

Update

October 2, 2009



Oct. 18-20

The newsletter of the
Virginia Municipal League

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Kaine sets short timeline for Recovery Zone Bonds VML-VACo announce Recovery Act Bond Pool

Virginia cities and counties that received a much sought-after allocation to issue Recovery Zone Bonds have been put on notice: Use it or lose it.

Gov. Tim Kaine signed an executive order on Wednesday (Sept. 30) establishing rules and a timeline for local governments to use their allocations for Recovery Zone Bonds, authorized under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA). The majority of Virginia cities and counties have received allocations enabling them to issue Recovery Zone Bonds for both public and private projects. Once the taxable bonds (for public facilities) are issued, the federal government will pay 45 percent of interest costs for the life of the financing – typically 20 to 30 years.

The executive order makes clear that local governments must begin immediately to use their Recovery Zone allocations or risk losing them. The executive order provides a framework by which unused local

allocations may be swept up and redirected for use by other localities. Local governments must notify the governor's chief of staff by Nov. 2 of their intent to use their allocations, or they will be forfeited. By

Dec. 15, local governments must submit documentation showing they have designated a "Recovery Zone;" obtained appropriate approvals; received an opinion of bond counsel; and secured a commitment from a purchaser or underwriter of the Recovery Zone Bonds. Failure to submit these items will result in a forfeiture of the locality's allocation. All remaining unused allocations will be swept up by March 15, 2010.

VML/VACo bond issue will assist localities

Recognizing the challenge of meeting these deadlines, the Virginia Municipal League and Virginia Association of



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Higher VRS costs loom following recession

While net assets available to pay retirement benefits from the Virginia Retirement System trust fund have rebounded in recent months, local governments will have to deal with higher contribution rates in the next biennium.

Net assets of the trust fund, which plummeted from \$58.3 billion in October 2007 to \$38.9 billion in March, totaled \$46.4 billion on Sept. 10, according to VRS Executive Director Robert Schultze at recent meetings of the Senate Finance and

House Appropriations committees.

Using the current process for setting retirement rates, the VRS Board of Trustees could be certifying employer contribution rates for teachers in the 2010-2012 biennium as high as 13.3 percent. This figure, an increase of 4.52 percent from the current rate of 8.81 percent of payroll, does not include the 5 percent employee share that most school divisions pay on behalf of their employees. The increase

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FROM THE CAPITOL**Recovery Zone Bonds continued ...**

Counties have directed their financial services arm, VML/VACo Finance, to assemble a bond pool specifically for Recovery Zone Bonds issued to fund public facilities. The bond pool will make it easier for localities to take timely advantage of their allocations, achieve attractive bond pricing, and share costs of issuance.

“The deadlines for issuing Recovery Zone Bonds are challenging but achievable,” said Steven Mulroy, deputy direc-

tor of VML/VACo Finance. “VML and VACo are making it possible for local governments to issue Recovery Zone Bonds in compliance with the executive order. Without their approach, I doubt many local governments that received an allocation would be able to take advantage of this one-time opportunity to receive a 45 percent interest subsidy.”

VML and VACo have appointed four finance directors to serve as advisers on Recovery Zone Bonds. The panel

includes John Vithoulkas of Henrico County, Ann Shawver of the City of Roanoke, Allan Carmody of Chesterfield County and Vivian McGettigan of Hanover County. These individuals will advise VML and VACo on structuring the special bond issue.

For more information on Recovery Zone Bonds and the VML/VACo Recovery Act Bond Pool, contact VML/VACo Finance at 804/648-0635 or visit www.valocalfinance.org. ♦

VRS costs continued ...

would cost \$374.7 million, with the state contributing \$147.3 million and local governments paying the higher portion of \$227.4 million.

The Board of Trustees will certify retirement rates for teachers and state employees in October. The teacher rates will then be included in the process for updating education costs in preparation for the 2010-2012 state budget.

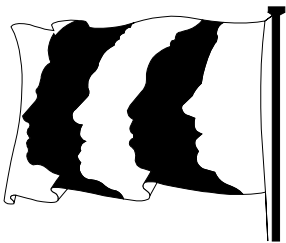
At the Senate Finance Committee meeting, Schultze outlined several policy options to change the current process of funding employee retirement. One option would be to amend

the current statute requiring the state to pay for the 5 percent employee share. The state could then have the employee pick up some portion of that 5 percent contribution. Under a second option, the required employee contribution would be raised to a higher percentage. The state would continue to pay the current 5 percent, but the employee would be on the hook for the remainder of the employee contribution. Another policy option would reduce benefits by increasing the age of retirement or by reducing the cost of living adjustment available to future retirees. Finally, the General

Assembly could consider a change from the current defined benefit retirement system to a defined contribution system, similar to a 401(k) plan, or to some hybrid of a defined benefit and defined contribution plan.

