

# Update

The newsletter of the Virginia Municipal League

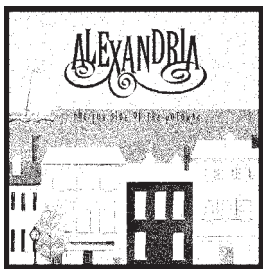
## Inside ...

1-8



**Reminder: VEOLA training opportunities are available**

**USDA announces 2004 loans for rural broadband**



**2004 VML Annual Conference Alexandria October 3-5**

## U.S. Supreme Court

### Ruling: states can bar local telecommunications services

The U.S. Supreme Court ruled March 24 that the federal Telecommunications Act of 1996 allows states to prohibit local governments from providing telecommunications services. The ruling may affect Virginia, but not immediately.

The Missouri General Assembly passed a bill in 1997 that barred political subdivisions from offering telecommunications services. The Missouri Municipal League subsequently requested the Federal Communications Commission to declare that the new state statute was unlawful and preempted by the federal Telecommunications Act. The FCC refused to do so. The Missouri Municipal League appealed to the U.S. Eighth Circuit Court of Appeals, which reversed the FCC decision.

The U.S. Supreme Court overturned the Eighth Circuit March 24 in *Nixon v Missouri Municipal League*, allowing the Missouri state law that bars municipalities from offering telecommunications service to stand.

For the purpose of the decision, the term “telecommunications services” means telephone service. The issue the court decided was whether the language of the federal act preempts the state prohibition on local governments to provide telecommunications services.

Section 253 of the Telecommunications Act provides that no state statute “may prohibit or have the effect of prohibiting the ability of *any entity* to provide any interstate or intrastate telecommunications services.” The lower court simply read the term *any entity* to mean just what it says – “any entity” and that a local government is an entity. Therefore, the lower court struck down the state statute prohibiting local government telecommunications services.

The Supreme Court used a tortured analysis to reach its conclusion that the federal law did not prevent the state from prohibiting localities from providing the

*Continued on page 2*

## VML Executive Committee

### Resolution urges budget adoption, tax reform

VML’s Executive Committee adopted a resolution April 3 urging the General Assembly to adopt comprehensive tax reforms and a biennial state budget that take pressure off local real estate tax rates.

The unanimous vote called on the legislature to fully fund the state’s share of costs for its core responsibilities, including the Standards of Quality for public education, jail per diems and human services programs.

The resolution states:

**Resolution of the Virginia Municipal League regarding impending state tax and spending reforms**

WHEREAS, as of April 3, 2004, the Virginia General Assembly has failed to adopt comprehensive tax reforms and a biennial state budget for fiscal years 2005 and 2006; and

WHEREAS, the Virginia Municipal League has consistently called on the

*Continued on page 2*

**FROM THE CAPITOL****Telecommunications ruling continued ...**

services. The court rejected the plain meaning analysis of the lower court. It used a set of hypothetical examples to demonstrate that if local governments were included in the term “any entity” the results would be confusing for states and industry. For instance, the court used a hypothetical state that has authority to provide electric utility service. If “any entity” included that state-owned electric utility, then the state couldn’t prohibit the utility from providing telecommunications services. However, there would be no funding for the provision of the service. This would force the state to fund the utility. Therefore, because of this result Congress must not have intended the term “any entity” to include political subdivisions.

Whether one thinks that the court’s analysis is flawed is now beside the point. The court has defined the term “any entity” and allowed states to prohibit local governments from providing telecommunications services.

In Virginia, the decision does not have an immediate effect. That’s

because the current state law does not prohibit local governments from being able to provide telecommunications services outright. While the state law imposes restrictions, and while it prohibits many localities from providing telecommunications services, it does make some allowances. The Virginia law permits localities that operate a municipal electric service and those with fewer than three private competitors in the jurisdiction to offer telecommunications services.

Because larger localities have ample competition in the marketplace, they are not as interested in providing the services. As a result, the practical effect of the limitations may be somewhat limited.

As background, in 2001 the federal district court in Abingdon ruled that the City of Bristol was included in the term “any entity”. The ruling invalidated a former state prohibition against localities providing telecommunications services. That opinion, however, was vacated by a 4<sup>th</sup> Circuit Court of Appeals decision,

and the state law was changed, as noted above.

