

VIRGINIA

TOWN & CITY

The magazine of the Virginia Municipal League

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Arlington

Dynamic urban villages dot the landscape



2013

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About the cover

Arlington is home to a number of “urban villages” – transit-oriented neighborhoods where shopping, restaurants, entertainment, and living and working space are knitted together in one vibrant place.



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OCT. 13-15, MARRIOTT CRYSTAL GATEWAY

“I hope that in your time here, you will be able to take advantage of the tremendous assets that Arlington has to offer. Our national monuments alone are at the top of every visitor’s wish list, and we hope you will also have time to enjoy some of our excellent dining and shopping options.”

**... Arlington Board Chair
J. Walter Tejada**

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The magazine of the Virginia Municipal League

Features

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Welcome to Arlington

County offers assortment of sites, tastes, sounds for visitors

Uniquely walkable and accessible via its 11 Metro stops, Arlington’s vibrant urban villages bring you everything from Tony Award-winning theatre to outdoor recreation, exciting night spots and awesome shopping. Come see it all for yourself!

Arlington emerges as national model for smart living

Outside of the parks, memorials and other federal lands that make up 7 percent of Arlington County lies a dynamic community of urban villages, outdoor cafes and attractive residential neighborhoods with a rich history of civic engagement and farsighted planning.

By Mary Curtius



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Virginia Municipal League Annual Report

After a very busy and very productive year of representing the interests of local government, the Virginia Municipal League pauses to reflect on its many accomplishments. From the state capitol in Richmond to the halls of Congress in Washington, VML continues to be an essential voice in the debates surrounding important public policy issues.

A look back at the past year includes:

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Fredericksburg: A Prize of a City



It's nice to have achievement recognized.

Fredericksburg celebrates its work in business development that won recognition as a Small Business Administration Community of the Year. The city's aggressive business development program including its focus on government contractors, active Economic Development Authority and University of Mary Washington Small Business Development Center helped it attain the honor.

Other accomplishments in the past year include:

- Designation as an official Virginia Main Street Community
- Virginia Downtown Development Association award for Commercial Revitalization Plans and Streetscapes
- Virginia Economic Development Association's 2013 Community Economic Development Award for the Eagle Village hotel project
- First use of the Virginia Tourism Development Financing tool for a Hyatt Place hotel development

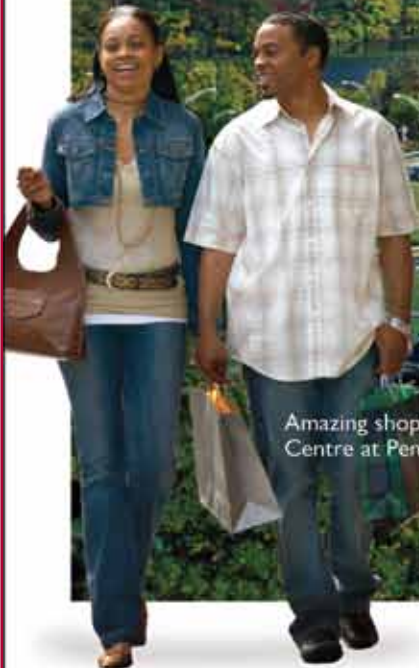
Fredericksburg, Virginia Small Business Community of the Year 2013

A city with a colorful past and bright future.



www.fredericksburgva.gov

Arlington Welcomes VML!



Amazing shopping at The Fashion Centre at Pentagon City

Arlington House, The Robert E. Lee Memorial

Heavenly beignets at Bayou Bakery in Courthouse



People & art collide at Rosslyn's Artisphere



**VML Annual Conference
October 13-15, 2013
Crystal Gateway Marriott
Arlington, VA**

Arlington is thrilled to share with you its history, culture and fun during the 2013 Virginia Municipal League Annual Conference. Here, you'll find world-class dining, shopping and nightlife around every corner. You'll also experience national treasures like the Marine Corps War Memorial (Iwo Jima), Arlington National Cemetery, Arlington House - The Robert E. Lee Memorial, the U.S. Air Force Memorial and the National 9/11 Pentagon Memorial. And of course, the best of our Nation's Capital is right next door.





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To our esteemed colleagues from around the Commonwealth,

Welcome to Arlington! On behalf of the Arlington County Board and everyone who lives and works in Arlington, it is my honor to welcome the members and families of the Virginia Municipal League. We very much look forward to hosting you in Arlington for VML's 2013 conference.

I hope that in your time here, you will be able to take advantage of the tremendous assets that Arlington has to offer. Our national monuments alone are at the top of every visitor's wish list, and we hope you will also have time to enjoy some of the excellent dining and shopping options in Arlington.

One of the hallmarks of Arlington is our amazing diversity – children in Arlington Public Schools speak 98 languages and hail from 126 countries. While you're here, I hope you'll be able to see, hear, and taste the richness of our diverse community. On page 6 you can read about the many places that we recommend during your visit.

Not so long ago, in the 1960s, Arlington faced a number of challenges. At that time, Arlington was a suburban bedroom community whose major downtown areas were in decline. You will have a chance to see, first-hand, the successes earned over six decades of thoughtful strategic planning. Today, our County is a model of transit-oriented development, or "smart growth." Our traffic today is about the same as it was in the 1970s, though our population has doubled.

Today, 12 percent of our land (along the Metrorail corridors) provides half of our real estate tax revenue, helping us to achieve the lowest tax rate in the region. Arlington is not immune to the economic downturn, but these smart growth successes help cushion its impact. If you are interested in learning more, we are hosting several workshops during what is sure to be an excellent conference.

Arlington County is happy to welcome all the attendees of the Virginia Municipal League Annual Conference, and we look forward to seeing you in October.

Sincerely yours,

J. Walter Tejada
Chairman

Explore all that is Arlington

THE COUNTY IS thrilled to share with you its history, culture and opportunities for adventure during this year's Virginia Municipal League Annual Conference. From world-class dining, shopping and nightlife to the nation's most cherished monuments you'll be amazed at what awaits you.

Uniquely walkable and accessible via its 11 Metro stops, Arlington's vibrant urban villages bring you everything from Tony Award-winning theatre to outdoor recreation, exciting night spots and awesome shopping. Home to the training center for the Washington Capitals of the National Hockey League, visitors are also within easy reach of other professional sports, including the Washington Nationals of Major League Baseball, the Washington Redskins of the National Football League, the Washington Wizards of the National Basketball Association and D.C. United of Major League Soccer. Avail yourself to the county's 36 miles of off-

Air Force Memorial

street trails for bicycling, walking and jogging through an extensive park system (Capital Bikeshare has generously donated one-day memberships for all attendees so you can use the bikes during your visit!) Check out the new Long Bridge Park, located a few blocks from your hotel at the northern border of Crystal City, featuring an expanse of public green spaces and walkways with Capital views, three full-sized athletic fields, and the striking "Wave Arbor" public art installation by nationally known artist Doug Hollis.


Of course, Arlington offers the perfect blend of national historical treasures and hidden local gems. Home to hallowed American treasures such as the Marine Corps War Memorial (Iwo

Jima), Arlington National Cemetery, and the poignant National 9/11 Pentagon Memorial – with its contemplative benches cantilevered

over reflective pools, you'll also note the striking new Air Force Memorial soaring over the skyline. Arlington is an ideal location from which to explore the nation's history. However, just as exciting are the opportunities to create new memories at the places you'll discover

during your stay.

Cultural amenities abound in Arlington. Right around the corner from your hotel in Crystal City, check out the striking, silent/movement-based production of "The Picture of Dorian Gray" by the multiple Helen Hayes Award-winning Synetic Theater. You're here just in time to catch the mesmerizing exhibit of Andy Warhol's "Silver Clouds," on loan from the Andy Warhol Museum, at Artisphere cultural center – just a Metro train ride away in the Rosslyn neighborhood where the county will host an event for you on Monday night. Or, maybe you'd prefer to take to the dance floor, with several options in the Clarendon neighborhood: Check out Salsa Mondays at the Clarendon Grill, or see who's rocking at Iota Club & Café, or the Clarendon Ballroom.

Wherever you go and whatever you choose to partake of, know that it's our pleasure to welcome you. We look forward to helping you discover all that is Arlington. 

