed approximately 189 projects totaling more than \$200 million (for a list of the projects, go online at www.vml.org and view the Feb. 8 edition of the *Legislative Bulletin*).

Incorrect revenue projections previously released by VDOT along with the recession have caused the new administration to question the validity of the six-year plan. The Commonwealth Transportation Board and VDOT will develop the FY03 six-year plan using the revenue estimate to be released later this week. Each and every region of the Commonwealth should expect to "lose" projects. The new administration has committed to adopting the new plan prior to July 1, 2002.

The governor also reported that the U.S. Department of Transportation continues a separate audit of VDOT's use of federal funds for the Springfield Mixing Bowl project in northern Virginia.

House, Senate limit fee increases to 2 years

The House and Senate approved legislation limiting the time that the Department of Environmental Quality can impose higher environmental permit fees. VML, VACo, the Virginia Association of Metropolitan Wastewater Agencies, the Virginia Manufacturers Association and industrial permittees agreed to accept a short-term, three-fold increase in fees to remedy \$6.1 million in targeted cutbacks in general fund revenues to DEQ. The fee increase was proposed initially in the budget of Gov. Jim Gilmore.

While the higher fees are substantial for municipalities, the July 2004 sunset date on the legislation limits the increases to just two years. The Warner Administration had sought to increase the fees for five years, which would have cost more than \$17 million.

The legislation, approved on Feb. 8, includes these provisions:

- DEQ is authorized to increase fees for VPDES, Virginia Pollution Abatement, 401 Certification, Ground Water With-

drawal and Surface Water Withdrawal permits by 300 percent.

- DEQ is authorized to establish a fee schedule to cover up to 20 percent of the direct cost of the hazardous and solid waste management programs.

- Increases in individual solid/hazardous waste permit fees are limited to no more than 300 percent of the fee in existence on July 1, 2002.

- The fee increases will be in effect for two years, until July 1, 2004.

Under the emergency tripling of fees, costs to localities for water and sewer-related permits will be higher than typical fees in neighboring states. A broader policy issue is how to set an equitable fee schedule for the long term. All stakeholders (General Assembly members, the administration, localities, industry and citizens groups) agree that the fee setting policy needs further review. The two-year sunset provision contained in SB592 and HB1257 will bring all stakeholders back to the table to address the policy issue and eliminate the excessive impact on localities.

Air emission program revised.

HB570 (May) amends the air emission program regulated by the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality. Presently, Northern Virginia is the state's only non-attainment area. All vehicles registered in northern Virginia must meet air emission inspection standards.

Presently, Hampton Roads is a maintenance area, but it is not subject to inspections. HB570 reduces from 90 to 15 days the time period by which owners of vehicles not in compliance must demonstrate compliance or qualify for waivers. The bill also requires the state to establish a program subsidizing repairs of vehicles that fail to meet emissions standards, when the owner of the vehicle is financially unable to do so. The bill has been adopted by the House and reported to the Senate.

HB606 increases fines for speeding. HB606 (Saxman) proposes increasing the fine for speeding from \$3 per mile over the posted speed limit to \$5 per mile over the posted speed limit.

If enacted into law, the Traffic

FROM THE CAPITOL

2002 GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Remaining bills continued ...

Infractions and Uniform Fine Schedule would have to be amended by the Supreme Court before such increase would take effect. The bill has been adopted by the House and reported to the Senate.

Housing Study Commission proposes agenda; condemnation issues on the horizon

SJ111 (Mims) proposes the 2002-03-work plan for the Virginia Housing Study Commission. As proposed, SJ111 directs the commission to examine: (i) strategies for increasing homeownership opportunities in the Commonwealth among minorities and new immigrants; (ii) the desirability and feasibility of reimbursement of certain litigation-related expenses in certain condemnation cases; (iii) the feasibility and appropriateness of requiring warranties or some form of insurance on new building products introduced into the housing construction market; and (iv) the enforcement of fair housing laws and regulations in Virginia.

The issue of reimbursing litigation-related expenses in certain condemnation cases is problematic. Local governments along with the public utilities and VDOT have spent the better part of last two years addressing concerns related to this issue. The resolution speaks to examining the practices of condemning authorities including housing development authorities, public utilities and VDOT.

