

Update

September 26, 2003



The newsletter of the
Virginia Municipal League

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Finance secretary explains why bond rating jeopardized

Secretary of Finance John M. Bennett told the House Appropriations Committee that the depletion of the state's reserve fund seemed to be of special concern to a bond rating agency that recently placed Virginia on its watch list.

The watch list designation — issued by Moody's Investors Services — is a warning that the agency may lower the state's triple-A rating for its general obligation bonds. A downgrade in the state's bond rating could affect local bond ratings, because local governments derive revenue from the state.

Moody's also cited concerns over items driving the growth of the budget, such as Medicaid and the car tax reimbursement program, as well as the slow economic recovery since the last recession.

The state has held the rating, the highest given by Moody's, since 1938.

Bennett said the state was not hearing concerns from the other two bond rating agencies (Standard & Poor's and Fitch

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Budget outlook still uncertain

VIRGINIA'S BUDGET FORECAST continues to be cloudy, due to rising costs of mandated programs and modest revenue growth.

Virginia Finance Secretary John Bennett presented the VML Legislative Committee Sept. 12 with "A Common Sense Way to Assess the Budget Outlook." While state general fund revenue is projected to grow at 4.8 percent for this fiscal year, state obligations for programs such as public education, health and human resources (including a 13 percent rate of growth in Medicaid), public safety and the car tax reimbursement continue to grow.

What Bennett had no way of knowing at the time was the tremen-

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VML Legislative Committee prepares to adopt 2004 Legislative Program

A new legislative position regarding tax restructuring and education funding received preliminary approval from the VML Legislative Committee, which met Sept. 12 in Richmond to continue work on the preliminary 2004 Legislative Program. The committee will adopt the program, including the league's top priorities, at its Oct. 19 meeting during the VML annual conference in Roanoke. The conference will be held at the Hotel Roanoke. The general membership will be asked to adopt the program at the league's annual business

meeting scheduled for the afternoon of Tuesday, Oct. 21. All voting delegates are urged to attend this meeting.

At the Sept. 12 meeting, Richmond Mayor Rudolph C. McCollum Jr., chair of the Human Development and Education policy committee, briefed the legislative committee on the tax restructuring and education funding issue. McCollum and Lexington Mayor John W. Knapp, chair of the Finance Policy Committee, spent the

Continued on page 2

FROM THE CAPITOL**Bond rating continued ...**

Ratings). Both these agencies give Virginia's bonds their highest ratings.

Standard & Poor's placed Virginia on its watch list back in 1992.

According to Bennett, bond issuers only need ratings from two of the three agencies in order to market bonds.

The state will be making a deposit to its reserve fund in 2006, but Bennett said he did not think that action would be enough to satisfy Moody's concerns about the size of Virginia's reserve.

North Carolina was on Moody's watch list, and pledged to bolster reserve

funds in 2007. Moody's said that wasn't enough and downgraded the state's bond rating.

When asked about the dollar impact should Virginia's bond rating be lowered, Bennett said that interest payments would be \$2.5 million higher for a 20-year, \$100 million general obligation bond issuance.

Asked whether the quality of state services affected bond ratings, Bennett said that if the state weren't making investments to sustain its economy, concerns about the state's overall economic prospects would grow. ❖

Budget outlook continued ...

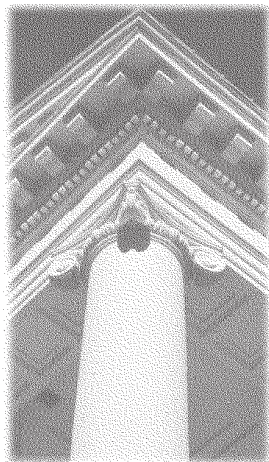
dous damage that would be caused to such a large portion of the state by Hurricane Isabel and the unavoidable costs the state will incur as a result.

At the same time, Moody's has placed Virginia on its watch list, due to the decline in its rainy day fund, its dependence on one-time fixes in the budget, and growing obligations with the car tax reimbursement. Virginia has held an AAA rating from Moody's since 1938.

Bennett said that while the difference between an AAA and an AA rating would be about five additional points on the state's interest rates, there would be a

ripple effect on local governments as well. He said that a bigger problem for the state would be the message it would send about Virginia. In short, Virginia's financial integrity could be questioned.

