

# Update

February 6, 2009

The newsletter of the  
Virginia Municipal League

## Inside ...

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*Legislative Day agenda  
filled with speakers,  
information*



## As economy continues sinking, Congress acts on stimulus bills General Assembly ponders what to do next

The bad economic news continues to pummel away at consumer confidence with little hope of stopping anytime soon. The Conference Board Consumer Confidence Index™, which had decreased in December, inched lower in January to 37.7 out of 100 points and continues to be at a historic low. The Expectations Index decreased moderately in January from 44.2 to 43.

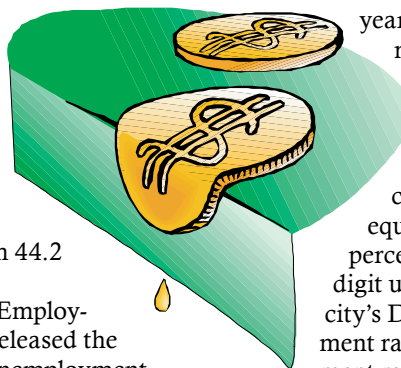
Last week the Virginia Employment Commission (VEC) released the latest employment data. Unemployment leaped from November's 4.6 percent rate to a whopping 5.2 percent rate in December – the highest rate since January 1996. The number of unemployed climbed to 213,400,

and almost 26,000 jobs were lost from November to December. Normally, about 25,000 extra workers are added during this holiday period. Over calendar year 2008, non-farm employment was down by 31,000 jobs or 0.8 percent.

For Virginia's cities the news is even harsher. Some 30 cities had December unemployment rates equal to or greater than 5.2 percent. Four cities had double-digit unemployment rates. Every city's December 2008 unemployment rate exceeded its unemployment rate from a year earlier, and none had double-digit rates.

If the housing industry is the leading indicator for determining economic recovery,

*Continued on page 2*



## 2008 Tax Rates publication available

A comprehensive guide to the rates levied for taxes in 39 cities, 149 towns and 95 counties is available in *Virginia Local Tax Rates: 2008*, recently published by the Weldon Cooper Center at the University of Virginia.

The 341-page publication includes a series of 26 tables containing locality-specific information on virtually every local tax and some fees levied in Virginia. In addition, each table includes a summary introduction that gives the code citation and a general overview of the tax source. The publication is based on an annual comprehensive survey conducted by the Center for Economic and Policy Studies at the Cooper Center.

This is the 27th edition of Tax Rates,

which is published in cooperation with VML and the Virginia Association of Counties. Professor Emeritus John L. Knapp, Research Director William M. Shobe and Research Specialist Stephen C. Kulp are the authors of the book.

Copies can be ordered through the Weldon Cooper Center by telephone: 434/982-5704 or by mail: Publications, Weldon Cooper Center for Public Service, University of Virginia, P.O. Box 400206, Charlottesville VA 22904-4206 or online: <http://www.coopercenter.org/publications/ECONOMICS/Local%20Taxes.php>.

Cost of the publication to VML and VACo members is \$25, a discount from the regular price of \$35. ❖

## FROM THE CAPITOL

### Stimulus bills continued ...

then 2009 will not be the year for the turnaround. Data from George Mason University's Center for Regional Analysis shows that even though December sales of all housing types increased in Northern Virginia, prices continued to slide. Annual price changes dropped in the counties of Prince William, Loudoun and Fairfax by 35 percent, 25 percent and 18 percent, respectively. Prices in these "outer" jurisdictions of the Washington metropolitan region are not expected to return to "normal" until 2010. Even the "close-in" localities of Arlington and Alexandria fell 4 percent and 6 percent, respectively.

January's mortgage foreclosure rates increased over rates from a year ago in Arlington, Alexandria, Fairfax, Stafford, Loudoun, and Prince William. The "good news" is that foreclosures related to the collapse of the subprime market may be ending soon. The "bad news" is that the issues tied to adjustable rate mortgages are still looming.

For local governments putting together their budgets for next year, the drop in housing sales and prices, the crisis in consumer confidence, and the rise in unemployment do not bode well.

But, the federal American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 may help. Staff from the House Appropriations Committee briefed state delegates last week on major provisions of the legislation. (The House of Representatives passed its bill – HR 1. The Senate is scheduled to take up its version this week.) Here is a summary of the staff presentation.