Biosolids bill carried over

On Feb. 4, the Senate Agriculture, Conservation and Natural Resources Committee voted to continue SB618 (Deeds) to 2003 in committee. Sen. Bill Bolling, chairman of the Senate subcommittee that dealt with the bill, wants to study biosolids this year in the Commission on the Future of Virginia's Environment. Subcommittee members John Watkins, Mary Margaret Whipple and Frank Ruff

agreed, noting the need to deal with the issue comprehensively.

A public hearing convened in January by the subcommittee solicited more than two hours of testimony on both sides of the proposal. The legislation would have allowed localities to enact ordinances to prohibit, restrict, or regulate the land application of sewage sludge (biosolids) within that locality. Substitute language, suggested also by Sen. Creigh Deeds, would have allowed land application in designated agricultural and forestal districts, and in other areas through special use permits. The Virginia Farm Bureau opposed SB618, as did the Virginia Association of Metropolitan Wastewater Agencies and VML.

The VML Legislative Policy Statement "encourages the beneficial reuse of biosolids on farms." Most cities, towns and counties are generators of biosolids. The legislation would have reduced the options and increased the costs for biosolids disposal if local governments could prohibit land application within their jurisdictions. Last year, the General Assembly addressed biosolids disposal and worked out compromise legislation (HB2827, 2001) allowing localities to monitor biosolids application within their jurisdictions. The Health Department is now working with representatives of local government and other groups to develop regulations to require persons who land apply to pay a fee for the local costs of testing and monitoring. These regulations are scheduled for adoption by Jan. 1, 2003.

The National Biosolids Partnership maintains a web site with technical resources, public information and news updates at www.biosolids.policy.net.

Zoning text amendment bill is costly to local governments

HB477 (Suit) is the bill that requires a first-class letter to be sent to every lot owner affected by a zoning text amendment that "decreases the allowed dwelling unit density" of more than 25 lots. It has a floor amendment that excepts from notice owners of lots of less than 11,500 square feet (approximately one-quarter acre). The amendment is intended to be helpful, but actually doesn't help localities. With the

amendment, the locality would have to either send notice to all lots, no matter the size, or spend the time to carve out all one-quarter acre or smaller lots. That carving out will take significant staff time.

The bill will cost larger local governments thousands of dollars per year, and will not increase public participation in the zoning process. Experience shows that when a text amendment affects citizens, they show up and participate in the amendment process. Therefore, the bill is not needed. This bill should land in the lap of the Senate Local Government Committee in the next two weeks.

Telecommunications bills continue rolling

HB1021 (Marshall, D.) has passed the House and is headed to the Senate Commerce & Labor Committee. This bill is the Rural Prosperity Commission bill. It allows a locality to provide telecommunications services, only if there are not three or more private companies providing similar services in the community.

It does require the locality to get out of the business and sell the system at fair market value once three unrelated companies are making the service available throughout the locality, upon a petition to the SCC. That petition may not be filed until five years after the locality first received permission from the SCC to provide the services.

SB245 (Wampler) is a more sweeping change, and is headed to the House Commerce & Labor Committee. It allows a locality to become a certificated local exchange carrier, which means the locality could provide dial-tone service, as well as cable and broadband. Alternatively, the locality may provide telecommunications services, under generally the same criteria as provided in HB1021, if three or more companies are not providing the services. The major difference from the House bill is that SB245 does not require a locality to get out of the business and sell its equipment, once it begins providing services.

The Senate version is expected to meet opposition in the House and the House version should run a similar gauntlet in the Senate.

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Remaining bills continued ...

Housing authority bill passes House

The House passed overwhelmingly HB233 (Gear) that prohibits any city from appointing more than one member of council to serve on a housing authority board. The bill passed 97-3 on Feb.12.

Contingency fund roll-over bill passes Senate

SB604 (Potts) adds a sixth category—contingency reserves—to the list of categories by which local governments may appropriate funds to school divisions. The bill requires local governing bodies to carry forward *any* contingency reserve funds

appropriated to school boards that have not been spent by the end of the fiscal year. These funds *must* be re-appropriated to the school board in the next fiscal year. The bill passed by a 36-4 vote, with Sens. Barry, Bolling, Martin and Reynolds voting no. ❖

IN CONGRESS

President's budget includes \$21 million for watersheds

The Bush Administration's fiscal year 2003 budget includes a \$21 million request for a new EPA watershed initiative. EPA will target up to 20 "most highly valued" watersheds for grants.