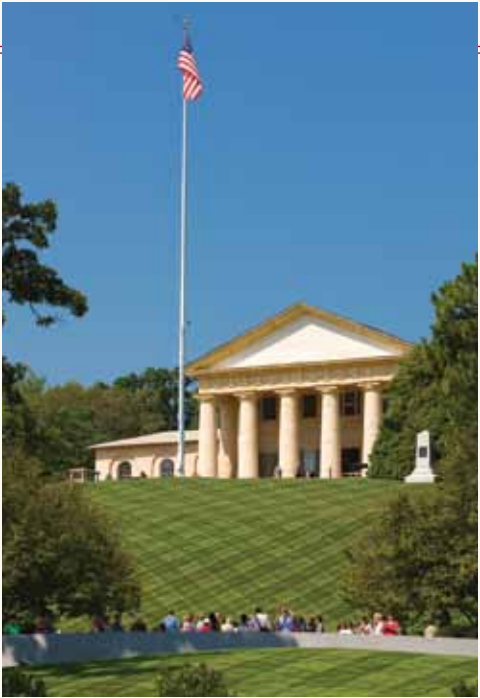
Welcome to Arlington!



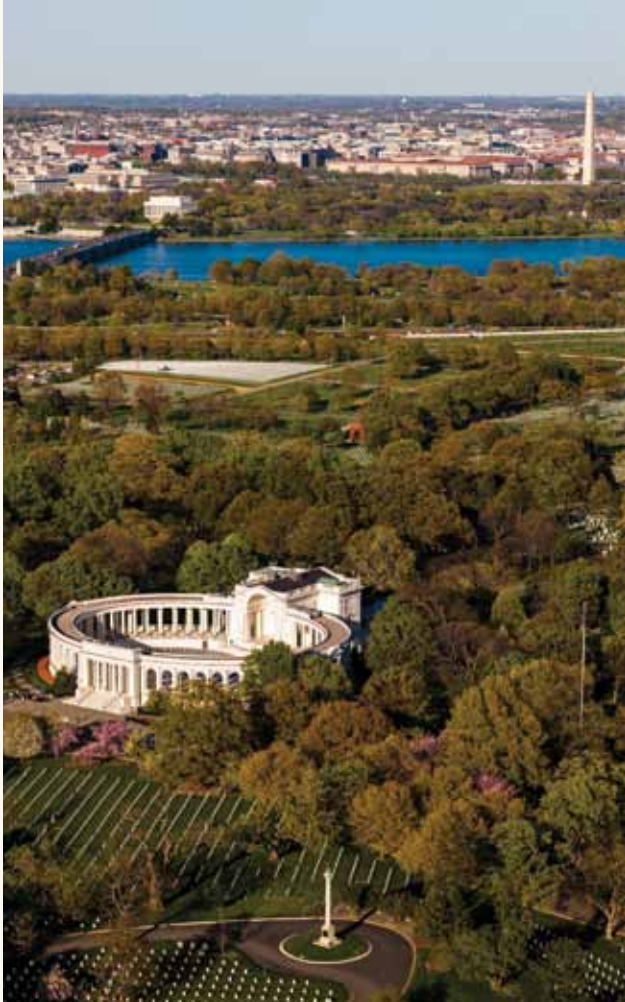
Marine Corps War Memorial (Iwo Jima)



Arlington's urban villages are uniquely walkable and accessible. (Photo by David Hills)



Arlington House, The Robert E. Lee Memorial (Photo by David Hills)



Arlington National Cemetery (Photo by David Hills)



Salsa dancing at Clarendon Grill (Photo by David Hills)



National 9/11 Pentagon Memorial (Photo by David Hills)

Arlington emerges as national model for smart living



Arlington has a rich history of civic engagement and farsighted planning.

ARLINGTON, AT 26 square miles the nation's geographically smallest (self-governing) county, lies at the core of the rapidly growing Washington Metropolitan region. We are proud of our history and excited about our future.

By Mary Curtius

Many know Arlington as home to the Pentagon and Arlington National Cemetery, our nation's most hallowed ground. Every year, we welcome thousands of visitors to attractions that include the iconic Iwo Jima Memorial and sweeping views of monumental Washington across the Potomac.

But outside of the parks, memorials and other federal lands that make up 7 percent of the county, lies a dynamic community of urban villages, outdoor cafes and attractive residential neighborhoods with a rich history of civic engagement and farsighted planning. In Arlington, we are all about using planning and transportation to build strong neighborhoods, vibrant urban villages and a strong sense of community.

As we say in our vision statement, Arlington is a place "in which each person is important."

Our strong culture of civic engagement, what we call "The Arlington Way," has its roots in the tens of thousands of men and women who flocked to Arlington before and during World War II to work at the Pentagon and other government agencies. With its emphasis on building consensus, the Arlington Way has created a strong partnership between government and the governed that has made Arlington a success story in Virginia.

Arlington's strong economy

By any measure, Arlington's fundamentals are strong. Our ethnically and economically diverse community enjoys the state's lowest unemployment rate, strong commercial and residential real estate values, and the region's lowest property tax rate.

Our public schools, with students who hail from 126 nations and speak 98 languages, consistently rank among the nation's best. The 2012 Washington Post Challenge Index listed all our public high schools in the top 1 percent in the nation – for the seventh year in a row. In 2013, 66 percent

of our high school seniors graduated with an advanced diploma; 70 percent will pursue four-year college degrees.

Arlington schools are so popular with young families that enrollment is surging, and we now are building new schools to accommodate the influx of students.

Our neighborhoods are safe and our crime rate is low. Our residents enjoy first-rate services and facilities. The county's sound financial management is reflected in our Aaa bond rating.

The secret to our success? Our community's consistent support of long-term investment in infrastructure and thoughtful planning that links land use to transportation.

Transformation through smart growth

Fifty years ago, Arlington was a decaying inner suburb that was losing its population and commercial base to the growing outer suburbs of Northern Virginia. Our community made a bold, transformational decision at that time to embrace Metrorail and fought to have the Orange Line run down the heart of our business district,



Arlington's smart growth successes result in the lowest tax rates in the region while preserving its single-family neighborhoods. Arlington's commercial development, concentrated on 12 percent of its land along two Metrorail corridors, provides about half the county's real estate tax revenue.

Chesapeake
VIRGINIA

**AFTER 50 YEARS AS A CITY,
BUILDING BRIDGES TO THE FUTURE
IS NOT JUST A CLICHÉ...**



**South Norfolk
Jordan Bridge
2013**

Old Jordan Bridge

**City of Chesapeake
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with closely spaced stations between Rosslyn, on the east end, and Ballston on the west end.

Metrorail changed everything. Coupled with planning practices that concentrated development around Metro stations and preserved single-family neighborhoods, Metrorail turned Arlington into one of the most desirable locations in the region, a great place for businesses, families and visitors.

Today, we are home to the highest percentage of 25-34 year olds of any city or county in the United States, and consistently rank among the nation's most highly educated communities. We have more office space in our Metrorail corridors than is available in Dallas, Los Angeles, Denver or Boston. Our commercial development, concentrated on 12 percent of our land in our two Metrorail corridors, provides about half of our real estate tax revenue.

The county has used its strong tax base to make strategic, long-term investments in infrastructure and high-quality services that attract both residents and businesses. In the past decade, Arlington has spent nearly half a billion dollars rebuilding and replacing 28 of our aging public schools and building one entirely new school. We have invested another half a billion dollars expanding and upgrading our Water Pollution Control Plant to meet increasing demand from our growing population and requirements of federal and state regulators.

In the coming decade, we plan to invest more than \$1.1 billion on transportation projects, including Metro, to ensure that our growth does not lead to gridlock. Even as our population has doubled from the 1970s, traffic on our main arteries is about the same today as it was then.

But Arlington is not resting on its smart growth laurels. We must continue to plan and build for the future.

Meeting the BRAC challenge

The federal government's Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) process has exacted a higher toll on Arlington – in numbers of jobs lost and office space vacated – than on any other community in the United

States. Our nation's slow recovery from the recession, ongoing federal budget woes, and the uncertainties caused by sequestration have intensified the pain, pushing the county's office vacancy rate to its highest level in years. We also are seeing increased competition from communities across our region, as they embrace the same sort of smart growth policies Arlington has applied for decades.

So we continue to plan for, and invest in, sustainable growth. In 2007, we set a goal of reducing greenhouse gas emissions from county buildings and services by 10 percent by 2012. We exceeded that goal and this year, the County Board adopted a Community Energy Plan with even more ambitious goals for reducing our community's greenhouse gas emissions, while increasing our competitive advantage.

