

Update

September 24, 2004

The newsletter of the
Virginia Municipal League

Inside ...

1-8



*Local officials briefed
on VRS issues*

*Teacher salary
increases of 4.9 percent
reported*

*Car tax discussion
added to VML
conference program*

*FOIA workshops
scheduled
for October*

*Brownfields conference
to focus
on financing*

*Smart growth guide
available*



Oct. 3-5

2005 VML Legislative Program

Positions take shape; details on VML Web site

VML's Legislative Committee approved much of the 2005 Preliminary Legislative Program, including a forceful new position on transportation funding, when it met in Richmond on Sept. 10.

The committee will adopt the preliminary program on Sunday, Oct. 3, during the VML Annual Conference in Alexandria. The preliminary program will then be forwarded to the general membership for its consideration at the annual business meeting on Tuesday afternoon, Oct. 5. (*See story below*).

Fairfax County Board Chairman Gerald E. Connolly, a member of the Legislative Committee, proposed including the following statement regarding transportation at the Sept 10 meeting:

"VML calls upon the Governor and the General Assembly to make transportation the primary focus of the 2005 session of the General Assembly. Given the failure of the General Assembly to address this issue

during the 2004 session and the consequent decline in transportation funding, the commonwealth is experiencing disinvestments in its transportation infrastructure. Absent a major infusion of new and sustained investment in transportation, Virginia fears a congestion and mobility crisis that will strangle economic growth and profoundly and negatively affect the quality of life of all our citizens."

The committee adopted the statement unanimously.

The Legislative Committee will address several important issues, including state car tax reimbursements and telecommunications tax reform, at its Oct. 3 meeting. The committee has discussed both topics extensively. The recent changes to the car tax reimbursement program will be presented at the opening conference session on Monday, Oct. 4, and the proposed telecommunications tax changes will be discussed at

Continued on page 2

'05 legislative program, policy statements online

VML's preliminary legislative program and proposed policy statements for 2005 are posted on the league's Web site at www.vml.org. Click on the "What's New" or "Legislative Activities" buttons to view the PDF documents.

The program and policy statements will be discussed and adopted at the VML annual business meeting on Oct. 5, as a part of the VML annual conference in Alexandria.

Limited copies of the preliminary

legislative program and policy statements will be available at the conference. VML will not mail copies to the membership prior to the conference.

The VML legislative committee will meet on Oct. 3 at the conference to address finance policy committee proposals and create a list of priority legislative issues. Amendments and additions to the preliminary legislative program will be made available to conference attendees. ❖

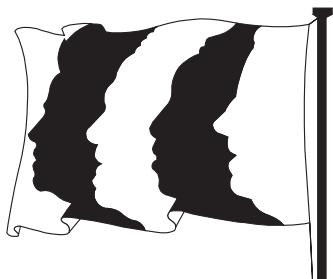
FROM THE CAPITOL**Legislative program continued ...**

a conference workshop at 1:30 p.m. on Tuesday, Oct. 5.

The Legislative Committee constructs the league's annual legislative program. The league president appoints its 24 members. The league membership is required to act on the legislative program and five separate policy statements (Environmental Quality, Finance, General Laws, Human Development & Education, and Transportation) at the annual business meeting. Adoption of the policy state-

ments at the annual conference caps the annual policy process, which offers an opportunity for VML members and staff to discuss emerging issues and ensures that VML policies reflect the membership's concerns and needs.

Staunton Council Member Rita Wilson serves as chair of the Legislative Committee; James City County Supervisor John McGlennon is vice chair. VML Deputy Director Mike Edwards serves as lead staff for the committee. ❖

Local officials briefed on VRS issues

The Virginia Retirement System will send out interim rate information to political subdivisions in late November, according to VRS Director Forrest Matthews.

The interim rate information will indicate how a political subdivision's retirement plan is faring — whether rates are expected to go up or down. This information can be used in planning for future rate changes. Distribution of the interim information in November will not trigger rate changes.

Matthews spoke at a Sept. 10 briefing on the retirement system held by VML at the Richmond Marriott. Council members, mayors, managers and staff from across the state attended the briefing. Matthews told the gathering that VRS would talk with local representatives in the future about whether they would prefer having retirement rates set annually, instead of biennially, as is the current practice.

VRS released rates for political subdivisions for 2004-2006 last December. Rates went up in almost three-quarters of the localities and agencies participating in VRS. Matthews said that as a former local director of finance, he would have rather received the information earlier in the budget process.