Watersheds that support human health, economic stability, ecosystem integrity, recreational opportunity, or have natural or cultural significance, are targeted. Watersheds will be selected this fall, and funds will be disbursed in summer 2003.

According to EPA's Office of Water, the strongest candidate communities will involve a broad spectrum of affected interests in achieving clean and healthy

watersheds, such as private landowners, public interest groups, industry, academic institutions, concerned citizens, and local governments. In addition, the governors are being invited to help design the details of the program, and EPA plans for the states to take a leadership role in nominating candidate watersheds. The program seeks to integrate environmental objectives with those for economic stability and other social goals. For more information, log on to the EPA's website at www.epa.gov/owow/watershed/initiativefs. ❖

ETCETERA

Water infrastructure security web cast scheduled

ICMA and the Local Government Environmental Assistance Network will webcast a program on protecting municipal water supplies March 14 at 2 p.m.

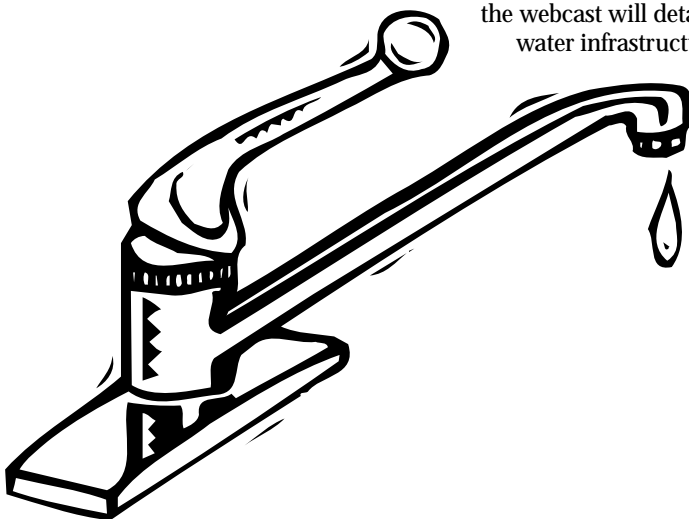
Entitled "Water Security in Your Community: How Local Government Managers Can Prepare for the Unexpected," the webcast will detail the types of risks to water infrastructure that communities might face and what kinds of actions are necessary to prepare for an unforeseen event.

In light of the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks, potential

threats to water systems will be discussed, as well as how local governments should prepare for an emergency through assessments, planning and coordination within government and between jurisdictions.

A case study from Arlington County, site of the Pentagon attack, will be presented. The webcast is hosted by ICMA and co-sponsored by its corporate partner, Malcolm Pirnie, Inc., an environmental and management consulting firm, and also a sustaining member of VML.

For details and to register, go to www.lgean.org/html/webcast. ❖



ETCETERA

2001 Virginia Municipal Laws Manual available



The 2001 version of the Virginia Municipal Laws Manual is now available from Municipal Code Corporation. The manual is a one-volume softbound presentation of all parts of the Virginia Code that local governments need for day-to-day operations.

The manual is handy for the various departments of a locality that need to refer to parts of the state code on a regular basis, but don't need the entire code. Also, for small localities, it provides an inexpensive way to have up-to-date laws at hand in the town hall or county administrative building.

The book contains the following state code provisions:

- Virginia Constitution — local governments
- Conflict of Interests Act
- Freedom of Information Act
- Procurement Act
- Animal laws

- Aviation
- Title 15.2 (some special provisions omitted)
- Education (Title 22.1)
- Elections (Title 24.2)
- Condemnation (Title 25)
- Motor vehicle laws affecting localities
- Local taxation (Title 58.1)

The one volume softbound volume is \$78. The publication is also available via internet and CD. The internet/CD access alone is \$78, and \$104 with the bound volume. Please contact Municipal Code Corporation for an order form. (850) 576-3171. The order form is also available via the company's website at: <http://www.municode.com/>.

Simply click on "Purchase Codes" under "Products" on the left margin of the webpage. Next, click on the letter "V", then click on "Virginia Municipal Laws." That will lead you to the order form. ❖

POSITIONS

Longer version of job ads at www.vml.org

Because of the large number of requests it receives to publish job advertisements, VML reduces the length of the of position descriptions in *Update*. A full version of all of the job listings published here appears on VML's web site at www.vml.org. Visit the VML site and click on "Marketplace" to read the complete description.