- HR 1 includes \$819 billion in tax reductions (\$275 billion) and spending increases (\$544 billion, including \$320 billion to go to states and local governments). Majority of spending is distributed through existing federal programs using current allocation formulae.

- Excluding HR 1's tax provisions and unemployment benefits, Virginia could receive about \$5.8 billion over two-years. Largest allocations would go to the State Fiscal Stabilization Fund, Medicaid, K-12 funding, Energy, and Transportation and other infrastructure.

- Virginia could receive \$1.6 billion under the State Fiscal Stabilization Fund. Some 61 percent of the funding would be reserved for K-12 and/or higher education. Remaining funds are available for other government activities, including education. It appears there is broad flexibility as to the use of these dollars.

- For transportation, Virginia could receive \$746 million for highways, \$101 million for transit capital grants, and \$33 million for transportation modernization projects. No state or local match would be required, but half of the state's allocation must be obligated within 90 days and the rest within one-year.

- Of the highway money, 55 percent can go to any area of the state. The remaining 45 percent is allocated through the Surface Transportation Program requirements, including reserving 10 percent of these dollars for enhancement projects.

- For K-12 education, Virginia could receive \$203 million under the Title I: Education for the Disadvantaged program and \$326 million for Individuals Disability Education Act (IDEA). No new or additional flexibility is provided for a state to meet the existing federal Maintenance of Effort requirements.

- Regarding education technology state grants, Virginia's estimated allocation would be \$16 million. And, for the new 21st Century Green High-Performing Public School Facilities" program, the Commonwealth's allocation could be \$229 million. A school division would have one-year to enter into contracts for 50 percent of the funding it receives and two-years after the date of enactment to use the remaining money. At least 25 percent of the funds must be used for LEED "green school" requirements, and cannot be used to pay for maintenance, stadiums or other facilities used primarily for athletic contests.

- Regarding the Medicaid provisions, the HR 1 increases the federal medical assistance percentages (FMAPs) for state Medicaid programs. The federal bill also provides an ad-

ditional FMAP adjustment based on rising state unemployment rates. For Virginia, this could mean an additional \$268 million in FY09 and \$288 million in FY10.

- For child care and early childhood education, Virginia's allocation is estimated at \$38 million plus another \$11 million for Head Start and Early Head Start.

- Community Action Agencies in Virginia could receive \$16 million for the community services block grant. The Commonwealth could be allocated \$19 million for the low-income home energy assistance program (LIHEAP). And, to serve children and families with special needs or at-risk adolescents, Virginia could receive \$10.2 million.

- For safe drinking water, Virginia's allocation could be \$21 million. No state match would be required, and half of the money would have to be used to assist local governments in the form of additional subsidies, forgiveness of principal, negative interest loans, and grants.

- Virginia could also receive money for public housing, section 8 housing, community development block grants, neighborhood stabilization programs, weatherization, and emergency shelter grants. No estimates, however, are available.

- Virginia's allocation under the Workforce Investment Act could increase by \$39 million. The VEC could receive \$14 million in additional money to administer unemployment insurance programs.

- Regarding clean water revolving funds, HR 1 could provide as much as \$124 million to Virginia. It appears that the money could be used to pursue nutrient reduction goals for wastewater treatment plants.

HR 1 also addresses some of the issues confronting local governments have encountered with capital markets. Tax policy changes include credits for school construction bonds as well as other construction needs of state and local governments.

**IN CONGRESS****Stimulus bills continued ...**

In Richmond, Gov. Tim Kaine and the General Assembly have to juggle the potential impact of the federal economic stimulus package with efforts to develop a new revenue forecast and House and Senate budget packages by Feb. 8. The enormity of the federal package along with the fluidity of the revenue situation

(e.g., How far down can the governor take the revenue forecast from the current \$2.9 billion December revision?) have some legislators thinking about finishing the work needed on FY09 and returning to Richmond in April to finish wrestling with FY10.

If this idea takes hold or fades, legislators have less than one-week to report. In either case, localities will not escape the whiplash. And, that is the backdrop for VML-VACo Legislative Day, which will take place on Thursday in Richmond (see below). ❖

**Legislative Day agenda filled with speakers, information**

This year's VML-VACo Legislative Day will have a little something for everyone who attends the event in downtown Richmond on Thursday (Feb. 5).