The most troubling effect of the decision for Virginia’s localities is the potential. Armed with this decision, the General Assembly could pass a law prohibiting telecommunications services and local governments would have lost what we thought was a defense in the federal law – that no state may prohibit a locality as an entity, from providing the service.

It is true that because the decision is limited to telephone services, the case does not necessarily give the state the power to prohibit local government-provided broadband, cable or other services. However, from a business model perspective, if the state were to enact a prohibition, it could dampen the enthusiasm of some localities to enter the market, because the telephone component of services provided by a locality may be a significant money-maker to help make the entire project affordable. ❖

**AT THE LEAGUE****VML budget, tax resolution continued ...**

governor and General Assembly to adopt comprehensive tax and spending reforms that take pressure off local real estate tax rates; fully fund the state funding shortfall in public education as recognized by the state Board of Education and the General Assembly’s Joint Legislative Audit and Review Commission (JLARC); support the Commonwealth’s commitment to students at-risk of failing the Standards of Learning (SOLs); and fully fund the state’s share of costs for core as well as mandated services and safety net programs; and

WHEREAS, Virginia’s Standards of Quality, the primary funding mechanism for public education, have not been thoroughly revised since 1988, despite the complete overhaul of the Standards of Learning and the Standards of Accreditation in the mid-1990s; and

WHEREAS, local officials appropriate to public education \$2.6 billion a year beyond the outdated minimum standards required by the SOQ in an effort to ensure that their schools attain accreditation status and that their students pass the SOL tests and graduate from high school; and

WHEREAS, local officials know that the future of their communities depends on a strong, accredited public school system;

WHEREAS, the Annual Report of the Superintendent of Public Education on the funding of operating expenditures for public education show that localities in FY 2003 paid 51.7 percent of total operating expenses, with the state share totaled 41.4 percent and the federal share totaled 6.9 percent; and

WHEREAS, the state does not provide any financial support for 20

percent of all teachers throughout the state; and

WHEREAS, the General Assembly’s inability to come to an agreement over tax and spending reforms that do not address the structural problems of Virginia’s budget threaten the Commonwealth’s Wall Street credit rating and the ratings of its political subdivisions; and

WHEREAS, the downgrading of the Commonwealth’s maximal credit rating, would in effect increase the cost to Virginia taxpayers to support bonded indebtedness, and send a clear message to businesses and industries throughout the world and nation that Virginia is not a financial stalwart; and

WHEREAS, the recent public meetings held throughout the Common-

*Continued on page 3*

## AT THE LEAGUE

### VML budget, tax resolution continued ...

wealth clearly demonstrate a belief by a significant number of Virginians that the General Assembly must fulfill its fundamental obligation and duty to pass a biennial budget that meets the state's basic obligations and invests in its citizens and their future well being; and

WHEREAS, local government officials throughout the Commonwealth support the adoption of tax and spending plans, including a biennial budget, that make a significant and overdue investment in K-12 education, fully fund the state's share of costs for core and mandated services and safety net programs and promote state and local fiscal soundness, including stabilizing the state's general fund;

WHEREAS, local government officials oppose the enactment of makeshift, stopgap budgetary measures that fail to address Virginia's current obligations or long-term financial needs;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Executive Committee of the Virginia Municipal League that the General Assembly is respectfully requested to forthwith adopt comprehensive tax reforms and a biennial state budget that take pressure off local real estate tax rates by fully funding the state's share of costs for its core responsibilities, including the Standards of Quality for public education, jail per diems and other public safety programs, and human services programs affecting

most particularly the most vulnerable and fragile residents of this Commonwealth.

ADOPTED by the Virginia Municipal League's Executive Committee on Saturday, April 3, 2004

**Presiding:** President Turner M. Spencer, Ph.D., Council member, City of Hampton

**Motion to adopt:** Vice President Thomas L. Starnes, Mayor, City of Radford

**Motion to Second:** At-Large Member Roslyn Dance, Mayor, City of Petersburg

Adopted by unanimous vote of the 11 members present. ❖

## Reminder: VEOLA training opportunities are available

The Virginia Elected Officials Leadership Academy (VEOLA) continues to grow by enrolling local officials who are interested in continuing education and promoting excellence in local governance.