Senior Human Resources Analyst, Loudoun County

SALARY: \$42,506-\$55,258 hiring range (+) benefits. FT 37.5 hrs./wk. Senior level professional w/ exper. and skills to deliver HR consultation to all levels of customers. Must have professional HR exper. with expertise in two of the following areas: employee relations, employment practices, organizational development, classification and/or compensation. Ref # 02-265. E-mail resumes to hr@loudoun.gov. For info. and req. application, contact: www.loudoun.gov or call 24-hr. job

line: 703/777-0536. Human Resources: 703/777-0213. TDD: 703/777-0107. Deadline: March 1. EOE

Historic Administrator, Vienna

SALARY: DOQ. 30 hrs per week contractual position with Historic Vienna Inc. Responsible for historic preservation activities and involvement with operation of the various historic sites in Vienna. Prefer related work experience and education in historic preservation or museum studies. Mail to: HVI, P.O. Box 53, Vienna, VA 22183; or e-mail to: salgado@ci.vienna.va.us or fax to 703/255-6399. More information available at 703/255-6356. Deadline: March 15. EOE.

911 Communications Center Director, Halifax County

SALARY: \$35,000-\$45,000 DOQ. Manage new, state-of-the-art, E-911 Emergency Communications Center. Desired: Knowledge of E-911 communications systems, computer aided dispatch, multi-disciplined radio systems, federal-state-local regs. governing radio / telecommunications and emergency services planning / coordination; 5 yrs. public safety communications exper., with 3 yrs. supervisory exper. Resume to: Halifax County E-911 Board, P.O. Box 699, Halifax, VA, 24558, info@co.halifax.va.us, or 434/476-3384 fax. Deadline: March 31.

Senior Planner, Herndon

SALARY: \$48,374-\$60,000 to start DOQ. (Pop. 21,500) Manages Comprehensive Planning Section of Dept. of Community Development, including supervision of section staff; manage maintenance and implementation of comprehensive plan; provide staff support to boards and commissions; plan, schedule and conduct major planning projects; manage collection analysis of data; conceptualize and promote downtown development / redevelopment programs; oversee transportation planning. Reqs. master's in urban planning or closely related field, and at least 6 yrs. exper. Call 703/481-1185 or e-mail us at jobs@town.herndon.va.us for information/application, or visit www.town.herndon.va.us. Deadline: March 1. EOE.

Management Intern, Loudoun County

SALARY: DOQ. Seeking up to 3 candidates for high-profile 2002-2003 Management Internship Program. Temporary, FT, partial benefits positions available for 12-month period beginning July 1, 2002. Involves research and analytical work on entry-level basis and application of research techniques to the study of county government systems, policies and practices. Must have completed courses for a master's degree in

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public administration, business administration or closely-related field by July 1, 2002. Some related work exper. desirable, but not req. Ref # 02-100. E-mail resumes to hr@loudoun.gov. Human Resources: 703/777-0213. Web site: www.loudoun.gov. Apply immediately.

Community Development Planner, Warrenton

SALARY: \$29,494-\$45,677 (+) benefits. Performs responsible technical and professional work in planning/zoning and economic development. Prepares reports for boards and commissions; maintains historic preservation program; reviews development applications; administers grant applications; and assists with economic development programs and projects. Reqs. effective P.R. skills for frequent contact with the public. Comb. of educ. and exper. equiv. to graduation from accredited college with major course work in urban planning, public administration, economic development or related field and 2 yrs. exper. in municipal planning.. Applications or resumes to: Personnel Director, Town of Warrenton, P.O. Drawer 341, Warrenton, VA 20188 (18 Court St., Warrenton, VA 20186). Open until filled. EOE.

Treasurer, New Market

SALARY: DOQ (+) benefits. Maintain all financial records, utility/tax collection, financial reports, budget assistance, investment mgt., payroll, benefits, distribution of licenses and operation of a computer system and related software. Extensive knowledge of accounting principles and procedures, thorough knowledge of how to operate computers, and general knowledge of office procedures. Considerable work exper. in bookkeeping, accounting and related work and/or appropriate college-level educ. Resume, cover letter, salary history and professional references to: Town Manager, P.O. Box 58, New Market, VA 22844. 540/740-3432. Deadline: Feb. 22. EOE.

