

VTC

VIRGINIA
TOWN & CITY

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THE MAGAZINE OF THE VIRGINIA MUNICIPAL LEAGUE



GETTING TO KNOW

The American Rescue Plan Act of 2021



Also inside:

Strategic Planning: A valuable tool for small communities

The Towns of Loudoun:
Welcome to Middleburg



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ABOUT THE COVER

ARPA!
ARPA!
ARPA!
Oh, and...ARPA!

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Beyond the (COVID) bubbles

MASKS ARE GONE, the state of emergency is gone, so what is next? I must admit that I had a meeting on my schedule last week and, just before it was to start, I realized I did not have a Zoom link. Figuring the organizer had forgotten to send one, I sent an email and received a reply that said, "Well, we are meeting in person."

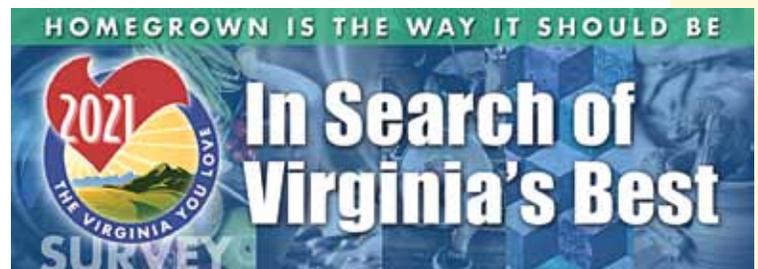
"What?" I thought, "I have to go to a big office building and sit with others?" It was one of my first realizations that maybe we are allowed to spend time outside our "COVID bubbles" and start doing work face-to-face again. It used to be people wanted to "party like it's 1999." Now I think we should look forward to "meeting like it's 2019!"

Which brings me to the topic of in-person events. Beginning in July, VML is wading back into the meetings-in-person space, and I think we are all wondering if people will come. Judging from the initial registrations, it looks like there are many who are ready to be with other people again. But even those of us who are comfortable congregating wonder what should we talk about and how should we be with each other? As VML staff spoke with our colleagues nationwide we heard about ideas that included having event attendees wear colored bracelets (red, yellow, or green) depending on their level of "comfort to be touched." Similarly, some asked do you require attendees to wear a sign that says "vaccinated" or do you just hope everyone is respectful and communicates well? VML chose the "please be respectful" approach and we have every reason to believe our members will rise to the occasion.

Beyond how we meet, there is the important question of what we do while we are together. We had many internal discussions on what sort of programs to offer our attendees and finally decided that while there should be plenty of learning offered, it's equally important that we simply have time together without a lot of structure or one-sided lectures. We got enough of those on Zoom!

Our first in-person events will be our Newly Elected Officials event on July 15 and the Mayors Institute on July 15-16. Both will be at the Omni Hotel in downtown Charlottesville. While the inevitable Freedom of Information Act and Conflict of Interest Act must be discussed, the rest of the program for each event are designed for interaction and sharing experiences. Hopefully, these will be fun (and educational) events and if you have not signed up, please do! More information is available at www.vml.org.

The July/August issue of the magazine will feature some cool Virginia places and things. It is always fun to see what unique things Virginia's localities have to offer. I was reminded of this last week when I traveled to Leesburg to talk about the 2021 Annual Conference. There are so many enticing places and towns, each with so many things to see, on the way to Leesburg. I was disappointed I could not stop at more than one! If you haven't already told us about your favorite Virginia places and things, it's not too late! Maybe some of your favorites will be in the magazine. You can find out more about the contest at www.vml.org/the-virginia-you-love-survey.



If you have been following the magazine articles on the Towns of Loudoun, you have already seen how some of Virginia's smallest localities can provide many unique places to visit and lots of food to try! I have also been following a gentleman from the radio show "the Bobby Bones Show" as he walks from West Virginia to Tennessee for the non-profit National Angels group. His photos from Virginia localities such as Lebanon, Abingdon, Bluefield, and Bristol were great reminders of other fantastic places to visit!

So, I hope that everyone is able to get out of their bubble, take a post-COVID vacation, explore some of Virginia's amazing localities, and remember that VML looks forward to seeing all of you soon at either our Newly Elected Officials or Mayors Institute events and, a bit later this year, at our Annual Conference in October!



- July 15, 2021** **Newly Elected Officials Conference**
Omni Hotel, 212 Ridge McIntire Rd, Charlottesville, VA 22903
- July 15-16, 2021** **Virginia Mayors Institute**
Omni Hotel, 212 Ridge McIntire Rd, Charlottesville, VA 22903
- Oct. 3 - 5, 2021** **Virginia Municipal League Annual Conference**
Lansdowne Resort, 44050 Woodridge Pkwy, Leesburg, VA 20176

PEOPLE

Turille is Petersburg's new manager

On July 1, **Stuart Turille Jr.** began work as the City of Petersburg's new manager.



- Turille -

A native of Lynchburg, Turille comes to Petersburg from Essex County where he has served as deputy county administrator since October 2018. Prior to that, Turille was the town manager in North Topsail Beach, NC, and town administrator for the Town of St. Pauls, NC.

Turille replaces Aretha Ferrell-Benavides who left in February to become the new city manager for Duncanville, TX.

In a press release, Mayor Sam Parham stated: "With the progress of our community in mind, we are confident in our selection and look forward to working with Mr. Turille in continuing to move the City of Petersburg forward."

In the same press release, Turille said: "I know that this city has tremendous potential, and my mission will be to realize it to the fullest."

Turille holds a master of public administration from Florida State University, a master of arts in international affairs from George Washington University and a bachelor of arts in English from the University of Virginia.

Danville hires three new gang, violence prevention workers

Thanks to a grant from the U.S Department of Justice's Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, the City of Danville has added three youth and gang violence prevention outreach workers to its workforce.

The new hires are part of the expansion of its workforce readiness program for gangs

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PEOPLE

and at-risk youth, Project Imagine which was selected as for the President's Award in VML's 2019 Innovation Awards.



- Frazier -



- Martin -



- Artis -

The three youth and gang violence prevention outreach workers are **Shakeva Frazier**, **Chad Martin** and **Curtis Artis** all of whom have been in the position since the spring. The grant will fund the three positions for three years.

Each of the new hires are assigned as many as 13 youth that are referred to Project Imagine by police department, courts, schools, and parents. They then work with agencies in the community and the families to meet the needs of the youth they are assigned.

Robert David, the city's gang violence prevention and youth services coordinator, has worked with youths for most of his career. Project Imagine was implemented through a partnership with the Virginia Workforce Center and the Virginia Department of Juvenile Justice. The nine-week training and employment program designed by David gives youths with gang connections a future off the streets by providing them with paid work experience as well as mentoring while on the job.

Loudoun County welcomes Fernández as director of the Department of Family Services

As of May 13, **Ina Fernández** is the new director of the Loudoun County Department of Family Services. She has been serving as acting director since June 2020.



- Fernández -

Fernández has more than 30 years of professional experience, which includes a foundation in social work. Prior to joining Loudoun County as deputy director of the Department of Family Services in 2018, Fernández served in key roles in the Fairfax County Government, including as director of the Children, Youth and Family Division

Pennington Gap vice mayor and husband recognized with President's Volunteer Service awards

In early June, Town of Pennington Gap Vice Mayor (and VML board member) **Jill Carson** and her husband **Ron Carson** became recipients of the President's Volunteer Service Award. Jill received a Silver award and Ron was honored with a Gold award for 500 hours of service to the country. Both Carsons serve or have served on numerous volunteer organizations with Ron serving on the 400 Years of African-American History Commission and Jill being active in Virginia Organizing as well as serving on council. The pair have also achieved national recognition as the founders of the Appalachian African American Cultural Center in Pennington Gap.



The Carsons will serve as facilitators for a discussion on race relations with the House and Senate.

According to the official website, the President's Volunteer Service award was created in 2003 by the President's Council on Service and Civic Participation to "recognize the important role of volunteers in America's strength and national identity. This award honors individuals whose service positively impacts communities in every corner of the nation and inspires those around them to take action, too."

of the Fairfax County Department of Family Services and as director of the Office for Women & Domestic and Sexual Violence Services.

As the director of the Department Family Services Director, Fernández oversees a department that administers a wide variety of programs and services that assist Loudoun's children, families, persons with disabilities and older adults.

Fernández holds a bachelor's degree in political science and Spanish from Gettysburg College and a master's degree in social work from Virginia Commonwealth University.

Madison's Foley chosen as first Climbing Higher award recipient



- Foley -

Sean Foley of the Town of Madison is the first recipient of the Municipal Electric Power Association of Virginia and the Fallen Lineman Foundation "Climbing Higher" award. Foley was nominated by his classmates and chosen by the program's instructors.

Recipient characteristics include:

- Pride in their work
- Resilience and fortitude
- Dedication to the profession
- Commitment to safety
- Recognizes PLW as more than a career, it is a lifestyle
- Has the backs of their brothers and sisters in the field

The Fallen Lineman Foundation provides financial support to electric utility linemen injured on the job. More information about the foundation is available at www.fallenlinemenfoundation.com.

Settlemyer is the new manager for the City of Galax



- Settlemyer -

Following the retirement of former City Manager Keith Barker, the City of Galax council – assisted by The Berkley Group out of Bridgewater – conducted a national search for a new city manager. After winnowing a pool of 35 applicants down to five finalists, city council approved the appointment of **Matthew Lee Settlemyer** as the new city manager.

In a press release, Mayor Willie Greene stated: "We are glad to welcome Mr. Settlemyer to our community and look forward to his leadership of the city workforce and in the implementation of the Council's vision for the community. City Council was impressed by his knowledge, experience, and demeanor and believes that Matt will be an excellent fit for Galax and the region. We are gaining a credentialed manager with a track record of achievement in community development, financial planning, grant writing and project management."

Settlemyer, who began his new job on July 1, has more than 25 years of experience working in local government. During the early part of his career, he served as a solid

waste/recycling director, public works director, and town manager in several communities in North Carolina. He also served as the town manager of Drexel, NC from 2003 to 2012; the town manager of Black Mountain, NC from 2012 to 2019; and the town manager of Mocksville, NC from 2018 to 2020.

Settlemyer is a Credentialed Manager by the International City/County Management Association (ICMA) and was active in community organizations in the towns where he previously served.