VEOLA is a voluntary certification program open to elected officials in VML-member cities, towns and counties. The program makes use of existing opportunities such as conferences and seminars, along with courses offered through universities, to offer meaningful, informative and useful information on topics that enlighten local officials.

Completion of the program leads to the attainment of a Certified Local Government Official (CLGO) designation as the first level of achievement and the Advanced Certified Local Government Official (ACLGO) as the second level. Attainment of the CLGO requires a minimum of 40 credits; 75 credits are required for attainment of the ACLGO.

In order to encourage participation in VEOLA, upcoming educational opportunities for participants will be featured in *Update* at the beginning of each month. Seminars offered online, via satellite at locations in Virginia, or in person will be listed. The programs or

seminars will vary in credits depending on the length of the meeting.

The format of the listings will have the title of the program, a description of the seminar, credits for completing the program, whether fees apply and the contact person in charge of the program or seminar. Once you have completed the seminar, fax VML staff member Kimberly Pollard the registration form or the certificate (804/343-3758) from the program, whichever one is given. This will confirm your seminar attendance.

When future VML programs are listed in *Update*, such as policy committee meetings or the annual conference, look for the VEOLA logo and the points will be listed next to it. This will remind members that the program will count toward your VEOLA certificate.

Remember that if you attend any non-VML supported events, please contact Kimberly Pollard at 804/649-8471 or via e-mail at [kpollard@vml.org](mailto:kpollard@vml.org) to let her know what educational seminar you plan to attend or have

attended, along with the number of total hours the seminar lasted, so she can determine if it can be used toward your certificate and how many credits you will receive. VML will be as liberal as possible with this policy.

If there are programs that you know of that other VEOLA members might be interested in attending, please e-mail them to [kpollard@vml.org](mailto:kpollard@vml.org), so that she can list them in *Update* for that month.

### VEOLA event for April

#### Virginia Economic Development Day Seminar (5 points)

The Virginia Economic Developers Association ([www.vedanet.org](http://www.vedanet.org)) will hold three seminars around the state this month. Find out how to foster the growth of business sectors that will expand job opportunities in your community.

The seminars will provide information on trends and challenges in the following industries: manufacturing (at Virginia Tech), distribution (at Old Dominion University), and homeland defense (at George Mason University). Fee applies.

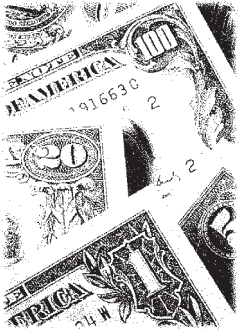
Contact Executive Director Connie Long at 757/412-2664 or e-mail her at [veda82@att.net](mailto:veda82@att.net) for additional information.

❖



## ETCETERA

## USDA announces 2004 loans for rural broadband



The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Rural Utilities Service (RUS) recently announced no less than \$2.211 billion will be made available for loans and loan guarantees for broadband Internet providers to deploy broadband Internet service to underserved communities. Underserved communities are defined by the RUS, as amended by the 2004 Consolidated Appropriations Act, as "not contained in an incorporated city or town with a population in excess of 20,000 inhabitants."

Both the substantial funding for the RUS program and the change in the definition of an underserved community were strongly advocated by Rural Broadband Coalition (RBC) members. "RBC members worked hard to promote their shared 2003 legislative agenda," said RBC President Scott M. Lindsay, "and they look forward to helping

underserved communities realize the benefits of their collective efforts by using these needed funds to deploy broadband."

RBC is a technology and provider-neutral national advocacy and service association. RBC serves Internet service providers, telecommunication companies/utilities, for-profit utilities, rural electric cooperatives, municipalities, public utility districts, tribal communities, technology companies, government organizations, associations and other interested parties that are dedicated to supporting the deployment of broadband Internet access to rural America.

To view a copy of the Federal Register notice, learn more about RBC or other federal financing opportunities, visit: [www.ruralbroadbandcoalition.net](http://www.ruralbroadbandcoalition.net).