Real Estate Appraiser I, Manassas

SALARY: \$31,470-\$39,332. Knowledge of principles, laws and methods of real property appraisal utilizing the cost, income and market approach to value; establish and maintain effective public relations and address citizen inquiries

pertaining to real estate assessments. Proficient with word processing and spreadsheet software applications; 1-2 yrs. exper. assessing or appraising properties of all types using all recognized approaches to value in a computer-assisted mass appraisal environment, including min. of 3 courses in appraisal. Residential Evaluation Specialist (RES) designation or equiv. preferred. Apply: Department of Human Resources 9027 Center St., Room 302, Manassas, VA 20110 or FAX 703/257-5827. Deadline: March 30. EOE.

Zoning Administrator, King William County

SALARY: DOQ. (Pop. 13,100) Responsible for interpretation of, and compliance with, land-use and environmental codes, including zoning, subdivision, wetlands, erosion and sediment control, stormwater management and GIS. Min. reqs. include graduation from 4-yr. college or university w/ course work in urban planning, political science, govt. or environmental studies, or related field and 1-2 yrs work exper. in planning or zoning admin. or equiv. comb. of training or exper. that provide req. knowledge, skills and abilities. Submit county employment application, resume and 5 professional references to: County Director of Community Development, King William County, P.O. Box 215, King William, VA 23086. Job description and county application may be obtained by calling 804/769-4969. Open until filled. EOE.

Director of Community Development, West Point

SALARY: \$30,000-\$35,000 negotiable (+) benefits. Develop and manage master planning process for 3,360 pop. town. Dept. head charged with: providing professional advice to town council, town manager and appointed boards on land-use related matters, including maintenance of comprehensive plan; updating and drafting ordinances; serving as zoning administrator; interpreting and enforcing compliance w/ land use and environmental laws. Familiarity with ESRI GIS preferred. Town employment application, resume and 3 references to: Anthony J. Romanello, Town Manager, P.O. Box 152, 329 Sixth St., West Point, VA 23181. Call 804/843-3330 for an application. Open until filled.

Police Chief, Hillsville

SALARY: \$34,382-\$52,125 (Group IV) Bachelor's degree in law enforcement, public administration or related field and extensive admin. exper. in police service with a

current certification from an accredited academy. Extensive exper. w/ progressive youth, crime prevention and community oriented programs. At least 4 yrs. of command, personnel and bdgt. mngmnt. exper., including familiarity with federal and state purchasing guidelines in either a state or local govt. police dept. Residency req. within 6 mos. of employment. For complete position description and to make application (resume, town application and letter of interest req.) w/ references and salary reqs., contact Mayor Ivan M. Taylor at Town of Hillsville, P.O. Box 545, 410 N. Main St., Hillsville, VA 24343, tel: 276-728-2128. Deadline: March 1. EOE.

Transportation Planner/Engineer, Harrisonburg

SALARY: \$38,300-\$41,300 DOQ (+) benefits hiring range. (Pop. 40,000 +) Seeking enthusiastic team-oriented professional with strong leadership abilities. Newly created FT position involves coordination of transportation and safety projects with city departments, including Police, Public Works, Transportation and Community Development. Applications may be downloaded from: www.ci.harrisonburg.va.us. Submit application, resume and salary history to: Human Resources Department, City of Harrisonburg, 345 S. Main St., Harrisonburg, VA 22801. (#241-4) Initial review of applications to begin Feb. 25. Open until filled. EOE.

Superintendent of Public Works, Luray

SALARY: \$36,574-\$51,679 DOQ (+) benefits. Lead and direct public work operations (streets, water, sewer). Reqs. excellent leadership skills and ability to effectively schedule a diverse and progressive workload. Reqs. bachelor's degree in public works management, or related field or professional exper. equiv. to graduation from 4-yr. college or university. Reports to town manager. Send cover letter and resume to: Luray Town Manager, P.O. Box 629, Luray, VA 22835. Phone: 540/743-5511. Deadline: March 15. EOE.

Traffic Engineer, Portsmouth

SALARY: \$48,290. Direct traffic engineering program, including evaluation, planning, design and implementation of traffic control devices. Administer traffic control networks and coordination with other transportation modes and programs. Supervise staff and plan and evaluate traffic engineering services. City application to: City of Portsmouth, Human Resource Management Department, 801 Crawford St., Portsmouth, VA 23704 or to the

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nearest Virginia Employment Commission office. www.ci.portsmouth.va.us Deadline: Open until filled. EOE.

