



Scan code to download app.
Use the app to view a Detailed
Agenda of Workshop Descriptions,
Speakers, and Sponsors.



SMALL TOWNS CONFERENCE

2026

The Chincoteague Center
6155 Community Drive, Chincoteague, VA 23336

AGENDA

Wednesday, May 13

12:30 - 1:00 PM

Registration

Welcome

Denise Bowden - Mayor, Town of Chincoteague

1:00 - 4:30 PM

Tools & Materials for Building Communities

Matthew Ebinger - Senior Planner, Timmons Group

Joe Moore - Assistant Director of Infrastructure (NC), Timmons Group

Thomas Ruff - Senior Project Manager: Transportation Planning, Analysis, & Design,
Timmons Group

An interactive workshop on the many components of community building, such as zoning & land use, working with stakeholders, historic preservation, community resiliency, and economic development.

Break snacks courtesy The Island Creamery (voted #1 in the country!)

5:00 - 6:30 PM

VML Reception - Steamers Restaurant

Thursday, May 14

8:30 - 9:00 AM

Registration / Continental Breakfast

Welcome

Dwayne Tuggle, VML President, Mayor, Town of Amherst

Denise Bowden - Mayor, Town of Chincoteague

9:00 - 9:45 AM

What Your Attorney Wants You to Know

Jan Proctor - County Attorney, Accomac County

9:45 - 10:15 AM

Local Government Finance

Bob Lauterberg, Partner & Member of the Commission on Local Government,
VML/VACo Finance

10:15 - 10:30 AM

Break

Snacks courtesy Chincoteague Chamber of Commerce & Town of Chincoteague

10:30 - 11:15 AM

New Marijuana Laws and the Workplace

Marcus Hensel, Managing Director, Virginia Risk Sharing Association

11:15 AM - Noon

The Federal Reserve & Rural Virginia

Jason Smith - Senior Community Development Advisor, Federal Reserve Bank of Richmond

Noon - 12:45 PM

Lunch

Continues on reverse side >

- 12:45 - 2:00 PM **Behind the Curtain**
Will Pace, Vice Mayor/Legislative Assistant, Town of Chatham/Delegate Otto Wachsmann
Laura Jane Cohen, Delegate/Town Administrator, Virginia House of Delegates/Town of Clifton
Ron Jordan, Managing Director, Advantus Strategies
- 2:00 - 2:30 PM **General Assembly Updates**
VML Staff
- 2:30 - 2:45 PM **Remarks by the Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay**
Tom Leigh, Local Government Specialist
- 2:45 - 3:00 PM **Break**
- 3:00 - 4:00 PM **Council/Manager Relations**
Dwayne Tuggle, VML President, Mayor, Town of Amherst
Sarah McGuffin, Town Manager, Town of Amherst
- 4:00 - 4:30 PM **Host Town Discussion**
Michael Tolbert, Town Manager, Town of Chincoteague
Bryan Rush, Director of Emergency Services Emergency Management, Town of Chincoteague
- 5:00 - 6:30 PM **Virginia American Water Reception - Ropewalk Restaurant**

Friday, May 15

- 8:30 - 9:00 AM **Continental Breakfast**
- 9:00 - 10:00 AM **Downtown Revitalization**
Heather Lyne, Director of Entrepreneurial Ecosystems, 1717 Innovation Center
- 10:00 - 11:00 AM **Social Media for Towns**
C. Holland Perdue, Mayor, Town of Rocky Mount

Wifi Information

Network: **My Spectrum-5G**

Password: **swiftturkey296** (all lower case).

Event Sponsors



Town of
Chincoteague
Beautiful Land Across the Water



Year-Round Sponsors