Matthews reviewed the local decisions that can affect retirement rates. Factors affecting rates that are within the purview of the local governing body include the

number of employees, salary increases, enhanced benefits and disability retirements.

Matthews said employee contributions (set at 5 percent of payroll), employer contributions, and investment earnings fund the retirement plans. Most localities pay the 5 percent employee contribution for their employees.

Matthews advised that local employers could not reverse the decision to pay the 5 percent employee contribution. In any case, local officials know that discontinuing paying the 5 percent employee contribution would be an unpopular and difficult step to take.

Matthews said that the average VRS member retires at age 61 and will live about 23 more years. Of those 23 years, three years of the benefits are paid by employee contributions (the 5 percent generally paid by the employer). Five years are paid by employer contributions; investment earnings pay the remaining 15 years.

The aging workforce is working against relief in retirement rates. Two-thirds of the workforce is age 40 or above; one-third is over age 50.

Matthews reminded the attendees that premiums have not been charged for the group life insurance program for a number of years. Sooner or later, the state will have to start paying premiums into the program, and localities will too. He urged localities to begin preparing for that eventuality. ❖

FROM THE CAPITOL

Teacher salary increases of 4.9 percent reported



Local governments funded teacher salary increases averaging 4.9 percent for 2004-2005, according to a survey on education funding conducted in July by the league and the Virginia Association of Counties.

Surveys were returned by 92 localities – 32 cities, 58 counties and both towns that operate school divisions. These localities represented 88 school divisions. (Some cities and counties have joint school systems. There are 132 divisions in the state.)

The 88 school divisions employ a significant number of instructional positions. The *2002-03 Superintendent's Report* showed that these respondents employed 100,409 instructional positions out of the 115,997 (87 percent) instructional positions employed statewide.

The survey also showed that salary increases for teachers outstripped those granted local employees, which averaged 3 percent, according to the survey results.

The survey also revealed that 67 cities, counties and towns (or 74 percent of those returning surveys) increased the amount given to the school division in FY05 from FY04.

Seven localities (8 percent) reported appropriating the same amount as the previous year.

Fifteen localities (16 percent) reported that they decreased local funding for schools in FY05 as compared to FY04. The local composite indexes had gone down in several of these localities, thereby

lowering the required local share of funding.

The survey asked localities how additional state revenue for education generated by an increase in the sales tax affected their FY05 budgets. The survey gave a number of potential responses, and respondents could check more than one answer.

Here are some of the answers given:

- Forty of the responding localities said that the new money “did not affect local transfer to education.”

- Sixty-eight said that the additional state funding enabled funding of additional school priorities, such as teacher and staff salary increases, funding of debt or capital projects, and hiring new teachers.

- Twenty-six said that the new state money allowed them to reduce the local transfer for education.

- Seventeen said the new money prevented a local real estate tax increase.

- Seven said the funding enabled the lowering of local real estate tax rate.

According to the survey, 17 localities raised real estate tax rates for FY05, 24 reduced them, and the remainder left them the same.

The league and VACo distributed the survey in an effort to collect information on how the new state funding for education was being used.

The state sales tax rate was increased by the General Assembly during the 2004 session. A portion of the revenue generated by the increase is placed in a public education and local property tax relief fund. ❖

AT THE LEAGUE

Car tax discussion added to VML conference program

A discussion of VML's proposed legislative priorities, especially regarding changes in the car tax reimbursement program, has been added to the Oct. 4 general session of the league's annual conference.

The conference will be held Oct. 3-5 at the Hilton Alexandria Mark Center, 5000 Seminary Road, in Alexandria.

Political analyst Mark Shields and Washington, D.C. Mayor Anthony Williams will give keynote addresses at the Oct. 3 opening session.

The Oct. 5 general session will feature a keynote address by Ed McMahon, an expert in sustainable development, and author of *Better Models for Development in Virginia*. McMahon is a fellow at the Urban Land Institute.

The detailed conference program,

including information on conference sessions and speakers, will be posted on the VML Web site at www.vml.org. Deciding which workshop to attend this year will be a difficult – the workshops cover topics ranging from parliamentary procedures and economic development to on-line purchasing.