Town Manager, Clifton Forge

SALARY: Competitive (+) benefits. (Pop. 4,200) \$4.2 million bdt. 5-member non-partisan council elected at-large for 4-yr. staggered terms. Reqs. bachelor's degree (MBA/MPA preferred). Strong professional, administrative, leadership and interpersonal skills; record of success in planning, finance, and economic and community development. Increasingly responsible local govt. exper. and history of stable tenure. Resume, work-related references and salary history to: John T. Maxwell, Senior Vice President, Springsted Incorporated, 1206 Laskin Road, Suite 210, Virginia Beach, VA 23451 or by e-mail to virginiabeach@springsted.com. Telephone 757-422-1711. Deadline: March 15. EOE.

Public Affairs Officer, Alexandria

SALARY: \$42,286-\$62,451 DOQ (+) benefits. Perform full range of professional and technical print and media services citywide; perform complex hands-on writing, editing, proofing, lay-out and communications tasks involved in writing, designing and editing the city's annual report, newsletters and brochures, and other materials disseminated to citizens and city employees. Preferred candidate speaks and writes Spanish. For more info. and req. city application, contact 703/838-4422 or for on-line application access <http://ci.alexandria.va.us>. Ref. # 70402. EOE.

Electric Distribution Superintendent, Danville

SALARY: \$44,185-\$49,697. Coordinate, plan and direct line construction and maintenance of power transmission and distribution system for Utility Department's Electric Division. Direct emergency repair operations; oversee switching operations to provide reliable electric service. Apply to: City of Danville, Human Resources, P.O. Box 3300, Danville, VA 24543, the Virginia Employment Commission or see www.ci.danville.va.us for city application. Open until filled. EOE.

Senior Engineer — Capital Projects, Leesburg

SALARY: \$47,549-\$76,078 (+) benefits DOQ. Professional engineering position involves review, project management, scheduling and construction of public works projects. Must be experienced in managing both construction and professional service contracts for capital projects, and overall project management, including scheduling and cost control, and able to read and interpret engineering drawings and specifications. Apply to and request application from the Town of Leesburg, Human Resources Department, 25 W. Market St., Leesburg, VA 20176. Tel: 703/737-7177. See www@leesburgva.org for application. Open until filled. EOE.

Planning Director, Norfolk

SALARY: \$71,078-\$122,914 negotiable DOQ/DOE (+) benefits. (Pop. 234,403). Reports to city manager; leads staff of 69 FT employees and is responsible for a \$3 million (+) annual operating budget. Manages operation of Planning and Building Construction Services Divisions, including: planning for economic, physical, human and social development of the city, for neighborhood preservation and improvement, and for transportation services; providing zoning and land-use guidance; supplying information services; and developing and implementing environmental programs. Residency 6 mos. after employment req. Send resume to: Gerald Plock Associates Inc. / Joshua Kim Associates, 7501 Stallion Circle, Flower Mound, TX 75022. Detailed recruitment brochure available. Expedited search process. E-mail: geraldplock@geraldplockassoc.com. Deadline: Apply immediately. EOE.

Utilities Financial Manager, Stafford County

SALARY: \$44,304 to start (+) benefits. Develops, plans, and manages the county's Utilities Enterprise Fund; identifies, and compiles, operational, maintenance and capital improvement costs; develops utility rate and fee structures; oversees utilities customer service functions. Reqs. bachelor's degree in business, finance, engineering, or related field (MBA with engineering background preferred); extensive experience in local government utilities operations; considerable supervisory experience; computer proficiency. Send county application (required), resume, and cover letter to: Stafford County, Personnel Department, P.O. Box 339, Stafford, VA 22555; fax: 540/658-

4597; for application contact 540/658-8628; TTY: 540/658-4534; www.co.stafford.va.us. Open until filled. EOE.

Director of General Services, Roanoke

SALARY: \$62,658-93,987. Performs professional and administrative work in overseeing all activities related to building maintenance, repair, light construction, custodial services, purchasing and fleet maintenance. Bachelor's degree from 4-yr. college or university with major in business, civil, structural or mechanical engineering; 5-10 yrs. building construction or maintenance, fleet operations and managerial exper. and/or training; or equiv. comb. of educ. and exper. Apply on Internet at www.roanokegov.com, City of Roanoke, Department of Human Resources, 215 Church Ave. SW, Room 207, Roanoke, VA 24011, e-mail: HR@roanokegov.com, fax (540) 853-1218. Open until filled. EOE.