The only policy option that would immediately reduce the strain on the state budget is to require employees to contribute to the system. Costs savings from the other policy options would take 20 to 30 years to realize.

The presentations are available at <http://sfc.state.va.us/committeemeetings.shtml> and <http://hac.state.va.us/>. ♦

Details emerge on retirement benefits proposal

Political subdivisions participating in the Virginia Retirement System's group life insurance program would see a cost reduction of at least 0.27 percent of payroll under Gov. Tim Kaine's budget reduction plan submitted on Sept. 8.

Group life insurance premiums – at least the employer share – are proposed to be suspended for the period of April to June 2010. Because the group insurance plan covers state and local employees alike, the proposed premium holiday would be extended to local employers. The proposal would reduce funding for the group life program by \$34.59 million, which would consist of reduced contributions of \$26.1 million from political subdivisions and \$8.5 million in reduced contributions from the state. VRS staff has told VML staff that the savings to local governments would be a minimum of 0.27 percent of payroll.

The employer contributions for state employees and teachers to VRS also would be reduced under the budget reduction plan. The state – and school divisions that have elected to do so – would continue to pay the 5 percent employee contribution.

The projected savings in retirement contributions for teachers is \$179.4 million. State payments would decrease by \$51.3 million, while local contributions would decrease by \$128.1 million.

The budget plan also suspends contributions for the teacher retiree health care credit for the same three-month period. Suspending payment of the health care credit for teachers saves \$21.17 million; \$6.1 million of these savings would be realized by the state and the remaining \$15.07 million would be realized by localities.

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FROM THE CAPITOL

Retirement benefits proposal continued ...

The state also would realize savings through the suspension of other contributions, such as for the state sickness and disability program. In all, VRS calculates that the suspension of retirement and benefit contributions will cost the VRS trust fund \$338 million, a 14.1 percent reduction in contributions. The reduction comes at a time when the assets of the trust fund have lost about 20 percent of their value due to the recession. Reductions in contributions often are reflected in

higher rates over the long run.

Details were reviewed by VRS Executive Director Robert Schultze at a Sept. 17 meeting of the Senate Finance Committee.

A Sept. 18 memorandum from Superintendent of Public Instruction Pat Wright explained that 50 percent of the savings resulting from the budget reduction plan would be reflected in the third quarter payment of state aid for education, with the other 50 percent realized in the fourth quarter payment.

This could create cash flow issues for school divisions, which will have to make a full payment to VRS for the retirement and benefit programs in the third quarter, but will receive only 50 percent of what the state share would ordinarily be. In the fourth quarter, however, the VRS bill will reflect the premium holidays for the employer shares of the retirement and benefit programs. ♦

Board of Education rejects cap on support positions

Draft Standards of Quality adopted by the Virginia Board of Education on Sept. 27 do not include the cap on state funding for support positions that are a part of the current year's budget.

The cap, first proposed last December by Gov. Tim Kaine as part of a budget reduction plan, eliminates state funding for about 13,500 support positions. The cap saves the state about \$350 million a year.

The support cap, as originally introduced, was intended to direct state aid reductions outside the classroom. A consultant's report presented to the state board, however, showed that some of the funding under the "support" category is used to pay salaries for teachers. The board said it would study the possibility of establishing ratios for some of the support positions, but did not feel an across-the-board ratio was appropriate.

The budget for FY10 contains the cap but replaces some of the funding loss with federal stimulus dollars. The budget contains language stating that the cap is intended to be in place for this year only. The budget also directs the Department of Education to update (or rebenchmark) the costs of education for the 2010-2012 budget using two processes: one with the cap and one without.

The preliminary cost to rebenchmark with the cap in place is about

\$138.6 million for the biennium but is \$892.9 million if the cap is removed. The Department of Education acknowledges that a significant portion of state funding designated for non-instructional support positions is actually used to pay for teachers not recognized in the SOQ allocations. Rebenchmarking costs could increase as several factors remain to be updated, including the cost of retirement and fringe benefits and the effects of changes in the composite index.