## REGULATIONS

### Intended Regulatory Action

Virginia Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (VPDES) General Permit for Domestic Sewage Discharges of Less Than or Equal to 1,000 Gallons Per Day. The State Water Control Board has proposed regulations to reissue the existing general permit that expires on August 1, 2006. The general permit will establish limitations and monitoring requirements for domestic sewage discharges of less than or equal to 1,000 gallons per day. The agency intends to hold a public hearing. Contact Lily Choi, Department of Environmental Quality, at 804/698-4054 or e-mail her at [ychoi@deq.state.va.us](mailto:ychoi@deq.state.va.us) for more information.

### Proposed Regulations

Assessment in Assisted Living Facilities. The State Board of Social Services has proposed amendments to (i) require assessors to have completed a state-approved training course on the state-designed uniform assessment instrument (UAI); (ii) require that each

community services board be responsible for the assessment and reassessment of its clients for placement in an assisted living facility; (iii) restrict when public pay individuals (i.e., residents of an assisted living facility eligible for benefits under Auxiliary Grants Program) can be placed in an assisted living facility under emergency placement to cases when the emergency is documented and approved by a Virginia adult protective services worker; (iv) required assisted living facilities to notify the local department of social services of the discharge or death of a resident within 10 days; (v) allow the local department of social services' staff to initiate a change in the level of care for an assisted living facility resident during an inspection or review when it is determined that the UAI is not reflective of the resident's current status; and (vi) specify who are considered qualified assessors for all subsequent evaluations for both public pay and private pay individuals. The regulation also proposes changes to make the regulation consistent with the Code of Virginia (such as replacing the phrase

"adult care residence" with the phrase "assisted living facility") and with the Department of Medical Assistance Services' policy (such as modifying the definition of assisted living to include only regular assisted living and not intensive assisted living as in the existing regulation). The proposed regulation also includes clarifying language and definitions, removes redundant language, and reorganizes parts of the existing regulation for clarity. For additional information, contact Marjorie Marker, Department of Social Services, at 804/726-7536 or e-mail her at [majorie.marker@dss.virginia.gov](mailto:majorie.marker@dss.virginia.gov). ❖

## POSITIONS

### Longer version of job ads posted at [www.vml.org](http://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](http://www.vml.org). Visit the VML site and click on "Marketplace" to read the complete descriptions.

### Juvenile Services Chief, York County

SALARY: DOQ/DOE. Directs the Juvenile Services Division of the Department of Community Services and the regional delivery of juvenile justice programs, including residential care. Master's in public admin., government, human services, or a closely related field, and 6-9 yrs. exper. in an increasingly responsible mngmnt. position in the human services field, or any equiv. comb. of training and exper. York County application req. and may be obtained from the Human Resources Office, 120 Alexander Hamilton Blvd., 2nd Floor, Yorktown, VA; from [www.yorkcounty.gov](http://www.yorkcounty.gov); or by calling 757/890-3690. Hearing impaired only call TDD 757/890-3300. Open until filled. EOE.

### Purchasing Agent / Risk Manager, Petersburg

SALARY: \$40,738-\$66,631. Work performed under general supervision of the finance director and coordinated with city attorney. Qualifications: Graduation from accredited law school and supervisory experience in the procurement of materials and equipment for a large organization. Reqs. Va. law license. Submit application and/or resume and requests for needed accommodations to the City of Petersburg, Human Resources Department, 103 W. Tabb St., Petersburg, VA 23803. Deadline: April 16. EOE.

### County Administrator, Hanover

SALARY: DOQ/DOE (+) benefits. (Pop. 95,000) Lead full-service county with 21 departments, 1,100 employees and \$312 million budget. Bachelor's degree in public administration, government, business management or related field required; MPA/MBA preferred. Submit cover letter,

resume and salary history to: Jim Taylor, Director of Human Resources, Hanover County, P.O. Box 470, Hanover, VA 23069. 804/365-6075, 804/365-6334 (fax); additional position information available at [www.co.hanover.va.us](http://www.co.hanover.va.us) or call 804/365-6075 (TDD #365-6140) Deadline: June 15. EOE.

### Executive Director, Charlottesville Redevelopment & Housing Authority

SALARY: Low \$70,000s-mid \$80,000s DOE. (Pop. 40,000-plus) CRHA provides affordable housing solutions with 376 units, including 123 for the elderly and disabled and 2,000 affordable housing units, plus 300 Section 8 homes. Responsible for a staff of 27 and a \$5.4 million budget. Reports to 7-member board. Submit resume and current salary information to: Andrea Sims or Jerry Oldani, The Oldani Group, Inc., 10900 NE 4th St., Suite 2030, Bellevue, WA 98004. Phone: 425/451-398. Fax: 425/453.6786. E-mail: [resume@theoldanigroup.com](mailto:resume@theoldanigroup.com). <http://www.theoldanigroup.com>. [www.charlottesville.org](http://www.charlottesville.org). Deadline: May 3. EOE.