In the same press release, Settlemyer noted that he was attracted to Galax by its “record of good governance under the council/manager model and its commitment to regional collaboration, transparency, and citizen trust.”

Settlemyer holds a bachelor of arts, with distinction, from the University of North Carolina in Chapel Hill in political science, as well as a masters of public administration from Appalachian State University.

Robertson selected as Charlottesville’s city attorney



- Robertson -

In a historic appointment, **Lisa Robertson** will serve as the City of Charlottesville’s first female city attorney. Previously, Robertson served as the city’s chief deputy attorney. In a press release, City Manager Chip Boyles noted that Robertson’s appointment “reflects her unique qualifications and her exceptional 20-year record of accomplishments in service of our city...She has labored extensively over the past four years on the statues case, and I am thrilled she won all of us this victory in the highest court in Virginia.”

On November 6, 2020, Robertson presented the city’s legal arguments in *Payne v. Charlottesville* before the Virginia Supreme Court. In the case, the Supreme Court delivered an opinion upholding the legality of city council’s 2017 resolutions announcing its intention to remove statues of Robert E. Lee and Stonewall Jackson from city parks.

Robertson has also worked as an attorney in private practice and as a county administrator. She holds a B.A. in international studies from the College of William and Mary, and a J.D. from the University of Richmond School of Law.

Peterson selected as James City County’s new police chief

In mid-May, James City County announced that **Eric A. Peterson** would immediately



- Peterson -

begin service as its new police chief. Peterson brings over 26 years of police experience. In addition, he served for over 22 years in the United States Army and Army Reserve, retiring as an E-8, First Sergeant.

Peterson has served in all aspects of the police department and most recently served as the division commander of the police department’s support services division.

Peterson has a master of science degree in criminal justice and a bachelor of arts degree in criminal justice from St. Leo University. The many leadership courses he has completed include the FBI National Academy #277 and the University of Richmond’s Professional Executive Leadership School.



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Movers and shakers

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PEOPLE

Hampton names Talbot as new police chief after extensive search process



- Talbot -

The police chief who spearheaded a dramatic decrease in crime in Norristown, PA, has been named a Hampton's new police chief and will start in July. Police Chief **Mark Talbot** was chosen to replace retiring Chief Terry Sult. The search for Sult's replacement began last fall with extensive community stakeholder interviews and a resident survey. Three rounds of interviews followed. Community leaders – including neighborhood advocates, pastors and ministers, business owners and organizations, non-profit executives, civil rights organizations, school and youth representatives, and law enforcement professionals – played a major role in evaluating candidates in each of those stages.

Talbot has 30 years' experience in law enforcement and holds a bachelor's degree in organizational leadership from Penn State University. He is also a graduate of the Senior Management Institute for Police, the Police Executive Development Institute at Penn State University, and the Criminal Justice Leadership Institute at the University of Delaware. He began his career as a correctional officer after which he became a police officer in the Reading, Pennsylvania, Police Department. There, he progressed through

the ranks and became deputy chief before becoming the director of the Bureau of Enforcement and Investigation of the Pennsylvania Department of State and then the chief in Norristown, PA. He has received an NAACP Community Leadership Award and a Freedom Foundation Local Hero award.

In a press release, Talbot outlined his approach to policing. "I believe that a successful police chief must be a visible presence in the community," said Talbot. "My first goal in Hampton is to learn. I might know about policing, but I'm not an expert on what it means to live in Hampton. Learning about a community means learning about the people. It is reaching out, meeting people, engaging with people in person and on the phone. I plan on giving out a lot of love."

His approach paid off in Norristown. A Latino advocacy group survey found that 78 percent of residents believed their relationship with the police department had changed for the better during his tenure. Under his leadership, violent crimes in Norristown fell more than 50 percent in three years, and overall serious crimes fell 44 percent.

"I am very excited to welcome Chief Talbot to our community. Chief Talbot emerged as the top choice after each round of the comprehensive interview process, which included more than 35 community leaders and staff. He is, without a doubt, the right choice for our community and Police Division," said City Manager Mary Bunting.

Gallop is the City of Norfolk's new director of human services

We regret that the May issue of *VTC* included the incorrect photo for the article about Ms. Gallop's new role with the City of Norfolk. The correct photo is included here along with the original article.



- Gallop -

Denise Gallop has taken the position of director of human services for the City of Norfolk. She has served as interim director since 2020. According to the accompanying press release, under Gallop's leadership, Human Services employees have found innovative ways to ensure Norfolk's most vulnerable residents have access to services during the pandemic. Her team's rapid response led to a record number of benefits processed on time.

Gallop is also credited with getting state legislation passed that will help the city better monitor in-home day care. In 2020, the department had the highest number of adoptions in the region.

Gallop holds a Master's in social work from Norfolk State University.



Contact Rob Bullington, rbullington@vml.org to suggest topics, ask questions, or inquire about sponsorship opportunities.

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Vice-Mayor Marasco and Mayor Vance exchange a well earned high-five.

Town of Hillsboro reopens Route 9 on schedule

HAILED BY HILLSBORO Mayor Roger Vance as “the Town’s greatest transformation in its 269-year history,” the completion of the ReThink9 project, nearly two decades in planning, was formally announced on May 27 with the resumption of two-way traffic on the town’s reclaimed Main Street. This \$30-million multi-

faceted road and infrastructure project now provides a safer traffic corridor for residents and thousands of daily commuters and visitors.

Indeed, ReThink9 provides a range of benefits to tens of thousands of commuters and visitors, area residents and businesses by relieving congestion and enhancing pedestrian safety on one of the region’s busiest corridors, Vance said. “The project has also brought 21st-century infrastructure to one of the Commonwealth’s best-preserved 18th-19th-century towns, including a new drinking water system, wastewater and storm water collection systems, underground power and communications, and a state-of-the-art streetlight system.”

Additionally, context-sensitive design, materials and streetscaping have reclaimed Hillsboro’s historic ‘Main Street’ while preserving its historic integrity and providing new opportunities for economic sustainability and long-term preservation.

“The on-time, on-budget success of this project was the result of extraordinary collaboration between the town, our engineers at Volkert, our contractor Archer Western, and our funding partners,” Vance said. “By building these multiple projects concurrently and most efficiently, we’ve saved many millions of dollars – and avoided several years of traffic disruption on Route 9, rather than just 14 months.”

The project was managed by the Town of Hillsboro, with Mayor Vance and Vice Mayor Marasco donating their time as project manager and deputy project manager. Marasco said, “Our ownership and nimble management provided significant cost savings to the project, streamlined decision making and allowed for innovation. This is a small-town Americana effort at its best.”

Trail and infrastructure construction in Hillsboro will continue, including water and sewer mains and communications conduits extended to reach each residence and installation of a new wastewater treatment package plant.

The completion of the ReThink9 project was celebrated with a ribbon cutting event on June 18.

City of Manassas marks start of Route 28 widening project

COMING SOON: MORE ROUTE 28! On May 26, the City of Manassas hosted a groundbreaking ceremony with partners from The Northern Virginia Transportation Authority (NVTA) and the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT). When completed, the project will result in reduced traffic congestion, increased safety, and a bike/pedestrian shared use path.

“The Route 28 widening project will help improve the quality of life for all those who live and pass through the City of

Manassas and this stretch of 28,” Manassas Mayor Michelle Davis-Younger said in a press release. “The time we lose in traffic is time we could have spent with family and friends, which is precious. Adding capacity and safety features to this important road will help us get where we are going more quickly and safely. We are also excited about the new shared use path that will help us grow our trail system and offer a safe way for bicyclists and pedestrians to get around.”

According to Phyllis J. Randall, chair of the NVTA and chair of the Loudoun County Board of Supervisors, the project will be completed in conjunction with other Route 28 improvements. “The project is truly regional in nature,” noted Randall as it is “aimed at reducing congestion on a high-volume corridor running through the Cities of Manassas and Manassas Park, and the Counties of Prince William, Fairfax and Loudoun.”

The \$20.2 million widening project, expected to be complete in the fall of 2022, ties into other NVTA projects west of the 234 Bypass, which provide 4.5 miles of a connected network and total nearly \$70 million in regional funding. The NVTA has also funded 10 multimodal transportation projects in the Route 28 corridor, totaling \$284.2 million.



Lovettsville Council holds first meeting in new chamber

ON THURSDAY, MAY 27 the Lovettsville Town Council was pleased to mark two milestones during their meeting: the first in-person meeting since the start of the pandemic and its first meeting in its newly renovated chamber.

The renovated chamber has room for about 40 people with the council seated on a dais. Modern amenities include the ability for residents to participate remotely by attending via computer at home with their image broadcast on four television screens in the chamber.

Fuog/InterBuild completed the nearly \$500,000, 10-month-long project to provide the town with a new, 2,215-square-foot Town Office including the new council chamber which was formerly an old office.

The new Town Office is almost double the size of the town's previous structure which town staff outgrew in 2008 and began using a trailer for additional space.

A grand reopening ceremony was planned for June.



PATRICK SZABO / LOUDOUN NOW

Herndon starts downtown road project

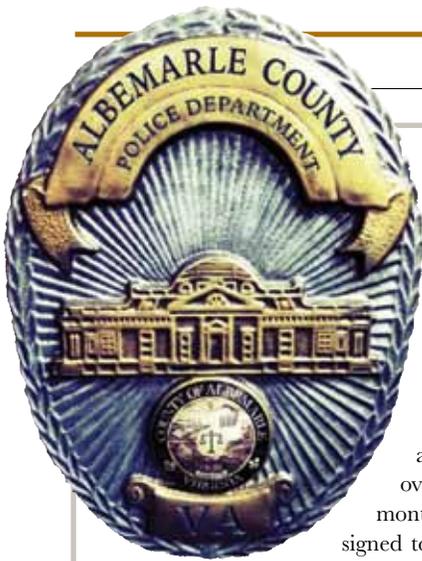
THE TOWN OF HERNDON has broken ground on a downtown road project at Center and Elden Streets. The \$1.4 million overall project cost will result in:

- Added traffic signals
- Realigned intersection
- Added turn lanes
- Improved crosswalks
- ADA pedestrian signals
- Improved storm drainage

The project is expected to be completed in 2022.



(L-R): Scott Robinson, director of Public Works; Cesar Cassanova, project manager, Fort Myer Construction Corp; Councilmember Sean Regan; Mayor Sheila Olem; Councilmember Signe Friedrichs; Councilmember Predip Dhakal; Town Manager Bill Ashton.