Local governments, particularly those that have seen dramatic drops in assessments, are likely to be hit by the composite indexes, which typically are released in November. The re-computation of the composite index will be based on 2007 assessments, and will not reflect the recent downward in assessed valuation. The composite index is a measure of local ability-to-pay for education, and is based on assessed valuation of real estate, taxable sales, adjusted gross income, and population factors.

Another change to the SOQ proposed by the board moves language currently in the Appropriation Act to the Code of Virginia. Budget language in the Appropriations Act expires every two years. The proposals codify the current flexibility given school boards for use of some funds, including those for reading, English Language Learner (which used to be called English as Second Language), mathematics and technology positions.

Other proposed changes:

- Codify the current staffing ratios for a foundation education program in the SOQ.

- Move some incentive programs to the SOQ, including early reading intervention and algebra readiness. This move would make these programs mandatory for school divisions to offer, and local governments to fund the local share.

- Codify staffing standards currently in regulations for special education and career and technical education, as well as those for gifted education (currently in the appropriation act).

- Define the categories of support positions and specifically permit support funding to be spent on instructors.

The board was scheduled to hold four regional public hearings on the draft proposals on Sept. 30. It will adopt its final proposals in October. ♦



FROM THE CAPITOL

Legislature could alter any new stormwater regulations

Following nearly four years of navigating the state regulatory rule-making process, the Soil and Water Conservation Board is poised to adopt new stormwater regulations on Oct. 5 that will affect how development is regulated at the local level.

Given opposition to the proposed regulations from the development community, there is a good chance that the General Assembly may intervene to suspend and/or modify the adopted regulations during the 2010 legislative session.

In a recent meeting of the Joint Commission on Administrative Rules (JCAR), a bi-partisan legislative committee with the authority to review proposed regulations, legislators expressed concern that the proposal went beyond the legislative intent to regulate stormwater. Committee Chairman Sen. Frank Wagner of Virginia Beach indicated that he will reconvene the commission pending final action on the regulations by the board.

Under state law JCAR has the authority to:

- Suspend the effective date of any portion or all of a final regulation with the concurrence of the governor.
- Make recommendations to the governor and General Assembly for action based on its review of any proposed rule or regulation; and
- Review any existing agency rule, regulation, practice or the failure of an agency to adopt a rule and recommend to the governor and the General Assembly that a rule be modified, repealed or adopted.

As reported previously, the regulations have three major components. Parts I and II establish revised definitions and water quality and quantity criteria, the most significant of which is a more stringent standard for post-construction phosphorous loading that has the potential to increase development costs and inhibit infill and redevelopment. Part III defines the requirements for delegation of stormwater permitting and inspection to local governments. Under the 2004 Virginia Stormwater Management Law, all Chesapeake Bay Act localities and Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) permit localities will be required to adopt stormwater programs within 21 months of the scheduled effective date of July 1, 2010. Part XIII establishes the permit fees for regulated construction activities and mandates that local adopted programs remit 28 percent of fees to the Virginia Stormwater Management Program (VSMP) Fund to be administered by the Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR).

In written comments and public testimony before the board, VML recommended the following significant revisions to the proposed regulations:

- Separate the administration of the “VSMP General Permit for Discharges of Stormwater from Construction Activities” from the technical requirements to treat the discharge from post-construction stormwater runoff.
- Allow for delegation to local governments of the VSMP General Permit for Discharges of Stormwater from

Construction Activities beginning July 1, 2010 while maintaining the statutory deadline for adopting local administration of technical criteria for stormwater quality and quantity.

- Maintain the current statewide fee schedule for the VSMP General Permit for Discharges of Stormwater from Construction Activities and allow delegated local governments to permit and adopt their own fee schedules for the review, inspection and maintenance of stormwater Best Management Practices (BMPs) for post-construction runoff.

- Maintain the current standards of 0.45 lbs of phosphorous per acre per year for new development and the 10 percent reduction in phosphorous for redevelopment activities.

The final draft regulations under consideration by the board have been modified to address some of the concerns raised during the public comment period (responses to comments and final modifications will be posted at <http://www.dcr.virginia.gov/lawregs.shtml>). Particular to local governments, DCR is proposing to allow localities to establish higher fees than those specified in Part XIII should they demonstrate to the board that is necessary to sufficiently administer the qualifying local program.