### Zoning Enforcement Officer, Hopewell

SALARY: \$26,884-\$29,418 hiring range. \$26,884-\$40,326 full range. Administer and enforce city's Zoning Ordinance. Perform inspections, review permits and conduct enforcement work in connection with the review of various permits, subdivision plans, and site plans. Bachelor's degree in planning a plus. Apply to: City of Hopewell, Municipal Building, 300 N. Main St., Human Resources, Room 221, Hopewell, VA 23860. Telephone: 804/541-2211 or 804/541-2245. Fax: 804/541-2248. City of Hopewell application is required. Access application at [www.ci.hopewell.va.us](http://www.ci.hopewell.va.us). Position # 11062. Deadline: April 23. EOE.

### Town Manager, Leesburg

SALARY: \$125,000-\$145,000 DOQ (+) benefits. (Pop. 35,000-plus) 322 FT and more than 250 PT employees in 10 depts. Operating bdtg. appx. \$33 million; utilities bdtg. of \$26 million. Master's in public admin. or closely related field, and at least 10 yrs. progressively responsible mngmnt. exper. in local gov't. and at least 5 yrs. a city / town / county manager or deputy manager. Should have active membership in ICMA. Submit cover letter, detailed resume and salary history to: Dona Wolf, Human Resources, Town of Leesburg, 25 W. Market St., Leesburg, VA 20176. Include your

name, address, telephone numbers, and e-mail address. Information: 703/737-7177 or visit [www.leesburgva.org](http://www.leesburgva.org). Deadline (postmark): May 14. EEO/ADA

### Planner/Development Associate, Kilmarnock

SALARY: \$28,000-\$33,000. Provide commercial district consulting and training services and planning and zoning policy direction. Responsible for providing local commercial district revitalization organizations with technical assistance in the areas of organization, promotion, design, and economic restructuring (economic development) while working with the town manager on a Comprehensive Plan update. Should be computer literate, preferably experienced with GIS and Microsoft Office Suite. Send resume, cover letter and two writing samples to: Town Manager Lee Capps, Town of Kilmarnock, P.O. Box 1357, Kilmarnock VA 22482. Deadline: May 3. [toktownmgr@rivnet.net](mailto:toktownmgr@rivnet.net)

### Senior Code Enforcement Officer, Lynchburg

SALARY: \$30,201-\$46,862 DOQ. Reqs. any comb. of educ. and exper. equiv. to a bachelor's degree in structural engineering or a related field, considerable responsible construction or professional engineering exper., and possession (or ability to obtain within 1 yr.) certification as 1&2 Family Combination Inspector and General Combination Inspector through VDHCD. Contact: Beth McDaniel, Senior Human Resources Manager, City of Lynchburg, 900 Church St., Lynchburg VA 24504. Phone: 434/455-4204 or FAX 434/845-4304.

### Planner, Bedford County

SALARY: \$31,147-\$35,819 (+) benefits to start DOE. Administer zoning and subdivision ordinances; assist w/ comprehensive planning. Should have a strong background in zoning, land use and environmental planning. Exper. with GIS and Arc View or ARC/INFO desirable. Reqs. 2 yrs. exper. and bachelor's degree in planning or closely related field. Job description and application available at Bedford County Human Resources Department, Bedford County Administration Building, 122 E. Main St., 2nd Floor, Bedford, VA 24523 or by calling 540/586-7601. Applications and job descriptions available at [www.co.bedford.va.us](http://www.co.bedford.va.us). Open until filled. EOE.