The program also includes information on the highlights of Host City Night. The City of Alexandria has chosen the waterfront in Old Town as the site of the event. Guests will be able to take a ride on a paddle wheel vessel or a tour boat, enjoy casino games and listen to musical entertainment. Chart House will cater the dinner, and food stations will be located throughout the waterfront area. Transportation from the hotels to Host City Night will be provided. ❖

ETCETERA

FOIA workshops scheduled for October



A series of statewide workshops on the Virginia Freedom of Information Act sponsored by the Freedom of Information Advisory Council will be held in October. Cost of the one-day session is \$40 per person, which includes continental breakfast, box lunch, workshop and handouts.

The program will be of interest to local officials, public information officers, municipal clerks, local government attorneys, attorneys who practice before state and local government, and school board and law enforcement personnel.

For more information, including how to register, visit the council's Web site at: <http://dls.state.va.us/foiacouncil.htm>. Or contact Lynda Waddill at 804/786-3591 or lwaddill@leg.state.va.us.

The workshops, which will concentrate on open records, records management, records retention and criminal records, will be held from 8:30 a.m. until 2:30 p.m. The schedule of meetings will be as follows:

Wytheville	Oct. 4	Holiday Inn Wytheville
Harrisonburg	Oct. 5	Four Points Hotel Sheraton
Fairfax County	Oct. 6	Holiday Inn Fair Oaks Mall
Richmond	Oct. 12	Holiday Inn West Broad
Norfolk	Oct. 13	Hilton Norfolk Airport



Brownfields conference to focus on financing



The 2004 Virginia Brownfields Conference will be held Oct. 21-22 at the Koger Center in Richmond. The Virginia Department of Environmental Quality and Virginia Economic Development Partnership sponsor the two-day event.

The conference is designed to assist local governments, economic development organizations, nonprofit organizations, and the professional services community in recognizing brownfield redevelopment opportunities. Sessions will explain how to utilize new state and federal liability

protections, federal grants, and public-private sector financing.

As result of improvements in the state's brownfields program since last August, Virginia has realized hundreds of millions of dollars in capital reinvestment while creating and retaining hundreds of new jobs.

Contact Chris Evans, Virginia Brownfields Coordinator (DEQ), at 804/698-4336 or visit <http://www.deq.virginia.gov/brownfieldweb/conference.html>. Registration is \$50. ❖

Smart growth guide available

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the International City/County Management Association have published the second in a series of guides about smart growth.

Getting to Smart Growth II: 100 More Policies for Implementation provides success-

ful case studies and policy options to achieve smart growth principles.

To request a copy of the publication, e-mail smartgrowth@epa.gov or call EPA's Development, Community and Environmental Division at 202/566-2878. ❖

REGULATIONS

Final Regulations

Virginia Medical Care Facilities Certificate of Public Need Rules and Regulations. The State Board of Health has proposed amendments, exempt from Certificate of Public Need, those intermediate care facilities for the mentally retarded having no more than 12 beds and located in an area identified

in need of residential services by the Department of Mental Health, Mental Retardation and Substance Abuse Services. The amendments require the State Health Commissioner to consider the effects on accessibility of any proposed relocation of an existing service or facility and require the health planning agencies to (i) notify local governing bodies prior to holding any public hearings on a proposed project;

(ii) consider the comments of such local governing bodies and all other public comments in making its decisions, and (iii) include the comments of the local governing bodies and all other public comment as part of the record provided to the Department of Health. Contact Carrie Eddy, Department of Health, at 804/367-2157 or e-mail her at carrie.eddy@vdh.virginia.gov for additional information.

Continued on page 3

FROM THE CAPITOL

Emergency Regulations

Methods and Standards for Establishing Payment Rates; Other Types of Care. The Department of Medical Assistance Services has proposed regulations due to Virginia experiencing a growing problem with access to obstetrical and gynecological services for Medicaid and FAMIS recipients due, in

part, to stagnant reimbursement in the face of cost increases, including increases in medical malpractice premiums for this physician specialty. This is causing a threat to the health of individuals in need of these services through Medicaid and FAMIS. The amendments modify the Medicaid reimbursement methodology for fee-for-service physician rates in order to increase reimburse-

ment to obstetrical providers. Additionally, the contracts between DMAS and managed care organizations are also being modified to accommodate similar rate increases for physicians practicing through managed care. For additional information, contact Steve Ford, Department of Medical Assistance Services, at 804/786-7355 or e-mail him at steve.ford@dmas.virginia.gov. ❖

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.

