

VIRGINIA

TOWN & COUNTRY

The magazine of the
Virginia Municipal League

VOL. 53 NO. 10
DECEMBER 2018

VML's new star

2019 President
Anita James Price

Inside:

2019 General
Assembly details





VMLIP introduces telemedicine for injured workers

VML Insurance Programs (VMLIP) has partnered with Akos to provide telemedicine services for injured workers. Through telemedicine, employees can virtually consult with a healthcare provider at the time of injury - from nurse triage to provider consult - **all at no additional cost for VMLIP members!**

Medical Care Made Easy

- 24/7/365 availability
- On demand virtual consultations
- Nurse triage at the time of injury
- Board-certified physicians
- Intuitive HIPAA-compliant platform
- Reduce emergency and urgent care visits
- Accessible from any smart device or computer

To learn more - For more information about VMLIP's services, visit: www.vmlins.org or call: (800) 963-6800.





About the cover

Anita James Price, council member from the “Star City” of Roanoke, is the new President of the Virginia Municipal League. *VTC* highlights Anita’s dedication to education and the City of Roanoke. Story begins on page 13.

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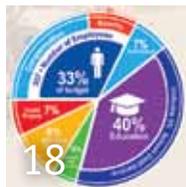
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Visit at www.vml.org

VML's Legislative Day can help you make the most of the 2019 General Assembly session

AS I WRITE THIS, Richmond is blanketed in an unusually early and heavy snow. The state government offices, after taking a day off to weather the storm, are getting ready to reopen. Most schools in the area are closed for the second day in-a-row and the usual sledding spots around the city are full of children seemingly oblivious to the cold. All of which serves as a reminder to those of us tracking the activities of the state legislature: Winter is upon us, and the next General Assembly session is just around the corner!

It's the time of year when the state legislative committees are wrapping up their work and finalizing legislation for the coming session. At VML we have been working on everything from state assistance to local police departments to funding the real cost of education; from mental health alternative transportation to restoring reductions to community services boards. The 2019 General Assembly will be a short one but, as outlined in the VML Legislative Program article (p. 20), full of issues important to local governments.

Snow storms notwithstanding, the renovations and reconstruction of the General Assembly Building at the

corner of 9th and Broad Streets are still underway. So, as last year, the legislative session will meet in the Pocahontas Building at 900 East Main. Once again, we can all share the small rooms, bad acoustics and counterintuitive layout of the assembly's temporary home. But, having survived the 2018 session, I'm sure we'll make the best of 2019 as well.

VML Legislative Day is on Thursday, January 24, 2019 at the Omni Hotel in Richmond. This year, we will hold a legislative briefing and lunch beginning at 11:45 a.m. followed by an opportunity to visit with legislators and to attend committee meetings beginning at 1:30 p.m. The reception will begin at 5:00 p.m. and conclude at 6:15 p.m. to allow plenty of time to have dinner with your legislators if you choose to do so. We strongly encourage you to take the time to meet with your delegation while you are in Richmond and evenings are a great opportunity to meet in a social setting.

In closing 2018, I wish all of you a joyful and restful season of holidays as together we prepare to meet the challenges of 2019. 



VML Legislative Day will take place on Thursday, Jan. 24 at the Omni Hotel Richmond located at 100 S. 12th Street. For registration and information visit www.vml.org.

VML connects you with a variety of networking and professional development events. Learn about these opportunities at vml.org/events.



2019 Finance Forum
 Cosponsored by VML and VACo
Tuesday, January 8



2019 VML LEGISLATIVE DAY
Thursday, January 24

- Jan. 8** **2019 Finance Forum**
 Greater Richmond Convention Center, 403 N. 3rd Street, Richmond, VA
- Jan. 24** **2019 Legislative Day**
 Omni Hotel Richmond, 100 S. 12th Street, Richmond, VA
- March 31 – April 1** **Virginia Building and Code Officials Association (VBCOA) Mid-Year Meeting**
 Hotel Roanoke and Conference Center, 110 Shenandoah Ave NW, Roanoke, VA
- May 22 – 24** **Municipal Electric Power Association of Virginia (MEPAV) – Annual Meeting**
 Hilton Garden Inn, 3315 Atlantic Avenue, Virginia Beach, VA
- Sept. 21 – 24** **Virginia Building and Code Officials Association (VBCOA) – Annual Conference and School**
 Hilton Oceanfront, 3001 Atlantic Ave, Virginia Beach, VA 23451
- Oct. 5 - 6** **Virginia Mayors Institute**
 Hotel Roanoke and Conference Center, 110 Shenandoah Ave. NW, Roanoke, VA
- Oct. 6 - 8** **Virginia Municipal League Annual Conference**
 Hotel Roanoke and Conference Center, 110 Shenandoah Ave. NW, Roanoke, VA

Winner of “If I were a Mayor” contest inspires Kindness Week



Mayor Levar Stoney and Jalia Hardy.

MAYOR LEVAR M. STONEY signed a proclamation declaring the week of November 12 – 16 in the City of Richmond as “Kindness Week.” Mayor Stoney noted that Jalia Hardy, a straight-A student at Binford Middle School, won the Virginia Municipal League’s, “If I Were Mayor” statewide essay contest. In her essay, she proposed a week of kindness for Richmond: “During Kindness Week, people just give compliments and help each other, even if they don’t know the person they are helping. Kindness Week is a way to spread love. We all have a heart so why not use it?”

In addition, Gini Bonnell, a local resident, has been giving away handmade signs with a simple message painted on them: “Be Kind.” She has handed out more than 1,200 signs, including ones for Stoney and Hardy.

Polster elected to NLC board

We are pleased to announce that the National League of Cities (NLC) has chosen



- Polster -

Sean Polster, a council member from the Town of Warrenton, to serve on its Board of Directors for a two-year term and its Executive Committee for a one-year term. In his work with the National League of Cities, Polster has been president of the Asian Pacific American Municipal Officers and chairman of the Public Safety and Crime Prevention Committee.

Polster is also a valuable member of the Virginia Municipal League’s Executive Committee. VML is confident that he will continue to be an effective voice for the Town of Warrenton and the Virginia Municipal League in the NLC.

Stalzer appointed as Fairfax city manager

On Nov. 15, the City of Fairfax Council appointed **Robert Stalzer** as the city manager effective Jan. 7. Stalzer has been



- Stalzer -

the deputy county executive for Fairfax County for the past 18 years, including the deputy for public safety, planning and development and the deputy for planning and development. He also served as the town manager in Herndon from 1988 to 2000 and as the director of planning in Roanoke County from 1983 to 1988.

Stalzer has a master's degree in business administration from Syracuse University, a master's degree in regional and city planning from the University of Oklahoma and a bachelor's degree from Clark University. He is an ICMA credentialed manager.

Trivette named Williamsburg city manager

Andrew O. Trivette has been named as Williamsburg's new city manager, effective November 2018. Trivette was hired as the assistant city manager in Williamsburg in November 2016 and has served as the interim manager since this past May.



- Trivette -

Before coming to Williamsburg, Trivette was an assistant city manager in Bristol and the growth management division director in Monroe County, FL. His government service began in 2000 as a GIS specialist in Albemarle County.

Trivette has a bachelor's degree in environmental science from the University of Virginia. He is certified through the American Institute of Certified Planners and received a graduate certificate in local government management from Virginia Tech. He is an International City/County Management Association (ICMA) credentialed manager.

Christiansburg officials appointed



- Warren -

Christiansburg Planning Director **Andrew Warren** was appointed as the assistant town manager in July. Warren had served as planning director in Christiansburg since 2016. His previous experience included working as a planner in Roanoke and Blacksburg.

Warren holds an undergraduate degree

in political science and a master's degree in public administration from Virginia Tech. He also has a graduate certificate in local government management from Virginia Tech. He is part of the American Institute of Certified Planners, the Virginia Association of Zoning Officials, and the New River Valley Community Foundation and serves as the town liaison to Downtown Christiansburg, Inc.

Will Drake was appointed in November as the town's new planning director. He has worked with the town since 2015. Prior to joining the Town of Christiansburg, Drake taught an introductory plan-



- Drake -

ning course at Virginia Tech and worked as a broadband planner and GIS specialist for Design Nine in Blacksburg.

Drake has a bachelor's degree in public and urban affairs and a master's degree in urban and regional planning from Virginia Tech. He is a certified zoning administrator through the Virginia Association of Zoning Officials.

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Ray tapped as planning and zoning director

Alaina Ray was named the director of the Department of Planning and Zoning for Loudoun County at the end of November. Ray was promoted to director after serving as the department's deputy since October 2017.



- Ray -

Prior to joining Loudoun County, Ray was the planning director in Longboat, FL and the director of economic and community development in Orange Park, FL. She also has worked for the city of Rowlett, TX and as a project manager for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' Everglades Restoration Project.

Ray earned a bachelor's degree in Environmental Studies from the University of Texas at Dallas and has certified planner credentials through the American Institute of Certified Planners.

Governor appoints local officials

Governor Ralph S. Northam recently appointed several local officials to boards and commissions, including:

Councilmember for the City of Virginia Beach **Louis Jones** to the Board of Health Professions, representing the Board of Funeral Directors and Embalmers. The board makes recommendations about the appropriate level of regulation of health care professions and occupations and evaluates the disciplinary procedures for these professions.