Continued on page 6

## POSITIONS

### **Deputy Director of Purchasing and Supply Management, Fairfax County**

SALARY: \$61,793-\$102,988 negotiable DOQ. Oversees day-to-day operations of the two purchasing teams, comprised of 15 professional employees, who spend more than \$400 million annually. Oversees operation of central warehouse, which includes storage, distribution, inventory management, excess and surplus property disposal. Includes acquisition activities for both county government and public schools. The procurement staff manages approximately 2,400 contracts. Position may be underfilled as a management analyst IV (\$58,936-\$98,228 Grade S31) for 9 mos. while attaining certification. To apply: Submit resume on-line through AIMS system. [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/jobs/listing/listing.asp](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/jobs/listing/listing.asp). Job # 04-0531 Deadline: April 16. EOE.

### **Water Plant Operator (Night Shift), Lexington**

SALARY: \$19,600-\$30,000 (+) benefits DOE and state license classification. Application forms are available upon request by e-mail, fax, and at the city manager's office, Room 205, Second Floor, City Hall, 300 E. Washington St., Lexington, VA 24450. Applications must be returned to: City of Lexington, Utilities Processing, P.O. Box 922, Lexington, VA 24450. To request applications by e-mail, [utilitiesprocessing@ci.lexington.va.us](mailto:utilitiesprocessing@ci.lexington.va.us); to request by fax and inquire about position description, call 540/463-356. Only applicants chosen for interviews will be acknowledged. Deadline: April 19. EOE.

## **Other positions**

NOTICE: The following positions also are listed on VML's Web site at [www.vml.org](http://www.vml.org).

### **Director of Public Works, Vinton**

SALARY: \$49,183-\$68,857 (Pop. 7,782) Deadline: April 23.

### **Executive Assistant to the Mayor, Norfolk**

SALARY: \$33,439-\$53,458. Open until filled.

### **City Manager, Greenville, N.C.**

SALARY: DOQ/DOE (+) benefits. (Pop. 65,000) Deadline: May 14.

### **Director of Finance, Galax**

SALARY: DOQ/DOE (+) benefits. Deadline: April 30.

### **Assistant Town Manager, Vinton**

SALARY: \$43,000-\$51,000 to start. Deadline: April 16.

### **Information Technology Network Administrator, Smithfield**

SALARY: \$30,583-\$42,817 DOQ (+) benefits. Open until filled.

### **Block Grant Coordinator, Harrisonburg**

SALARY: \$43,400-\$54,300 preferred hiring range DOQ (+) benefits. Open until filled.

### **Business Development Coordinator, Buena Vista**

SALARY: DOE (+) benefits. Open until filled.

### **Business Development Representative, York County**

SALARY: \$38,571 base (+) benefits. Open until filled.

### **Business Development Specialist, Martinsville**

SALARY: \$38,966-\$48,707 DOQ (+) benefits.

### **Director of Finance, Front Royal**

SALARY: DOQ (+) benefits. Deadline: April 23.

**DEADLINE:** *The deadline for placing a job advertisement in the next issue of Update is Friday, April 16. Submit ads via e-mail to David Parsons at [dparsons@vml.org](mailto: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

### **Virginia Municipal Clerks Association Annual Conference, April 21-23, Williamsburg**

The conference will be held at the Williamsburg Hospitality House. Contact: Shelia Crist 757/220-6103 or [scrist@ci.williamsburg.va.us](mailto:scrist@ci.williamsburg.va.us).

### **Local Government Attorneys of Virginia 2004 Spring Conference, April 22-24, Roanoke**

At the Hotel Roanoke & Conference Center. Contact: Leisa R. Steele, Program & Members Services Coordinator, 700 E. Franklin St., Richmond, VA 23219. Tel: 804/371-0202, FAX: 804/371-0234. E-mail: [lrs5c@virginia.edu](mailto:lrs5c@virginia.edu).

### **5th Annual Mid-Atlantic DUI Conference, April 26-28, Virginia Beach**

Virginia Beach Police Department-sponsored conference at Pavilion Convention Center, 1000 19th St. Contact: MPO Scott E. Wichtendahl, Tel: 757/427-8295 or [sewichte@vb.gov](mailto:sewichte@vb.gov). Conference details: [www.vb.gov/dui](http://www.vb.gov/dui).