The final public hearing and consideration of the regulations will be held in Richmond on Monday, Oct. 5, at 10:30 a.m. in the East Reading Room of the Patrick Henry Building adjacent the state Capitol.

Staff Contact: Joe Lerch / jlerch@vml.org ❖

Panel endorses legislation prodding landlords to deal with problem tenants

The problem is the rental house, perhaps occupied by college students, and a landlord who is indifferent or absent. The tenants throw parties long into the night, drink alcohol in the yard, violate the noise ordinance and cause the neighborhood to lose sleep. The police come and maybe hand out a ticket. Ten minutes after the police leave, the party resumes.

The Virginia Housing Commission has endorsed legislation written by VML and others to better deal with the prob-

lem. The legislation allows a city, town or county to adopt an ordinance to hold the landlord liable for a civil penalty if a tenant is charged three times or more in a 12-month period for violations of the noise ordinance, violations of the drunk in public laws or violations of public indecency – which is the typical charge when a person urinates in public. The Virginia courts have ruled that the term “in public” includes when a person is on his property, but can be seen from the

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FROM THE CAPITOL

Problem tenants continued ...

sidewalk or other public place.

VML participated in four work sessions of a subgroup of the Housing Commission over the summer to develop the compromise legislation. The original idea came from Del. David Bulova of Fairfax County. The impetus for the legislation arose from college housing in Fairfax – single family homes converted to rentals that became party destinations.

The proposal is limited to residen-

tial properties with four or fewer units. This compromise is justified because typically, in larger rental complexes, a manager is on site to keep track of tenants' actions. The proposal is limited to violations of the noise, drunk-in-public or indecency laws by the tenants. Government participants had proposed that guests and invitees who violate the laws be subject to the ordinance. However, as a compromise, since the tenant is responsible for the conduct of his or her

guests, the legislation is limited to the actions of the tenants.

VML believes this effort will assist localities that choose to adopt the ordinance to prod uninterested landlords into tending to their properties. This will, in turn, help neighbors who now suffer without practical recourse when tenants throw parties and disrupt the neighborhood. ❖

THE ECONOMY

Sinking state and local revenues squeeze local services

As the first quarter of FY10 draws to a close, funding for local services becomes more urgent in the face of declining state and local tax collections. Here is a snapshot of the issues local governments across the state are confronting today and in next year's budget development.

The **City of Hopewell** voted Sept. 22 to increase the city's personal property tax from \$3.05 to \$3.50 per \$100 of assessed value. The increase is to offset a loss of almost \$600,000 in tax revenue due to a drop in personal property values, especially of automobiles.

According to **Rockingham County** Administrator, Joe Paxton, residents can either have help paying for schools or they can foot the bill themselves. Voters will weigh in at the polls this November on a proposed 4 percent meals tax dedicated to county schools. The tax would generate an estimated \$600,000 to \$700,000 annually. Paxton told the county school board that "if the meals tax does not pass, the county may have to raise real estate and personal property taxes." The administrator also informed the school board that state budget cuts make raising additional revenue a must. This is the second time in two years that the Rockingham County Board of Supervisors has tried to implement a meals tax.

In **Loudoun County**, the Board of Supervisors was told by the county's administrator of a \$176 million budget

deficit *this year* because of a revenue shortfall of \$97 million and a \$79 million increase in spending. The biggest cost increases are in education, including \$8 million for health insurance and \$47 million to cover a projected influx of 3,556 students. The chairman of the board of supervisors called last year's budget a "piece of cake" compared with what the board faces this year. The county is also considering creating a \$200,000 reserve fund from surplus transient occupancy taxes in anticipation of lower tax collections. The board's economic development committee expects fewer local general fund dollars to be available for economic development projects.

Fairfax County already has begun its FY11 budget development process. In a presentation designed for community dialogues, general fund revenue projections are expected to decline by more than 7 percent in FY11 and by another 2.8 percent in FY12. To balance the FY10 budget, the county held employee compensation at the FY09 level, reduced funding in nearly every agency for a savings of \$92 million, eliminated 306 positions, kept the transfer of county funds to the schools at the FY09 level, increased the real estate tax rate by 12 cents, and implemented fee increases.