Smart growth beyond Metro

For decades, we have encouraged development of a dense mix of offices, apartments and condominiums, built



The Shirlington bus station serves more than 2,000 daily commuters in the urban village of Shirlington, proof positive that transit-oriented development can be successful without Metrorail. The station also houses a Commuter Store.

above ground floor retail, around most of our 11 Metrorail stations. In these areas, residents, visitors and employees have access to high-quality transportation options that make it easy for them to get out where they want to go without a car. The tall buildings taper down to leafy residen-

tial neighborhoods, many of which have barely changed in decades.

Now the county is extending smart growth beyond the Metrorail corridors – creating great places, offering high-quality transportation choices, far from Metrorail stations.

Outside the Metrorail corridors, the restaurants, shops and entertainment options in South Arlington's Shirlington neighborhood draw visitors from across the region, who find multi-story office and residential buildings atop ground-floor retail, an efficient bus system and Capital Bikeshare docking stations (59 such stations are placed in strategic locations across Arlington, and 21 more are planned in the coming year).

Meeting growing transportation needs

Along the vital Columbia Pike and Crystal City-Pentagon City corridors, we plan a streetcar-and-bus system to handle projected growth. An extensive community planning effort is transforming Columbia Pike,

the most heavily traveled corridor in Virginia, into a tree-shaded Main Street with a more balanced mix of commercial and residential development, great public spaces, broad sidewalks and transportation options.

The Crystal City-Pentagon City corridor also is being reinvented, with major transportation upgrades and long-range community-based

planning aimed at turning the Jefferson Davis Highway into an urban boulevard lined with a more balanced mix of commercial and residential development.

It is all aimed at creating a sustainable future.

Preserving affordability in Arlington

One of our community's greatest challenges is maintaining diversity. Many working class families have been priced out of Arlington's housing market. In response, the county has pursued one of the region's most aggressive affordable housing programs. In the past decade, the county has provided nearly \$200 million to finance loans or purchase affordable rental housing. Local tax dollar support for programs to preserve affordable housing and help low-income people meet their housing needs account for 5.5 percent of the county's FY14 General Fund budget.

Bold action along Columbia Pike

Recently, the County Board adopted a plan to preserve all existing market rate affordable housing along Columbia Pike, where redevelopment is pushing up property values.

The county's commitment to preserving the Pike's stock of affordable housing, and its rich diversity of residents and small business owners, underscores our commitment to remaining an inclusive community where people from all walks of life, ethnic backgrounds and income levels are able to thrive, contribute and build.

Here's a look at some of Arlington's key programs, plans and outreach efforts, all helping us build on our successes and adapt to changing regional, state, national and local realities:

Environmental sustainability

On June 15, 2013, Arlington's County Board adopted a comprehensive, long-term community energy planning vision for the county, together with a framework for implementing the plan, called the Community Energy Plan (CEP). The CEP sets an ambitious goal of reducing the county's total greenhouse gas emissions in 2050 by about 75 percent from 2007 baseline levels.

How do we plan to get there? Essentially, the CEP will build on the



The green roof on the Walter Reed Community Center is one example of how Arlington's Initiative to Rethink Energy (AIRE) is helping to reduce emissions and lower costs.

work started by the county on Jan. 1, 2007, when the County Board launched FreshAIRE, the Arlington Initiative to Reduce Emissions. FreshAIRE set the county's first goals for reducing greenhouse gas emissions from county buildings and operations – goals that the county met and exceeded in 2012. We have now set the bar even higher, under the renamed AIRE – Arlington's Initiative to Rethink Energy. Our new plan involves the entire community.

Among the recommendations in the CEP: improving energy efficiency of new and renovated buildings; managing building operations to reduce energy costs; deploying district energy and alternative energy sources and continuing the county's greenhouse-gas-reducing transportation programs.

Modern streetcars

A half-century ago, Arlington changed its destiny when it embraced Metrorail. Now, the county is putting



Rendering depicts Arlington’s plans for a streetcar line on Columbia Pike – the next generation of transit-oriented development.

in place the next generation of transit-oriented development. The goal is to ensure that the entire county, and not just the two Metrorail corridors of Rosslyn-Ballston and Route 1, is served by reliable, accessible, affordable public transit. Key to the county’s efforts is its planned streetcar system.

As the county’s trains and buses reach capacity, streetcars offer the best option for handling the growth we know is coming. They carry more passengers than any bus, and are proven to grow transit ridership. Arlington is planning two streetcar lines – one along Columbia Pike,

the most heavily traveled corridor in Virginia, and the other along the Route 1 corridor, between Crystal City and Pentagon City. These areas will see the bulk of population and job growth in Arlington over the next 30 years. The two lines will meet up at Pentagon City, where they will connect to Metrorail.

The goal is to better connect the county to the regional transit system, while transforming Columbia Pike into a more transit-oriented, walkable, bikeable “Main Street” that will better serve the Pike’s residents, local businesses and visitors.

Open for business

Arlington’s urban villages, inside and outside the Metro corridors, offer the sort of environment, amenities and transportation options that businesses from multi-national corporations to mom-and-pop retailers are seeking.

Arlington’s proximity to prime government agencies, advanced security company headquarters and top-notch university research settings

on THE MOVE

The Town of Herndon Welcomes the Virginia Municipal League to Northern Virginia



A Rare Sense of Heritage and Place

A Visionary Downtown Master Plan

Preparing for the Arrival of Metrorail’s Silver Line

Citizens Who Are Engaged in Our Community



make it a prime location for tech entrepreneurs.

Our Ballston area is a hub of technology partnerships between top government agencies, private enterprise and university research.

To nurture and grow these exciting new enterprises, Arlington Economic Development recently expanded its BizLaunch program to include an Entrepreneur-in-Residence. This program, the first of its kind for a local government agency, provides one-on-one idea sharing and counseling sessions for entrepreneurs, by entrepreneurs. It complements the county's already successful BizLaunch venture, which touches nearly 5,000 small businesses each year through individual mentoring, workshops and special events.

The county also is working diligently to streamline the process for businesses looking to build or relocate to Arlington. A detailed retail plan is in the works that looks at equitable ways for businesses to share commerce opportunities in the public realm.

The county also recently changed its regulations to allow businesses



Arlington transformed a former industrial wasteland into Long Bridge Park, which offers breathtaking views of monumental Washington. The 18-acre park features three multi-use synthetic turf fields and a half-mile Esplanade. Future plans include an aquatics, health and fitness facility.

more flexibility in signage, to help promote their businesses. County planners work with developers and businesses to ensure they find the right spaces for unique business needs and the partnerships available to make those businesses flourish.

Long Bridge Park – gateway on the Potomac

On the banks of the Potomac River, Arlington County has transformed an industrial wasteland from a brownfield site into a green oasis, offering breathtaking views of the

wendel

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National Capital and a wealth of recreational opportunities. Since its opening in the fall of 2011, Long Bridge Park, located in Crystal City, has served as both an iconic gateway to the county and a much-needed recreational space for the community.

The 18-acre park features a half-mile Esplanade for strolling, biking, train spotting and plane watching; three lighted, multi-use synthetic turf fields that are in constant use by the county's many sports teams; a three-quarter-acre rain garden; the Wave Arbor, striking public art by artist Doug Hollis; public restrooms and parking.

Three more phases of planned development will further enhance the park. The county plans to add trails, walkways and an extension of the Esplanade to the planned Aquatics, Health and Fitness Facility. The new center will include a 50-meter pool with a 10-meter diving tower, as well as teaching, leisure and therapy pools. In addition, a fourth full-size, lighted, synthetic turf athletic field and expanded parking lot are planned. An observation platform will offer panoramic views of the Roaches Run Waterfowl Sanctuary and the Washington, D.C. skyline. Long Bridge Park is a treasure that will be enjoyed by generations of Arlingtonians.

Preserving, creating affordable housing

The preservation and creation of affordable housing is a top priority for the county. As market rate affordable housing continues to disappear, county government has aggressively pursued all available avenues, including leveraging partnerships with private developers, to create so-called Committed Affordable Units (CAFs) – housing guaranteed to stay affordable for decades, even generations.

Arlington works hard to ensure that a range of housing choices are available throughout the county to accommodate households of all income levels, sizes and needs. Priority is given to meeting the needs of the lowest-income households, including households with children, or with people who are elderly or have disabilities.