### **VATOA: Collision of Technology and Regulation, April 26-27, Richmond**

The Virginia Association of Telecommunications Officers and Advisors Second Annual Conference, "Collision of Technology and Regulation," will be held at The Jefferson Hotel. Expert speakers will examine issues that affect localities and the cable and telecommunications services in those communities. The conference will offer sessions on: federal and state legislative, regulatory and court actions; recent cable franchise transfers and renewals; Voice and Video over Internet Protocol; community broadband initiatives; government communications networks; PEG channel operations; public safety communications; and local government revenues. Contact: Dianne Payne at [dianne.payne@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:dianne.payne@fairfaxcounty.gov); or 703/324-5902. VATOA is a statewide association of Virginia local governments that represents the telecommunications interests of your community.

### **Behavioral-Based Interviewing / Hiring Techniques, April 27, Richmond**

Having trouble finding the right person for the job? Using behavioral-based interviewing may be the solution. By asking specifically designed questions, you can discover a candidate's real skills, strengths and weaknesses. Topics include identifying essential job skills, developing a structured interview plan, designing open-ended questions to elicit specific responses, and developing and practicing probing techniques to gather necessary details from the candidate. Sponsored by the Virginia Institute of Government and VCU's Center for Public Policy from 8:30 a.m.-4 p.m. at the University of Virginia's Richmond Center. Registration: \$99 (includes lunch). Contact: Kristen Paynter at 804/828-6923 or [oppt@vcu.edu](mailto:oppt@vcu.edu).

### **Liability Issues, Design Data and Inspection Techniques for Wood Decks, Balconies, and Porches, April 28-30, Blacksburg**

This course at Virginia Tech is designed for local building officials, design professionals, contractors, home inspectors, and manufacturers and suppliers of related construction materials. Plan reviewers and building inspectors are encouraged to attend. Their participation, as well as the information obtained at the course, could benefit their locality. Details at: [www.conted.vt.edu/sdww/](http://www.conted.vt.edu/sdww/)

### **Virginia Building and Code Officials Association, May 3, Charlottesville**

Mid-year meeting at the Omni Hotel. Contact: Mary Jo Fields 804/649-8471 or [mfields@vml.org](mailto:mfields@vml.org).

### **Municipal Electric Power Association of Virginia, May 26-28, Virginia Beach**

Annual meeting. Contact: Kimberly Pollard at [kpollard@vml.org](mailto:kpollard@vml.org).

### **Virginia Local Government Management Association, June 23-26, Virginia Beach**

Annual conference at the Sheraton Virginia Beach.

### **Virginia Resources Authority Financing Conference, Sept. 13-14, Roanoke**

The 2004 conference will be held at the Hotel Roanoke. Reception at 5 p.m. Sept. 13. Conference begins 8:30 a.m. Sept. 14. Contact: Bonnie McRae at 804/644-3100 or [bmcræ@vra.state.va.us](mailto:bmcræ@vra.state.va.us).

### **Virginia Association of Assessing Officers Annual Conference, Sept. 22-24, Richmond**

Omni Hotel. Contact: [vao@hotmail.com](mailto:vao@hotmail.com)

### **Virginia Municipal League Annual Conference, Oct. 3-5, Alexandria**

The 99th annual meeting of VML. Contact: Joni Terry at 804/649-8471 or [jterry@vml.org](mailto:jterry@vml.org). Exhibitors contact: Kimberly Pollard at 804/649-8471 or [kpollard@vml.org](mailto:kpollard@vml.org).

*Preferred method of submitting items is via e-mail to David Parsons at: [dparsons@vml.org](mailto:dparsons@vml.org). You may also submit via FAX at: 804/343-3758.*

# Update

The newsletter of the  
Virginia Municipal League

P.O. Box 12164 • Richmond, VA 23241



## U.S. Communities Government Purchasing Alliance

Providing local governments with discounted nationwide contracts for office supplies, furniture, computers and peripherals, general supplies and more. For more information:

[www.uscommunities.org](http://www.uscommunities.org)

1-800-635-3993

*A VML-sponsored service*



LOCAL GOVERNMENTS  
WORKING TOGETHER SINCE 1905



*Update* is published  
biweekly by the  
Virginia Municipal League

P.O. Box 12164  
Richmond, VA 23241  
(804) 649-8471  
Fax: (804) 343-3758  
E-mail: [e-mail@vml.org](mailto:e-mail@vml.org)  
[www.vml.org](http://www.vml.org)

Executive Director  
R. Michael Amyx

Editor  
David Parsons

Associate Editor  
Manuel Timbreza