Bennett said that Gov. Mark Warner's proposal to add \$525 million in new funding for K-12 education in the next biennium may mean some changes elsewhere in the budget. Given that aid to local government comprises almost 50 percent of the state's general fund budget, there are potential implications for discretionary programs in particular. ❖

Legislative program continued ...

better part of the summer working with the members of their respective committees to develop the position.

The position calls for more than \$1.3 billion in new annualized state funding for education. While more than \$870 million would flow through the Standards of Quality and local composite index, the remaining share would not. More than \$740 million would flow to localities for the purpose of assisting identified students at-risk of failing the state mandated Standards of Learning (SOLs). The new program would require each locality to match the state funds with only 20 percent of the total grant amount. The recommendation calls on the state to adjust state taxes to fund the initiative.

The legislative committee also gave preliminary approval to a separate recommendation regarding local tax authority and property tax limitations. The proposal emphasizes that local officials are forced to raise local taxes because they bear a disproportionate share of the cost of K-12 education. The statements concludes:

"State officials can help deter the necessity for increases in real estate taxes by the adoption of comprehensive changes to the state's current tax and expenditure policies."

The committee also gave preliminary approval to several important positions including and regarding solid waste surcharges, responsible growth management, cost shifting and unfunded mandates and transportation funding.

In addition to adopting the 2004 Legislative Program, the VML membership also will be asked to adopt policy statements in the areas of Environmental Quality, Finance, General Government, Human Development and Education, and Transportation. The draft policy documents will be released not later than the week of Sept. 29.

For additional information regarding the 2004 Legislative Program and policy statements e-mail or call Mike Edwards at VML: medwards@vml.org; 804/649-8471.

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FROM THE CAPITOL

Governor receives 'Olmstead' report



A final report on developing a plan for the state to deal with the consequences of a U.S. Supreme Court decision that will significantly affect where citizens with mental disabilities live and are treated has been forwarded to Gov. Mark Warner.

The Olmstead plan for Virginia report was the result of a year-long effort by a task force chaired by Secretary of Health and Human Resources Jane Woods.

Olmstead v. L.C. (1999) is a U.S. Supreme Court decision involving a challenge under Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). Two women with mental disabilities who lived in mental health facilities operated by the state of Georgia, but who wished to live in the community, brought the suit. The Supreme Court held that unjustified isolation might properly be regarded as discrimination based upon disability.

Under this decision, states are required under Title II of the ADA to furnish community-based treatment for people with mental disabilities when such placement is appropriate, agreed to by the affected person, and if such placement can be reasonably accommodated, given the resources available to the state and the needs of others with disabilities.

While the case involved mental health consumers, subsequent court decisions have clarified that Olmstead applies to anyone covered under the ADA – including children and adults with physical

disabilities and people housed in private nursing facilities (such as Alzheimer's patients).

The task force's report, entitled *One Community*, contains a set of recommendations for implementing *Olmstead* in Virginia. It stresses individual consumer choice, consumer-directed services and support, accountability to consumers, family members, decision-makers and the public, and a full-continuum of care, from self-care to institutional care. It covers such areas as accessible and affordable housing and transportation, work opportunities, and health and safety issues. None of the recommendations have cost figures attached to them.

The next steps in the process include establishment of a collaborative multi-agency team to cost-out report recommendations and action by agencies to implement administrative actions that do not require legislation or budget action. For those recommendations requiring changes to the state code or budget actions, state agencies will be asked to prepare legislative and budget proposals for consideration by the governor.

A number of the recommendations would potentially affect the local government arena, including zoning actions particularly as they affect affordable housing and transportation needs.

The full report may be found at www.olmsteadva.com. ❖

Natural Resources Funding Commission releases draft recommendations

Virginia must spend nearly a quarter of a billion dollars more annually if it wants to improve on its worst-in-the-nation ranking of what state governments spend to protect natural resources.

The Governor's Commission on Natural Resources Funding met Sept. 15 to review its report to Gov. Mark R. Warner. The commission's report called for increases in both non-general funds and state general funds to address the critical funding needs of Virginia's natural resource programs. The vast majority of this money, more than \$213 million annually, would come from five proposed non-general fund fees or taxes.