- Jones -

Danville Treasurer **Sheila Williamson-Branch** to the Advisory Board on Service and Volunteerism. The board advises the Governor and administration on issues on promoting national service.



- Williamson-Branch -

Former Westmoreland County Supervisor **Rosemary M. Mahan** to the Commission on Local Government (COLG). The COLG fosters intergovernmental relations and makes advisory recommenda-



- Mahan -



- Bell -

tions on annexation and other initiatives.



- Scott -

Superintendent of the Norfolk Juvenile Detention Center **John L. Bell, Jr.** to the Secure and Resilient Commonwealth Panel. The panel makes recommendations on emergency management and homeland security issues.

Chief Deputy Commissioner of the Revenue for the City of Norfolk **Blythe Ann Scott** to the Library Board. The board determines the scope of the Library of Virginia's collection, establishes policy concerning what books are kept, housed, or exhibited by the state library, promotes education in the area of history and library and archival science and enters into agreements with organizations with similar purposes.

Richmond police chief announces retirement



- Durham -

Richmond Police Chief **Alfred Durham** has announced his intention to retire effective the end of this year. Durham came to Richmond in 2015 after a career with the Washington, D.C. police department. An interim chief will be appointed until a permanent replacement is selected. Durham has had more than 31 years of service in law enforcement.

Roanoke County names Dan O'Donnell as new county administrator



- O'Donnell -

The Roanoke County Board of Supervisors voted unanimously Tuesday to promote longtime assistant county administrator **Dan O'Donnell**.

O'Donnell, who's been with the county since 2000, will take over as county administrator Jan. 5 when current county administrator Tom Gates steps down. O'Donnell first joined Roanoke County as an assistant administrator in June 2000. Prior to that, he spent four years serving as the county administrator for Steuben County, New York, and five years as county

administrator in Berkeley County, West Virginia. He holds a master's degree in public administration from West Virginia University and is recognized as a certified local government manager through the International City/County Management Association.

Farmville town manager celebrates 40 years on the job



- Spates -

The last time a town manager in Farmville retired was in 1978 when then assistant town manager **Gerry Spates** took over the job. Forty years later, he's still at it! The October issue of *Farmville: The Magazine* featured Spates on the cover and noted that when he began as the town manager, Farmville only had three stoplights and a single-lane Main Street. Spates made developing Farmville's infrastructure his focus and the town has grown and prospered under his guidance. Prior to becoming the town manager, Spates served as a combat engineer with the Army Corps of Engineers in Vietnam and as an engineer consultant before taking the job of Farmville's assistant town manager in 1975.

In Memoriam



- Knapp -

John L. Knapp, retired professor at the University of Virginia and the Weldon Cooper Center for Public Service, passed away on Nov. 16. During his career in state government, Knapp served as staff for several state and

local revenue and finance commissions. He possessed an encyclopedic knowledge of state and local government finance and taxation information. For many years, Knapp authored the annual publication *Virginia Local Tax Rates* for the Weldon Cooper Center for Public Service. Under his watch, the publication grew from a simple listing of local tax rates to a detailed compilation of the legislative history of local taxes and an examination of how the taxing authority is used by localities. Knapp also served as editor of the *Virginia News Letter*, a publication analyzing topical issues facing the state. John, who was always willing to share his knowledge and to learn from others, regularly lent his expertise to VML and was a friend to several members of our staff. He will be missed. His obituary is posted at <https://bit.ly/2TpkZNH>.

Alexandria provides updates on historic ship discoveries

MORE THAN 100,000 ARTIFACTS have been found during the excavation of three historic ships discovered at the Robinson Landing construction site on the Alexandria waterfront. The ships, which were discovered in early 2018, are partially located in the footprint of a future parking garage, according to an October City of Alexandria news release. City Archaeologist Eleanor Breen notes that “Right now, we are working on the largest, most intact discovery so far – a wooden sailing vessel made with trunnels [wooden pegs] and iron fasteners that held the ship’s timbers together.”

The three ships, along with a ship previously recovered at the Hotel Indigo site, are thought to have been used in the late 18th and early 19th centuries. The four ships are all located within a



two-block area. The excavation will provide insight into Alexandria’s early history of trade and commerce as well as the larger maritime world of the period.

Additional information is posted at <https://bit.ly/2B32irO>.

Roanoke selected to develop financial counseling for low-income residents

IN OCTOBER, the City of Roanoke, in partnership with the national Cities for Financial Empowerment Fund (CFE Fund), was selected to replicate the Financial Empowerment Center (FEC) model under its national platform. In collaboration with Freedom First Credit Union and United Way of the Roanoke Valley, the city will receive support to bring free, professional, one-on-one financial counseling as a public service to Roanoke residents. Nationally, 18 local governments are working to replicate this proven model.



Roanoke is one of nine localities selected to receive a grant and the intensive technical assistance needed to launch a local FEC through the national FEC Public platform. First piloted in 2008 in New York City, the FECs have worked with over 82,000 clients, helping them reduce individual debt by over \$100 million, and increasing their families’ savings by over \$10 million. A recent CFE Fund evaluation showed that this program works even for residents with very low incomes and other complex financial challenges.

Additional information on the CFE fund is posted at www.cfefund.org.

Winchester police hosts second-annual Color with a Cop event

THE WINCHESTER POLICE Department held its second-annual Color with a Cop event on Nov. 6 at two locations in the city. Children of all ages were invited to color and talk with Winchester police officers. That date for the free event was chosen because area schools were closed for the general election.

Crayons and coloring sheets were provided but attendees also were encouraged to bring their own supplies. Completed coloring sheets are on display in the patrol work room at the public safety center.

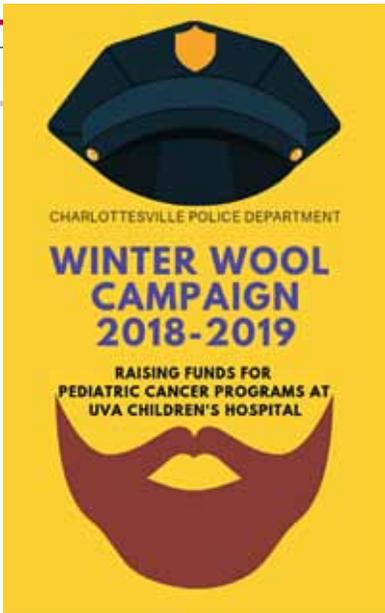


Newport News launches new Waterworks account portal

NEWPORT NEWS WATERWORKS launched a new account portal and mobile app in November. Both include top-of-the-line security, easy-to-use account management tools, and enhanced service options. The new e-services portal/app enables people to view and pay bills; receive alerts and reminders; schedule payments; view account summary and payment/usage history; and place online requests for certain services (such as requesting a meter re-read or to report low pressure).

Customers who currently have an online account need to re-register on the new portal. Additional information is posted at <https://www.nngov.com/306/Pay-Water-Bill>.





Police raise funds for UVA Children's Hospital Cancer Clinic

THE CHARLOTTESVILLE POLICE DEPARTMENT has partnered with the University of Virginia Health Foundation and the Charlottesville Police Foundation to raise funds and awareness for the UVA Children's Hospital Cancer Clinic. Police officers will be participating in the Winter Wool Campaign; from November 1, 2018 through Feb. 1, 2019, officers may grow beards and donate the money typically spent on shaving and grooming to benefit the clinic. Officers also can stay clean-shaven but participate by wearing pins and/or bracelets promoting the campaign. The public can participate as well by making donations to the Winter Wool campaign.

The Campaign expands on No-Shave November, a non-profit organization with the sole purpose of highlighting cancer awareness, as well as raising funds to support cancer prevention, research, and education.



Roanoke police launch Paw Watch program

THE ROANOKE POLICE Department's new neighborhood watch program called Paw Watch encourages dog walkers to be extra eyes and ears in the community. The program is inspired by the national Night Out's Dog Walker Watch program, which has helped reduce criminal activity in neighborhoods across the country. Paw Watch participants are told what to look for when identifying suspicious activity in their neighborhood.

To celebrate the program launch, Roanoke held a Paw Watch Dog Party on Oct. 25 at an area park followed by a community meeting.

Danville hosts fire safety campaign

THE DANVILLE FIRE DEPARTMENT, Averett University and Danville Community College have partnered with First Alert, Campus Firewatch and the Michael H. Minger Foundation to participate in the Town/Gown Fire Safety Community Service Project. The project began on Nov. 7 and gives students and city residents the opportunity to learn the importance of fire safety.

The Danville Fire Department was chosen along with 24 other departments to host community events nationwide. Students worked with firefighters to conduct home safety visits and to install 2,500 smoke and CO alarms donated by First Alert in at-risk communities during the fall semester.

According to the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA), three of every five home fire deaths result from fires in homes without smoke alarms or with no working smoke alarms. In fires where a smoke alarm was present, but did not operate, half of the alarms had missing or disconnected batteries. Underwriters Laboratories says that a house fire can become

uncontrollable in less than three minutes. The U.S. Fire Administration and the NFPA advise that homes have smoke alarms installed inside every bedroom, outside each sleeping area and on every level of the home, including the basement.

The Danville Fire Departments has a long history of community outreach related to fire alarms. Its "Get Alarmed, Danville" smoke alarm program has been in effect since 1999, installing more than 11,800 alarms, with 34 homes saved, including 92 occupants saved from fire injuries. This program also installs smoke alarms free of charge to Danville residents. The program is funded by grants and donations from local individuals and businesses.