To date, Arlington has created 6,640 committed affordable units. The efforts have gotten creative – partnering, in one instance, with a non-profit to add affordable and market rate housing on top of the church sanctuary it reconstructed in the heart of the Metro corridor. The partnership not only created affordable housing within walking distance of a Metro stop, but it ensured the

survival of a key childcare facility.

Most recently, the county has committed to maintaining all existing affordable housing along Columbia Pike, where growth and development pressures have threatened the rich economic, cultural and ethnic diversity that defines the Pike.

Ending homelessness

In November 2012, the county purchased a seven-story office building in the Courthouse neighborhood, where it plans to convert two floors to a Homeless Services Center. The center is key to the county's ambitious goal of ending homelessness in Arlington by 2016 – as called for in the 2006 Board-adopted 10-Year Plan to End Homelessness in Arlington. The new center, which will replace the county's Emergency Winter Shelter, will be a year-round facility where individuals who are homeless receive comprehensive services to help them get off the streets and into permanent, stable housing.

The county's efforts to end homelessness have made progress despite the nation's financial crisis and subsequent long, deep recession.

In 2013 Arlington County embarked on a \$1 million private/public partnership to house the community's most vulnerable homeless individuals. The county is matching a \$500,000 grant from Arlington Community Foundation to fund a new permanent supportive housing program in Rosslyn. Arlington will continue to partner with non-profit agencies, the faith-based community, schools, businesses and individuals to prevent and end homelessness.

Water Pollution Control Plant expansion, upgrade

Arlington recently completed a \$568 million expansion and modernization of its aging water pollution control plant, the single largest infrastructure project ever carried out by the county. The plant, originally built in South Arlington in the 1930s, needed an overhaul to meet the needs of a growing population, and new federal and state regulations designed to protect the Chesapeake Bay.



As Arlington properties increase in value, it is a challenge to ensure housing is available to accommodate households of all income levels. To date, Arlington has created 6,640 committed affordable units.



Wolftrap Streambed Restoration:

A Community Partnership

The recently restored Wolftrap stream, located in Vienna's Wildwood Park, was accomplished through a partnership between Vienna and Fairfax County and made possible through the support of the community.



Before



After

*Grand Reopening
Wildwood Park
Fall 2013*

WILDWOOD PARK FEATURES:

- Natural hiking and walking trails
- Native wildlife and bird watching
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- Features newly restored Wolftrap Stream
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Town of Vienna
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www.viennava.gov





Arlington’s recent \$568 million upgrade of the Water Pollution Control Plant benefits the entire region and helps keep harmful nutrients out of the Chesapeake Bay.

Arlington stepped up to the plate in 2003 with a massive, complex, multi-year reconstruction. Completed in 2012, the upgrade has benefited the entire region by reducing the amount of nutrients – especially harmful nitrogen – flowing into the bay from the plant to well below state permit limits.

The plant now has the capacity to treat 40 million gallons of wastewater each day from residences and businesses, with nearly 20 percent of its flow coming from neighboring localities such as Alexandria, Fairfax and Falls Church. The upgrade increased the plant’s biological treatment capacity by 33 percent. We added a new disinfection facility and denitrifying filters, along with aeration tanks, clarifiers, a standby power generation facility, and equalization tanks. The plant reduced nitrogen discharges 96 percent in 2012.

In June, the county received a new five-year permit (MS4) from the state for the discharge of stormwater into waterways. The county is working hard to meet the permit’s requirement that it reduce nitrogen, phosphorus and sediment pollutant loads by 5 percent – part of the regional Chesapeake Bay clean-up effort – over the next five years. Further reductions will be required in the next two permit cycles. Arlington is taking steps to reduce sediment discharged into local streams and to clean up water collected from

roofs, roads, driveways and other impervious areas. The county also has built rain gardens in several areas, and has launched projects to stabilize streams and reduce erosion.

Engaging the public

You may have heard of the “Arlington Way.” Although definitions of what is essentially the civic culture of Arlington vary, this much is clear: the Arlington Way is the community’s practice of deep, broad, constructive involvement in the important government decisions that affect our lives and our future. Arlingtonians, among the best-educated people in the nation, expect nothing less from their lo-

cal government. In the past year, the Arlington County Board has launched a series of initiatives to ensure that the Arlington Way remains vibrant and effective.

Under the leadership of County Board Chairman J. Walter Tejada, the county is holding 10 Neighborhood Town Hall across Arlington this year. These popular gatherings have attracted hundreds of residents. The March meeting was devoted to a freewheeling discussion of the county’s planned streetcar system, but all other Town Halls are open forums, with attendees discussing any issue or asking any question of a board member.

The Town Halls build on the 2012 civic engagement initiative of then-Chair Mary Hynes. Hynes introduced PLACE ((Participation, Leadership and Civic Engagement), with the goals of getting more Arlingtonians involved in important government decision making, improving communications between county government and the public, and making government more responsive. Under PLACE, Hynes launched Open Door Mondays, weekly walk-in opportunities for residents to meet with a County Board member, in locations across the county.

Through PLACE, the county also launched PLACE Space (www.arlingtonplacespace.us), a virtual town square that connects people, organizations and businesses all over the county.



The “Arlington Way” describes the county’s strong culture of civic engagement in the important government decisions that affect its lives and its future.

Capital Bikeshare

You'll see them all over Arlington – the bright red bikes of Capital Bikeshare, the wildly popular bike-sharing program rolled out jointly by Arlington and Washington, D.C., in 2010, which has people from all walks of life, and all levels of fitness, pedaling like mad. Bikeshare is a network of docking stations and specially-built bikes. Members use an electronic key or a credit card to check out a bike, ride to another bikeshare location, and return to the bike to another docking station. Riders can join for one day, three days, a month, or a year (www.CapitalBikeshare.com).


Arlington started with just 14 bikeshare stations in the Crystal City area. Demand was so great, that the number of stations in the county quickly expanded. Today, there are 59 Bikeshare stations in Arlington, with another 21 planned to open later this year. Regional expansion is also underway. Alexandria and Montgomery County, Md., are coming on board and more stations are being added throughout the District.

The service fits in with the county's practice of providing transportation options that encourage people to choose a way to get around other than one-driver-one-car. It also complements Arlington's efforts to encourage healthy living by offering an easy, inexpensive – and fun – way to get some exercise. Capital Bikeshare offers a great ride for anyone who lives or works in the Arlington – and for those who are visiting.

Bikeshare is just one of the many ways to have fun riding a bike in Arlington. Although the county is only 26 square miles, it boasts more than 100 miles of multi-use trails, on-street bike lanes and designated bike routes. County government's BikeArlington



Now in its third year, Capital Bikeshare offers 1800+ bikes at 200+ stations; of these, 59 stations are located in Arlington, with another 21 planned to open later in 2013. Bikeshare is just one more transportation option to help people get around.

program (www.BikeArlington.com) offers free bike classes that teach riders of all ages how to ride safely in our increasingly urban environment, and up-to-date maps that make it easy to get almost anywhere in Arlington on a bike. 

About the author

Mary Curtius is media relations manager for Arlington County Government.