Two of the commission's recommendations directly affect local governments. A fee on water utilities would yield more than \$45 million and a \$3 per ton municipal solid waste tipping fee could generate \$36 million. Together, these fees account

for almost 40 percent of the \$213 million in proposed non-general funds for natural resources programs. The remaining money would come from electric utility fees (\$75 million or 35 percent), petroleum fees (\$36 million or 17 percent) and document recording fees (\$20 million or almost 10 percent). Money collected would be deposited into a new Virginia Natural and Historic Resources Fund.

The natural resources secretariat's share of state general funds has declined by more than 50 percent since fiscal year 2000, and the commission also recommended that the governor restore \$22 million in fiscal year 2005 and \$27 million in fiscal year 2006 in general funds to that secretariat's budget.

The report concluded that while unanimous agreement on each of the five funding alternatives was "impractical to

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FROM THE CAPITOL

Natural resources continued ...

expect” given the diversity of commission membership, the consensus was to pursue these options. Throughout the meeting, commission members continued to voice concerns about supporting some of the non-general fund proposals. The water utility fee and the document recording fee, which together would yield about \$65 million, appeared to be priorities, but support for the remaining three options was uncertain. Objections included the regressive nature of taxes on basic services and commodities such as water, garbage

disposal, electricity and gasoline. Fairness was also an issue, because customers who purchase water from public and private utilities would pay the tax, while those using individual wells would be exempt. Finally, some commission members felt that singling out a particular industry for taxation, such as electric power, or petroleum-based fuels, was also inequitable.

No further meetings of the commission are planned at this time, and representatives from the governor’s office promised to seek a timely review of the report. ❖

Jackson promotes SOQ revisions to House committee

State Board of Education President Tom Jackson told the House Appropriations Committee that the state has a moral obligation to pay for increases in the Standards of Quality.

Jackson made his remarks during a presentation on Sept. 15 on the Board of Education’s proposal to increase the SOQ.

Del. Leo Wardrup told Jackson that local governments would be complaining about unfunded mandates should the SOQ be increased.

Jackson responded that the SOQ revisions for the most part would recognize what is already being done in school divisions. He said he felt the more appropriate question for a legislator to ask was, “If localities are already doing it, why should we put in state dollars?”

In addition to citing the moral obligation of the state, Jackson said that he didn’t think the state could continue under the constitution to fund basic aid under a formula that reflects practices of 15 years ago and does not reflect what is actually going on today.

Jackson is a former member of the House of Delegates and of the House Appropriations Committee.

Jackson also said that many local governments would love the revisions because the state would start paying for

services that they were funding entirely with local tax dollars.

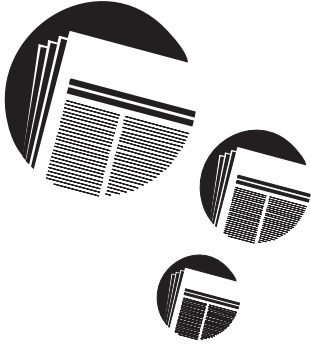
In the past decade the Standards of Learning were revised to include annual testing in selected grades and the Standards of Accreditation have been revised to base accreditation on the SOL tests. The SOQ, however, which is the principal means by which the state funds public education, have not been revised substantially since the late 1980s, and have not been amended to reflect the changes in the SOL and SOA.

The State Board of Education in June proposed a set of revisions to the SOQ that will add more than 12,000 positions to those now required. An overview of those proposed revisions is available in the June 6 and July 4 issues of *Update*.

If fully implemented in fiscal year 2004, the increased standards would cost the state an estimated \$323 million and local governments an estimated \$259 million. The board, however, adopted a resolution last month that calls on the governor and the General Assembly to implement the recommendations no later than fiscal year 2008 (within two biennial budget cycles).

Gov. Mark Warner has pledged to include funding to begin down the path to implement the board’s proposal, but he has not said how far down that path his budget would go in the next biennium. ❖



FROM THE CAPITOL**Public Records Act study endorsed**

The state legislative subcommittee studying state government operations endorsed the creation of a legislative subcommittee to study the Virginia Public Records Act at its Sept. 16 meeting in Richmond.

The act applies to political subdivisions as well as to state agencies.

As proposed, the committee would study extending the scope of the act to: assign authority to establish regulations for the creation, transfer and preservation of electronic records and publications; assign authority to establish procedures for the official authentication of electronic records and documents; and establish a process to identify, describe and manage government information products protected by copyright.