Christiansburg unveils town-sponsored mural

THE TOWN OF CHRISTIANSBURG unveiled its first-ever town-sponsored mural in November. The mural is on the front of the Christiansburg Police Department building. Sherwin-Williams donated all necessary painting supplies to David Mann, who painted the mural on an aluminum sheet. The Montgomery County Christmas Store allowed Mann to paint the mural in its warehouse space. Mann was paid a stipend for his work and he chose to donate that payment to New River Stage and the Christiansburg Institute. New River Stage is a local arts organization and the Christiansburg Institute preserves the facilities and archives of the Christiansburg Industrial Institute and it serves as a catalyst for community dialogue, public forums, and multi-cultural events in the New River Valley.

The Police Department mural is the latest in a roll-out of street art projects sponsored by Christiansburg. Previously, artists Nikki Pynn transformed a water meter manhole cover on the sidewalk of West Main Street into a horse and wagon and Katy Shepard painted two storm drains. Up next, an Appalachian Electric Power (AEP) power box in downtown is being painted by the Tuxedo Pandas, a program of the New River Robotics Association.



(L - R) Christiansburg Police Department Chief Mark Sisson, Christiansburg Town Councilman Sam Bishop, Christiansburg Mayor Mike Barber, Artist Dave Mann, Town of Christiansburg Events Coordinator Casey Jenkins, and Christiansburg Town Council Member Merissa Sachs.

NLC releases report on autonomous vehicles

IN OCTOBER, the National League of Cities (NLC) released the “Autonomous Vehicle Pilots Across America” report which analyzes current regulations on autonomous vehicles (AVs). The report also includes an overview of successful pilot programs and best practices from cities around the country.

NLC’s research shows that more than 50 percent of America’s largest cities are preparing for AVs and many cities are already successfully piloting the technology on their streets. Moreover, between 2011 and 2017, 22 states passed 46 bills related to AV usage while five governors signed executive orders encouraging their development. Most of the legislative action expressly permitted AV pilot programs.

In 2018, 28 states introduced, debated and/or passed 98 bills related to AV use.

The report is posted at <https://bit.ly/2QGQIrS>.



Hopewell program recognizes hometown heroes

THE CITY OF HOPEWELL, working with the American Legion and the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW), participated in the Hometown Heroes banner project this past summer and fall. The banners each honored a different veteran of the U.S. Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Air Force, Reserve, National Guard, Coast Guard, Merchant Marine or Women’s Air Service Pilots.



From June 30 through Nov. 11, the 18” x 45” banners were displayed on light fixtures on several major streets in the city. Sponsors paid \$100 per banner whose subject had to be a veteran who was a Hopewell resident or had a connection with the city. Each banner included an image and biographical information.

Donors could request return of their banner(s) after the program concluded.

Blue Ridge Barn Quilt Trail is a success

THE BLUE RIDGE BARN QUILT TRAIL, which began in early 2017, has now grown to be the largest trail of its kind in Virginia with over 75 quilts on display in Greene County, according to the county's website. The Art Guild of Greene sponsors the project in conjunction with the Greene County Economic Development & Tourism Department.



A barn quilt is a wooden replica of a quilt square or design that is displayed on barns, houses, garages, fences, porches, gardens, and places of business. They come in a variety of sizes from 1x1' up to 9x9'. The owners of the structure that will display the art select the design, size and colors and two members of the Art Guild then prepare the boards and do the art work. The

blocks are sealed on all sides with four layers of spar varnish to ensure longevity. The completed barn quilt is then given to the owner to display in exchange for a donation to the Art Guild. Additionally, the county holds workshops for people who would like to paint their own barn quilts.

Information and photos of many of the barn quilts on the trail are posted at <https://bit.ly/2Q5qHWL>.

Town of Leesburg honors high school marching band

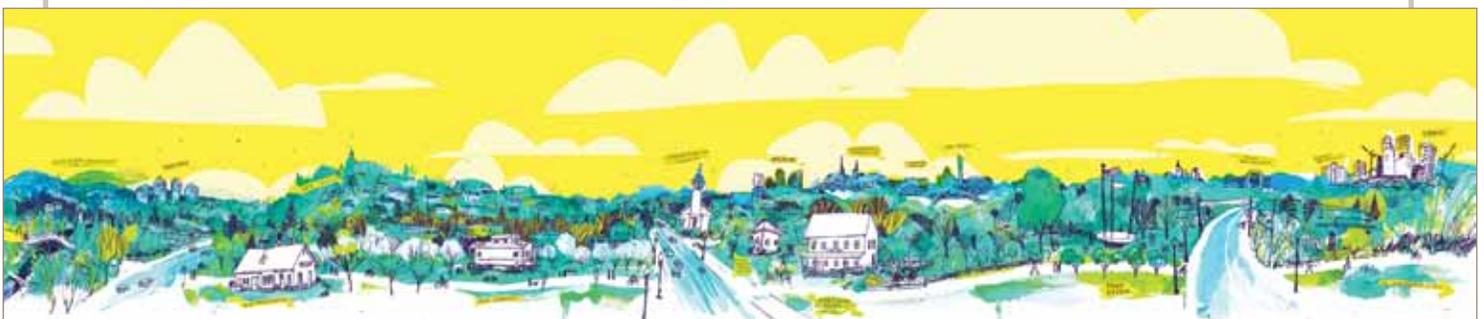
AT THEIR NOV. 27 MEETING, the Leesburg Town Council issued a proclamation recognizing the recent achievements of the Loudoun County High School (LCHS) Marching Raider band. Earlier that month, the band won the national championship after competing in Allentown, PA at the USBands National Marching Bank Championship (Class IV-A). Their winning performance was a 7-minute piece titled "Light Prevails." Mayor Kelly Burk congratulated the band members for their hard work and dedication. Band Director Darron Young, along with several members of the LCHS Band, were in attendance during the proclamation.



New landscape mural comes to life in Vienna

THE TOWN OF VIENNA has a new 200-foot mural on the back wall of the Vienna Shopping Center where it is visible to people traveling down Cottage Street. Featuring a stylized map of the Vienna landscape illustrating significant landmarks, the mural is the creation of two artists, Emily Herr and Eleanor

Doughty who met while they were students at Virginia Commonwealth University. The Vienna mural is their third collaborative effort. Students from James Madison High School assisted the artists during its creation. The public art project is being funded by Rappaport, owners of the shopping center.



Building the coastal community of the future through zoning and visioning

THE CITY OF NORFOLK is taking a proactive and innovative approach to address flooding and to position the city as the coastal community of the future. Norfolk's new zoning ordinance was unanimously adopted by City Council on Jan. 23, 2018 and took effect on March 1, 2018. The ordinance was rewritten to strengthen the City's commitment to vibrant neighborhoods, economic diversity, and coastal resilience. The new zoning ordinance encourages and supports development that makes Norfolk more resilient, both physically and economically; recognizes four established character districts; and enhances the user experience through an improved format and streamlined development processes. The city has also adopted a long-term vision, Vision 2100, to ensure Norfolk will be a dynamic, water-based community into the next century. Between Vision 2100 and the new zoning ordinance, Norfolk creates policy through the lens of resilience.

Resilience

The zoning ordinance contains a number of pioneering approaches in response to the long-term challenges posed by sea level rise, one of which requires all development within the City to meet a resilience quotient. The requirement is measured on a points system covering three separate resilience elements: risk reduction, stormwater management, and energy resilience. This innovative points system ensures that new development will be more resilient and environmentally-friendly while providing flexibility to