Human Resources Manager, Hampton

SALARY: \$47,374-\$54,480 DOQ (+) benefits. Provides counsel, support and guidance necessary to meet HR needs of the Public Safety and Human Services team, as well as the city's strategic needs. Accountable for delivering high quality, customer-focused HR services to managers and employees. Master's degree and PHR/SPHR certification preferred. Reqs. 5 (+) yrs. supervisory exper. and 5 (+) yrs. exper. in HR dept. working in all areas. Send City of Hampton employment application to: Department of Human Resources, City of Hampton, 22 Lincoln St., Hampton, VA 23669 or e-mail hrdept@hampton.gov. Visit www.hampton.gov/hr. Contact: 757/727-6345 or FAX 757/727-6449. Deadline: Sept. 24. EOE.

Public Works Manager, Botetourt County

SALARY: Up to \$65,000 to start DOQ (+) benefits. Range: \$54,312-\$83,898. Provide hands-on, results-oriented management of county landfill, utility, maintenance and engineering divisions. Reqs. 4-yr. degree in a related field (+) 3 yrs. applicable exper. Graduate degree a plus. Application and a job description available for download at

http://www.botetourt.org/employment/county_jobs.php, or by calling 540/473-8239. Submit cover letter, county application, and resume to: Deputy County Administrator, ref.: PW Manager, 1 W. Main St., # 1, Fincastle, VA 24090. Open until filled. EOE.

City Manager, Goldsboro, N.C.

SALARY: DOQ/DOE (+) benefits and auto allowance. (Pop. 39,000-plus) Full-service city w/ council-manager form. Current city manager to retire after 18 yrs. Reqs. B.A./B.S. in public/business admin. or related field. M.S./M.A. in public/business admin. preferred. Reqs. 5-7 yrs. exper. See www.mercergroupinc.com. Send resumes to: James Mercer, The Mercer Group, Inc., 5579B Chamblee Dunwoody Road, #511, Atlanta, GA 30338. VOICE: 770/551-0403; FAX: 770/399-9749; E-Mail: mercerg@mindspring.com. Web site: www.mercergroupinc.com. Deadline: Oct. 13. EOE.

Town Manager, Gordonsville

SALARY: \$35,000-\$45,000 DOE. Bachelor's degree or equiv. exper. in planning, public admin. or related field and applicable exper. in supervisory / managerial role. Supervises 13 employees in the police, public works and treasury depts. Prior exper. should include development and successful implementation of municipal bdgts., utility planning and development, planning and zoning and downtown revitalization efforts. Submit town application, resume, salary history and references to: Town of Gordonsville, P.O. Box 276, 112 S. Main St., Gordonsville, VA 22942. Deadline: Must be postmarked by Oct. 2.

Chief of Police, Fredericksburg

SALARY: \$71,731-\$100,423 starting range (+) benefits and auto. (Pop. 20,000) Serves at the pleasure of the city manager in council-manager government. Full-service

department. Divisions include Patrol, Detective, and Support w/65 full-time sworn and 30 auxiliary police officers plus Animal Control. Current chief retiring. BS/BA in criminal justice, police administration, related field; demonstrate evidence of continued professional development; related MS/MA desirable. See www.mercergroupinc.com. Confidential resumes to: James Mercer, The Mercer Group, Inc., 5579B Chamblee Dunwoody Road, #511, Atlanta, GA 30338. VOICE: 770/551-0403; FAX: 770/399-9749; E-mail: mercerg@mindspring.com. Deadline: Oct. 14. EOE

Other positions

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

Finance Director, Eden, N.C.

SALARY: DOQ. Open until filled.

Main Street Manager, South Boston

SALARY: \$30,000-\$36,000 DOE (+) benefits. Deadline: Oct. 29.

Human Resources Director, Kingsport, Tenn.

SALARY: \$4,409-\$6,914 monthly pay range. Deadline: Sept. 30.

Deputy County Manager/Chief Operations Officer, Arlington County

SALARY: \$100,000 (+) DOQ/negotiable. Open until filled.

Assistant Director of Planning, Chesterfield County

SALARY: \$60,445-\$103,216. Deadline: Oct. 14.

Continued on page 6

POSITIONS

Assistant Director of Neighborhood & Leisure Services for Parks, Recreation and Open Spaces, Norfolk

SALARY: \$58,468-\$102,905 DOE. Open until filled.

Director of Human Resources, Isle of Wight County

SALARY: \$50,773. Open until filled.

Assistant to the County Administrator (Human Resources), New Kent County

SALARY: DOQ/DOE. Deadline: Sept. 29.