State Librarian Nolan Yelich proposed the creation of the study to the HJR 159 subcommittee, which is charged with making recommendations to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of state government. As proposed by Yelich, the records study committee would include 11 members. The only local government member would be a circuit court clerk.

The Public Records Act has not been thoroughly updated since its passage in 1976, and does not address electronic records and publications.

The next step in the process would be the submission of a resolution creating the study committee to the 2004 session of the General Assembly. ❖

Finance subcommittee hears from DEQ

The state's Department of Environmental Quality needs to raise an additional \$8 million a year through environmental permit fees to cover an expected general fund shortfall, according to the agency's director.

DEQ Director Bob Burnley described the agency's needs to the Senate Finance Committee's Economic Development and Natural Resources Subcommittee on Sept. 16.

Sen. Walter Stosch concurred in Burnley's assessment of the general fund, saying that with a projected state budget deficit, the general fund "is probably not going to expand significantly." DEQ is proposing annual fees on water, solid waste and hazardous waste and other

permitted facilities to raise the \$8 million. This is in lieu of the permit fee increases passed by the 2001 General Assembly (300 percent increase in fees with a two-year sunset provision on the increase) and designed to fill a general fund budget gap of approximately \$3.1 million annually.

VML and VACo, as well as individual local governments and representatives from business and industry, have been meeting over the summer to assist DEQ in developing a fair and equitable fee program.

For more information, go to www.leg3.state.va.us/sfc2003, click on "subcommittees" and go to "Sept. 16, 2003 Meeting." ❖

Recycling Markets Development Council changes proposed

Representatives of the Virginia Recycling Markets Development Council suggested that its mission be narrowed at a Sept. 16 meeting of the state legislative committee studying state government operations.

Sen. Steve Martin, chairman of the HJR 159 subcommittee, said the proposed change would basically create a trade association, and questioned whether the state should be involved in this type of endeavor.

When asked about the accomplishments of the council, council members

said the group had helped localities work to meet recycling goals established by the state.

The legislative committee deferred until its Nov. 18 meeting a vote on whether to abolish the council or to support a reconstitution of it.

Localities interested in commenting on the council should do so through the HJR 159 subcommittee's web site, located at <http://dls.state.va.us/hjr159.htm>. ❖

FROM THE CAPITOL

Council on Virginia's Future begins search for long-term vision

The Council on Virginia's Future held a two-day retreat in South Boston Aug. 26-27. The council, comprised of delegates, senators and citizen members, is charged with advising the governor and the General Assembly on the implementation of the Roadmap for Virginia's Future. The process will provide state leaders with a 15-year roadmap to help guide important statewide public policy initiatives. The council will issue an initial report by Nov. 1, 2004.

In South Boston the council, including ex-officio member Gov. Mark R. Warner, probed a number of important preliminary questions.

Questions explored the first day were: What are the unique aspects of Virginia that are the solid foundation we want to keep as a part of the vision? What are the aspirations that we have for

Virginia – things we do not have now that must be there in the future? What bold statements in the vision must differentiate us from others, providing leverage and making a big difference in our future success? After an all day brainstorming session to answer these questions, the answers were compiled by a facilitator.

For the question, what unique aspects of Virginia are the solid foundation that they wanted to keep as part of the vision? Some answers included: a diverse population, natural beauty, high quality of education, and maintaining and exploring our history.

The second question, what are the aspirations that the council members had for Virginia – things that Virginia does not have now, but must be there in the future? Some answers included: must have a strong migration back to our

cities; must maximize individual success and do whatever it takes to enable people to work; need to create jobs opportunities for all parts of Virginia, especially Southside; and must provide health care for all Virginians.

The final question was what are the bold statements in the vision that must differentiate us from others, providing leverage and making a big difference in our future success? Answers included: draft a document with meaningful measures and create plans to achieve outcomes; better leverage Virginia's assets such as education, natural resources and our history; and be responsive and responsible by moving Virginia to the forefront without becoming the state with the most public sector entitlements.

The next meeting of the group will be held in November. ❖

IN CONGRESS

Welfare reform bill clears Senate Finance Committee

The Senate Committee on Finance has reported out legislation to reauthorize the Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) program. The bill passed on a party-line vote.