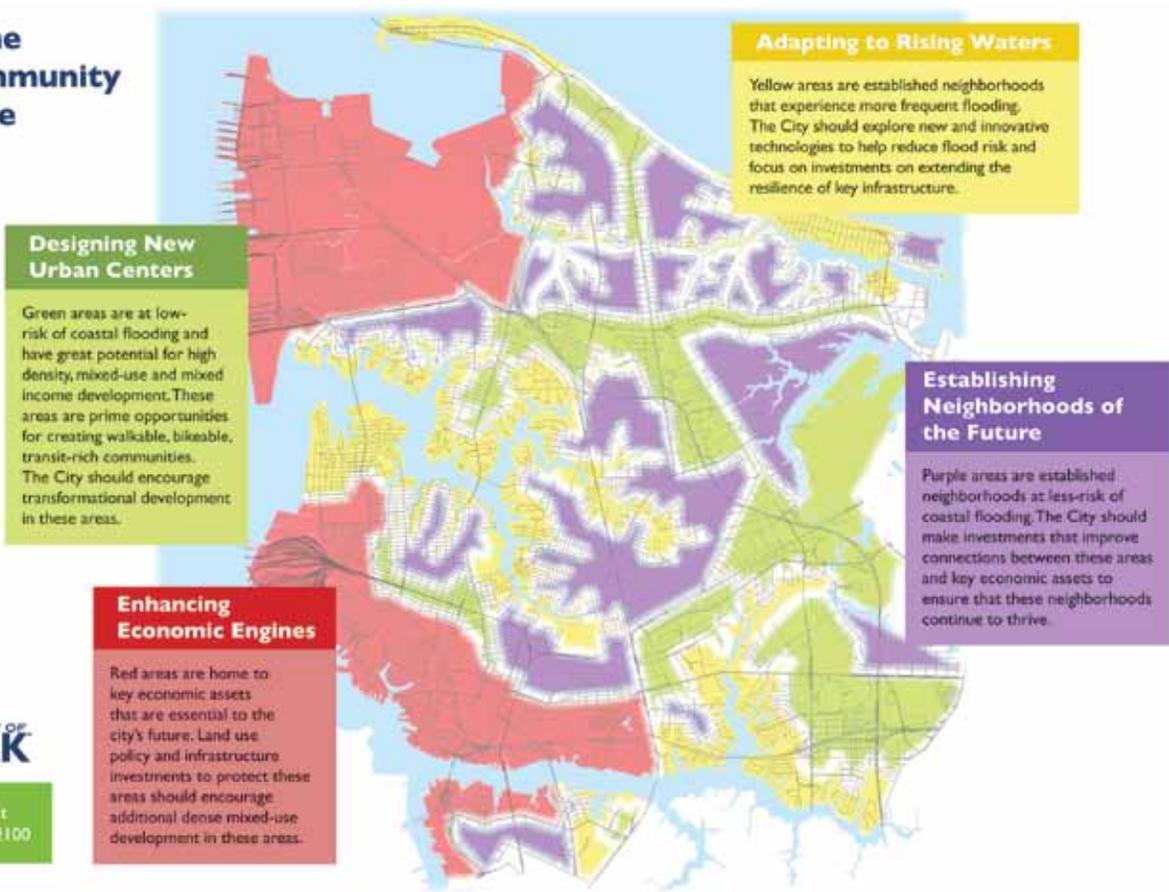
builders by allowing them to choose which measures to include in the development. Additionally, new or expanding development must meet minimum requirements for first floor elevations ranging from 1.5 feet above grade level to 3 feet above flood level, prohibiting basements. The zoning ordinance allows for easier mixing of uses in commercial corridors to encourage more vibrant and pedestrian-friendly communities, whether one walks, bikes, uses transit or drives. Increasing the housing use and diversity also includes provisions for more live-work units, providing a broader range of home occupations. As one example of this, the zoning ordinance allows home-business owners to ask for permission to see clients in their homes, something that wasn't previously available. Additionally, the zoning ordinance creates more housing options, such as accessory dwelling units (or in-law suites) in many areas of the city.

Neighborhood character

Because one size does not fit all in Norfolk, the zoning ordinance also reflects the need to preserve and enhance Norfolk's unique development character. Character districts were established to apply different standards to different areas, with four district character districts – Downtown, Traditional, Suburban, and Coastal – each having standards that address their historic and planned development character. Form standards for each character district establish guidelines for how new buildings can be developed while maintaining the integrity

Designing the Coastal Community of the Future

By working with residents, the City of Norfolk is building a long-term strategy to address the flooding challenges due to sea level rise. How we use land today helps ensure the opportunity that Norfolk will be a dynamic, water-based community into the next century.



ACTION ITEMS:

CITYWIDE – Designing the coastal community of the future

- Action 1: Focus major infrastructure investments in the most resilient areas
- Action 2: Improve transportation connections
- Action 3: Be a model for responsibly addressing resilience
- Action 4: Create tools and incentives to develop a more resilient housing market
- Action 5: Seize the economic opportunities of emerging resilience-based industries

RED AREAS – Enhancing economic engines

- Action 1: Expand the flood protection system
- Action 2: Build a comprehensive, 24-hour transportation network
- Action 3: Transform less-intense uses into a denser, mixed-use pattern
- Action 4: Diversify the housing options available to residents
- Action 5: Strengthen and increase economic diversity

YELLOW AREAS – Adapting to rising waters

- Action 1: Exploit new and innovative technologies to reduce flood risk to the built environment
- Action 2: Focus infrastructure investments on improvements that extend resilience
- Action 3: Educate residents about the risk of recurrent flooding
- Action 4: Develop mechanisms to allow property owners to recoup economic value lost to water rise
- Action 5: Develop a solution for sea level rise adaptation in historic neighborhoods

GREEN AREAS – Designing new urban centers

- Action 1: Outline a transit-centric land use and infrastructure pattern to support new urban centers
- Action 2: Build the infrastructure necessary to support new urban centers
- Action 3: Make realizing the long-term vision for these areas the central factor in all development decisions
- Action 4: Capitalize on the opportunity to create a model urban form of development in these areas

PURPLE AREAS – Establishing the neighborhoods of the future

- Action 1: Improve connections to the city's key assets
- Action 2: Prioritize infrastructure investments that enhance neighborhood attractiveness
- Action 3: Maintain housing affordability while improving economic value
- Action 4: Redevelop underperforming commercial and multifamily residential properties

This improved process empowers the neighborhood and allows all to give their input at the beginning of the process, so that any compromises between the builder and the neighborhood can be agreed upon at the start. Additionally, flexible use regulations will allow expedited approval for certain businesses, removing several uses from the list of those requiring time-consuming approval processes. By applying consistent standards across an entire category of uses, new businesses are able to navigate the process more efficiently and effectively.

Vision 2100

While Norfolk's zoning ordinance addresses planning and development today, the city has also used the challenge of sea level rise to create a vision to guide decision making in the future. Vision 2100 looks further out than the typical 20-30-year land use planning horizon and, instead, takes a long view 80+ years in the future. Over a year, the city hosted public meetings where residents identified places, events, and items in their neighborhoods that make Norfolk a great place to live, work, and play. By working with residents, the city is building a long-term strategy to address the flooding challenges due to sea level rise. How the city uses land today will help ensure the opportunity that Norfolk will be a dynamic, water-based community into the next century. Through Vision 2100 the city is designing new urban centers, enhancing economic engines, adapting to rising waters, and establishing neighborhoods of the future. The statements, goals, and actions in Vision 2100 provide broad guidance to the city's decision makers.

Norfolk's zoning ordinance and Vision 2100 help shape our city now as well as prepare for future challenges, both natural and socio-economic. The ordinance protects the unique character of Norfolk's neighborhoods while still allowing freedom in design. Vision 2100 provides a general guidance on the approach to development and sea level rise mitigation. Both of these documents have been recognized with awards for their innovative approach to planning and zoning and Vision 2100 has become a model being used by other cities around the world through Norfolk's partnership with the Rockefeller Foundation 100 Resilient Cities program.

The challenges related to sea level rise and more frequent storms will impact communities across the Commonwealth. Resilience is the ability to survive and thrive in the faces of shocks and stress and Norfolk encourages conversations with the Commonwealth on allowing communities to adopt a more resilient building code to create another tool to address these challenges. Allowing local customization and building more resilience into structures would enhance the ability for communities to thrive in a coastal environment. This additional tool would help effectivity position Norfolk as the coastal community of the future. 

of that neighborhood's character. These standards focus on form and not design, including things such as porch or garage locations in residential development and window glazing or parking location in commercial development. Form standards apply to all uses, but vary based on character district. The ordinance has provisions that allow individual neighborhoods to calibrate the form standards to the unique character of that specific neighborhood.

Streamlined development processes and permitting flexibility

The new zoning ordinance includes clearly defined expectations so that there are no surprises for both applicants and the neighborhood/residents. There is a clear understanding of every step in the process up front, including checklists, meeting guidance and review criteria. There are also clear performance standards for each use making it easy to understand what is expected of a new use at the outset.

<p>Opportunity</p> <p>The challenge of sea level rise provides opportunity to transform Norfolk into a resilient waterfront community</p>	<p>Collaboration</p> <p>Collective brainpower drives adaptation solutions and new ways of thinking</p>	<p>Vision</p> <p>Norfolk is THE coastal community of the future</p>
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By Rob Bullington

ANITA JAMES PRICE

ANITA JAMES PRICE, moves through the world with drive and positive purpose that is immediately apparent to anyone trying to keep up with her – as I learned this fall when I accompanied her on a tour of Bethel High School in Hampton as part of VML’s annual conference. I noticed that she was always near the front of the procession and articulated a steady stream of affirmations: “Such spirit!” “Wonderful, wonderful!” and the like. Everyone around her seemed to catch her energy and we moved through the halls in an upbeat mood.

VML’s new president talks education, young people and the importance of being engaged

My task was to get some pictures of the event in general and Anita, as the incoming VML president, specifically. But I eventually gave up trying to get an unblurred picture of Anita in action. I settled for those moments when she paused to engage our hosts. Because when Anita James Price engages someone, her natural kinetic energy instantly comes to rest while she watches, listens, and responds with the clear-minded attention of someone eager to learn and willing to share.

And then she moves on to the next person, the next challenge.

Later, I asked Anita how she manages to balance all her responsibilities (which are numerous) without feeling overwhelmed. “My family and faith in God keep me from going crazy,” she answered matter-of-factly. “My husband and children have been my biggest support system and, to be honest, they keep me grounded.”

I soon learned that this answer, rooted as it is in her connections to others, is central to Anita’s character. For example, when asked what makes her home, Roanoke, VA, special, she says: “The Star City is blessed with warm and caring people. Every community has its concerns, but one thing that I so respect of our city is that when faced with a problem – our people, the community and city government, we work to face whatever the challenge may be! From homelessness to racial equality – we work together!”