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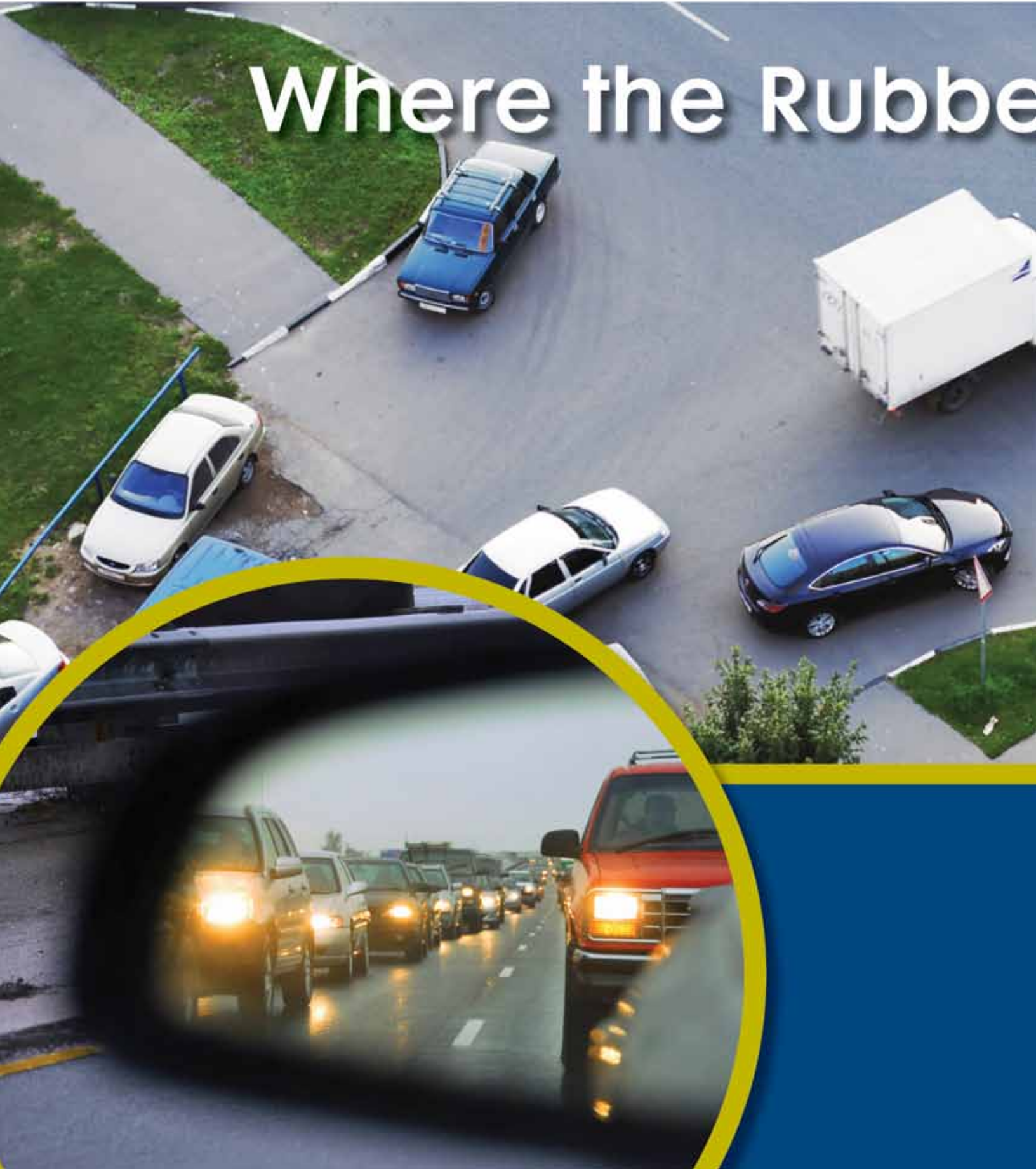
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Where the Rubber





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Automobile accidents account for nearly half of all claims to VML Insurance Programs (VMLIP). To decrease claims and increase safety on Virginia's roadways, in 2010 VMLIP began the Where the Rubber Meets the Road (*WTRMTR*) campaign, an aggressive fleet management and safety training initiative designed to provide strategies to reduce collision related injuries, fatalities and costs. Participating members who achieve program requirements receive a 5 percent automobile liability premium credit.

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The Virginia Municipal League

Mission statement

The Virginia Municipal League is a statewide, nonprofit, nonpartisan association of city, town and county governments established in 1905 to improve and assist local governments through legislative advocacy, research, education and other services. The membership includes 38 cities, 160 towns and eight counties.

Services

VML provides an array of services including the following:

- Advocacy and monitoring of activities of the Virginia General Assembly, state departments and agencies.
- Monitoring of issues important to local governments before the U.S. Congress and federal agencies.
- Group insurance programs providing workers' compensation and automobile and general liability coverage.
- VML/VACo Finance is the financial services arm of the Virginia Municipal League and Virginia Association of Counties. Through this successful program, VML members access high quality, low cost services including project financing, equipment leasing, pooled investment, and accounting support. Since its founding, VML/VACo Finance has made more than \$750 million in loans to Virginia localities through its long-term and interim financing programs. The VML/VACo Pooled OPEB Trust is the largest pooled OPEB trust fund in the nation – and a leading provider of OPEB actuarial services. The Accounting Services program places accounting professionals to assist local governments throughout the Commonwealth.
- Legal assistance through the services of a general counsel.
- Research, surveys, technical assistance and responses to questions on

local, state and federal governments.

- Conferences and training, including the VML Annual Conference, the Virginia Mayor's Institute, VML Legislative Day, the Newly-Elected Officials Conference and seminars on topics of interest to local elected and appointed officials.

- Information and news through publication of the monthly *Virginia Town & City* magazine, the bi-weekly *VML eNews* newsletter and the *Legislative Bulletin*, published while the General Assembly is in session. In addition, the league maintains an Internet website at www.vml.org, a Facebook page and a Twitter presence.



- Other services through organizations, including the Virginia Local Government Management Association, Municipal Electric Power Association of Virginia, Virginia Building and Code Officials Association, Virginia Energy Purchasing Government Association, Hampton Roads Sanitation District and Virginia Association of Housing and Community Development Officials.

Organization

An executive committee made up of the VML president, a president-elect, a vice president, six at-large members, three section chairs and the immediate past president governs VML. The executive committee is elected by the league membership at the annual conference and provides overall guidance to the league staff.

VML's policy and steering committees recommend positions of the league on issues of concern through development of annual policy state-

ments. Policy committee members are nominated by member localities. The VML president appoints steering committee members.

The VML Legislative Committee recommends the *VML Legislative Program* for adoption at the annual conference. The VML president appoints the committee's members.

VML consists of a 70-member staff headed by the executive director. The staff performs the ongoing functions of the league under the direction of the executive committee, the executive director and the VML policy statements and legislative program.

2012-2013 Executive Committee

President – Ed C. Daley, DPA
Hopewell City Manager

President-Elect – David P. Helms,
Marion Mayor

Vice President – William D. Euille,
Alexandria Mayor

At-large member – Ron Rordam,
Blacksburg Mayor

At-large member – Dwight C. Jones,
Richmond Mayor

At-large member – Robert Coiner,
Gordonsville Mayor

At-large member – Mary Hynes,
Arlington County Board member


At-large member – Edythe Frankel
Kelleher, Vienna Council Member

At-large member – Ceasor Johnson,
D.D., D.Min., Lynchburg Vice
Mayor

Urban Section chair – Patricia
Woodbury, Ed.D., Newport News
Council Member

City Section chair – Mimi Elrod,
Lexington Mayor

Town Section chair – Katie Sheldon
Hammler, Leesburg Council Member

Immediate Past President – Rosemary
Wilson, Virginia Beach Council
Member 

A message from the president

IT HAS BEEN an honor and privilege to serve as VML president. The past year can be summarized as one of goals met, ongoing challenges, and new beginnings.

We began the year by calling for significant improvement in the dialogue between the state and local governments. The poster issue for this problem was the much criticized “Aid to the Commonwealth” program that mandated cities and counties return \$50 million annually to Richmond despite four consecutive years of handsome state surpluses.

Prior to the start of the 2013 General Assembly session, Gov. Bob McDonnell conveyed to VML that he was prepared to address the issue. Both he and the legislature should continue to be thanked for eliminating this onerous state mandate. I hope the accomplishment marks the beginning of a new era of improved relations between the state and local governments. If Virginia wants to remain competitive in the world economy, it’s essential that a high-level dialogue continues. This is especially true at a time when proposals are being floated to eliminate certain local sources of revenue, which would inevitably lead to higher property tax rates.

Another important accomplishment of the 2013 session was passage of a comprehensive transportation funding package. The governor and the leadership of the General Assembly should also be thanked for addressing this long-standing area of need, too.

Despite these important legislative successes, local governments face a number of major challenges in 2014. BPOL and Machinery and Tools taxes (annual revenues that amount to nearly \$1 billion) will again be subject to intense legislative analysis. Needed land-use tools will be under attack. Public reinvestment in education must be considered a top priority of the legislature. Local governments exceed their required share of Standards of Quality funding by \$2.3

billion annually.

Another area in need of emphasis is for local leaders to make better use of the resources offered through regional service programs and volunteers. I hope that *Virginia Town and City* will highlight the work of our regional planning commissions in the promotion of regional service



Ed C. Daley, DPA
City Manager, Hopewell

programs next year. The real bottom line issue for local governments, however, is to convince the general public and our government partners of the critical importance of investing in our communities.

VML needs to continue to be innovative as it considers the service program needs of members. Over the years, we have built a comprehensive offering of these programs. Our challenge is to continually improve the ones that are relevant, eliminate those that are not, and identify new opportunities.