Senior Engineer (capital projects), Leesburg

SALARY: \$47,549-\$76,078 (+) benefits DOQ. Professional engineering position involving the review, project management, scheduling and construction of public works projects. Reqs: Graduation from accredited 4-yr. college or university with major coursework in civil engineering or a related field, 6-8 years exper. in design and construction of roadways, neighborhood improvement type projects and public facilities. Apply to and request application from the Town of Leesburg, Human Resources Department, 25 W. Market St., Leesburg, VA 20176. Tel: 703/737-7177. See www@leesburgva.org for application. Open until filled. EOE.

DEADLINES: *The deadline for placing a job advertisement in the next issue of Update is Friday, Feb. 22. Submit ads via e-mail to David Parsons at: dparsons@vml.org. You may also submit via FAX at: 804/343-3758. VML publishes job advertisements at no cost to its local government members. Non-members are charged a flat rate of \$25 per ad per issue, which includes posting on VML's web site and publication in Virginia Town & City (deadlines permitting). VML reserves the right to edit position descriptions because of space limitations.*

CALENDAR

Virginia Water Conference 2002, March 10-12, Virginia Beach

Topical keynote speakers, responsive exhibitors on hand to discuss topics including watersheds, surface and groundwaters, regulation and administration. Registration: \$165 before March 1, \$185 after. Contact: www.vlwa.org, 703/642-5080 or dpearson@gky.com.

Virginia Rural Water Association 14th Annual Training & Technical Exposition, March 18-20, Richmond.

VRWA will host its 14th annual training and technical exposition at the Richmond Marriott. Topics range from Distribution System Management, VA Agency Updates, SCADA System Basics, Groundwater Rule, Distance Learning and Security to much more. Also, there will be golf, clay shooting and casino. For more details and/or a registration form visit www.vrwa.org or call 540/261-7178.

Virginia Crime Prevention Association 24th Annual Statewide Crime Prevention Conference, March 24-27, Roanoke

At Hotel Roanoke and Convention Center. Theme is "Crime Prevention for a Better Tomorrow." Broad mix of plenary sessions and training workshops. Keynote speaker A. Roger Ekirch of Virginia Tech will present on "Night is No Man's Friend: Crime and its Prevention Before the Industrial Revolution." Contact: 804/231-3800 or see www.vcpa.org or e-mail to vaprevent@aol.com.

National Association of Government Communicators Annual Communications School, April 3-5, Arlington

Session topics to include crisis communications planning, communicating agency milestones, information dissemination, web sites, mediation techniques for public hearings, making powerful presentations and publishing award winning pieces. At Hilton Crystal City. Contact: 703/691-0377 or www.nagc.com.

2002 Environment Virginia, April 9-11, Lexington

A conference on current environmental issues at Virginia Military Institute. Early registration fee \$145 (before March 1); \$225 after. Meet Gov. Mark Warner's environmental team. Contact: 540/464-7750 or e-mail to: conference@vml.edu.

Power of Prevention Conference 2002, May 20-22, Richmond

"Preventing Violence Strategies for All Ages" is the title of the Prevent Child Abuse Virginia Power of Prevention 2002 annual statewide conference. At Holiday Inn Select, Koger South Conference Center, Richmond. Keynote speaker is James Garbarino, nationally-known authority on youth violence. Contact: 804/359-0716 or e-mail to conference@pcav.org.

The deadline for placing a calendar item in the next issue of Update is Friday, Feb. 22. Preferred method of submitting items is via e-mail to David Parsons at: dparsons@vml.org. You may also submit via FAX at: 804/343-3758.

U.S. Communities Government Purchasing Alliance

Providing local governments with contracts for office supplies, furniture, computers and peripherals, electrical, general supplies and more.

VML now sponsors the largest national buying cooperative for local governments in the nation in conjunction with the National League of Cities, U.S. Conference of Mayors, the National Association of Counties and the National Institute of Governmental Purchasing

- Pricing discounts, delivery and service conditions, and contract terms available to any local government that is allowed to piggyback to a national contract. Local governments determine how much they want to use the program
- No membership fees or charges
- More than 7,000 cities, towns, counties, schools and special districts use the program regularly, saving from 15-70 percent on goods and services



U.S. Communities Government
Purchasing Alliance
www.uscommunities.org
1-800/635-3993

Virginia Municipal League
www.vml.org