The Personal Responsibility and Individual Development for Everyone Act (PRIDE), would maintain some provisions of the current TANF program, including a five-year lifetime limit on benefits and the ability of states to count up to 12 months of vocational education as meeting work requirements. It would extend transitional Medicaid

program for the five years of reauthorization and make it easier for families to access. It would also ensure that states receive additional funding when they face rising caseloads during economic downturns. The House bill, passed earlier this year, would not do these things.

The bill would add \$1 billion in additional child care funding over five years, but given that current levels are inadequate, this may not address the real level of need. A new provision would require work participation rates for states to increase five percent each year, from

50 percent in 2004 to 70 percent in 2008. This includes the number of people participating in work activities and the number of hours. Additional work requirements would certainly add to the cost of childcare. The bill also would add funding for a limited set of "marriage-promotion" activities in states.

The bill must now go to the Senate floor, where the time-line for action is uncertain. If it does pass the Senate, it would still need to go into a conference committee where differences between it and the House bill would have to be worked out. ❖

Federal transportation funding plans move forward

The House of Representatives approved the FY04 Transportation and Treasury appropriations bill (H.R. 2989) 381-39 on Sept. 9. The measure includes \$33.4 billion for highways, \$26 million in discretionary spending and \$7.25 billion for transit. Before the final vote, an amendment was approved to strike the section of the bill that discontinued the mandatory 10 percent set-aside for the transportation enhancement program.

Meanwhile, the full Senate has before it a bill that would appropriate about \$33.8 billion for highways. No action has been scheduled on that measure.

Concerning transportation reauthorization, House and Senate staffs have been preparing extension provisions so that highway and transit projects do not stop when TEA-21 expires this year. It appears that reauthorization will not be accomplished before Congress' scheduled Oct. 3 adjournment. ❖

REGULATIONS

Intended Regulatory Action

Child Care Services. The State Board of Social Services has proposed action to promulgate new regulations for the Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF) program in Virginia. The Department of Social Services is the lead agency for the CCDF. The purpose of the Child Care and Development Fund is to increase the availability, affordability and quality of child care services. The agency intends to hold a public hearing after publication. For more information, contact Dottie Wells, Department of Social Services, at 804/692-1210 or e-mail her at dgw2@email1.dss.state.va.us.

Proposed Regulations

Wetland Delineators Certification Regulations. The Board of Professional Soil Scientists and Wetland Professionals has proposed regulations that implement Chapter 784 of the 2002 Acts of Assembly, which established certification standards for wetlands professionals. The proposed regulations establish (i) requirements for entry, renewal, and reinstatement; (ii) minimum standards for certification; (iii) standards of conduct and practice; (iv) grounds for disciplinary actions; and (v) fees. A public hearing will be held. Contact Mark Courtney, Department of Professional and Occupational Regulations, at 804/367-8514 or e-mail him at soilscientist@dpor.state.va.us for additional information.

Rules for Local Exchange Company Service Quality Standards. The State Corporation Commission has proposed regulations to replace the existing regulation governing service standards for local exchange telephone companies. The regulations apply to all certified local exchange carriers (carriers) and prescribe a minimum acceptable level of quality of service under normal operating conditions. The regulations call for the design, construction, maintenance, and operation of network facilities in compliance with the latest edition of the National Electric Safety Code of the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers, Inc., and all applicable

commission orders and interconnection requirements under federal and state law. The regulations set carrier reporting and record retention requirements; information disclosure requirements for carriers as to their rates, charges and fees; carrier response requirements for reports of trouble and outage; customer complaints handling requirements; requirements for providing call intercept and directories; also, standards are proposed to measure carrier service quality performance and transmission standards. Requirements for auditing and remedial action plans are also proposed for carriers. A public hearing will be held upon request. For additional information, contact Steven Bradley, State Corporation Commission, at 804/371-9420 or e-mail him at sbradley@scc.state.va.us.

Governing Rules Enhanced 911.