In May, the VML Insurance Program Supervisory Board notified the Executive Committee that VMLIP would separate from VML in

November. A committee comprised of myself, VML past presidents Trent Crewe and Woody Harris, and VML Executive Committee members Ron Rordam and Bob Coiner worked with Executive Director Mike Amyx to craft a new agreement with VMLIP. It will allow us to continue working together to serve Virginia local governments as separate entities.

Mike announced in February that after 33 years as VML executive director, he would retire in December. Please join with me in thanking him for a job well done. He and his wife, Linda, have been outstanding ambassadors for VML over the years. The Executive Committee is excited about the future of VML under the leadership of Kimberly Winn, our newly-hired executive director. There will be several opportunities at the VML Annual Conference for interaction with Kimberly. Please make a point of introducing yourself.

The 12 other members of the Executive Committee deserve your thanks for their service. In addition to overseeing the ongoing governance issues facing VML, they have devoted significant time to ensure that the transition process for the executive director search was a success. Our outstanding staff in Richmond is vital to the daily performance of our organization. I offer my sincere thanks to the Hopewell City Council and staff for their support and fine work. Finally, I have been blessed by a wonderful life partner, my wife Karen, who has taken every step with me in my professional, local government life.

Thank-you again for the opportunity to serve as your president. And thank-you for the contributions that you make to VML and your communities.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Edwin C. Daley". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Ed C. Daley, DPA
President

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Purcellville's rich history is preserved with the W&OD Bike Trail, Fireman's Field ballpark, the Train Depot, and Bush Tabernacle – each a unique amenity where you can take a leisurely bike ride, enjoy a Babe Ruth baseball game, strap on some roller skates, or browse the offerings at the farmers market.

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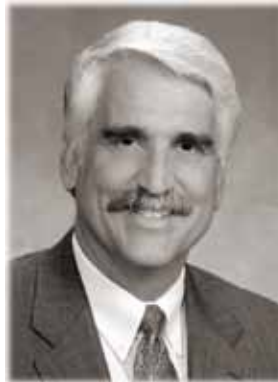
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 President-Elect
Mayor, Marion



William D. Euille
 Vice President
Mayor, Alexandria



Ron Rordam
 At-large member
Mayor, Blacksburg



Dwight C. Jones
 At-large member
Mayor, Richmond



Robert K. Coiner
 At-large member
Mayor, Gordonsville



Mary Hynes
 At-large member
Board Member, Arlington County



Edythe Frankel Kelleher
 At-large member
Council Member, Vienna



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 D.D., D.Min.**
 At-large member
Vice Mayor, Lynchburg



**Katie Sheldon
 Hammler**
 Town Section Chair
Council Member, Leesburg



Mimi Elrod
 City Section Chair
Mayor, Lexington



**Patricia Woodbury,
 Ed.D.**
 Urban Section Chair
Council Member, Newport News



Rosemary Wilson
 Immediate Past President
Council Member, Virginia Beach

2013 VML Financial Statements

Statements of financial position June 30, 2013 with 2012 comparative amounts

Assets		2013		2012
Cash	\$	238,042	\$	475,567
Pooled Investments		2,900,020		2,871,458
Investments		5,387,107		4,611,849
Accounts receivable		8,372		11,186
Receivable from affiliated organizations		42,738		32,028
Prepaid expenses		4,250		5,051
Total:	\$	8,580,529	\$	8,007,139
Property and Equipment				
Land		144,800		144,800
Buildings and improvements		372,264		366,733
Furniture, equipment and automobile		365,094		365,094
Total:	\$	882,158	\$	876,627
Less accumulated depreciation		(694,857)		(667,923)
		187,301		208,704
Total assets	\$	8,767,830	\$	8,215,843
Liabilities and Net Assets				
Accounts payable		44,016		60,462
Dues and fees collected in advance		118,362		151,251
Accrued compensated consolidated leave		199,925		183,702
Liability under capital leases		18,215		26,377
Pooled investments		824,000		1,096,000
Deferred obligations to employees		5,387,107		4,611,849
Total liabilities		6,591,625		6,129,641
Net assets unrestricted		2,176,205		2,086,202
Total liabilities and net assets	\$	8,767,830	\$	8,215,843



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Statements of activities

June 30, 2013 with
comparative totals for 2012

Revenue	2013	2012
Membership dues	1,158,266	1,111,378
Conference fees	178,625	163,398
Conference exhibits	48,125	37,900
Conference contributions	13,000	17,250
Regional meetings/workshops	29,801	14,768
Affiliated groups	47,789	45,631
Professional services contributions	-	30,780
Interest	2,923	2,542
Income (loss) from deferred compensation investments	492,867	88,432
Magazine	56,354	72,270
Publications	525	-
Insurance administration	616,645	616,540
Other administration fees	35,002	34,056
Gain / (Loss) on sale of fixed assets	-	150
Sponsorship	161,239	160,198
Miscellaneous	30,453	46,600
Total revenue	2,871,614	2,441,893
Expenses		
Employment compensation and benefits	1,467,668	1,455,549
Deferred compensation	492,867	88,432
Annual conference	181,306	172,749
Regional meetings/workshops	29,346	17,043
Travel	42,981	42,899
Office supplies and postage	35,849	45,787
Office maintenance and equipment rentals	13,958	17,636
Office rent	10,386	17,508
Computer services	3,890	4,660
Dues and subscriptions	21,018	18,118
National League of Cities dues	24,223	21,192
Telephone	18,678	18,658
Insurance	14,763	14,383
Professional fees	49,578	97,044
Policy advocates	84,856	131,705
Magazine publishing (except salaries)	57,959	67,986
Executive Committee	24,666	25,011
Retirement	145,208	142,602
Depreciation	26,934	25,004
Miscellaneous	23,176	27,914
Interest	3,242	4,288
Property taxes	6,913	6,913
Accumulated leave earned	2,146	7,626
Total Expenses	2,781,611	2,470,707
Change in net assets	90,003	(28,814)
Net assets:		
Beginning	2,086,202	2,115,016
Ending	2,176,205	2,086,202

2013 Legislative Committee

Chair: Newport News Council Member Sharon Scott (Urban Section)
Vice Chair: Purcellville Mayor Bob Lazaro (Town Section)

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Staunton Council Member Ophie Kier
Winchester Mayor Elizabeth Minor
Petersburg Mayor Brian A. Moore
Fairfax Mayor Scott Silverthorne
Emporia City Manager Brian Thrower

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Bluefield Mayor Don Harris
Herndon Vice Mayor Connie Hutchinson
Strasburg Mayor Tim Taylor
Smithfield Council Member Denise Tynes

Urban Section

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Alexandria Council Member John Chapman
Virginia Beach Council Member Glenn Davis
Harrisonburg Council Member Kai E. Degner
Charlottesville Mayor Satyendra Huja
Lynchburg City Manager Kim Payne
Roanoke Council Member Anita Price
Chesapeake Council Member Debbie Ritter
Richmond Council Vice President Ellen F. Robertson
Hampton Vice Mayor George Wallace
Portsmouth Mayor Kenneth Wright

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Vice Chair: Newport News Council Member Tina Vick

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Martinsville Mayor Kim Adkins
Harrisonburg Council Member Richard A. Baugh
Roanoke Director of Economic Development Wayne Bowers
Tazewell Mayor Donald Buchanan
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Colonial Heights Mayor C. Scott Davis
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Herndon Council Member David A. Kirby
Vinton Town Manager Christopher S. Lawrence
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Front Royal Vice Mayor Shae Parker
Culpeper Council Member James C. Risner
Roanoke Council Member Courtney G. Rosen
Virginia Beach Council Member Amelia N. Ross-Hammond

Front Royal Council Member Thomas H. Sayre
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Christiansburg Council Member Henry D. Showalter
Vienna Council Member Carey Sienicki
Dumfries Town Manager Daniel E. Taber
Farmville Council Member Sally B. Thompson
Harrisonburg Planning Director Stacy Turner
Manassas Director of Community Development Elizabeth Via-Gossman
Suffolk Council Member Lue R. Ward Jr.
Chesapeake Council Member Ella P. Ward
Dumfries Council Member Derrick R. Wood