Find out the latest news on how bills in the General Assembly could affect local government, listen to an address by Gov. Tim Kaine, get briefed on the federal stimulus package, visit with legislators and attend a press conference on police funding. By the end of the day, local officials will have received an abundance of information, but more importantly, they will have made their voice heard in Richmond.

It is even more critical than usual that local officials engage in the legislative process. The economic downturn has hit all travel budgets, but VML encourages you to carpool and come to Richmond to make sure that local governments are not unduly saddled with state budget cuts – and that some good legislation makes its way to the governor for his signature.

The press conference is sponsored by the Virginia Association of Chiefs of Police, VML, Virginia First Cities and the Virginia Association of Counties. The goal is to have police chiefs and uniformed officers attend the press conference as well, so please encourage your chief to attend.

More than 350 local officials have registered for the event – if you haven't registered, it's not too late. The 2009 legislative session is nearing its midpoint.

The House Appropriations Committee and the Senate Finance Committee will present their respective budgets on Sunday, Feb. 8. Feb. 10 is cross over day – the day each house has to complete work on its own legislation.

Here is the agenda:

**VML-VACo Legislative Day – Feb. 5**

Richmond Marriott (5<sup>th</sup> and Broad streets)

11 a.m.	Registration
Noon	Program begins (box lunch provided)
12:15 p.m.	Keynote address: Gov. Tim Kaine
12:45 p.m.	Update on the federal stimulus package: Frank Shafroth, legislative aide, Congressman Jim Moran
1:05 p.m.	Staff briefing
2 p.m.	Adjournment and afternoon visits to Capitol Square
3 p.m.	Press conference on law enforcement funding, General Assembly Building, Capitol Square (room to be announced)
5:30-6:30 p.m.	Reception for local officials (cash bar)

## 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 the entire 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.

### Counsel to the Treasurer, Chesapeake

SALARY: \$50,842 (+) benefits. Research, analyze and advise city treasurer on state and local laws; review and negotiate treasurer's proposed local ordinances, state legislation and contracts; organize, file and/or litigate city bankruptcies before U.S. Bankruptcy Court; coordinate and conduct delinquent tax collections. Reqs. J.D., Va. State Bar Law license, and 2-plus yrs. relevant work exper. Prefer familiarity with bankruptcy and tax collection law; ability to search and interpret state code. For more info and/or to apply log-on to [www.jobs.cityofchesapeake.net](http://www.jobs.cityofchesapeake.net). Deadline: Feb. 10. EOE.

### Senior Water Resources Engineer, Northern Virginia Regional Commission

SALARY: Mid \$70,000s - mid \$80,000s DOQ (+) benefits. Administer Four Mile Run watershed mgmt. plan and Cameron Run watershed programs. Reqs. min. 4 yrs. exper. with SWMM and HSPF or BASINS; working knowledge or local exper. with No. Va. regional issues; working knowledge of ArcView GIS software. Thorough knowledge of TMDLs, bacteria issues, and NPDES MS4 Phase I and II permits desirable. Reqs. bachelor's degree in civil or environmental engineering, environmental science and/or environmental planning; master's or equiv. desirable; licensed PE preferred. Cover letter and resume to: NVRC, 3060 Williams Drive, Suite 510, Fairfax, VA 22031 or e-mail to [info@novaregion.org](mailto:info@novaregion.org). Deadline: March 15. EOE.

### Early Intervention Service Coordinator / Case Manager, Southside Community Services Board

SALARY: \$30,715 to start (+) benefits. Provide early intervention service coordination / case management services to designated consumers and their families receiving services through the Early Intervention (Part C) Program in the counties of Halifax, Mecklenburg and Brunswick. Reqs. valid driver's license, safe driving record, criminal history check (fingerprinting) and drug test. Submit req'd SCSB application to: Human Services Coordinator, Southside Community Services Board, P.O. Box 488, 424 Hamilton Blvd., South Boston, VA 24592. Applications available from above address or by calling 434/572-6916 or by logging-on to [www.sscsb.org](http://www.sscsb.org). # 0095. Open until filled.