The State Corporation Commission has proposed rules seeking to bring additional reliability and accountability to the provisioning of E-911 service by addressing E-911 database reliability issues and requiring a Local Exchange Carrier (LEC) to: provide adequate and accurate customer information to the Public Safety Access Point (PSAP); submit database changes to the E-911 database provider within 24 hours of notification of the change; correct, or cause to be corrected, and incorrect automatic location identification record within 24 hours of notification by the PSAP; exclude from the E-911 database those telephone numbers not capable of accessing E-911 services; temporarily maintain residential access to E-911 services during the suspension of local service for nonpayment; and communicate to a PSAP in ordering E-911 service consistent with an industry standard grade of service. The proposed rules also require that a LEC providing billing detail to each PSAP sufficient to identify the number of access lines served by the LEC in the at PSAP's territory. A public hearing will be held upon request. Contact Steve Bradley, State Corporation Commission, at 804/371-9420 or e-mail him at sbradley@scc.state.va.us for more information.

Final Regulations

Solid Waste Management Regulations. The Solid Waste Management Board has proposed amendments to address statutory changes enacted by the General Assembly. The amendments (i) require the Director of the Department of Environmental Quality to make a needs determination for additional solid waste disposal capacity; (ii) require additional documentation from landfill operators for permit applications; (iii) require operators to guarantee disposal capacity to localities; (iv) require a host community agreement between locality and the operator; (v) require solicitation of comments from geographically contiguous jurisdictions; (vi) establish minimum numerical inspection frequencies; (vii) address how the department responds to citizen complaints; (viii) require implementation of a remedy within a specific period if a methane gas release is discovered; and (ix) add a schedule for evaluation of presumptive remedy for violation of ground water protection standards. For additional information, contact Michael Dieter, Department of Environmental Quality, at 804/698-4146 or e-mail him at mjdieter@deq.state.va.us.

POSITIONS

Longer version of job ads posted at www.vml.org

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

Police Chief, South Boston

SALARY: \$41,038-\$65,603 current range. Lead and command police dept. with 27 sworn officers. Must have strong leadership and management background in a comparable jurisdiction; a proven record of increasing diversity in the agency, and effective community relations skills. Plans, programs, directs and evaluates the operation of the department. Must have or obtain within a reasonable time certification as a law enforcement officer in Va. Residency requirement. Send resume to Town Manager Terry A. Daniel, Town of South Boston, Va., P.O. Box 417, South Boston, VA 24592. Deadline: Oct. 24. EOE.

OTHER POSITIONS

NOTICE: The following positions also are listed on VML's Web site at www.vml.org.

Director of Tourism and Economic Activities, Fredericksburg

SALARY: Negotiable. Deadline: Oct 17.

Budget Manager, Manassas

SALARY: \$58,906-\$94,245.
Deadline: Oct. 24.

Assistant City Manager, Petersburg

SALARY: Negotiable DOQ. Deadline: Sept. 30.

Building Official, Campbell County

SALARY: DOQ (+) benefits. Directs the operations of Building Inspections and Erosion & Sediment Control. Must be certifiable as a building official in Va. and meet other reqs. Exper. of a progressively more responsible nature in construction and/or building inspection or a min. of 5 yrs. exper. as a building inspection superintendent of building construction; and no less than 3 yrs. supervisory exper. Contact Campbell County for an application by calling 434/332-9818 or writing to P.O. Box 100, Rustburg, VA 24588. Applications available on Web site www.co.campbell.va.us. Submit resumes with application. Open until filled EOE.

Town Engineer, Hillsville

SALARY: \$33,301 (+) benefits. Supervise Department of Public Works, as well as administer and enforce state and town zoning and building codes. Review and comprehend plan, blue print and technical specifications. Req. associate's degree (bachelor's preferred). Professional civil engineer certification or engineer in training preferred, but not req. Va. Building Code certificate preferred. Resumes accepted with completed town application. Complete position description of duties and qualifications available at Town Hall, 410 N. Main St., Hillsville. Deadline: Sept. 30. EOE.

Director of Planning and Community Development, Colonial Heights

SALARY: DOQ. Deadline: Oct. 3.

Director of Public Works, Colonial Heights

SALARY: DOQ. Deadline: Oct. 3.

County Administrator, Accomack

SALARY: DOQ. Deadline: Oct. 17.

Senior Administrative Analyst, Suffolk

SALARY: \$41,531-\$50,876 (midpoint).
Open until filled.

Public Information Officer, Roanoke

SALARY: \$45,828-\$68,442 (+) benefits. Manages the city's public information, media relations and communications products. Also responsible for leading the city's new branding campaign. Oversees several citizen publications and organizational newsletters. Supervises 4 positions. Master's degree preferred but not req. Apply online and review benefits package at www.roanokegov.com or contact the Department of Human Resources, 215 Church Ave., S.W., Roanoke, VA 24011. Open until filled. EOE.