Anita James Price

With this attitude, it may seem natural that Anita should be serving her community as an elected official, but this was not her own idea – at least, not at first. In fact, the Arlington, VA native's first career was in education – a dedication that lasted 35 years. She attended Hampton University and received a bachelor of arts degree in vocational education and home economics from Morgan State College. She began her teaching career in Baltimore, MD, and in 1977 moved to Roanoke where she taught what she lovingly calls “that dinosaur called Home Economics” at Patrick Henry High School for ten years. Sensing that Home Economics was (unjustifiably) destined for extinction, Anita returned to school by commuting to Blacksburg for her classes and earned a master's in guidance and counseling from Virginia Tech. In 1991 she became a school counselor at Round Hill and Huff Lane Elementary Schools. Although she had always imagined herself working with older children, her time as an elementary school counselor taught her that “anytime you can be part of child's beginning, it makes all difference in the world.”

It was while working as a school counselor that Anita served five years as president of the Roanoke Education Association which brought her to the attention of Roanoke council member (now mayor) Sherman Lea who, impressed by her dedication and abilities, encouraged her to run for city council. She did, and won a seat in 2008, was re-elected in 2012 and 2016 and served a term as Roanoke's vice-mayor.

Of her coming tenure as VML's president, she says: “I would like to reaffirm VML's mission to make certain that all members reaping the full benefits of their membership. My experience with VML has been so very positive, I hope to share that same experience with all our members!”

What experiences in your background shape your decisions as a local leader?

Having served as president [of the Roanoke Education Association], I truly learned the importance of government – especially local – “all politics is local” – it really is true! Decisions that impact our day to day living usually begin on the local level.

What are you most proud of in your career as an elected official thus far?

Most definitely reorganizing and resurrecting our Youth Services Citizen Board. As a lifelong educator, encouraging and supporting our youth has and always will be one of my number-one priorities. Youth and their families are important to this council.

Tell me more about the Youth Services Citizen Board and your involvement with it.

I had been an educator for, well, forever! One of my first go rounds in public service was on the Youth Services Citizen Board. By the time I became a council member, the board has been mostly phased out and the advisory board, which was all volunteer, was losing its purpose. Soon after, I went to my first National League of Cities conference and I didn't know why there so many young people there! I had no idea that there were viable youth councils all over the country. I felt



Encouraging youth is one of Anita's top priorities. Here she poses with some of the participants in Roanoke's annual Youth Summit – an event she has played an active role in revitalizing.

like if they could do it, so could Roanoke. Leon Andrews (with NLC) and city officials from Roanoke helped, and we reorganized the Youth Services Citizen Board. Now it is thriving; we have a Youth Summit every year. It is a line-item in Roanoke's annual budget!

Note: Anita has been a member of the National League of Cities' Council on Youth, Education and Families for six years. She served as co-chair for one year and vice-chair for one year.

Is there anything in your career that you wish you could do over?

I wish I had had a more confidence in myself in beginning my political career. I was such a neophyte and really doubted myself. Whatever it was that others have told me they saw in me – I didn't see it. I still believe in first seeking understanding in things we may not comprehend, and I try to encourage others to believe in themselves. It's that gentle nudge and word of encouragement that can make a difference in all of us!

You moved from Baltimore to Roanoke in 1977. What was that transition like?

We moved because my husband had been asked to return to his home city to help run the family business in construction. I was pregnant with our second child and not at all thrilled to be moving so far away from my own family in Northern Virginia. It was more than a challenge to find a new home with two very little ones, help my husband set up a new office and begin a new life in a place I was not at all familiar with. But Roanoke has become my home that I love! It offers something for just about everyone - its natural beauty, the arts and culture scene and most important - the people!

You've notched a couple of "firsts" in your career as an elected official in Roanoke – first African-American woman on the city council and first African-American woman to serve as vice-mayor. What do these "firsts" mean to you, and what do you hope they mean to others?

There was a time that I would not mention I was the “first” – I would downplay it. One day while I was grocery shopping, a woman

60 seconds with Anita James Price

Birthplace: Arlington, VA

Family: Husband Charles Price Jr., 3 grown daughters and 10 (!) grandchildren.

Current civic involvement: Member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc.; the Roanoke Chapter of the Link's, Inc.; Delta Kappa Gamma Sorority, Inc.; and Friends of the Roanoke Symphony. She is also a life member of the National Education Association and the Virginia Education Association which are community service organizations. She is an active member of High Street Baptist Church.

Past civic involvement (a sampling): Board Member, Big Brothers/Big Sisters; Vice-Chair, National League of Cities – Council on Youth, Education and Families; Member, National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP); Member, Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC); Appointed to Taskforce

Addressing School Safety and Domestic Violence; Workforce Trainer, VEA Women's Leadership Cadre; Leadership Council, American Cancer Society

Most unusual request received as a city council member: I was ushering at church and while taking up the offering a member slipped a note in the collection basket about not allowing certain changes in his neighborhood. The request was not that unusual (although it was a hot topic at the time) but his method for making the request certainly was!

Favorite food: Chips and dip ("I could live on snack food" says Anita). Oh, and crab cakes. Best place to get them, according to Anita, is Harbor Place in Baltimore, MD.

Least favorite food: Okra. Never liked it, never expects to.

Historical figure she would most like to have dinner with? Mary Jane McCleod Bethune

Editor's note: *I will confess that I was not familiar with Ms. Bethune until Anita mentioned her. She was kind enough to enlighten: Mary Jane McCleod Bethune was born in 1875. Her parents and most of her siblings had been slaves. Though she started life essentially penniless, she went on to start a school for African-American girls in Florida and to become one of the preeminent champions for women, civil rights and education in her (and any) time. After she died in 1955, one obituary claimed she had "one of the most dramatic careers ever enacted at any time upon the stage of human activity." A fine dinner companion indeed! My thanks to Anita James Price for educating me (as she has so many others before).*



Anita James Price awards Nancy Howell-Agee, president and CEO of Carilion Clinic, with an NAACP Citizen of the Year award.

stopped me and introduced me to her daughter. She did this by telling her daughter that I was the first African-American woman to serve as vice-mayor. The look in that little girl's eyes was amazing – they lit up in amazement! That was when I realized the true impact and importance of this accomplishment. I grew up in a segregated time and went to segregated schools. The civil rights era does not seem that long ago for

some of us. If anything – we must all continue to work for true equality for all. I may have been the first – but I will NOT be the last!

As someone who has worked extensively with young people, I'd be interested to hear what you consider the biggest challenge facing young people today and what advice you'd give them to help them overcome it?

Where to begin?! Going back to family – one of my biggest concerns is the breakdown of the nuclear family. All young people need nurturing and guidance growing up. Frederick Douglas said it best: "It is easier to build strong children than to repair broken men." When I was in the school system, I told parents that parenting is THE most important job anyone has and the most difficult. So, I would advise young people to really think three times before becoming a parent and consider its enormous responsibilities. Yes – it takes a village to raise a child, but the village requires a strong foundation to survive. 

About the author: Rob Bullington is VML's Director of Communications.



Anita James Price with Congressman John Lewis.

Bringing new life to a community

An overview of DHCD's Vibrant Community initiative

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CAN be the key to bringing new life and vibrancy to a community. However, attracting new employers can be challenging. Many factors are considered when determining where a company is looking for a location, such as transportation, the availability of a skilled workforce and housing, to name a few.

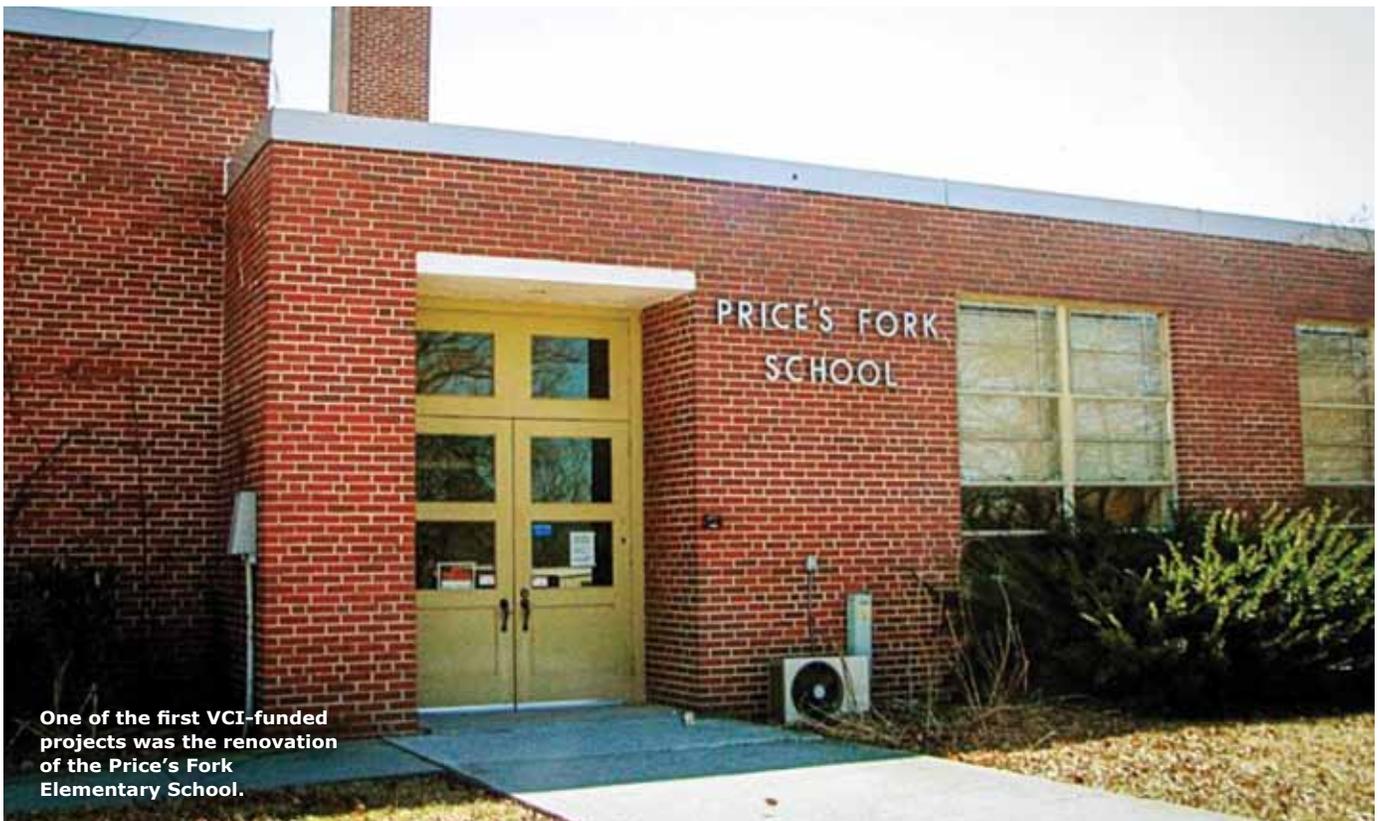
Recognizing that economic development and the availability of affordable housing go hand in hand, the Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) developed a pilot program in 2015 called the Vibrant Community Initiative (VCI). VCI supports local or regional comprehensive projects that include affordable housing and community and/or economic development components.