Albemarle County Police Department launches body worn camera program

IN EARLY JUNE, the Albemarle County Police Department announced a body worn camera program that will deploy a total of 112 body worn cameras over the course of the next several months and will include officers assigned to the patrol division, traffic unit, and K9 unit, and as well as five standalone units that can be loaned as needed for specialty units. The cameras integrate with the existing in-car cameras to provide another vantage point during officer interactions. The cameras will record

any police action that an officer takes, including arrests, traffic stops, searches, detentions, interviews, and interrogations.

Implementation will be phased, beginning in August 2021 with deployment to officers assigned to the evening patrol shift, with full implementation targeted by January 1, 2022. With the funding appropriation in place, the new cameras will be ordered and installed this summer. Officers will undergo training beginning this summer.

A grant from the Virginia Department of Criminal Justice Services totaling \$50,000 is supplementing funds from ACPD's Seized Assets Fund to make the program possible.

Virginia localities receive CompTIA's Public Technology Institute honors

THE COMPUTER TECHNOLOGY Industry Association (CompTIA), the leading trade association for the global information technology industry, and the Public Technology Institute (PTI) have announced the winners of the 2021 PTI Solutions Awards. Most nominated projects focused on challenges associated with the widespread effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on communities of all sizes.

Among the winners are several Virginia localities in the following categories:

Customer Service:

- City of Hopewell, VA (pop. under 50,000)
- City of Alexandria, VA (pop. 50,000-249,000)

Geospatial Information Systems:

- City of Williamsburg, VA (pop. under 50,000)

Web Services, E-Government and

Mobile Apps:

- Roanoke County, VA (pop. 50,000-249,000)

The annual PTI Solutions Awards program recognizes CompTIA member cities and counties that have developed or deployed innovative technology solutions within the past 15 months that positively affected local government performance and service to the communities.



City of Williamsburg on track for a new fire station

ON JUNE 10, the City of Williamsburg Council voted unanimously to authorize that the city manager enter into a comprehensive agreement with David A. Nice Builders to demolish the current fire station at 440 N. Boundary St. and build a new 31,000-square-foot station on that lot.

"City Council's support of these design plans reflects their commitment to public safety for this community," Chief David Eagle said. "The new fire station will allow us to deliver the highest level of service to the residents of Williamsburg."

The city solicited bids for the design and build of the new fire station through the Public-Private Education Facilities and Infrastructure Act. The PPEA Process allowed council to choose its preferred proposal for the design and build.

The bid solicitation began in August and yielded seven proposals. Three contractors advanced to the last phase of the process, which included releasing their conceptual drawings to the public, the Architectural Review Board, the Planning Commission, and firefighters for input. At its January 2021 regular meeting, council chose David A. Nice Builders for this project.

Architectural firms Guernsey-Tingle Architects and Stewart-Cooper-Newell Architects are part of the David A. Nice design-build team for this project.

The current construction timeline has demolition of the building slated for early 2022 and completion of the new station in late spring 2023.



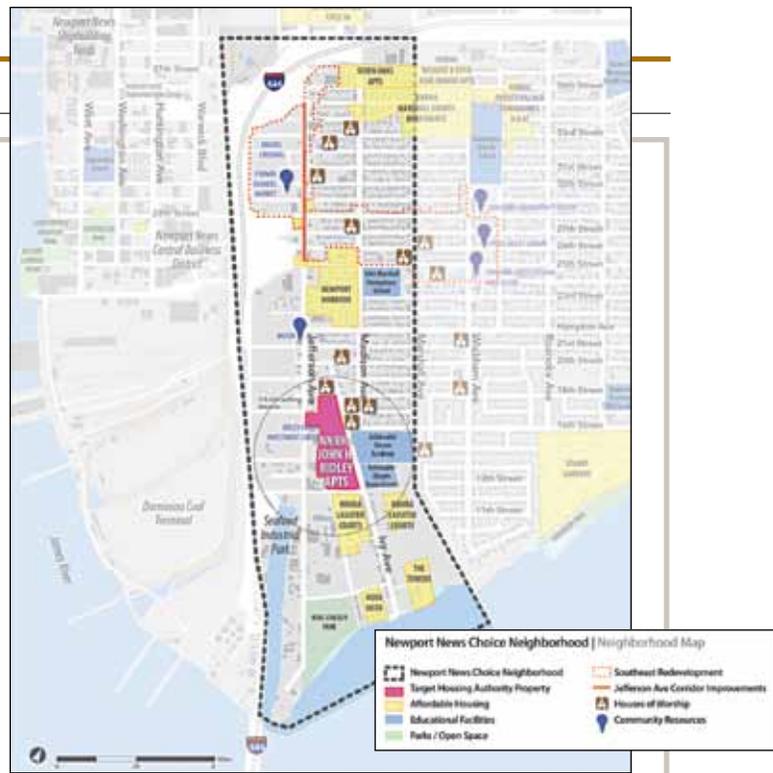
Newport News begins construction of new Choice Neighborhoods Initiative community

IN MID-JUNE, the City of Newport News and the Newport News Redevelopment and Housing Authority broke ground on the first phase of construction for the city’s Choice Neighborhoods Initiative (CNI). The mixed-use development will feature apartments, townhomes and retail space and is a critical element in the revitalization of the city’s Southeast Community.

In a press release, Mayor McKinley L. Price noted “This new housing, which includes retail and public space improvements, will energize and strengthen this important part of our city. Today’s historic groundbreaking is the first step in a holistic approach to revitalize the area and uplift our residents. Thank you to the Department of Housing and Urban Development, Virginia Housing, the Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development, and our other partners for investing and believing in Newport News and our citizens.”

The completed facility will include 75 apartments (one, two and three bedroom) and six townhomes. Approximately 46 percent of the units will be reserved for individuals and families who were displaced by the demolition of the CNI targeted assisted apartments, which were subsidized by HUD. The remaining apartments will be rented at market rate.

In 2019, the City of Newport News and the Newport News Redevelopment and Housing received a \$30 million grant from HUD’s Choice Neighborhoods Initiative program. Funding is transforming the Marshall-Ridley area in the Southeast Community,



creating new housing options, community services, recreational opportunities, and parks.

Construction of the \$19.7 million project will begin in mid-July, with an estimated completion date of late fall 2022. Funds are being provided by the CNI grant from HUD, Affordable Housing Tax Credits, Home Investment Partnership dollars, State Vibrant Communities allocations, Virginia Housing Trust contributions and city resources. Breeden Construction is constructing the project.



Waynesboro Marketplace first tenants announced

IN MID-JUNE, Mitchener Properties, LLC, based in Charlotte, NC, announced that the initial tenants for the new Waynesboro Marketplace will be Sheetz, Chipotle, Popeyes Chicken, Aspen Dental, and Take 5 Oil Change. These stores will be located along Rosser Avenue.

The 13-acre site will be developed in three phases; demolition of the current structure and site development; construction of five retail/consumer services buildings and Rosser Avenue improvements; and additional retail/services in the rear of the site. Phase one is scheduled to begin soon with phase two estimated to be completed in mid-2022.

When completed the Waynesboro Marketplace will be home to major shopping, lodging, and dining venues. The area off exit 94 (Interstate 64) has seen significant investment in the last few years with over 500 residential units built or planned, a \$1 million upgrade to the VDOT Park N Ride providing additional parking spaces, new transit facilities and other amenities, plus new retail, food, and medical services opening within the last few months.

In a press release, Waynesboro Mayor, Bobby Henderson stated that “the further development of the Rosser Avenue corridor is a great complement to the area’s recent growth. The addition of these national brand establishments continues to secure Waynesboro’s position as a destination of choice for visitors and provides additional amenities and options for citizens.”

Town of Blacksburg conducts public survey on affordable housing solutions

LIKE MANY COMMUNITIES across Virginia, the Town of Blacksburg is facing a housing shortage, particularly housing that is affordable to households earning less than the town’s median family income. To find solutions to the problem, however, Blacksburg is taking a close look at a variety of strategies to help address this important community issue. These strategies include:

- Development incentives to encourage the production of more affordable housing.
- Mechanisms to limit student encroachment into single-family neighborhoods.
- Strategies to provide more homes affordable to first-time homebuyers and non-student renters.
- Mechanisms to fund the community’s preferred strategies.

To better understand how the public feels about each of these strategies, the town conducted an online survey during the month of June to garner citizen input. A short video summarizing each strategy along with additional resources were available on the town’s online portal.



2021

VIRGINIA MUNICIPAL LEAGUE

INNOVATION AWARDS

SAPPHIRE ANNIVERSARY YEAR

**Get started on your entries now!
Deadline: 5pm, Monday Aug. 16.**

**Complete rules and entry form
are at www.vml.org**

A circular logo with a blue background and a gold border of small stars. The text "THE AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN" is written in white, bold, sans-serif capital letters in the center.

THE AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN

GETTING TO KNOW

The American Rescue Plan Act

Let's get started

Since the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) was signed into law in March, we've all been working to understand it. How much money? Who's doling it out? When will it come? How can it be spent? What are the compliance requirements?

All very reasonable questions.

Every day we are learning more, but – as is often the case with education – the more we learn, the more questions we have!

ARPA is complicated federal legislation that, as part of a \$1.9 trillion overall package, will send \$195 billion to states, \$45 billion to cities, \$19 billion to towns, and \$65 billion to counties. Tribal governments and territories will receive \$25 billion. ARPA dollars will flow through more than 80 separate funds and programs.

The U.S. Treasury will hand down most of this money to states and local governments over two years – half in 2021, half in 2022.

When it comes to localities, big cities and counties will receive their ARPA funds directly from Treasury, while towns and other smaller jurisdiction will get their money through the state. Virginia's independent cities will get both city funds and county funds.

Moreover, there are billions more being doled out by various federal agencies to states, who, in turn, will make the money available through formula-driven grants to local governments, citizens, businesses, and non-profit organizations.

So many funds...

The Commonwealth of Virginia will receive \$4.3 billion in a direct-aid fund, the Coronavirus State Fiscal Recovery Fund (CSFRF). An array of uses will be allowed. Virginia's local governments will receive in direct aid about \$3 billion through the Coronavirus Local Fiscal Recovery Fund (CLFRF), and an array of uses will be allowed. Virginia's public schools will receive \$2.1 billion through the Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund (ESSRF).