Assistant City Attorney III (Senior Assistant), Roanoke

SALARY: \$64,076-\$96,113 DOE. Assignments likely will include representation of city's school division. Diverse practice includes: trial and appellate litigation in state and federal courts, contracts, personnel, labor relations, administrative and constitutional law. Apply at www.roanokegov.com and submit a resume, law school transcript, writing sample and references to: City of Roanoke, Department of Human Resources, 215 Church Ave., SW, Room 207, Roanoke VA 24011. As a drug/alcohol free workplace, Roanoke administers pre-employment screening to all employees. Deadline: Oct. 31, but applications considered until position is filled. EOE.

Historic Preservation Planner, Stafford

SALARY: \$34,382 (+) benefits. Open until filled.

DEADLINE: *The deadline for placing a job advertisement in the next issue of Update is Friday, Oct. 3. 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 edits position descriptions in printed publications because of space limitations.*

CALENDAR

Local Government Paralegal Association of Virginia, Inc., Seventh Annual Conference, Oct. 2-3, Portsmouth

Tentative topics include personal investments, a step-by-step guide to conducting a title search, public speaking, legal writing, bankruptcy/electronic filing, and legal ethics/unauthorized practice of law. Great opportunity to make new contacts, gain perspective on local government law, obtain continuing legal education credits, and keep informed of important issues affecting the paralegal profession. Location: Portsmouth Renaissance Hotel. Contact: Linda Burnsed at 540/961-1146, lburnsed@blacksburg.gov, any LGPA officer or board member, or visit Web site at lgpa-va.org.

Firefighting Operations in High-Rise Buildings, Oct. 2-3, Fairfax County

Two-day seminar addressing firefighting considerations at high-rise buildings. Seminar will include various case studies including One Meridian Plaza in Philadelphia and First Interstate Bank in Los Angeles. Topics also covered include Operational Considerations and Tactical Functions, Operations in Fire Control Rooms and Elevators, and Terrorism in High-Rise Buildings. Seminar will be held Oct. 2 and 3 at the Hilton McLean in Tysons Corner. Conference information and registration available at www.fairfaxfireofficers.com.



VML Annual Conference, Oct. 19-21, Roanoke

Speakers, workshops, exhibition hall and more. Hotel Roanoke and

Conference Center. Contact: Joni Terry at 804/649-8471 or jterry@vml.org. Exhibitors contact: Kimberly Pollard at 804/649-8471 or kpollard@vml.org.

Virginia Building and Code Officials Association Annual Conference, Oct. 26-28, Virginia Beach

At Virginia Beach Resort & Conference Center. Contact: Mary Jo Fields 804/649-8471 or mfields@vml.org.

2003 Virginia GIS Conference, Oct. 27-28, Richmond

At the Greater Richmond Convention Center. Registration \$169. Room block at Crowne Plaza Hotel at \$77 group rate. Contact: Alan Gregory at 804/367-6001 or vagis@richmondregional.org.

VACo Annual Conference, Nov. 9-11, Bath County

Speakers, workshops, exhibition hall and more. 69th Annual Conference at the Homestead. Contact: Linda Butterfield at (804) 788-6652.

GFOA Internal Auditing for Governments, Nov. 17-18, Charlotte

Register online at www.gfoa.org. Contact: training@gfoa.org or 312/977-9700.

GFOA Designing Performance Measurement Systems, Nov. 18-19, Charlotte

Register online at www.gfoa.org. Contact: training@gfoa.org or 312/977-9700.

GFOA Intermediate Governmental Accounting, Nov. 19-21, Charlotte

Register online at www.gfoa.org. Contact: training@gfoa.org or 312/977-9700.

GFOA Budgeting for Budget Analysts, Nov. 20-21, Charlotte

Register online at www.gfoa.org. Contact: training@gfoa.org or 312/977-9700.

GFOA Investing Public Funds, Nov. 20-21, Charlotte


Register online at www.gfoa.org. Contact: training@gfoa.org or 312/977-9700.

NLC Congress of Cities and Exposition, Dec. 9-13, Nashville

Preliminary program information will be available soon. Check www.nlc.org.


The deadline for placing a calendar item in the next issue of Update is Friday, Oct. 3. 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.

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