Code Compliance Inspector, New Kent County

SALARY: \$30,409 to start (+) benefits. Deadline: Sept. 23.

Environmental Programs Manager, New Kent County

SALARY: \$33,525 to start (+) benefits. Deadline: Sept. 23.

Senior Transportation Planner, Northern Shenandoah Valley Regional Commission

SALARY: Mid to upper \$50s (+) benefits. Open until filled.

Director of Planning and Zoning, Town of Purcellville

SALARY: \$60,496-\$80,000 starting range (+) benefits. Deadline: Sept. 24.

Assistant Planning Technician (part time), Town of Purcellville

SALARY: \$15-\$21 per hour / 32 hours (4 days per week). Open until filled.

Operations Manager, New River Resource Authority

SALARY: \$49,000 min. entry-level DOQ (+) benefits. Deadline: noon Oct. 15.

City Attorney (Part-time), Covington

SALARY: Negotiable.

Civil Engineer, City of Manassas Park

SALARY: \$46,093-\$60,000 hiring range DOQ. Open until filled.

Management Analyst, City of Manassas Park,

SALARY: \$44,320-\$77,716 DOQ (+) benefits. Open until filled.

Chief of Public Safety Department, Morganton, N.C.

SALARY: \$58,837-\$88,256 (+) benefits. Deadline: Oct. 15.

Director of Economic Development, Charlottesville

SALARY: Mid-\$90,000s-low \$100,000s DOE. Deadline: Sept. 27.

Chief of Police, Town of Bluefield (Va.)

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

Manager of Accounting Services, Roanoke

SALARY: \$70,000-\$75,000 to start (+) benefits. Open until filled.

Deputy City Manager (Human Development and Community Initiatives), Chesapeake

SALARY: DOQ. Deadline: Sept. 30.

Watershed Project Coordinator, Buena Vista

SALARY: Salary: \$35,000-\$45,000 (+) benefits. Open until filled.

Executive Director, Virginia First Cities Coalition

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

Juvenile Services Chief, York County

SALARY: \$50,211 or higher DOE/DOQ (+) benefits. Open until filled.

Chief Financial Officer, Falls Church

SALARY: Low \$100,000s to start DOQ (+) benefits. Open until filled.

DEADLINE: *The deadline for placing a job advertisement in the next issue of Update is Friday, Oct. 1. 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

2nd Annual Virginia Industry Environmental Conference, Sept. 21-22, Richmond

Sponsored by the Virginia Manufacturers Association, conference will feature more than 60 presenters and 300 companies in the environmental field representing industry, government agencies, advocacy groups, consulting groups and nonprofits at the Richmond Convention Center. The Governor's Award for Environmental Excellence will be presented at the conference. VML is a "VMA Association

Partner" and local government attendees receive the same rate as VMA members (20 percent discount). Visit <http://www.vamanufacturers.com> for details.

Virginia Rural Water Association Expo 2004, Sept. 22 -23, Dublin

VRWA Expo 2004 will be an outdoor show for attendees to get a first hand look at the latest in tools and heavy equipment. Training classes will be held on both days along with demonstrations and contest. Location will be the New River Valley

Fairgrounds in Dublin. For more information contact VRWA at 540/261-7178. Virginia Association of Assessing Officers Annual Conference, Sept. 22-24, Richmond Omni Hotel. Contact: vaoa@hotmail.com

Broadband-WiFi Forum, Sept. 23, Abingdon

Entitled "Who's Doing What, Where, and How," this one-day forum on the latest government initiatives in broadband and WiFi will be held from 9:30 am-4 p.m.

Continued on page 7

CALENDAR

Will include industry overview and 7 Virginia local government case studies. Sponsored by the Virginia Institute of Government and Virginia Tech. Registration: \$65 includes lunch and all materials. Registration deadline Sept. 15. Registration form at <http://www.coopercenter.org/institute>. Contact: Tedd Povar at 804/371-0202 or tep3e@virginia.edu.

Commonwealth of Virginia Information Technology Symposium 2004, Sept. 26-28, Norfolk

Virginia's signature annual business and technology event will showcase the Hampton Roads region and feature general sessions, workshops and demonstrations. This year's theme: Virginia – Portal to the Emerging Global Marketplace. Speakers will include Tom Brokaw, anchor of the NBC Nightly News; Madeleine Albright, former U.S. Secretary of State; and William Kennard, managing director of The Carlyle Group and former chairman of the Federal Communications Commission. Last year's symposium in Roanoke was a sell-out with more than 1,100 registered delegates from 21 states and 18 countries. For more information, visit www.covits.org. To register, visit www.eventlauncher.com/covits/index.html.