The state also will receive more than \$220 million in the Coronavirus Capital Projects Fund (CCPF) to help localities improve water, wastewater, and broadband infrastructure. And there's yet hundreds of millions more in numerous other funds for various pandemic-relief purposes. All told, the Commonwealth and localities will receive more than \$7 billion in ARPA funds over the next two years.

Whether ARPA dollars are handed down from the federal government through direct aid to states and localities, or to citizens, businesses, and others via the state through grants, there will certainly be tracking and reporting requirements, all of which may vary from fund to fund.

So, if you're confused or feeling a bit overwhelmed, you're not alone.

VML is here to help

The Virginia Municipal League has a dedicated team working with Treasury, the Governor's office, the General Assembly, our congressional delegation, the National League of Cities, and others to understand ARPA and provide VML members as much helpful information as possible, as quickly as possible.

Early federal guidance – ARPA's so-called Interim Final Rule – is 150 pages, and there are hundreds of additional pages of information. Furthermore, there have been a seemingly endless parade of webinars and conference calls – all of which have been helpful, though daunting in scope. And, there's more to come as additional federal guidance attached to various ARPA funds continues to flow.

VML is working closely with our Virginia Association of Counties colleagues, and we are all collaborating with the Governor's office and General Assembly. We share as much information with each other as we can so we can help Virginia's local governments.

In the weeks and months ahead, the VML team will continue to provide our members with updated ARPA information. Stay tuned.

So ... just how much Pandemic-Relief Federal Funding has Congress passed?

IN LESS THAN 18 MONTHS, there have been six federal appropriations acts passed to provide pandemic relief, amounting to more than \$5.5 trillion.

Coronavirus Preparedness and Response Act

- **When:** Enacted March 6, 2020
- **How much:** \$8.3 billion
- **What:** Vaccine development, therapeutics and diagnostics, state and local government support, medical supplies, support for hospitals

Families First Coronavirus Response Act

- **When:** Enacted April 2, 2020
- **How much:** \$192 billion
- **What:** Unemployment benefits, expanded family leave, paid sick leave, COVID-19 testing, food assistance, support for state governments

Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act

- **When:** Enacted March 27, 2020
- **How much:** \$2.2 trillion
- **What:** Unemployment benefits, relief to individuals (stimulus checks) and businesses, relief for higher education, students, support for hospitals, foreclosure and eviction moratoriums, utilities relief, disconnect moratoriums

Paycheck Protection Program and Health Care Enhancement Act

- **When:** Enacted April 24, 2020
- **How much:** \$483 billion
- **What:** Business relief (paycheck protection), public health support

Consolidated Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act

- **When:** Enacted December 21, 2020
- **How much:** \$900 billion
- **What:** Relief to individuals (stimulus checks) and businesses (paycheck protection), relief to state and local governments, rental, utilities assistance, food assistance

American Rescue Plan Act

- **When:** Enacted March 11, 2021
- **How much:** \$1.9 trillion
- **What:** Unemployment benefits, relief to individuals (stimulus checks) and businesses, extended family leave, paid sick leave, relief to state and local governments, aid to K-12 schools, higher education, broadband-water-wastewater investments, support for public transportation agencies, housing assistance, cyber security support, public health assistance, agriculture and food support

By Margaret C. Rockwell and
L. Preston Bryant, Jr.

ARPA: Lots of funds, many uses

THE AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT (ARPA) is a COVID-19 relief package signed into law on March 11, 2021. It directs \$1.9 trillion to federal agencies, states, local governments, tribal governments, territories, businesses, and individuals. It is the sixth such federal aid law that has directed in total more than \$5.5 trillion toward economic recovery.

ARPA funding supports many purposes, including public health, broadband, water and sewer infrastructure, schools, housing, business assistance, transportation, and more. It is comprised of more than 80 separate funds, each with their own specific purposes and spending guidelines, and often with different tracking, recording, and compliance requirements.

It is all very complex.

A snapshot of some of the funds

Here are some of the most prominent ARPA funds to aid states, local governments, infrastructure, education, businesses, and citizens.

Coronavirus State Fiscal Recovery Fund (CSFRF). This is ARPA's primary fund to states. It can be used for a wide array of items, including public health; infrastructure investments, such as broadband, drinking water, and wastewater; support for workers and households; small business assistance; pay for essential workers; and shortfall funding for qualified government services, among others.

Virginia will receive in the CSFRF some \$4.3 billion through a formula-driven grant from the U.S. Department of Treasury. This money can be used for both state and local needs. The Governor and General Assembly will decide how much of CSFRF dollars will go to various state agencies for service delivery and how much might be allocated to localities. Money from the CSFRF must be obligated by December 31, 2024.

Coronavirus Local Fiscal Recovery Fund (CLFRF). This is ARPA's primary fund to assist localities. It can be used for the same purposes as the CSFRF. Virginia counties will receive a total of about \$1.6 billion, metropolitan cities will receive a total of about \$618 million, and towns will receive a total of about \$633 million.

Counties and metropolitan cities will receive CLFRF payments directly from Treasury after they request the funds through Treasury's website. Towns and other small jurisdictions categorized as "non-entitlement units of local government" (NEUs) will receive their CLFRF payments from the state, which will be responsible for disbursing these amounts after receiving them from Treasury. Like the CSFRF, CLFRF funds must be obligated by December 31, 2024.

Coronavirus Capital Projects Fund (CCPF). The CCPF provides \$10 billion for broadband connectivity and other connectivity infrastructure, devices, and equipment for those who lack it. Funding is delivered through formula grants to the states, who must provide a plan to the federal government on how they will use the funds. Treasury's guidelines indicate that states will have wide discretion for determining how to identify worthy projects. While broadband infrastructure is the focus, ancillary projects that make these projects more efficient will be eligible, such as broadband mapping. Virginia is expected to receive about \$222 million.

Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund (ESSERF). The ESSERF provides \$122 billion to school divisions to address learning loss related to the COVID-19 public health emergency. Funds also can be used for making improvements to school facilities, hiring support staff, implementing summer learn-

ing, supporting special education, distributing meals to students, and sustaining school cleaning protocols. Virginia is receiving about \$2.1 billion. The Virginia Department of Education is the principal agency directing these funds. The funds will be available through September 30, 2023.

Emergency Assistance to Non-Public Schools Program (EANS). The EANS program provides assistance for non-public schools that enroll a significant percentage of low-income students and are most impacted by the public health emergency. Virginia will receive \$46.3 million to address learning loss. EANS funding also can be used for personal protective equipment, cleaning supplies, ventilation improvements, technology, staffing, and support services for remote or hybrid learning. The Virginia Department of Education is the principal agency directing these funds. The funds will be available through September 30, 2023.

Emergency Connectivity Fund (ECF). The ECF provides \$7.17 billion to reimburse schools – both public and private – and libraries for internet access and connected devices. Funding may be used for Wi-Fi, hotspots, modems, routers, and more. Public and private schools and libraries can apply to the Federal Communications Commission. Reimbursements are likely to be available through September 30, 2030.

Child Care Support and Head Start. ARPA provides some \$39 billion in child care funding. Virginia is receiving two large grants to support child care providers and ensure access to child care for families – totaling nearly \$794 million. The Commonwealth is receiving about \$489 million for Child Care Stabilization Grants, which will be provided to child care providers to cover rent, PPE, equipment and supplies, and goods and services to continue or re-start the provision of child care services. The Virginia Department of Social Services (VDSS) is the principal agency directing these funds. These grants will be available until September 30, 2023. Additionally, Virginia is receiving about \$305 million for the Child Care and Development Block Grant funds to provide families with early child care and after-school child care assistance in the form of vouchers or contracts with providers. VDSS is also the principal agency directing these funds. These funds will be available until September 30, 2024. Additionally, there is nearly \$17 million to support Virginia's Head Start programs. VDSS will direct these funds.

Federal Transit Administration (FTA) Grants. ARPA provides \$30.5 billion to help public transit agencies avoid layoffs and service reductions. All large urban and most small urban areas are expected to receive considerable funding. The Federal Transit Administration has not yet notified states of funding amounts. Grant funds must be spent by September 30, 2024.

Airport Rescue Grants. ARPA provides \$8 billion to airports through direct grants. Though official apportionments have not been released yet by the Federal Aviation Administration, Virginia is expected to receive about \$219 million for Commercial Service and General Aviation airports for costs related to operations, personnel, debt service payments, and combating the spread of pathogens. All large urban and most small urban airports in Virginia are expected to receive funding. These funds will be available through September 30, 2024.



Where to spend ARPA funds

Local governments have a plethora of ongoing funding needs as we emerge from the pandemic economy. How to spend ARPA funds – determining the most pressing needs – is the deliberative exercise that will occupy many local leaders’ time in the months ahead.

Here is a top-line overview of investment areas that are on many VML members’ minds.

Broadband. Broadband and connectivity can be supported from various ARPA funds, including those sent to states (CSFRF), local governments (CLFRF), and secondary schools (ESSERF). The state and local funds can be used for pandemic-related connectivity as well as for investment in high-quality broadband and other related infrastructure, devices, and equipment. The Coronavirus Capital Projects Fund (CCPF) provides considerable flexibility to state and local governments to build or improve connectivity for access to work, education, and health monitoring. The Emergency Connectivity Fund (ECF) provides reimbursement for schools and libraries for various connectivity-related expenses. The Emergency Assistance to Non-Public Schools (EANS) program can be used by non-public schools to increase their connectivity for remote or hybrid learning.

All in all, Virginia will receive a substantial amount of money through ARPA that can be used for broadband. These new federal funds come after the Virginia General Assembly has appropriated more than \$100 million for broadband development in underserved areas over the past few years. As a result, Virginia has greatly reduced the number of houses without access to broadband.

VML note: With the numerous federal and state funding streams for broadband infrastructure, it is imperative that the Commonwealth and local governments coordinate to determine the most efficient use of funds and to avoid redundancy.

Water and wastewater infrastructure. Water and wastewater infrastructure can be designed and built using the CSFRF and CLFRF. As a rule of thumb, if a project would be eligible to receive funding through the U.S. EPA’s Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF) or Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF), then CSFRF and CLFRF dollars can be used to cover that project’s costs.

Under the CWSRF, eligible projects include construction of publicly owned treatment works, nonpoint source pollution management, decentralized wastewater treatment systems, cybersecurity upgrades, stormwater system upgrades, water conservation, efficiency, and reuse measures, among others.