2013 Environmental Quality Policy Committee

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Vice Chair: Fredericksburg Council Member George Solley
Roanoke Environmental Administrator Christopher Blakeman
Front Royal Town Manager Steven M. Burke
Harrisonburg Public Utilities Director Mike Collins
Staunton Council Member Erik Curren
Suffolk Council Member Michael D. Duman
Norton Water Plant Acting Superintendent Andrew Greear
Vinton Mayor Bradley E. Grose
Colonial Heights Public Works Director William E. Henley
Purcellville Mayor Robert W. Lazaro Jr.
Vinton Planning Director Anita McMillan
Lynchburg Public Utilities Director Timothy A. Mitchell
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Dumfries Assistant Director of Public Works Richard West
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Dumfries Mayor Gerald M. Foreman II
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Martinsville Council Member Sharon Brooks Hodge
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Purcellville Council Member Patrick McConville II
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Dumfries Director of Public Works Terry Myers
Vienna Council Member Michael J. Polychrones
Chesapeake Council Member Debbie Ritter
Vienna Mayor M. Jane Seeman
Harrisonburg Director of Transportation Reggie Smith
Christiansburg Council Member Bradford J. Stipes
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Herndon Council Member Charlie D. Waddell
Manassas Council Member Jonathan L. Way
Newport News Council Member Patricia P. Woodbury
Vinton Public Works Director Gary W. Woodson

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Vice Chair: Lynchburg City Manager Kim Payne

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Christiansburg Vice Mayor Michael Barber
Manassas City Manager John A. Budesky
Chesapeake Vice Mayor John M. de Triquet
Tazewell Town Manager Todd Day
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Fredericksburg Vice Mayor Bradford Ellis
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Front Royal Finance Director Kim Gilkey-Breeden
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 Suffolk Council Member Curtis R. Milteer
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 Abe Shearer
 Falls Church City Manager Wyatt Shields
 Norton Director of Finance Jeffery A. Shupe
 Vinton Finance Director/Treasurer
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 Martinsville City Manager Leon Towarnicki

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Vice Chair: Martinsville Council Member
 Gene Teague

Dumfries Council Member
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 Harrisonburg City Attorney Chris Brown
 Harrisonburg Mayor Ted Byrd
 Roanoke City Attorney Daniel J. Callaghan
 Vienna Vice Mayor Laurie Genevivo Cole
 Culpeper Town Attorney Martin Crim
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 Vinton Council Member W. Wesley Nance
 Front Royal Town Attorney Doug Napier
 Manassas Mayor Hal J. Parrish II
 Norton City Manager Fred L. Ramey Jr.
 Lynchburg Director of Human Resources
 Margaret Schmitt
 Newport News Legislative Liaison
 Jerri Wilson

**2013 Human
 Development Policy
 Committee**

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 Anita Price
Vice Chair: Staunton Council Member
 Andrea Oakes

Newport News Assistant City Manager
 Alan K. Archer

Suffolk Vice Mayor Charles F. Brown
 Blacksburg Council Member John H. Bush
 Emporia Council Member Carolyn S. Carey
 Alexandria Council Member
 John Chapman
 Culpeper Mayor Calvin Coleman
 Fredericksburg Council Member
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 Christiansburg Council Member
 Steve Huppert
 Manassas Director of Family Services
 Ronald L. King
 Harrisonburg Assistant City Manager
 Anne Lewis
 Manassas Council Member Ian T. Lovejoy
 Roanoke City Clerk Stephanie Moon
 Dumfries Director of Community Services
 Cydny Neville
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 Portsmouth Council Member
 Marlene W. Randall
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 Norfolk Council Member Tommy Smigiel Jr.
 Martinsville Council Member Mark Stroud
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Hampton
Harrisonburg
Hopewell
Lexington
Lynchburg
Manassas
Manassas Park
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Poquoson
Portsmouth
Radford
Richmond
Roanoke
Salem
Staunton

Suffolk
Virginia Beach
Waynesboro
Williamsburg
Winchester

Towns

Abingdon
Accomac
Alberta
Altavista
Amherst
Appalachia
Appomattox
Ashland
Bedford
Berryville
Big Stone Gap
Blacksburg
Blackstone
Bluefield
Boones Mill
Bowling Green
Boynton
Boykins
Branchville
Bridgewater
Broadway
Brookneal
Buchanan
Burkeville
Cape Charles
Cedar Bluff

Charlotte Court House
Chase City
Chatham
Chilhowie
Chincoteague
Christiansburg
Claremont
Clarksville
Clifton
Clifton Forge
Clintwood
Coeburn
Colonial Beach
Courtland
Craigsville
Crewe
Culpeper
Damascus
Dayton
Dillwyn
Drakes Branch
Dublin
Duffield
Dumfries
Eastville
Edinburg
Elkton
Exmore
Farmville
Fincastle
Floyd
Fries
Front Royal
Gate City
Glade Spring
Glasgow

Gordonsville
Gretna
Grottoes
Grundy
Halifax
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Hamilton
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Haysi
Herndon
Hillsville
Hurt
Independence
Iron Gate
Irvington
Ivor
Jarratt
Jonesville
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Keysville
Kilmarnock
LaCrosse
Lawrenceville
Lebanon
Leesburg
Louisa
Lovettsville
Luray
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McKenney
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Mineral
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Nassawadox
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Onley
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Pamplin
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Timberville
Toms Brook
Troutville
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Service = savings: How VML Insurance Programs services save members money

IT'S MORE THAN just coverage. When your local government, school district or public authority purchases insurance through VML Insurance Programs (VMLIP), they are purchasing more than workers' compensation, property or liability insurance. They are becoming member-owners of an insurance pool whose unparalleled service matches the depth and breadth of its coverages.

Many of these services are focused on saving the pool money directly, to keep rates low. Others are designed to help prevent losses, which in turn keeps rates low. All of the ways in which VMLIP finds savings keeps VMLIP the largest group self-insurance pool in the Commonwealth.

In the 2012-2013 fiscal year, subrogation efforts recovered more than \$1.2 million for VMLIP members. Through medical bill review and other medical management savings, VMLIP also saved \$4.3 million in workers' compensation medical costs.

"For claims where settlement makes sense, we utilize mediation," said VMLIP Managing Director Steve Craig. "Mediation keeps defense costs down and saves the pool money when a settlement is reached."

Of course, the best way to save the pool money is by preventing claims. That's why the work of the VMLIP safety, human resources and law enforcement staff is critically important.

"We find that by providing risk management support to members we are able to fill the gap in training that they may not receive due to reduced budgets," said Craig. "The support may be focused on mitigating employment liability exposure or promoting safety in the workplace – all of which will prevent claims and injuries."

Additionally, VMLIP offers more than 60 free training courses through the VMLIP Online University, as well as monthly training on a number

of topics through free webinars. The pool provides members with sample employment and workers' compensation policies, hundreds of white papers on various subjects, training videos,



**VML Insurance Programs
Managing Director Steve Craig**

personalized consultation, and on-site training seminars.

A signature initiative, the Where the Rubber Meets the Road (WTRM-TR) campaign, has resulted in a 22 percent reduction in the number of claims and a 16 percent reduction in the overall costs of automobile liability claims among the first-year members participating.

"When we launched this campaign in 2009, vehicle losses accounted for half the costs of all claims for the pool," said Craig. "Now we are beginning to see claims reduced, and we have facilitated the provision of crucial defensive driving training to more than 14,000 employees statewide."

The National Safety Council (NSC) estimates that a workplace motor vehicle crash costs an employer more than \$24,000. With injuries,

costs can rise to more than \$125,000. By providing NSC Defensive Driver training, VMLIP aims to lower the incidence of accidents, protect member employees, and lower costs for members.

"As an added incentive, members who participate in the campaign and meet their first year goals receive five percent credit on their automobile coverage premium," Craig added.

That's in addition to more than \$1.1 million in total premium credits awarded last year to 89 members who attained a 100 percent score on the Risk Management Guidelines (RMG) assessment tool. The RMG reviews members' risk management initiatives, including fleet safety, self-inspections, safety awareness, and more. VMLIP also provided \$28,000 in premium credits to insured law enforcement agencies receiving accreditation.

"Premium credits provide a monetary incentive for utilizing best practices in risk management," Craig said. "Focusing on risk management reduces the number and severity of the claims we see and, more importantly, creates safer work environments for our member employees."


Significant savings for members came from the \$250,000 in Risk Management Grants awarded last year to more than 70 members. Each year VMLIP awards grants to members to use in purchasing equipment or training to expand their risk management programs. Last year members used grant funding to purchase items such as Automated External Defibrillators, a confined space gas entry meter, playground equipment and parts, and much more.