### Police Officer, Kenbridge

SALARY: Negotiable DOQ (+) benefits. Must be 21; H.S. graduate or equiv.; no disciplinary action taken or held in abeyance within the past 12 mos.; no sustained citizen complaint within the past 18 mos. Obtain application from: Chief Jan R. Myers, Kenbridge Police Department, P.O. Box 478, Kenbridge VA 23944-0478 or call 434/676-2453. Deadline: Feb. 13. EOE.

### Town Manager, Dumfries

SALARY: \$ 95,000-\$125,000 start range DOQ/DOE (+) benefits. (Pop. 5,000) Reqs. educ. and exper. equiv. to relevant bachelor's degree (master's desirable); min. 5-7 yrs. public-mngmnt. exper. as chief administrative officer or in a responsible local govt. or private sector position. Residence req'd within negotiated distance of town. Submit resume to: John A. Anzivino, Springsted Inc., 1564 East Parham Road, Richmond, VA 23228, Phone: 804/726-9750, Fax: 804/726-9752, E-Mail: [richmond@springsted.com](mailto:richmond@springsted.com). For a complete community and position profile visit [www.springsted.com](http://www.springsted.com). Deadline: Feb. 23. EOE.

### Building Official, Colonial Beach

SALARY: DOQ/DOE (+) benefits. In addition to administration of State Building Codes, duties include scheduling and conducting various inspections on residential and commercial structures, detailed documentation and maintenance of files related to permits, review of plans, and responding to inquiries. Reqs. state certification or ability to obtain req'd state certification within 1 yr. Send resume, cover letter and two writing samples to Director of Building and Zoning, 18 N. Irving

Avenue, Colonial Beach, Virginia, 22443. Open until filled. EOE.

### County Administrator, Montgomery

SALARY: \$125,000-\$150,000 DOQ (+) benefits. (pop. 88,454) Population includes two large incorporated towns and Virginia Tech in 393 square miles; \$156.5 million general fund bdgt, including Montgomery County Schools (\$97.4 million). Plans, directs and coordinates overall operation of county govt.; responsible for 450 full / part-time employees; serves as chief administrative and operating officer. Reqs. relevant bachelor's degree and extensive public mngmnt. exper. in a chief or assistant chief administrative capacity in state or local govt. (master's preferred). Submit county application available at [www.montgomery-countyva.gov](http://www.montgomery-countyva.gov), letter of interest, resume and salary history to: Annette Perkins, Chair, Montgomery County Board of Supervisors, 1407 Valley View Drive, Blacksburg VA 24060. Deadline: March 16. EOE.

### Chief of Police, Suffolk

SALARY: \$89,313-\$147,366 DOQ/DOE (+) benefits. Organize and direct all Police Department operations, including patrol, investigation and support activities. Responsible for creating and administering the department budget, and monitoring expenditures. Reports to city manager. Reqs. relevant bachelor's degree and 10-15 yrs. progressively responsible exper. in law enforcement, including 3-5 yrs. of major command responsibility; or any equiv. comb. of training and exper. To apply: Complete city application available at: [www.suffolk.va.us/hr/](http://www.suffolk.va.us/hr/). Call HR at 757/514-4110 for more info. Open until filled. EOE.

### Chief of Police, Front Royal

SALARY: \$60,590-\$96,865 DOQ/DOE (+) benefits. (pop. 15,000). \$3 million bdgt., 36 sworn personnel and 11 non-sworn personnel. Direct, plan and organize all operations of the town's Police Department. Reports to town manager. Reqs. bachelor's degree in relevant field with leadership exper. in law enforcement. Municipal exper. a plus. Must possess DCJS police officer certification. Submit Town of Front Royal employment application, including cover letter, resume with salary history, and professional references via mail, e-mail or fax to: Julie A. Bush, Director of Human Resources, 16 N. Royal Ave., Front Royal, VA 22630; e-mail [jbush@frontroyalva.com](mailto:jbush@frontroyalva.com); fax; 540/631-9006. For questions call 540/635-3929. Deadline: Feb. 23. EOE.

*Continued on page 5*

## POSITIONS

### Other positions

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

#### Town Manager, Kilmarnock

SALARY: Negotiable DOQ/DOE (+) benefits. Deadline: March 31.