Under the DWSRF, eligible projects include water treatment, transmission and distribution, source rehabilitation and decontamination, storage, consolidation, and new systems development.

Additionally, CSFRF and CLFRF can cover costs incurred for eligible projects that were planned or started prior to March 3, 2021, if the project costs covered by the CSFRF and CLFRF were incurred after that date.

VML note: Major utility projects are costly. Localities often apply for low-interest loans and grants through the Virginia Resources Authority, VML/VACO Finance, or federal and state agencies. Using ARPA funds to leverage other financing should be explored.

K-12 schools. ARPA provides immense support for K-12 schools. There are numerous funds that are specifically geared toward K-12 support. They include the ESSERF, EANS program, ECF, and funding through the Individuals with Disabilities Act (IDEA). Of these funding programs, ESSERF will provide the greatest amount of funding for schools. ESSERF funds may be used for a variety of purposes, including combating learning loss through summer learning, extended day, and comprehensive after-school programs as well as extended school year programs. ESSERF dollars also can be used

for a wide range of activities that address many school needs arising from the coronavirus pandemic.

Additionally, school support may be provided through the CSFRF and the CLFRF. Notably, these two funds can be used for pandemic-related shortfall funding for government services. Such government services include school or educational services, or building and maintaining infrastructure, modernizing cybersecurity, and health services. All these uses are applicable to K-12 needs.

Housing and homelessness. ARPA includes funding for homeowner assistance, rental assistance, and emergency housing for the homeless. ARPA dedicates \$22 billion for emergency rental assistance via the Coronavirus Relief Fund. Of this, Virginia will receive about \$451 million, which will be administered by the Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD). This funding will be used for housing stability services and direct financial assistance to households. ARPA also provides \$10 billion for a new Homeowners Assistance Fund, of which Virginia will be allocated some \$258 million through a formula grant. This funding will be used to help homeowners pay overdue mortgage bills, taxes, insurance, and HOA fees. Emergency Housing Vouchers also will become available through ARPA for individuals struggling with homelessness due to the negative economic effects of the pandemic.

Additional funding through ARPA that can be used for housing purposes include the HOME Investment Partnerships Program, the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program, and the Low Income Household Drinking Water and Wastewater Emergency Assistance Program.

Transportation. There are a variety of ARPA state and local direct-aid funds that support transportation. The CSFRF and the CLFRF can be used to provide government services, which include maintenance of roads or pay-as-you-go funded road construction. Federal Transit Administration (FTA) grants can be used for transit capital and operating assistance and for transportation-related planning in urbanized areas. FTA grants can be spent on transit projects, transportation-related studies, capital investments in buses, security equipment, passenger facilities, and computer hardware and software, among others. Additional FTA grant money is available for urban and rural areas that require supplemental support for transit operations, personnel, cleaning, sanitization, and debt costs that have been incurred to maintain operations and avoid layoffs due to COVID-19.

Furthermore, ARPA includes funding for primary airports in Virginia through grants from the Federal Aviation Administration. This money will be available for costs related to operations, personnel, debt service payments, and combating the spread of pathogens at airports. There is also a workforce retention element to this funding, requiring airports to employ at least 90 percent of workers employed as of March 27, 2020.

Small business assistance. ARPA provides small business assistance to businesses in the tourism, travel, hospitality, and childcare industries. The CSFRF and CLFRF may be used to support businesses, attractions, and business districts that were operating prior to the pandemic and were affected by required closures. ARPA’s Economic Injury Disaster Loan (EIDL) funding provides targeted payments to businesses located in low-income communities that have no more than 300 employees and that have suffered an economic loss of more than 30 percent. The Child Care Stabilization Fund assists childcare providers with rent, personal costs, PPE, equipment, and goods and services, allowing these businesses to either maintain operations or reopen.

The Restaurant Revitalization Fund provides restaurants grants equal to the pandemic-related revenue loss that the restaurant has experienced, up to \$10 million per entity. Also, ARPA’s Shuttered Venue

ARPA

Operators Funding assists shuttered venue operators, such as theaters, museums, and live music venues as they recover from economic loss due to COVID-19.

Health and human services. A large percentage of funds in ARPA address health and human services. The CSFRF and CLFRF can be used to provide “premium pay” to “essential workers” whose physical wellbeing may be at risk in meeting the daily needs of their communities. These workers, often people of color or low-wage workers, may have borne a disproportionate share of the health and economic impacts of the pandemic.

ARPA’s Child Care and Development Block Grants provide vouchers for families to subsidize childcare so they can maintain early childcare and after-school childcare. There also are ARPA funds for Head Start programs, mental health services, Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF), older Americans, and substance abuse prevention and treatment.

To help families with energy and water bills, ARPA also includes funding through the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) program and the newly established Low-Income Home Water Assistance Program (LIWHAP). These programs assist low-income families pay overdue bills so that they can maintain service in their households.

How ARPA funds flow from the federal government

LIKE MOST FEDERAL SPENDING programs, the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) is complicated. It totals \$1.9 trillion which is broken down into many specific funds that can only be used for specific purposes. Some ARPA funds go only to federal agencies, while others flow to states and localities.

Generally speaking, ARPA has six types of funding mechanisms to move funds from the federal government to local governments across the nation.

Note: In the summaries below, the ARPA dollar figures noted are the amounts being made available to all states, localities, and tribes across the nation. Allocations to Virginia localities are still being finalized and, in some cases, will have to be appropriated by the General Assembly.

Individual relief

- Funds distributed to individuals or individual businesses through a public disbursement system or the tax code.
- Examples include funding for stimulus checks, the Child Tax Credit, and unemployment insurance.
- \$868.2 billion reserved for this category.

Formula grants to states and localities

- The Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds send billions of dollars from the U.S. Treasury to states, localities, and tribes via “formula grants” based on a federal formula.
- Sometimes, formula grant funds will be distributed only to state governments, and the states will then be responsible for disbursing the funds to local recipients through sub-grants.

VML & VACO pushed for a state/local ARPA workgroup and the Governor’s office agreed

Which means there is lots of work to do!

Shortly after the American Rescue Plan Act was signed into law, the Virginia Municipal League and the Virginia Association of Counties engaged with the Governor’s office to encourage the establishment of an state-local ARPA workgroup.

Simply put, with more than \$7 billion flowing to the state and local governments in direct aid – and hundreds of millions more in other ARPA-related funds – there must be coordination. The ARPA spending guidelines and compliance rules are complex, and many of the state and local ARPA funds have potentially overlapping uses.

VML President and Mayor of Galax Willie Greene and VACO President and Fairfax County Board of Supervisors Chair Jeff McKay also penned a May 13 op-ed in the *Richmond Times-Dispatch* strongly pushing for state-local coordination to “strategize, organize, earmark, leverage, and work together to avoid redundancy.”

We are pleased that the Governor’s office has regularly engaged with VML and VACO. The collaboration has been helpful and while there is more work to be done, the important first step of agreeing to work together has been taken. VML will continue to update its members on the progress of these efforts.



- Examples of sub-grant programs include the Community Development Block Grant Program and the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP).
- \$436 billion reserved for formula-based grants and sub-grants.

Formula grants to public authorities & quasi-public nonprofits

- Public authorities and quasi-public nonprofits are designated entities that operate adjacent to the state, city, or county governments, such as public housing authorities, transit authorities, and airport authorities.
- Examples of formula grants to such authorities and quasi-public nonprofits include allocations for Section 8 voucher funds, Federal Transit Agency funds, and Airport Improvement Program grants.
- \$165.7 billion dedicated for this type of funding.

Capital financing products

- These are funds that are provided by the federal government to states, localities, authorities, businesses, and nonprofit organizations as a loan, guarantee, or credit enhancement.
- Examples include the Paycheck Protection Program, the State Small Business Credit Initiative, and the Targeted Economic Injury Disaster Loan Advance Grant Program.
- \$118.3 billion reserved for this funding mechanism.

Public procurement and reimbursement funds

- Businesses, individuals, and units of government may apply or competitively bid for these types of funds.
- Examples include FEMA's Disaster Reimbursement Program, the Rural Healthcare Provider Relief program, and the FCC's Emergency Connectivity Fund.
- \$81.8 billion reserved for public procurement and reimbursement funds.

Competitive funds

- Public, private, and non-profit organizations may apply for funds within a specific timeframe.
- Examples include the Restaurant Revitalization Fund, the Shuttered Venue Operators Fund, and the EDA Economic Adjustment Assistance Grants Program.
- \$47.7 billion reserved for competitive funds.

Help for small businesses

THE PANDEMIC HAS HAD an extraordinary impact on Virginia's small businesses. Jobs were lost as businesses cut back or closed. Many of those businesses are now working to reopen and need help to recover.

The American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) has dedicated several funds for small business relief.

Some of these funding programs have already closed after receiving hundreds of thousands of applications, such as the \$7.25 billion Paycheck Protection Program, which closed on May 31, and the \$28 billion Restaurant Revitalization Fund, which closed on May 24.

Other funding programs remain open. The Economic Injury Disaster Loan (EIDL) program has \$15 billion to assist businesses and nonprofits that have experienced a temporary loss of revenue due to the pandemic. The U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) administers this loan, which is open for applications until December 31, 2021.

The Shuttered Venue Operators Grant Program also remains open. It assists theaters, museums, and live venue operators in recovering from economic losses due to COVID-19. The fund helps cover payroll, mortgage, rent, utility, and other payments. The grant amounts are based on the level of revenue loss. The SBA will administer the \$15 billion allocated to it.

Additionally, the State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds allow states and localities to provide supplemental pay to essential workers, which may be helpful for such businesses as restaurants, daycares, pharmacies, and dental offices. Child care providers can have more opportunities for assistance through ARPA's Child Care Stabilization Grants, which provides funds for a variety of COVID-related purposes.



Premium pay for essential workers

VIRGINIA'S WORKERS HAVE BEEN HEROES. Many frontline employees have provided critical services over the past year, often at great risk to themselves and their families. ARPA recognizes these essential workers who have contributed so much and provides for grants to employers to give them premium pay.

So, according to ARPA what is an "essential worker" and what is "premium pay"?



Essential workers

ARPA provides examples of essential workers. The following is representative.