Virginia Forum for Excellence, Sept. 28-29, Richmond

Hosted by U.S. Senate Productivity and Quality Awards Program at the Richmond Marriott. Learn about some of Virginia's finest organizations in the government, education, manufacturing, service, and health care sectors. Speakers plus workshops on performance improvement topics, including knowledge management, organizational leadership, strategic planning, and a panel on best practices in education. For more information visit http://www.spqa-va.org/quality/Forum/Forum_2004.htm.

Virginia Mayors Institute, Oct. 1-3, Alexandria

Sponsored by VML, the University of Virginia's Weldon Cooper Center for Public Service, and the School of Public and International Affairs at Virginia Tech, the three-day institute will be held at the Hilton Alexandria Mark Center. The sessions will give mayors and vice mayors a chance to learn practical strategies designed to help them succeed in their leadership roles.

Registration fee of \$225 includes course materials, a reception and dinner on Friday night, lunch on Saturday, continental breakfasts on Saturday and Sunday, and refreshment breaks. More information.

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. Exhibitors contact: Kimberly Pollard at 804/649-8471 or kpollard@vml.org.

53rd Virginia Transportation Conference, Oct. 17-19, Roanoke

Theme: "Virginia's Transportation Challenge: Enhancing Mobility Through Safer, Simpler, Smarter Solutions." For registration, hotel and program details visit: <http://www.vatransconf.org>.

Governor's Conference on Workforce and Career Development, Oct. 19-20, Richmond

Registration for local government officials reduced to \$150. Conference details available at <http://www.vec.state.va.us/vecportal/vwc/gwcd.cfm>.

2004 Virginia Brownfields Conference, Oct. 20-21, Richmond

Sponsored by the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality and the Virginia Economic Development Partnership at the Koger Center. Designed to assist local governments, economic development organizations, nonprofit organizations, and the professional services community in recognizing brownfield redevelopment opportunities and how to utilize new state and federal liability protections, federal grants, and innovative public/private sector financing. For program, registration and hotel information visit <http://www.deq.virginia.gov/brownfieldweb/conference.html>. Contact: Chris Evans, Virginia Brownfields Coordinator (DEQ), at 804/698-4336.

Rural Broadband 2004, Oct. 27-28, Alexandria

At the Hilton Hotel in Old Town. See <http://www.ruralbroadbandcoalition.net> for more information. Contact Laura Goodwin: 202/835-7819.

Rail-to-Trail Workshop (Southside), Nov. 5, Keysville

Daylong program will be held at the Keysville Campus of the Southside Virginia Community College. Local government officials, farmers and other landowners encouraged to learn about the economic, recreation and local quality of life benefits found in converting abandoned railroad rights-of-way into trails and greenways in Southside. The 22 Southside counties have approx. 400 miles of abandoned rail lines. Sessions will focus on success stories from Virginia and West Virginia, the economics of rail-to-trails, the myths and realities of rail-trails as neighbors and more. A field trip to the nearby Staunton River Battlefield State Park rail-trail and lunch are included in the \$10 registration. For information and to register, go to www.dcr.virginia.gov and click on "New Stuff." Workshop sponsors include the Old Dominion Resource and Development Council, Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation, Virginia Tourism Corporation and Virginia Tobacco Commission.

2004 Virginia GIS Conference, Nov. 8-9, Roanoke

Sponsored by the Virginia Association of Planning District Commissions and the Virginia Association of Mapping and Land Information Systems at the Hotel Roanoke & Conference Center. \$169 full registration before Oct. 1 includes continuous refreshments and both luncheons. Contact: VAPDC at 540/343-4417 or e-mail rvarc@rvarc.org.

2004 Governor's Housing Conference, Norfolk, Nov. 15-17

Registrations being accepted for three-day program at the Norfolk Waterside Marriott. More than 800 affordable housing advocates expected to learn about new programs and initiatives to improve housing conditions. The event is Virginia's most comprehensive affordable housing event of the year. Register online and read more information about the conference at <http://www.dhcd.virginia.gov/ADMIN/GHC.htm>. Contact: 804/371-7171.

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.

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

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
www.vml.org

Executive Director
R. Michael Amyx

Editor
David Parsons

Associate Editor
Manuel Timbreza