VCI is one example of how the Commonwealth of Virginia is committing its resources to support community development efforts. This approach is supported by findings of a report published by the Housing Policy Advisory Committee (HPAC). In November 2017, HPAC, formed through Governor Terry McAuliffe's *Executive Order 32*, published the results of a study entitled "Addressing the Impact of Housing for Virginia's Economy." Two of the key findings of the study was the need to adequately address affordable housing needs in the state and the recognition that the failure to do so "has significantly affected key priorities of state policy, including economic and workforce development, transportation, education, and health."

The intent of VCI is to identify highly impactful, transformational projects and to leverage and combine several funding resources for affordable housing and community and/or economic development projects. By dedicating portions of its federal designation of Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds, its HOME Investment Partnerships Program (HOME) funds, and a portion of the Virginia Housing Trust Fund, DHCD has created a competitive funding opportunity for which communities can apply to support their innovative efforts to bring vibrancy to their localities. Not long after launching VCI, DHCD partnered with the Virginia Housing Development Authority (VHDA), thus bringing additional resources to the table.

The competitive application is a two-step process. The first step is submitting a pre-application that outlines the project and its key characteristics. Applicants must demonstrate that there have been opportunities for community input and there is local buy-in into the project. A panel of representatives from DHCD and VHDA evaluates the proposed project based on specific criteria, including alignment with program goals, demonstrated need, project readiness, and capacity. Projects meeting the criteria are invited to submit full proposals, which are evaluated by the review panel for consideration for funding.

Since launching VCI, DHCD has made commitments of nearly \$10 million through VCI. The most recent round committed funds to Middlesex County and Albemarle County. Middlesex County received a commitment of \$2.25 million, which will be used to revitalize



One of the first VCI-funded projects was the renovation of the Price's Fork Elementary School.



Part of the Price's Fork project included conversion of the elementary school to apartments for seniors.



phases, transforming the 350-plus unit mobile home park into a combination of affordable homebuyer options, mixed income rental units, as well as economic development opportunities. The redevelopment of Southwood includes the current residents in planning and design with a goal to displace none of those residents.

One of the first VCI-funded projects was located in Montgomery County, which focused on repurposing the old Price's Fork Elementary School building, similar to the Middlesex County project, and new construction on the property, which will offer 16 mixed-income rental units. The renovation of the elementary school involved converting classrooms into 16 rental units for low-income seniors and the cafeteria into a community kitchen. Also included in the building will be a farm-to-table restaurant, brewery, business incubator, and market.

The senior rental units are completed, and the construction of the commercial components are about 50 percent complete. Construction is anticipated to be completed by spring 2019.

Approximately \$4.5 million will be available for the next round of the Vibrant Community Initiative, which will be announced early in 2019 with an invitation to submit pre-applications in spring/summer of 2019.

The HPAC study reported, "As municipalities and regions compete for businesses and talent, housing can be an advantage or a limiting factor. Virginia has the potential to add 357,800 net new jobs over the next 10 years, and a sufficient supply of housing must be available to ensure that such employment growth can occur." The need for additional housing units to continue Virginia's economic growth is a contributing

factor for Governor Ralph Northam's Executive Order 25: Establishing the Governor's Affordable Housing Priorities to Address Virginia's Unmet Housing Needs. Northam notes "As the Commonwealth continues to diversify and strengthen its economy, ensuring the availability of quality, affordable housing that is proximate to employment and educational opportunities will continue to be a critical measure of community vitality and readiness for new economic investment." The Vibrant Community Initiative can be a useful tool for communities in search of ways to address vital housing needs while diversifying and growing their local opportunities for new or expanded economic investments. 



the Cook's Corner area of the county with a project that creates workforce housing, new business opportunities, and the provision of critical infrastructure for development. A historic school building will be repurposed into a restaurant/brewery, saving the structure and creating a space for a private industry to expand current operations to include a processing center to create value-added products. Albemarle County also received a commitment of \$2.25 million of VCI funds. The Greater Charlottesville Habitat for Humanity has been working with the Southwood community during the past ten years to develop a plan to transform the community and improve the housing and community development opportunities. This project is the first of multiple

How to build trust in local government using only four pages

The City of Fairfax uses Citizen-Centric Reports to keep its citizens informed

ONE OF THE big challenges facing elected officials is overcoming the disconnect between citizens' trust in their government and their need for it to work effectively on their behalf. This disconnect often makes it difficult to communicate ideas and enact initiatives that we, as elected officials, believe would benefit the community. Fortunately, there is a tool designed to improve the public's trust in government that can help to bridge this divide: The Citizen-Centric Report (CCR).

Local governments earn our citizens' trust by communicating simply, factually, and clearly about the things that matter most to them – “What do we get for our tax dollars? “What was accomplished this year? and “What can we expect in the future?”

A Citizen-Centric Report (CCR) is a graphic-rich, four-page financial document with information about a jurisdiction's budget, expenditures, goals, performance metrics, and future challenges.

I first became aware of the effectiveness of CCRs thanks to Dr. Relmond P. VanDaniker who I met in 2006 during a week-long training session as part of the Public Sector Financial Management Fellowship sponsored by Portland State University.

In 2016 I was a newly elected council member for the City of Fairfax and my colleagues and I had just adopted a set of goals for our two-year term. Fellow council member Michael DeMarco and I felt that a CCR would be an excellent way to summarize and communicate those goals to our citizens. With the support of the mayor and city manager we volunteered the City of Fairfax to be the target city for the Association of Government Accountants (AGA) 2017 “Government Case Challenge,” in which students from universities were invited to compete to develop a CCR for the target city.

The university teams competing in the AGA Government Case Challenge consist of 3 students and one faculty advisor. They do not know the identity of the target city until the competition begins; they may solicit information from the target city throughout the process.



Long story short: The experience with the Government Case challenge was a success. During the challenge, our city government engaged with energetic students from across the U.S. City of Fairfax Mayor David Meyer supported the effort and invited AGA's CEO Ann Ebberts to a televised city council meeting to announce that we would be the Government Case Challenge City for 2017. Bob Sission, our city manager, embraced the concept and supported city staff, coordinated through our city clerk Melanie Crowder, who supplied information in response to questions from the students. Additionally, council members Michael DeMarco and Jennifer Passey as well as city staff member Chris Cohen served on the panel of judges.

When the team from North Carolina State University was announced as the winner, Mayor Meyer noted how impressed we all were with the “creative content of the submitted CCR and we will be able to use the students' ideas as the city prepares to create its own inaugural CCR for our citizens.”

Which is exactly what we did.

Using elements from the winning CCR, as well as elements from other submissions, we were able to provide every household in the city with a hard copy of the inaugural City of Fairfax CCR in the March 2018 monthly city newsletter. Each page captures a different aspect of our story:

- **Page 1:** Government and the People - includes a summary, key statistics and lists the strategic goals for the city.
- **Page 2:** Key Indicators - details what we have accomplished in each of our strategic goal areas in the past year.
- **Page 3:** Financial Profile - charts and graphs illustrate residential affordability, economic output and city operating results for the fiscal year.
- **Page 4:** Looking Ahead - details what we hope to accomplish in each of our strategic goal areas in the coming year.

The CCR is also posted on the City's website and our City's TV crew created a video, walking the viewer through the CCR and each of the five council goals associated with it.

The City of Fairfax CCR, which is now entering its second year, has been a resounding success with citizens. In fact, throughout the recent election campaign and in early meetings of the outgoing and incoming Council members, the CCR's popularity was on full display. We heard from citizens who appreciated the annual report because it is easy to follow, provides information they were interested in, and is presented clearly and succinctly without technical jargon. For all these and many more reasons, the City of Fairfax CCR helps our citizens trust their government. I encourage you to explore developing one for your locality.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
Advance the economic health of the City

REDEVELOPMENT
Stimulate and support targeted redevelopment

TRANSPORTATION
Improve the City's multimodal transportation system

NEIGHBORHOODS
Enhance the quality of neighborhood living

GOVERNANCE
Be a model for successful municipal governance

Interested in creating a CCR for your locality?