- Staff at hospitals, nursing homes, home-care settings
- Workers at farms, food production facilities, grocery stores, restaurants
- Janitors and sanitation workers
- Transit drivers, truckers, warehouse workers
- Public health and safety staff
- Childcare workers, educators, other school staff
- Social services and human services staff

Premium pay

The U.S. Department of the Treasury encourages states and local governments to use ARPA funds to prioritize premium pay to low-income essential workers. Those working for third-party contractors also are eligible. ARPA allows up to \$13 per hour in addition to wages, up to a total of \$25,000 per eligible worker. Premium pay may be awarded retroactively for work performed since the pandemic was officially declared a national emergency on January 27, 2020, as well as for current and ongoing work.

Can localities use ARPA funds for lost revenue?

Yes. But...

PREVIOUS FEDERAL PANDEMIC-RELIEF aid, such as the CARES Act, did not allow localities to use the federal funds to replace lost revenue. The funds had to be spent for pandemic-specific recovery purposes, such as COVID testing, PPE and other public health responses, rental and utility payment assistance, and small business assistance.



ARPA, however, does allow localities to use its funds to replace lost revenue – but it is a bit nuanced. So read the fine print.

A locality can't use ARPA dollars to simply fill a budget hole.

Lost revenue will be measured against revenue collected in the most recent full fiscal year before the pandemic (technically, before January 27, 2020). Such revenue includes general taxes and fees that support public services. It also includes enterprise funds. However, it does not include federal grants or loans, utility revenues, mass transit fees, or debt-related proceeds.

The federal guidelines make clear that ARPA recipients – such as local governments – have to show that any ARPA funds used to

“replenish” lost revenues must directly relate to the “provision of government services.”

So, what are and what are not qualifying “government services”?

Government services may include these things:

- Building and maintaining infrastructure, including roads
- Modernizing cybersecurity, including hardware, software, and critical infrastructure protection
- Health services
- Environmental remediation
- School or educational services
- Police, fire, and other public safety services

Government services may not include these things:

- Replenishing financial reserves
- Interest or principal of outstanding debt
- Expenses associated with indebtedness for borrowed money
- Satisfying a settlement or judgment
- Debt related to a judicial, administrative, or regulatory proceeding

So, ARPA does provide flexibility in determining “lost revenue” – just be sure it is calculated on indisputable government services.

What do localities need?

VML surveyed our members, here is what you said

VML SURVEYED OUR town, city, and county members in May. We wanted to understand how localities spent CARES Act funds, what the most pressing needs are for ARPA funds, how localities are planning for ARPA, and how VML can be most helpful on ARPA matters. We received a 40 percent response rate.

How did you spend CARES Act funds?

- 50% support first responders, essential employees
- 25% support for small businesses
- 19% COVID-19 testing, disinfecting, treatment
- 3% care for vulnerable populations (food delivery, housing)
- 2% facilitating distance learning

Will you spend all CARES Act funds by the December 31, 2021, deadline?

- 100% yes
- 0% no

Top three interests for ARPA funds

- #1 water, wastewater
- #2 stabilizing local government operating budgets
- #3 capital improvements (e.g., HVAC)

What additional ARPA guidance is most needed?

- #1 qualifying uses for federal funds
- #2 expenditure tracking and compliance
- #3 how to obtain Local Fiscal Recovery funds (tie)
- #3 best practices (tie)
- #4 how to obtain ARPA funds (beyond LFR)
- #5 when ARPA funds will be distributed
- #6 how ARPA funds will be distributed (loans v. grants)

Has your locality designated an ARPA coordinator?

- 65% yes
- 35% no

Are you getting ARPA-related questions from citizens, businesses, and non-profits?

- 61% no
- 39% yes

How are you planning to budget ARPA expenditures?

- 48% have not yet determined
- 33% will create a specific ARPA-related spending plan
- 19% will incorporate into normal budget and CIP

Are you considering leveraging ARPA funds via state/federal loans?

- 62% no
- 38% yes

Are you interested in using a portion of ARPA funds to leverage state/federal loans or grants?

- 82% yes
- 18% no

Are you considering creating a "special budgetary instrument" (i.e., a non-profit or community development financial institution) to manage ARPA funds?

- 55% have not decided
- 44% no
- 1% yes



Did you have a process to track and record CARES fund expenditures?

- 99% yes
- 1% no

Will you use a similar process (that you used for CARES funds) to track and record ARPA expenditures?

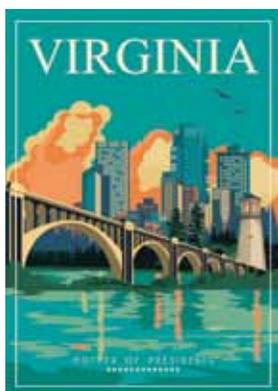
- 86% yes
- 14% no

Will you use your internal staff or contract with a private or public entity to track ARPA expenditures?

- 94% will use internal staff
- 6% will contract with a private or public entity

Will you track and record the programs, services, and improvements that result from ARPA expenditures?

- 75% yes
- 25% undecided
- 0% no



How will Virginia tourism and hospitality bounce back?

Hint: It involves money

THE PANDEMIC WRECKED Virginia's restaurants, hotels, convention centers, attractions, campgrounds, and wedding venues – all critical to our \$27 billion tourism

industry and important contributors to local communities.

The Virginia Restaurant, Lodging & Travel Association (VRLTA) estimates that the state's tourism industry lost \$10 million in 2020 and may lose another \$4-8 billion in 2021.

As such, VRLTA has asked the General Assembly to appropriate

from the state's direct-aid ARPA funds these amounts to assist Virginia's tourism and hospitality businesses.

- | | |
|----------------------------|-----------|
| • Hotels and other lodging | \$184.7 M |
| • Restaurants | \$36.7 M |
| • Attractions | \$10 M |
| • Wedding venues | \$4.7 M |
| • Campgrounds | \$2 M |
| • Convention centers | \$1.5 M |

For more information, contact VRLA President Eric Terry at eric@vrtla.org.

Housing and homelessness assistance



ALL COMMUNITIES FACE housing and homelessness challenges. The pandemic has exacerbated these challenges as citizens have lost jobs or had employment reductions against mounting rent, mortgage, utility, and other costs.

Earlier pandemic relief packages and laws – such as the CARES Act, the paycheck protection program, rental and utility assistance funds, and foreclosure and eviction moratoria – have sought to stem the economic downturn’s impacts on housing and homelessness. Those relief efforts have helped homeowners, renters, and landlords.

ARPA provides additional housing and rental assistance. Virginia will receive more than \$450 million for emergency rental assistance, which will be administered by the Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development and is available through September 30, 2025. The state also will receive nearly \$260 million for a new

Homeowners Assistance Fund to help homeowners pay overdue mortgage payments, taxes, insurance, and HOA fees. This will be administered by Virginia Housing (formerly Virginia Housing Development Authority) and is available through September 30, 2025.

Additionally, the Virginia Department of Social Services has funds available for the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) and the Low-Income Household Drinking Water and Wastewater Emergency Assistance Program (LIHWAP) to assistance with energy and utility arrearages. Citizens should apply directly to VDSS for these assistance programs.

Money (lots of it) for K-12 schools

SINCE THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC interrupted our communities nearly 18 months ago, Congress has passed three relief packages that have sent more than \$3.3 billion to Virginia’s public secondary schools.

The Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES) provided \$239 million; the Consolidated Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act (CRRSA) provided \$939 million; and now the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) is providing \$2.1 billion. All for Virginia schools.

Additionally, Virginia’s non-public secondary schools have received through CARES, CRRSA, and ARPA more than \$189 million. (ARPA alone is providing \$46 million.)



Support for teachers and students

ARPA is providing \$2.1 billion to Virginia’s K-12 schools through its Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund (ESSERF), with 90 percent being distributed based on the Title I funding formula. For the most part, ESSERF dollars can be spent very flexibly to hire support staff, invest in special education, reduce class sizes, distribute meals, and more. It is clearly expected that some funds will be spent on “high-quality assessments” to determine how students have been set back by a year-long interruption of normal, in-person schooling. At least 20 percent of ESSERF dollars must address learning loss, such as extended days, summer learning, after-school programs, and assistance to disadvantaged students.

ARPA makes clear that the Commonwealth cannot use ARPA dollars to replace current K-12 appropriations. The state must maintain its current K-12 spending levels through FY 22 and FY 23 (or at least its average proportional spending in the state budget compared to the last three fiscal years).

Additionally, ARPA requires the state and local school divisions to maintain per-pupil equitable spending through FY 23 in certain disadvantaged communities.

Support for school facilities

Generally speaking, ARPA funds cannot be used for “school construction” – that is, local school divisions can’t use the funds to build a new school or a new addition.

However, there can be capital improvements (repairs, replacements, retrofits) that are COVID-related, such as air quality testing and inspections, improving HVAC systems, window repairs, buying air purifiers, and cleaning.

Additionally, various ARPA funds also can be used to improve school broadband infrastructure and spent on connectivity devices, such as routers, modems, and hotspots.

Infrastructure: Water, wastewater, and broadband

ALL LOCALITIES HAVE big infrastructure needs – especially in water, wastewater, and broadband. Fortunately, ARPA precisely cites this infrastructure as eligible uses.

Money for these projects must be appropriated from Virginia's \$4.3 billion direct-aid fund and localities' \$3 billion direct-aid funds. The General Assembly will have to appropriate some portion of its ARPA state funds to be used for water, sewer, and broadband projects. Similarly, a local governing body will have to carve out from its total ARPA funds whatever amount it wants to spend on such infrastructure projects.

But it is discretionary. Just because water, wastewater, and broadband are eligible for state and local ARPA funds does not mean that the General Assembly or local officials must use the funds for those purposes. State and local ARPA dollars can be used for a wide array of government services, including education, community health and public safety, housing, business assistance, and more.

As outlined elsewhere in this section, VML's survey of its members in mid-May and water and wastewater needs ranked at the top of localities' greatest interest for ARPA fund uses.

This tells us that the need is great, and billions are needed.

The General Assembly and local governing bodies will deliberate over how much of their ARPA funds should be allocated to water, wastewater, and broadband infrastructure. Such investments will require specific appropriations.



Water and wastewater

Many small towns and rural counties have costly plant upgrades to undertake, which may place inordinate burdens on their smaller populations (ratepayers). Urban

cities and counties also have similar costly upgrades, especially those in the Chesapeake Bay watershed. And most everyone must contend with stormwater challenges.