Chesterfield County is projecting a \$38 million shortfall in the FY11 budget due to a drop of \$20 million in

revenue and additional expenditures of \$18 million. The lower revenue projection is likely to hit county schools the most, resulting in the second-year-in-a-row that the county will have reduced school funding. Clover Hill School Board Member Dianne Pettitt pointed out that achievement standards for all of Virginia's public schools are becoming more demanding just to be accredited. About 64 percent of the schools' budget is for instructional staff and their benefits. For FY10, the county expects \$3.8 million to be cut from state funding, including \$2.1 million from sales tax revenue that goes to the schools, \$784,000 for constitutional offices, and \$591,000 earmarked for local law enforcement.

In the **City of Suffolk**, city council is discussing the possibility of implementing a monthly fee for regular garbage, curbside-recycling and bulk waste services, beginning in FY11. If the fee is applied equally, the monthly fee for residential, bulk and recycling services would be roughly \$14. Any proposal to begin charging for trash pickup would be made as part of the regular budget process.

The city manager told the **Norfolk City Council** this week that the economic downturn has so parched tax revenue that she projects a \$29 million shortfall for next fiscal year, which assumes no pay raises or additional programs. To keep the current FY10 bud-

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THE ECONOMY

Sinking state and local revenues continued ...

get in balance will require further cuts and an extension of the hiring freeze.

The cities of **Portsmouth** and **Staunton** are applying for Virginia Enterprise Zone designation. The state program provides state incentives for business investments made in areas with high unemployment, low adjusted gross incomes, large numbers of children who receive reduced-price or free lunches, and other criteria. Staunton City Coun-

cil approved new *local* incentives that would provide a 50 percent reimbursement of the machinery and tools tax for three years for companies that invest \$1 million in such equipment, grants for companies with a least 15 high-paying jobs, up to \$3,000 in incentives for high-tech and R&D companies, marketing reimbursement for destination retail companies, and deferral of reassessments for property value improvements

of 40 percent. As part of his plan to address a revenue shortfall of \$1.2 billion, Gov. Tim Kaine is reducing funding for state incentive grants provided to businesses located in enterprise zones by \$1.3 million, resulting in a proration of benefits owed to businesses. This could hurt efforts by localities to encourage investments in the state-designated enterprise zones. ❖

ETCETERA

Reminder: Oct. 2 video conference to explain federal bay initiative

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency is developing a program designed to remove the Chesapeake Bay and its network of waterways from the national "impaired" waters list by strictly limiting excessive nitrogen, phosphorus and sediment discharges and runoff.

The Virginia Department of Environmental Quality and the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation are cooperating with EPA to hold an initial public meeting via video conference from 1 p.m. until 4 p.m. Oct. 2 that will provide information regarding the process, approach and implications of this action.

There are two ways to participate:

1) Attend the live meeting at DEQ's downtown Richmond headquarters or a web presentation at one of their five regional offices in the bay watershed

(see below). By attending at one of these sites, participants can have their questions forwarded to the speakers in Richmond for a response.

2) Register to participate via webinar from your home or office computer. You can register at www2.gotomeeting.com/register/835236938. The number of webinar registrants is limited to the first 1,000. If there are other people in your office or area interested in the meeting, view the webinar together, if possible. Webinar participants will be able to hear remarks and questions and see all materials presented.

Advance registration is required for the webinar only and not required if you are planning to participate at one of the DEQ locations.

Video conference at one of the following DEQ offices:

Central Office: 629 E. Main

St., Richmond, (meeting home site)
804/698-4000.

Blue Ridge Regional Office: 7705 Timberlake Road, Lynchburg, 434/582-5120.

Northern Regional Office: 13901 Crown Court, Woodbridge, 703/583-3800.

Piedmont Regional Office: 4949-A Cox Road, Glen Allen, 804/527-5020.

Tidewater Regional Office: 5636 Southern Blvd. Virginia Beach, 757/518-2000.

Valley Regional Office: 4411 Early Road, Harrisonburg, 540/574-7800.

More information on this process and how the public can provide input can be found at www.epa.gov/chesapeakebaytmdl.

Staff Contact: Joe Lerch / jlerch@vml.org. ❖

Lead Virginia accepting applications for 2010 class

Lead Virginia, a statewide leadership forum, is accepting applications for its upcoming 2010 class. Lead Virginia is a non-partisan, nonprofit organization that is creating a network of leaders with a shared vision for Virginia's future.