Challenge and engage younger or newer members of your team to take the lead in preparing a draft CCR. Let them learn more about the data that is available. See through new eyes what is important to share. Then, send your draft CCR to AGA at ccr@agacgfm.org, and AGA's team will review and provide constructive feedback on how to make it even better. AGA will recognize well-designed and informative CCRs with an AGA Certificate of Excellence.

Lessons Learned

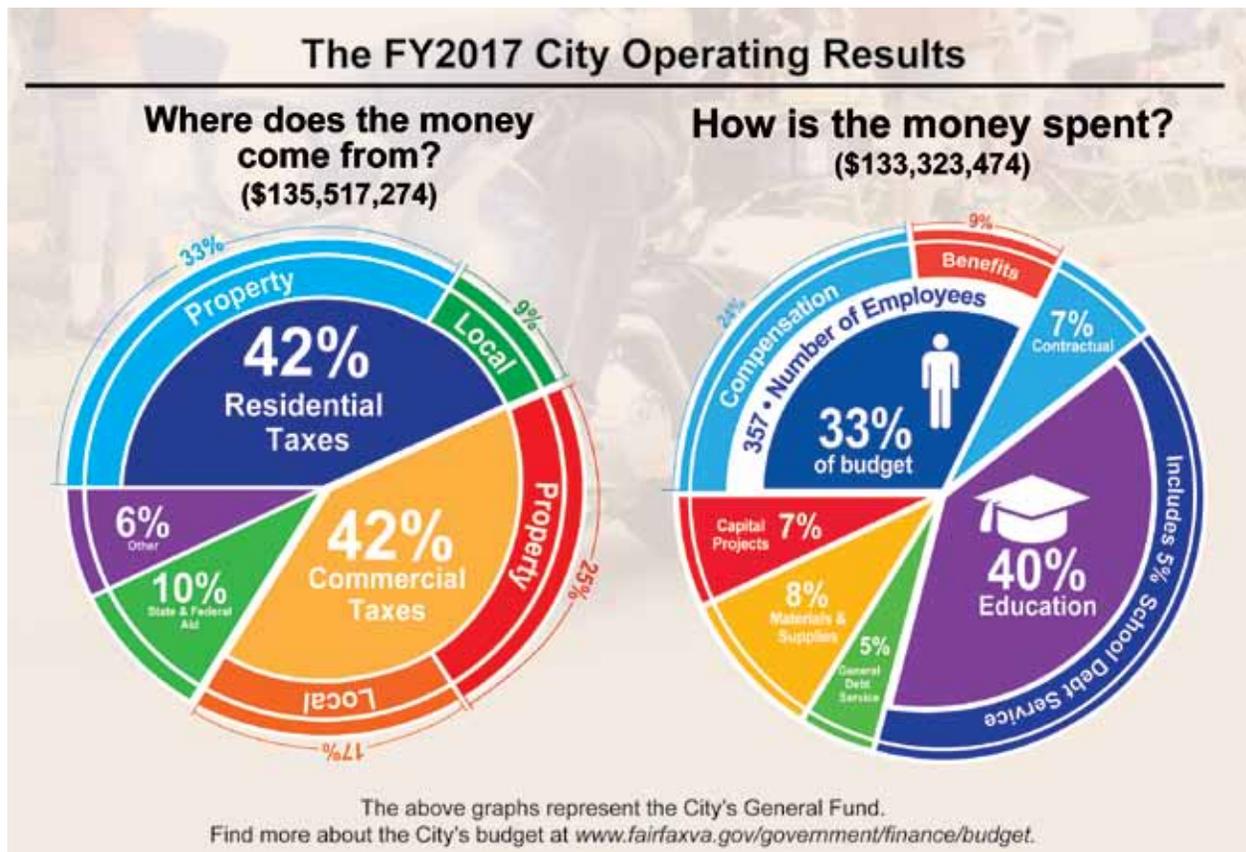
Looking back, there were seven key reasons that the City of Fairfax was successful with our first CCR:

- 1) Have a shared starting point. The City Council was already comfortable with the idea of orienting its efforts around an agreed upon set of goals. These goals gave a framework to build the report upon.
- 2) Don't think like an auditor. Citizens liked that we used percentages instead of dollar amounts in the "operating results" charts because it made them easier to understand.
- 3) Pick meaningful metrics. Once we shifted our metrics to focus on the citizen, and not the council's process, it was very helpful.
- 4) Leave open space on the page. There was a tendency to try to fill all the white space on the page. Thankfully, reviewers told us that they needed "space to think" and we gave it to them.
- 5) Leverage the work of outside teams where possible. The pictures in the background and the format developed by the North Carolina team worked for us and it gave us a good jumping off point.
- 6) Develop a shared sense of purpose on your team. We knew it would be critical to have the support of the Council, Mayor and City Manger for this effort. But, in the end, it was just as important to have the staff members engaged in the process.

- 7) Put the CCR in the hands (literally) of the community. Many of us live on our phones, but the fact that the CCR was physically mailed to each household as part of an existing publication that we knew people would read proved essential to its success. 



About the author: *Jon Stehle is a council member from the City of Fairfax.*



2019

General Assembly & VML Legislative Program



This short session will be long on issues.

By Janet Areson, VML's Director of Policy Development

THIS BEING AN ODD-NUMBERED YEAR, the 2019 session is a short one; legislators will be in town for approximately 45 days, as opposed to the 60 days of an even-numbered year session.

The shorter duration notwithstanding, the General Assembly convening on January 9, 2019 promises to be full of meaningful issues: Virginia's response to federal tax reform; closing the \$462.5 million gap in Medicaid created by an overly-optimistic Medicaid forecast for current caseload (not the expansion that begins Jan. 1); addressing study recommendations regarding school safety and school modernization; navigating 5G issues; working through proffer issues; and addressing the implications of the recent U.S. Supreme Court *South Dakota v. Wayfair Decision*, which levels the playing field for Main Street retailers by requiring on-line sellers to submit state sales tax.

Moreover, 2019 is a budget amendment year. In mid-December, Governor Ralph Northam will present to the General Assembly amendments to the fiscal 2018-2020 budget. Then, in January, General Assembly members will submit their own budget amendments. The House and Senate budget and finance committees and their staffs will spend countless hours examining and working out the details of the budget proposals and priorities to be adopted by the General Assembly. However, given the shorter duration of the session, it will be more difficult to take on complex or new initiatives.

The 2019 Session was the focus of VML's policy and legislative committees, which met earlier this year to examine issues of interest to local governments and formulate policy and legislative positions to address those issues.

What follows is taken from VML's 2019 Legislative Program, which was adopted by the VML membership on Oct. 2 during the annual conference in Hampton.

Top Legislative Priorities

State Assistance to Local Police Departments (HB 599)

Almost 70 percent of Virginians live in communities served by police departments. The state created a program of financial assistance to local police departments (HB599) when it imposed an annexation moratorium on cities more than 30 years ago. It has increasingly de-emphasized this funding obligation as a priority but has never compromised on the annexation moratorium. VML calls for the state to honor its commitment to local governments and public safety by funding the program as stipulated in the Code of Virginia or lift the moratorium on annexation.

Funding the Real Cost of Education

The state funding formula for education operating costs breaks down on a statewide level as 55 percent state/45 percent local funding. However, the Standards of Quality do not recognize the true costs of education, including pupil transportation, school support staff, providing and updating broadband and other technology, and instructional staff salaries. Neither does it recognize most construction and renovation costs. Local governments match more than is required for basic state education dollars, pay the majority of public-school capital costs and struggle to find scarce local tax dollars to keep up with the demands for meeting additional and expanding state requirements and for creating 21st century learning environments for our children to master the challenges of tomorrow's workplace. VML supports actions for the Commonwealth to recognize and fund the true costs of public education, including new avenues for funding public school construction and renovation cost such as the creation of a pilot program of competitive grants using funds from the Virginia

Public Building Authority to offset new construction or renovation costs for publicly-owned and operated K-12 schools.

Mental Health Alternative Transportation and Access to Beds

VML supports stable, sustained state funding and adequate safety standards for the use of alternative transportation for individuals experiencing a mental health crisis 2019 VML Legislative Program 3 who need evaluation and potentially in-patient services. VML supports the goal of creating more ready access to short-term, in-patient crisis services, including the use of public-private partnerships, to end the need to transport adults and children long distances to receive needed services and support.

Restoring Reductions to Community Services Boards

Community services boards are slated for substantial state general fund reductions in fiscal years 2019 (\$11 million) and 2020 (\$25 million). Health care expansion through Medicaid may eventually make up for these reductions, but the timing of implementation leaves the boards with six months to make up for a year's worth of reductions in fiscal year 2019 and puts them at risk of service and staffing disruptions. VML supports the restoration of funding to community services boards in fiscal year 2019. VML also supports the revisiting of slated reductions in fiscal year 2020 and beyond, specifically to ensure that the state's goal of providing more services at the community level, including new STEP-VA service requirements, can be achieved without shifting funding burdens to local governments.

State and Federal Funding for Public Transit

VML supports increased federal and state funding for public transit; policies that allow for the equitable distribution of such funding; and dedicated sources for such funding to ensure the state of good repair of transit equipment and facilities as well as service expansion.