Additionally, Alexandria, Lynchburg, and Richmond continue to contend with federal- and state-mandated work to their combined sewer overflow systems – collectively, more than \$1 billion.

ARPA provides a golden opportunity for the Commonwealth and localities to invest heavily in one-time, must-do utility infrastructure, which will yield community and water-quality benefits for decades to come.

Broadband

The Commonwealth and localities have invested more than \$100 million in broadband infrastructure in recent years. The wisdom of those investments was realized when millions of students were forced into online learning last year.



Yet there is much more to do to bring broadband accessibility to unserved and under-served areas – a fact also highlighted over the past year by the connectivity struggles tens of thousands of homebound students experienced.

State and local ARPA funds can be used for broadband construction, to improve connectivity, and for various devices. State and local governments, schools, and libraries are all eligible agencies to invest in broadband and connectivity – and can do so from various ARPA sources.

Virginia has made extraordinary progress on broadband deployment. ARPA funds can dramatically help the Commonwealth and localities close the digital divide and ensure that all citizens have access to reliable broadband.

Virginia is receiving nearly \$600 million in Health & Human Resources assistance

THE PANDEMIC HAS especially impacted Virginia's most vulnerable citizens, including low-income families, renters, single parents, and the elderly and infirmed.

ARPA is providing Virginia nearly \$600 million in various forms of financial assistance for health and human resources. There is more than \$100 million to help low-income households with energy and utility costs, which is administered by the Virginia Department of Social Services (VDSS).

Also available through VDSS is nearly \$30 million for WIC vouchers and SNAP administrative grants, more than \$35 million for mental health services, nearly \$34 million for substance abuse services, and \$9 million for child abuse services and prevention.



More than \$35 million is available for mental health services. The Virginia Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services will distribute these funds, mostly through Community Service Boards.

Virginia's elderly citizens may benefit from more than \$18 million in meals assistance and \$3.5 million in family caregiver assistance. The Virginia Department for Aging and Rehabilitative Services will administer these funds and will work with local Area Agencies on Aging.

ARPA provides more than \$77 million to Virginia for COVID-19 vaccines as well as \$80 million to community health centers for vaccinations, testing, and treatment for vulnerable populations. The Virginia Department of Health is principally responsible for using or distributing these funds.

Virginia's K-12 schools will receive nearly \$260 million for COVID-19 testing.

Support for public safety workers and programs

THERE ARE SEVERAL WAYS in which public safety is supported by the American Rescue Plan Act.

The State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds (CSFRF and CLFRF) allow states and localities to continue paying for government services to cover pandemic-related revenue shortfalls. Police, fire, and other public safety services qualify for funding.

The CSFRF and CLFRF also allow public safety workers qualifying as “essential workers” to receive “premium pay.” This means employers, including local governments, can give premium pay up to \$13 per hour in addition to the worker’s wages, up to a total of \$25,000 per eligible worker.

Additionally, ARPA provides \$100 million to the Assistance to Firefighter Grants Program. This program allows fire departments, EMS organizations, and state fire training academies to apply for grants that fund critically needed resources to equip and train emergency personnel, enhance efficiencies, and support community resilience.



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STRATEGIC PLANNING

A valuable (and timely) tool for small communities

By Dr. Stephanie Dean Davis and Sara Carter

WITH THE ADOPTION of the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) of 2021, communities, specifically small towns, and cities, will be required to report to the federal and/or state government on how funds were spent in accordance with the guiding principles adopted with the ARPA. Extensive federal spending and reporting requirements at the local level create serious challenges for small localities* – not just how to report spending, but also how to spend the money. This is the perfect time for small communities in the Commonwealth that have not already done so to consider a strategic planning effort. The strategic plan is the best tool to allow small communities to think big with this federal funding opportunity and ensure the money is spent wisely.

Editor's note: At the time of publication, ARPA reporting guidance for towns and small cities (NEUs) was forthcoming from the state.

Why should small cities, counties and towns think about developing and adopting a strategic plan?

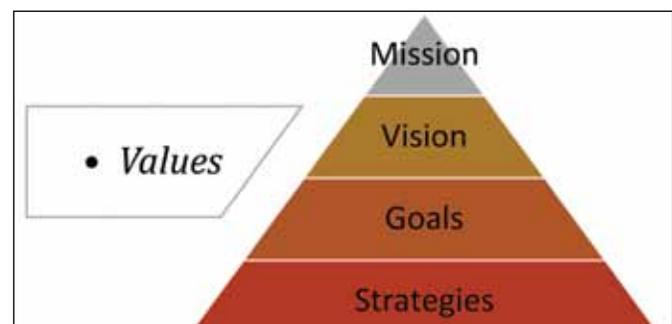
- Helps councils and boards agree on priorities for their communities and work as a cohesive whole rather than as individuals.
- Provides guidance on what is important to the elected body to staff in the local government.
- Communicates the wants and needs of citizens and external participants to the administrative staff.
- Helps councils and boards “see” progress on their priorities.
- Provides accountability for councils, boards, and staff.
- Allows staff to focus their time on what is important in the long term, rather than the “crisis of the day.”

Why is this important now?

ARPA funding is going to require local governments to report on performance outcomes for the use of money. Understanding the long- and short-term goals of the community and having those articulated to staff will help guide how the money can be most effectively used within the guidelines of the ARPA funding.

What is a strategic plan?

Figure 1: Strategic Plan Pyramid



A strategic plan is a document that is adopted by the governing body that establishes the mission, vision, value, goals, and objectives for the community. The strategic plan is typically a 2–5-year plan that is updated or reviewed on a regular basis (see Table 1).

How is the strategic plan different from my comprehensive plan?

Comprehensive plans are 20-year plans for land use and may incorporate similar components as a strategic plan, but the strategic plan looks at all areas of the community, rather than focusing on the community’s physical development. A strategic plan establishes actionable strategies for the entire organization, guiding staff in their everyday work. In many instances, a comprehensive plan establishes goals and strategies for the planning department, economic development, parks and recreation, etc., but other departments may not be included, and the timeframe for the comprehensive plan is longer. The strategic plan scans both external and internal resources and programs to achieve the broader vision of the community, with a shorter timeframe and more immediate set of steps.

When to do it?

- Start now. The strategic planning process is short, and especially for smaller communities, easy to accomplish. Don’t be overwhelmed.

Table 1: Strategic Plan Components

Strategic Plan Component	Answer the Question	Description
Mission	What do we do today?	The mission states what the local government does now; it communicates to citizens, businesses, nonprofits, and other key interest groups what you do on a day-to-day basis.
Vision	What do we want our community to look like in 10-15 years?	The vision states what you want your community to look like in 10-15 years; it communicates to the external environment what you want to achieve and how the governing body sees itself in the future.
Values	What values are important to the governing body when we make a decision?	The values (typically 4-5 values) communicate guiding principles that the governing body uses to make decisions for the community (ethics, efficiency, equity, etc.)
Goals	What are the goals to make progress towards our vision?	The goals are broad statements or affirmations the governing body agrees on to achieve the vision of the community.
Strategies	What do we need to do now to achieve those goals?	Strategies are action items that establish how you will achieve those goals.

- Review and update annually before the budget process. The strategic plan will guide the budget process as governing bodies decide how to allocate financial resources to programs and plans.
- Update when you have an election. Allow the new governing body to establish their vision and goals and strategies to achieve that vision.
- When you have turnover in the manager position. Allow the new manager the opportunity to work with the governing body to establish, review or refine the goals and objectives for the local government.

How do we do it?

1. Adopt a Plan. A strategic planning session does not need to be intensive, especially for small cities and towns. Some strategic planning sessions incorporate public meetings and sessions for public engagement to develop an external scan of the environment. For many cities and towns, the population is small and external scans take place daily at the gas station, grocery store, and other public venues. Governing bodies with direct, close ties to citizens can communicate the public’s goals and vision with certainty and clarity.

- Get a neutral outside facilitator. Work with the manager to find an outside expert to come in and guide your process. It can be a manager from a nearby jurisdiction, or a trained facilitator; but allowing the staff leadership to observe (and even participate) will help them listen and engage, rather than focusing on the meeting or the end product.
- Set aside four hours for a retreat (don’t forget to advertise the public meeting) to work on the questions identified in the Strategic Planning Component Table and be prepared to work on these items.
- Create an understandable product for your community. Some communities use a simple spreadsheet to track progress. Some create graphics and diagrams. Others use a Word document posted on their website for public review and access.

2. Implement the plan. Once a body has gathered, discussed as a group, and created a product, how does the product get implemented? Upon adoption of the strategic plan, let the manager work on the action items and provide updates as needed on the progress on the strategies. At the annual review, the manager and the governing body can review the progress on the goals – what was achieved, what is still being worked on, etc.

- Start small and work on quick successes; as the governing body begins to establish the goals and strategies ask, “what we can do now that can build momentum for future successes?” The more that gets done, the more energy that is created.

3. Evaluate the Plan. Going through the effort to create a plan is meaningless if it is just a document on the shelf. Having actionable items means that there should be clear outcomes that can be tracked and confirmed.

- Make tracking the plan part a regular report. This can be in a managers’ monthly report, or a part of the monthly meeting.
- On an annual basis, review the strategic plan, goals and strategies and evaluate the progress made. What needs to be changed? What was accomplished? What still needs more work?

Figure 2: Strategic Plan Process



Conclusion

Strategic Planning is an important tool for achieving a small community’s vision. With the addition of American Rescue Plan (ARPA) funds, a strategic plan becomes a valuable tool to be a responsible steward of the funds. Governing bodies of small cities and towns should consider developing a strategic plan to organize and align the activities of the local government for the future and be the most effective governing bodies possible.