Each year Lead Virginia selects a group of 45 senior executives representing business, government, nonprofit and education sectors. The program

consists of seven visits to different regions of the state to explore curriculum themes of the economy, education and healthcare. Participants learn through a study of trends and analysis how Virginia can best position itself for future economic vitality and educational and workforce performance. Class members are exposed to challenges facing seven diverse regions and gain an understanding of the resources and assets each

region contributes to the greater whole. The class program includes a monthly visit to a different region beginning in April and concluding in November.

For an application, 2010 class schedule or more information about Lead Virginia, visit www.leadvirginia.org or e-mail Susan Horne, president and CEO, at shorne@leadva.org. The deadline for class of 2010 applications is Jan. 15. ❖

ETCETERA

Bryant to address green building awards luncheon

Virginia Secretary of Natural Resources Preston Bryant will speak at the James River Chapter of the U.S. Green Building Council's award luncheon on Nov. 18 at the Virginia Historical Society in Richmond.

Local government representatives who attend the 5th Annual Green Building Leadership Awards luncheon will

also have a chance to meet with executives from companies that are actively supporting a variety of energy-efficient, sustainable building projects across central Virginia.

For more details, visit www.jrgbc.org/jrgbc-annual-green-building-leadership-awards-luncheon. ❖

AT THE LEAGUE

NLC committees accepting nominations for 2010

Nov. 20 is the deadline for local elected officials to submit their interest in serving on any standing committee, council or panel for the National League of Cities in 2010. Officials must be from a local government that is a member of NLC.

NLC has pushed back the deadline until after the Congress of Cities in San Antonio (Nov. 10-14) in order to give NLC members more of an opportunity to learn about the various committees, councils, and panels while at the conference. Appointments will be announced in late January, and the first meeting for all of these groups will be held at the Congressional-City Conference, March 13-17, in Washington.

NLC's committees, councils and panels offer local officials the opportunity to learn more about particular

issues facing communities across the country.

Nominations are due Nov. 20 for the following groups:

Policy and Advocacy Steering Committees*: Community & Economic Development; Energy, Environment & Natural Resources; Finance, Administration & Intergovernmental Relations; Human Development; Information Technology & Communications; Public Safety & Crime Prevention; Transportation Infrastructure & Services.

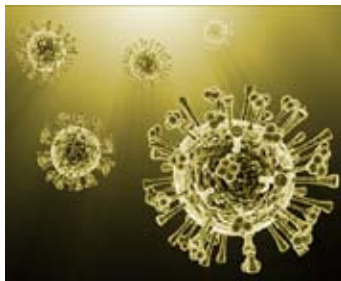
Member Networking Council: Large Cities Council; First-Tier Suburbs Council; Small Cities Council; University Communities Council.

City Futures Panels: Community & Regional Development Panel; Democratic Governance Panel; Public Finance Panel.

Other Advisory Groups: Corporate Partners Leadership Council; Council on Youth, Education and Families; International Council; Leadership Training Council.

* **NOTE:** *The steering committees are subgroups of the full policy committees. The steering committees meet two times in addition to the meetings held at the Congressional-City Conference and the Congress of Cities. While each state gets a certain number of slots for each policy committee, appointments to steering committees are a competitive process, with openings only for about 35 participants from across the country. VML will provide more information about policy committee nominations later this year, with nominations for those committees due in January.* ❖

Health commissioner to speak on H1N1 flu at VML Annual Conference



The H1N1 (swine flu) vaccine is on schedule for distribution beginning in October. The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) expects vaccine deliveries to equal 20 million doses a week by the end of the month.

This past summer, the CDC conducted an analysis of preparations for a surge of patients in a flu pandemic or to quickly distribute vaccine and antiviral drugs. This analysis included two communities in Virginia. The CDC's analysis found that many communities had failed to take crucial steps during a pandemic, such as recruiting volunteer health care workers, creating tracking systems for hospital beds and medical equipment, and determin-

ing how to manage a patient load that exceeds emergency room capability.

VML has scheduled a workshop on H1N1 preparation for communities to be held Monday, Oct. 19, during the VML Annual Conference in Roanoke.

Virginia Health Commissioner Karen Remley will conduct the workshop, providing information about best practices for community preparation, and answer questions about responding to a flu pandemic. ❖

FROM THE CAPITOL

Federal funding for safe, drug-free schools and communities jeopardized



The future of funding to school systems and communities from the federal Safe and Drug-Free Schools and Communities Act does not look promising. Program funding has decreased since 2004, and both the President's and the House of Representatives' budget eliminated the funding for fiscal year 2010. Funding also has been eliminated in a Senate Appropriations subcommittee.