Other Issues & Legislative Positions

The 2019 VML Legislative Program (available at www.vml.org/advocacy/general-assembly/legislative-program) has a detailed description of VML's position for each of the following issues:

- Closure of State Facilities
- Communications Sales and Use Tax
- Distracted & Inattentive Driving
- Education Funding
- Equal Rights Amendment
- Local and Regional Taxing Authority for Transit
- Local and Regional Taxing Authority for Transit Capital Needs
- Local Option Regulation of Disposable Plastic Bags
- Proffers
- Removing Barriers to Distributed Solar
- Sidewalks
- State and Local Government Fiscal Relationship
- Stormwater Local Assistance
- Taxing, Licensing, and Regulating Internet-based Businesses and Services
- Use of Locally-owned Rights-of-Way

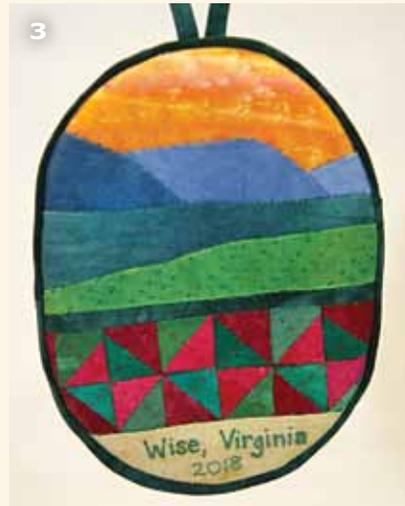
New local ornaments adorn tree at Executive Mansion

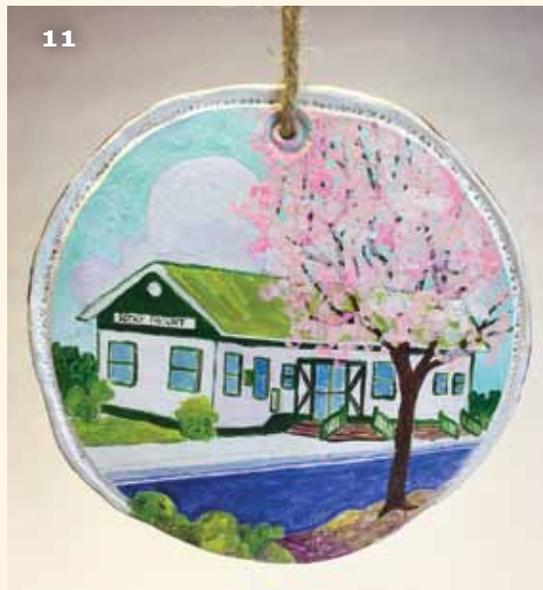
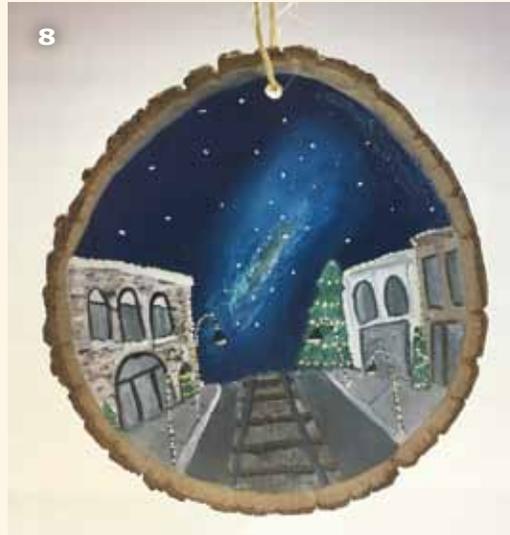
FOR THE FOURTH YEAR in a row, the Governor's Mansion's holiday tree is adorned with decorations contributed by localities from across Virginia. VML, in conjunction with the Virginia Association of Counties, was pleased to once again coordinate the ornament project.

We appreciate the efforts made by the cities, towns and counties who sent us ornaments – all of which serve to illustrate the character of their community. Many of the ornaments were handcrafted by regional artists and bring an extra measure of local spirit to the holiday tree.

As in years past, it is expected that thousands of visitors to the mansion will see the ornaments which will be on display through the month of December.

To schedule a tour of the mansion visit <https://www.executivemansion.virginia.gov>.





1. City of Fairfax - Artist: J. Liedl **2.** Town of Clifton Forge - Created by Alleghany Highlands Arts & Crafts Center. **3.** Town of Wise - Artist: Tricia Cahoon. **4.** Town of Pennington Gap - Artist unknown. **5.** Town of Pembroke - Artist: Clate Dolinger. **5.** Town of Pembroke - Artist: Clate Dolinger. **6.** Town of Pembroke - Artist: Clate Dolinger. **5.** Town of Pembroke - Artist: Clate Dolinger. **6.** Town of Christiansburg - Artist unknown. **7.** Town of Warsaw - Created by a town resident. **8.** Town of Ashland - Artist: Kristen Lough. **9.** City of Manassas - Artist unknown. **10.** Town of Crewe - Artist: Donna Wilmarth. **11.** Town of Warsaw - Created by a town resident. **12.** Town of Wachapreague - Artist: Tomeka Watkinson. **13.** Town of Montross - Artist: Mariela Orzco.

FOCUS ON OUR MEMBERS

Local officials are a fascinating bunch of people who have careers all over the board and a range of backgrounds and interests. Over the next several months VML will include a brief focus on various members so that we can all gain an appreciation of what a diverse group occupies the seats in council and board chambers. Do you know someone who could be featured? Email Rob Bullington at rbullington@vml.org.

Dan Sze, Council Member, Falls Church

By Rob Bullington

DAN SZE has served on the council in Falls Church from 2006-2010 and then again from 2014 to the present. His current term expires in 2021. When he ran that second time, he said that his reason for pursuing a seat on council was that he was passionate about preserving, enhancing and celebrating what is special about the City of Falls Church...the city's people. He also said that he believed in civility and respect on council and believed that working in a collegial, collaborative manner with council members is the best way to make progress. A good approach indeed.



VML has been fortunate to have him back on council as he served as the chair of VML's Environmental Quality Policy Committee and as a member of VML's Legislative Committee in 2017 and 2018.

And, when you read about his professional background you quickly will see why he was an excellent choice for that position.

When Sze was on council the first time, he was the deputy director of state energy programs with the federal Department of Energy (DOE). During his federal career he was responsible for major policy and regulatory initiatives under six United States' presidents. His career in Washington also included serving as the national program manager of Rebuild America, a DOE-sponsored network of state, community, and business partnerships focused on energy efficiency and energy technology projects. Sze also has worked for the Department of Defense in procurement, construction management and supervisory engineering positions with the Navy and held a commission as a State Department foreign service officer with the U.S. Department of State. An unusual and prestigious career!

Sze retired from federal employment in 2012 and now lectures on sustainability strategies, works on clean energy initiatives, is involved with several international start-ups, and is a consultant to businesses, organizations, and government.

He does not limit his civic involvement to just Falls Church and VML. In 2019 he will be the chair for the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments' Climate, Energy, and Climate Policy Committee. He also has served on the COG's Chesapeake Bay and Water Resources Policy Committee.

Sze is an architect, receiving an architect degree from Howard University and a master's degree in urban design from Columbia University. He has lived in Falls Church since 1988 and his family came to the United States in 1957 from China by way of Hong Kong.

Greg Bailey, Council Member, St. Paul

By Mary Jo Fields

GREG BAILEY has been on the town council in St. Paul since 2010 and was just re-elected to his third term in May 2018. He and his wife Jennifer are life-long residents of the area. They operate a restaurant and brewery in St. Paul and are set to expand that operation by opening a hard cidery brewery/restaurant in Norton. Sugar Hill Brewery also supplies beer for events in nearby localities and to restaurants in the area. But they also own and manage several rental properties in St. Paul.



It all started about 8 years ago when Greg decided to find a job that did not require that he be away from his home every Monday through Friday. He took a chance and bought a hardware store in St. Paul.

In the meantime, the Southwest Regional Recreation Authority began developing the Spearhead Trails, a 400-mile network of trails for all-terrain vehicles, bikes, hikers, etc. Mountain View is one of the Spearhead Trails and its 100 miles of track begins in St. Paul. Greg saw the opportunities and wrote and pushed for the adoption of an ordinance that made St. Paul the first all-terrain-vehicle-friendly town in the state, allowing ATVs to be driven in town among other items.

At the time there was no hotel in St. Paul, so the Baileys purchased and renovated several houses in order to rent them to tourists coming to ride the trails. They then went one step farther and converted part of the hardware store to a brewery/restaurant. Greg said that the one of their sons was dabbling in brewing beer and while the hardware store was doing all right, he and Jennifer felt the building could be used more productively. And, continuing the trend, they now have converted the rest of the hardware store to a private dining area for Sugar Hill Brewery.

As Jennifer commented "We have to reimagine our future." The Baileys are doing exactly that. The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics says that since the end of the Great Recession, small businesses have created 62 percent of all net new jobs in the private-sector. In St. Paul, the brewery is responsible for 23 of those jobs. The town has benefited from other entrepreneurs as well. Since the opening of the Spearhead Trails the town has seen the opening of a boutique hotel, an outfitter, a river adventure company and a bakery.

About the authors: Rob Bullington is the editor of *Virginia Town & City*. Mary Jo Fields is an adjunct VML staff member and a contributing editor to *Virginia Town & City*.



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