About the authors: *Dr. Stephanie Dean Davis is the collegiate assistant professor and program director-graduate certificate in local government management at Virginia Tech. Sara Carter is the manager of the Town of Amherst.*

Welcome to Middleburg

The fifth of VTC's "Towns of Loudoun" series

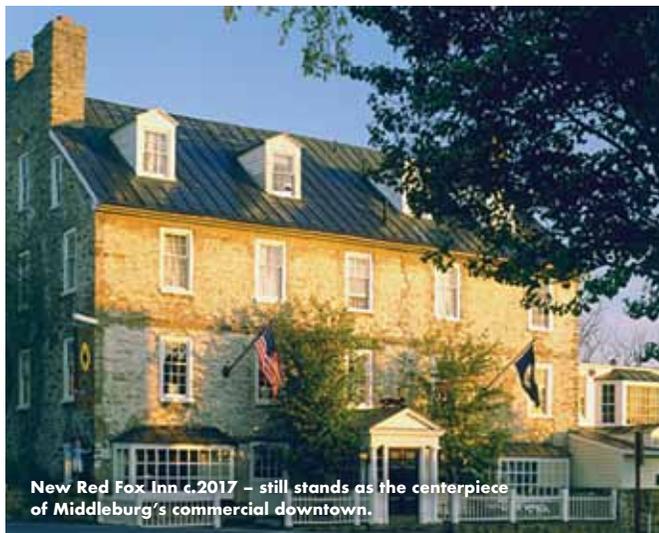


NAMED FOR ITS POSITION along the Ashby gap between Winchester and Alexandria, Middleburg served as a key trading route outpost during America's early years and is a place of historic and cultural value in the Commonwealth. Established in 1787 by Revolutionary War Colonel Leven Powell, who later served in the Virginia House of Delegates and the United States House of Representatives, Middleburg and its surrounds served as an agricultural hub for generations. More recently, Middleburg has evolved into an equestrian mainstay and popular agritourism destination. Situated on what is now Route 50, Middleburg is ideally positioned to serve travelers and tourists to the national capital region. These visitors enjoy the charm of small-town life and share in the history and vibrancy of Middleburg.

Chief among the town's many historic buildings and spaces is the Red Fox Inn, once called Chinn's Ordinary. Built in 1728, it stands as the longest continually operated inn in the United States. The Red Fox Inn has housed many dignitaries and was the site for press conferences by President John F. Kennedy when he rented nearby Glen Ora as the family's country retreat.

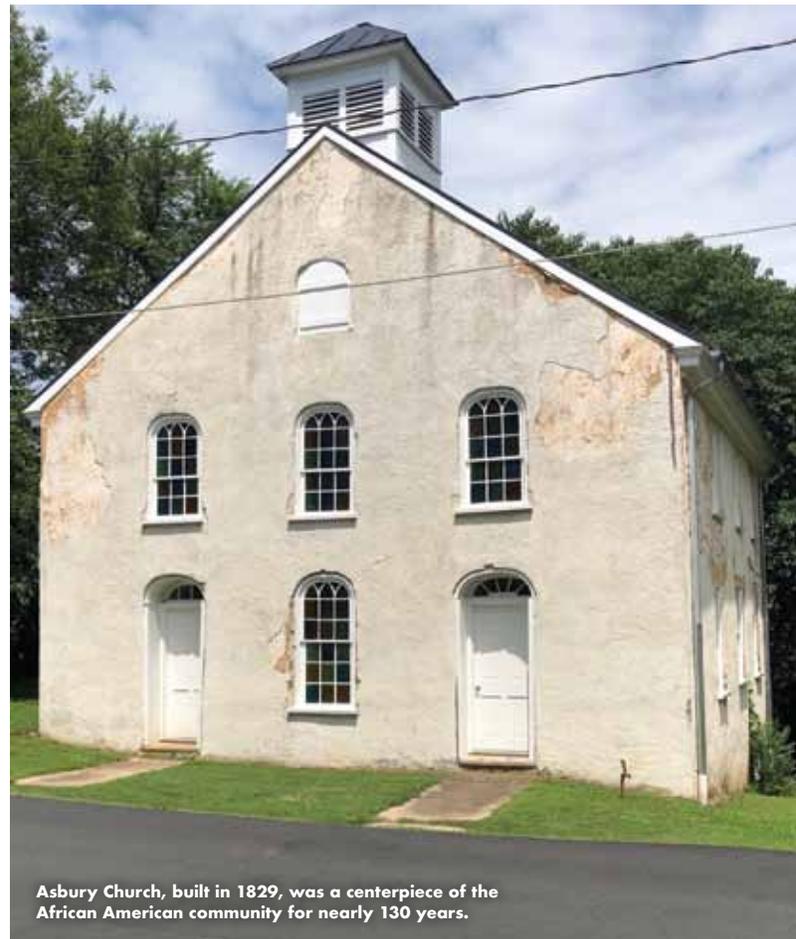


Old Red Fox Inn shown 19th century.



New Red Fox Inn c.2017 – still stands as the centerpiece of Middleburg's commercial downtown.

Other notable locations around town include the town's historic cemeteries (look closely for the Rodin sculpture) and the Asbury Church, which was built in 1829, making it one of the oldest standing churches in Virginia's northern Piedmont region. Originally a white Methodist church, the congregation moved to Washington Street in 1859. A few years later, Asbury was given to the African American Methodist Episcopal church, and it remained an active house of worship and a cultural hub for the African American community until 1994.



Asbury Church, built in 1829, was a centerpiece of the African American community for nearly 130 years.

Middleburg's story is not just about honoring our rich history, it is also about being a catalyst for change when it is needed. For example, Middleburg was a segregated community during the time that President Kennedy and his family were spending their weekends here. The President was a champion of civil rights, and in 1961 two young Black men from Middleburg saw this stark contrast as an opportunity to end segregation in their town. These young men bravely held a sit-in at a segregated Middleburg restaurant and raised awareness of the abhorrent practice of racial segregation in their hometown. The NAACP saw their action as an opportunity to raise awareness of racial segregation nationally and planned to bring 2,000 protesters to Middleburg on President Kennedy's next weekend visit.

Upon learning of these plans, local business leaders – Black and White – sat down to address the issue. They agreed racial segregation



Salamander Resort & Spa opened in 2013 and quickly became the foremost destination resort in the Mid-Atlantic.



Middleburg hosted the 1000 Miglia Warm-Up USA in October 2019, celebrating "The Most Beautiful Race in the World" with partners from Italy.

of local businesswoman Sheila Johnson. When the resort was opened in 2013, some feared it would be detrimental to Middleburg's quaint small-town feel. In actuality, the resort has added tremendous value to the local economy as well as contributed to the overall community culture. It is now a highly desirable destination in the Mid-Atlantic region, recognized as a premiere resort and awarded with a *Forbes Travel Guide* 5-Star rating.

The Middleburg Town Council has a history of engaging in various initiatives to strengthen our community's character and quality of living for residents and businesses alike. While many small towns are suffering the fate of diminishing visitors, empty storefronts, and little economic activity, Middleburg is enjoying a growing business economy.

was wrong and had no place in their town. In the span of one meeting, these business leaders shook hands and effectively ended the practice of racial segregation in Middleburg that very day. As such, Middleburg holds the honor of being the first town in Virginia to desegregate. The two men who held the sit-in still reside in town and are prominent members of the community. They have become part of Middleburg's proud history and were recognized by the Town Council during Black History Month in February 2020.

While well known for celebrities, captains of industry, and political notables who live near or frequent Middleburg, in this close-knit community of 834 residents you're more likely to run into a well-known friend at the Post Office or grocery store than a Hollywood celebrity. However, the town does have a bit of the luxurious lifestyle, evidenced in part by the Salamander Resort and Spa, the brainchild

Nearly every storefront on our main street is occupied; in fact, in recent months four new businesses have opened! The town has more than 20 eating establishments and numerous shops that serve all the community's needs – from basic grocery and food needs to equestrian gear and saddlery repair stores to well-appointed clothing and antiques shops.

The town feels extremely blessed that over the past 15 months of the global pandemic, revenues dipped but did not tank. Thankfully, many restaurants and lodging establishments have been more successful in the last 10 months than they were the 10 months prior to the pandemic.

At the beginning of COVID, Middleburg took early action and used creative approaches to support our business community and residents. Two weeks after the Governor's emergency declaration,

Middleburg

Middleburg acted. On March 26th, the town council approved a “meal voucher” program in which the Town entered into a contract for services to ensure that area restaurants would stay open. The town provided up to \$10,000 per restaurant, and in return sent \$10,000 worth of meal vouchers (per restaurant) to households in the town. The infusion of cash helped the restaurants stay open and operational – when only take-out was permitted – and gave financial support to residents who may have had food insecurity.

All told, the town provided approximately \$240,000 worth of meal vouchers to its residents (approximately \$500 per household) and helped 16 restaurants maintain operations in April and May 2020.



An example of \$20 meal voucher sent to each household in Town at the beginning of the pandemic.

For retailers, the town developed a creative marketing arrangement in which each participating shop and personal service business agreed to promote Middleburg’s new marketing efforts and give discounts to their customers. In return, the town reimbursed the business half of the discounts they provided, up to \$7,500 over a period of two months. Even today, the restaurants and retailers talk about how these programs kept them open, operational, and successful during the worst of the pandemic.

All told, the small Town of Middleburg provided nearly \$500,000 in business and community support during the pandemic – some from CARES Funds but much of it from local dollars. Today, we are seeing the positive results of those investments.

Despite the challenges of a global pandemic, the town has continued our efforts to build a new town hall. Our current building is nearly 60 years old, built when the town had just a few staff. Now we have 15 full-time staff split among three buildings, including three employees who must climb a spiral staircase to reach their attic offices. The new town hall will bring all the staff together, provide better service to the community, offer four meeting rooms for town and community use, include lots of parking, and add two passive parks which will enhance the amount of green space in town. This new town hall fulfills multiple goals of the town’s recently adopted Comprehensive Plan and is on track for a ground-breaking in early 2022.

A community of people

The Town of Middleburg continues to be a frontrunner in innovative thinking, creative brainstorming, and a willingness to make tough choices. Steeped in its history and tradition, Middleburg is pushing the boundaries of what governments can and should do. Because at the end of the day, we are not just a town of services, staff and structures: we are a community of people – an engaged citizenry and business community – that want our town to prosper. It doesn’t take new homes or development for a town to grow; it takes the rich, fertile soil of dedicated people who care about each other.

History has shown that we are a place where people come to escape the city and relax – and often they move here. Who knows, maybe one day that will be you! As the town council’s vision statement reads: “Middleburg sustains its strong sense of place by witnessing a stewardship that honors the town’s rich history while embracing purposeful change in order that Middleburg’s heritage and cultural traditions will be enjoyed by future generations.”

Join us on this journey and come experience the rich history, exquisite shopping and dining, and serene community that is Middleburg.

See you around Middleburg!



(Above) Existing Town Office, built in 1964, and rendering of new Town Hall, expected to break ground in early 2022.



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