On Sept. 23, the Virginia Commission on Youth received a report on the program from Cynthia Cave, director of the office of student services at the Virginia Department of Education.

Cave told the commission that in 2009, Virginia school divisions received \$4.04 million in funding from the program. This funding was used for drop out and gang prevention programs, substance use disorder prevention, school safety training, bullying and truancy prevention, and alternative education.

In addition to school divisions, local community services boards (CSBs) receive funds from this program (\$420,000 in 2006), as well as local law enforcement (\$200,000 in 2006) to sup-

port school resource officers.

Funding from this program also helps the state comply with state and federal reporting requirements (such as Standards of Accreditation safety indicators for School Performance Report Cards and the Federal Gun-Free Schools Act report). The state also uses program funding to pay for data efforts to support federally-required reports under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) and No Child Left Behind.

Finally, the program funds some efforts undertaken by the Governor's Office of Substance Abuse Prevention.

The commission discussed possible courses of action. Commission members agreed that it was important to communicate with Virginia's senators about the importance of this program to school divisions and the state. They emphasized that many people did not realize that program funding was used to engage at-risk students, and the importance of this funding to promote substance abuse prevention, safety, and violence prevention. ♦

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 the entire 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 "Market-place" to read the complete descriptions.

City Manager, Roanoke

SALARY: Negotiable DOQ/DOE (+) benefits. (Pop. 93,000). Two managers since 1990. Located in a valley immediately west of the Blue Ridge Mountains, Roanoke is a full service (independent) city, a pleasant, family-oriented community and a great place to live and work. Recreational activities abound. Seeking manager who is community oriented and who will partner with elected officials to bring Roanoke to its full potential. For additional information, go to www.cb-asso.com and click on "Active Recruitments." To apply, e-mail

resume to: RecruitThree@cb-asso.com. Questions to Colin Baenziger at 561/707-3537. Deadline: Oct. 23. EOE.

Executive Director – Louisa Arts Center, Town of Louisa

SALARY: Negotiable. Responsible for management, organization and direction of the daily operations of the center, including fundraising, coordinating and training volunteers and staff; and scheduling and overseeing events in the theatre, gallery and studio spaces. Will work directly with the chair of the Board of Directors. Job posting at www.louisarts.org. Send resume to: pam@louisatitle.com or fax to 540/967-2642. Deadline: Oct. 12. EOE.

Fire Chief, Bluefield, W.Va.

SALARY: \$40,200 (+) benefits. Perform technical, administrative and supervisory work in planning, organizing, directing and implementing fire prevention, suppression and other emergency services. Works under direction of city manager. Reqs. H.S. graduate or equiv.; completion of the NFPA 1021 Fire Officer IV or equiv.; completion of a Hazmat Technician course,

considerable command exper., including not less than 10 yrs. progressively responsible FT fire suppression exper.; must have performed min. 2 yrs. of consistent administrative and/or supervisory duties with a FT fire dept. Submit application and/or resume to: Angie Foley, Human Resource Director, P.O. Box 4100, Bluefield, W.Va. 24701; e-mail: angie.foley@cityofbluefield.com. Deadline: Oct. 31. EOE.

Principal Planner, Suffolk

SALARY: \$55,892-\$71,263 DOQ/DOE (+) benefits. Work involves providing information and assisting the general public and departmental employees with issues pertaining to zoning, subdivision, and other land use ordinances. Work also involves coordinating the preparation of reports about planning and development activities. Responsible for assisting the comprehensive planning manager on implementation of the Unified Development Ordinance and Comprehensive Plan with particular emphasis on housing and redevelopment initiatives and in preparation of long-range planning studies and other studies for orderly growth and development. Reqs. relevant bachelor's degree (master's preferred); 6-9 yrs. exper.

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POSITIONS

in urban planning; or any equiv. comb. of training and exper. Prefer AICP certification. Apply online at www.suffolk.va.us/hr/. Call 757/514-4110 for additional info. Open until filled. EOE.

Communications Director, Prince William County

SALARY: \$82,072-\$151,014 DOQ/DOE (+) benefits. Located 30 minutes south-west of Washington in Northern Virginia. For more information and to apply, refer to Web site at www.pwcgov.org/jobs/ap-plynow or call 703/792-6640. Deadline: Oct. 9. EOE.