#### County Administrator, Goochland

SALARY: \$120,000-\$150,000 negotiable DOQ/DOE (+) benefits. Deadline: Feb. 16.

#### City Manager, Poquoson

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

#### Director of Finance, Suffolk

SALARY: Negotiable DOQ/DOE (+) benefits, including relocation. Open until filled.

#### Town Manager, Elkton

SALARY: DOQ/DOE (+) benefits. Open until filled. EOE.

#### Town Planner, Rocky Mount

SALARY: \$36,921-\$38,790 start range (+) benefits. Deadline: Feb. 6.

#### County Manager, Onslow County, N.C.

SALARY: DOQ/DOE (+) benefits. Deadline: Feb. 16.

#### Assistant Director of Finance / City Controller, Norfolk

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

#### Director of Economic Development, Waynesboro

SALARY: Negotiable DOQ/DOE (+) benefits. Open until filled.

#### Town Manager, Appomattox

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

#### County Administrator, Halifax

SALARY: \$115,000-\$140,000 DOQ (+) benefits. Deadline: Feb. 20.

**DEADLINE:** *The deadline for placing a job advertisement in the next issue of Update is Friday, Feb. 13. 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

### VML-VACo Legislative Day, Richmond, Feb. 5

Legislative briefings, trip to Capitol and reception. Cost is \$40, which includes box lunch. Richmond Marriott in downtown at 5th and Broad streets. Contact: Sherall Dementi and [sdementi@vml.org](mailto:sdementi@vml.org) or 804/523-8533.

### Virginia Community Healthcare Association Membership Meeting, Glen Allen, Feb. 18

More information at [www.vacommunity-health.org](http://www.vacommunity-health.org).

### VLGMA Winter Conference, Staunton, Feb. 18-20

Sessions, including a pre-conference workshop, will focus on managing communities during severe recession. To be held at the Stonewall Jackson Hotel and Conference Center. To register or for more information, visit [www.vlgma.org](http://www.vlgma.org) or contact Molly Harlow at [mjh3a@virginia.edu](mailto:mjh3a@virginia.edu) or Janet Areson at [jareson@vml.org](mailto:jareson@vml.org).

### Virginia Economic Developers Association Spring Conference, Williamsburg, March 12-13

More information at [www.goveda.org](http://www.goveda.org).

### National League of Cities Congressional Cities Conference, Washington, March 14-18

More information at [www.nlc.org](http://www.nlc.org).

### Virginia Association of Governmental Purchasing Spring Conference, Staunton, March 18-20

More information at [www.vagp.org/events/spring.html](http://www.vagp.org/events/spring.html).

### Virginia Association for Parks Annual Conference, Westmoreland County, March 19-21

More information at [www.virginiaparks.org](http://www.virginiaparks.org).

### Virginia Chapter of the American Planning Association Green Communities Conference, Williamsburg, March 25-27

More information at [www.apavirginia.org/events/2009/2009-annual-apa-virginia-conference/view](http://www.apavirginia.org/events/2009/2009-annual-apa-virginia-conference/view).

### Virginia Emergency Management Association Annual Conference, Hampton, March 31-April 3

More information at [www.vemaweb.com](http://www.vemaweb.com).

### Virginia Plumbing and Mechanical Inspectors Association 2009 VPMIA Annual School of Instruction, Winchester, April 1-3

More information at [www.vpmia.org](http://www.vpmia.org).

### Local Government Attorneys of Virginia 2009 Spring Conference, Charlottesville, April 2-4

More information at [www.coopercenter.org/lga](http://www.coopercenter.org/lga).

### Virginia Association for Management Analysis and Planning Spring Conference, Charlottesville, April 17

More information at <http://vamap.org/>.

### Virginia Municipal Clerks Association Annual Conference, Chesapeake, April 22-24

At Springhill Suites Marriott. Registration information, special hotel rates at [www.vmc.com/forms/UpcomingConferences.htm](http://www.vmc.com/forms/UpcomingConferences.htm).

### ICMA-SEI Leadership Institute, Charlottesville, April 25 - May 1.

More information at [www.vlgma.org](http://www.vlgma.org) or contact Felicia Logan, [flogan@icma.org](mailto:flogan@icma.org).

# Update

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