Human Resources Director, Winchester

SALARY: \$70,000-\$100,000 (+) benefits. Responsible for city's centralized human resource functions (appx. 500 FTE), including payroll and benefits, as well as training and development. Advises city manager and city council on HR matters; assists in development of city's operating bdtg; consults with city depts. on matters related to recruitment, selection, classification, compensation, performance mngmnt. and employee relations. Req's. relevant bachelor's degree (master's preferred) and significant exper. in HR. Apply: City Manager, Rouss City Hall, 15 N. Cameron St., Winchester, VA 22601. www.winchesterva.gov/employment; TDD 540/722-0782. Open until filled. EOE.

Contract Manager, Falls Church

SALARY: \$65,000 (+) benefits. Organize, develop and implement contract functions for the Department of Environmental Services. Req's. relevant bachelor's degree; 2 yrs. of contract development work exper.; knowledge of laws and ordinance requirements of public sector contract administration; knowledge of supply sources, contractors, bidders and market and price trends. Submit resume or application to: City of Falls Church, Human Resources Division, 300 Park Ave., Falls Church, VA 22046, or via e-mail at hr@fallschurchva.gov. See www.fallschurchva.gov for additional info. Open until filled. EOE.

Systems Analyst II, Virginia Beach

SALARY: \$58,558-\$87,837 DOQ/DOE (+) benefits. Perform project management tasks in the Department of Communications and Information Technology, as well as technical analysis tasks associated with

software implementation, and application enhancements. For more info. and to apply on-line, visit www.vbgov.com/careers. Deadline: Oct. 18. EOE.

County Attorney (part-time), Prince George

SALARY: Negotiable w/prorated benefits. Work appx. 30 hrs. per week. Serves at pleasure of Board of Supervisors and reqs. extensive county and/or municipal local govt. legal knowledge and exper. Must attend all Board of Supervisor meetings; provide legal advice and representation to board members and county government staff when requested or req'd to fulfill the code-required responsibilities of local govt. Must be eligible to practice law in Va. and possess a degree from accredited law school. To apply, visit www.princegeorgeva.org or call 804/722-8669. Open until filled. EOE.

Director of Operations, Fauquier County Water and Sanitation Authority

SALARY: \$81,274-\$118,401 (+) benefits. Administers and implements the planning, organizing and operation of authority's treatment facilities, water distribution and sewage collection systems. Req's. bachelor's degree in civil, sanitary, or electrical engineering and min. 8 yrs. progressively responsible exper. in the operation and maintenance of public water supply and sewerage disposal systems, including 4 yrs. at a responsible supervisory level. Any equiv. comb. of educ. and exper. that provides the req'd knowledge, skills and abilities may be substituted as determined by the general manager. Possession of current Va. Water and Wastewater Works Operators Certificate desirable. Applications are only available from and accepted at the VEC in Culpeper. For information, call 540/829-7432. Open until filled. EOE.

Other positions

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

Finance Director, Mount Jackson

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

Manager of Transportation Planning, Portsmouth

SALARY: \$48,729 (+) benefits. Open until filled.

Human Resources Director, Manassas Park

SALARY: \$77,699-\$95,000 hiring range DOQ/DOE (+) benefits. Deadline: Oct. 2.

Assistant County Administrator, Isle of Wight

SALARY: \$83,954-\$107,041 start range DOQ/DOE (+) benefits. Open until filled.

County Manager, Arlington

SALARY: \$200,000's DOQ/DOE (+) benefits. Preference given to applications received by Sept. 25.

Police Chief, Paris, Ky.

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

County Executive, Prince William

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

Chief of Police, Woodstock

SALARY: \$65,000-plus DOQ/DOE (+) benefit. Deadline: Oct. 16.

Assistant City Manager, Fredericksburg

SALARY: \$92,447-\$110,937 DOQ/DOE (+) benefits. Deadline: Oct. 16.

Executive Director, Southside Community Services Board

SALARY: \$89,000-\$115,000 start range DOQ/DOE (+) benefits. Deadline: Oct. 5.

Chief of Police, Farmville

SALARY: \$60,000-\$80,000 DOQ/DOE (+) benefits. (pop. appx. 7,000) Deadline: noon Oct. 1.

DEADLINE: The deadline for placing a job advertisement in the next issue of Update is Friday, Oct. 9. 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.

Update

The newsletter of the
Virginia Municipal League

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