Additional savings for members come from underwriting services such as contract review, deductible analysis, and through the pool's annual reinsurance negotiations. All together, small savings add up to big savings – savings that have been utilized to keep

rates steady for more than 10 years.

“For more than a decade our rates remained stable – even through the recession our members were able to rely on stable premiums during otherwise turbulent budgeting years,” Craig said. “By continuing to find new ways to reduce costs and keep claims low, and thanks to member loyalty and decreasing losses, for the 2013-2014 renewal year we were able to reduce premiums by 4 percent, saving members \$1.8 million.”

In the coming year, the pool will continue to innovate to meet the needs of members, while continuing to focus on effective risk management and cost savings. In the past, these innovations have included coverages such as cyber liability, business continuity services, Line of Duty Act, earthquake, flood, and pollution coverages – some offered at no additional cost, which have provided effective and cost-efficient ways to manage losses for Virginia’s governmental entities.

For more information on VMLIP, visit www.vmlins.org or follow VMLIP on Facebook at: www.facebook.com/vmlip. 



VMLIP offers more than 60 free training courses through the VMLIP Online University, as well as monthly training on a number of topics through free webinars. The pool provides members with sample employment and workers' compensation policies, hundreds of white papers on various subjects, training videos, personalized consultation, and on-site training seminars.



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VLGMA improves website, pushes ethics measures

THE COUNCIL-MANAGER FORM of government began in Virginia in 1908, and is more relevant than ever with the financial, administrative, and policy challenges facing Virginia communi-



VLGMA President Randy Wheeler

ties. The Virginia Local Government Management Association (VLGMA) serves as the premier source of training, information sharing, and professional support for Virginia's local management professionals. Poquoson City Manager Randy Wheeler serves as the association's president.

Efficiency, effectiveness, and ethics are three key words for local government managers and define the association's efforts this year.

To increase the effectiveness of VLGMA's communications with and among members, the Communications and Networking Committee completed a comprehensive renovation of the VLGMA website. The new site is hosted by the International City/County Management Association (ICMA); members can access VLGMA news and information as well as link to ICMA and its many resources.

Professional development is vital for managers to increase their ability to build more efficient and effective local government operations. The Professional Development Committee produced high-impact training pro-

grams for the association's Midwinter Conference in Staunton (Feb. 15-17) and the Annual Conference in Virginia Beach (June 19-21). Program offerings included ethical leadership, managing contentious public meetings, meeting FOIA and public records requirements, understanding the impact of affordable health care on local governments as employers, and sharing best practices through local case studies.

Maintaining high ethical standards is integral to VLGMA and ICMA. VLGMA members agree to abide by the ICMA Code of Ethics.

VLGMA conferences regularly offer ethics-related educational sessions. The association's first vice president monitors and addresses ethics issues and questions from, and about members. This year, First Vice President Brenda Garton (Gloucester County Administrator) drafted new procedural guidelines for enforcement of the Code of Ethics for VLGMA members who are not ICMA members (ICMA has a process covering its members).


Building a better understanding of the role of local government in our democracy is another VLGMA priority. In the past year the Civic Engagement Committee worked to develop materials for Local Government Education Week in Virginia, which occurs during the first week of April. The committee's work continues, and it plans to offer additional resources and information for local government officials to use in working with their school systems and with community organizations by January.

VLGMA continued its efforts to prepare the next generation of local management professionals. In 2008, the association entered a

partnership with Virginia Tech to establish a local government graduate certificate program. This is the state's only graduate-level program with a curriculum exclusively focused on local government management. Now fully integrated into Virginia Tech's graduate curriculum, the program continues to grow in size and scope. VLGMA members teach the classes that reach students across the commonwealth in 11 satellite classrooms; a second "live" classroom site opened this year at the Fairfax County Government Center. VLGMA members and partner businesses help defray the cost of courses for local government employees enrolled in the certificate program through a scholarship program; in June the VLGMA board voted to increase its support of this program.

VLGMA continually seeks ways to bring professional development opportunities to Virginia managers. The association has bid to host the 2014 ICMA Southeast Regional Summit next March. Southeast Vice President Ken Chandler led the initiative to bring this summit back to Virginia.

In June the association elected Poquoson City Manager Randy Wheeler as its president for 2013-14. Also elected were Gloucester County Administrator Brenda G. Garton, president-elect; Goochland County Administrator Rebecca T. Dickson, first vice president; Abingdon Town Manager Gregory W. Kelly, second vice president; Charlottesville City Manager Maurice T. Jones, third vice president; and Henrico Deputy County Manager Joseph P. Casey, secretary. Staunton City Manager Stephen F. Owen is the immediate past president.

VLGMA is an affiliate organization of the International City-County Management Association (ICMA) and of VML. Janet Areson of VML serves as the association's executive secretary. 

VBCOA ensures safety through building code enforcement

THE VIRGINIA BUILDING and Code Officials Association's primary mission is improving public safety through building code enforcement. The association fulfills its mission through its unwavering support for continuing education and building code development and enforcement.

VBCOA reaffirmed its commitment to continuing education this year by offering a free one-day training course on fire protection provisions in the residential building code during its spring meeting. May was building safety month and VBCOA members across the state sponsored events focusing on fire safety, disaster mitigation, back yard safety and green energy. VBCOA will offer additional training on these issues in November.

Building officials and VBCOA members have a long tradition of contributing to their local communities through philanthropic activities. This year, building officials across the state volunteered with Homes for Our Troops, an organization that provides adaptive housing for severely injured military veterans and their families. Other officials contributed their talents to organizations such as Habitat for Humanity.

VBCOA also promoted professional development for permit technicians, who are often at the front desk of a building official's office. A well trained and knowledgeable technician can help people avoid delays and frustrations by assisting with the permit process. The result: The permit process goes more smoothly, applicants are happier, and the whole process is more efficient. An ad hoc committee on permit technicians worked hard over the past year to develop a training program that would enable these employees to bring added value to permit applicants.

VBCOA members promote building safety and improved code enforcement on the international, national and state levels, as well as in their

home communities. Fairfax County Code Specialist Guy Tomberlin is the secretary-treasurer of the International Code Council, which is the association that develops the building codes used in most of the United States, as well as in many countries around the world. William D. Dupler, Chesterfield County deputy county administrator for community development, is the immediate past president of the ICC.

The association has a long history of promoting the development of strong building codes that help ensure building safety even in the event of natural or man-made disasters. These codes address issues ranging from deck safety and requirements for electrical and plumbing connections to the construction of buildings built to withstand hurricanes. Numerous Virginia officials serve on the ICC committees that develop building codes and high professional and continuing education standards for building and inspection officials. This year VBCOA also sponsored scholarship programs that enabled members to participate in ICC code development hearings, helping ensure that Virginia's long tradition of strong enforcement would be incorporated in national code development.

During this past year, VBCOA members promoted building safety at the state level through membership on the Board of Housing and Community Development, the Board for Contractors, the Manufactured Housing Board, and the State Technical Advisory Review Board. Many members also serve as instructors in

the Jack A. Proctor Virginia Building Code Academy, which offers classes required for certification in various areas of building construction and maintenance.


VBCOA's commitment to building safety was recognized by the International Code Council, which named VBCOA a merit chapter of



VBCOA President Kris Bridges.

the year in 2012.

VBCOA's officers for 2012-13 are President Kris Bridges, Martinsville; First Vice President Cathy Cook, Blacksburg; Second Vice President Sean Farrell, Prince William County; Sergeant At Arms John Walsh, Fredericksburg; and Immediate Past President Vernell Woods, Norfolk. The association is divided into eight regions, and the regional chapters also offer an ambitious schedule of training opportunities. These training opportunities covered a range of topics such as hoarding, electrical inspections, special inspections, legal aspects of code enforcement, property maintenance, and ADA requirements, to name just a few.

VBCOA's website at www.vbcoa.org has links to educational and promotional materials on VBCOA. VML Director of Research Mary Jo Fields serves as executive director of VBCOA. 

VEPGA members to save 3% on FY14 electricity bills

LOCAL GOVERNMENTS that are members of the association that negotiates electricity rates with Dominion Virginia Power will save an average of 3 percent on their bills during the fiscal year that began July 1.

The Virginia Energy Purchasing Governmental Association (VEPGA) was formed in 2002 in response to legislation that deregulated the electricity industry in 1999. For more than two decades prior to that, the Virginia Municipal League and the Virginia Association of Counties jointly sponsored a “steering committee” to negotiate rates and service with Dominion. VEPGA is a joint powers association with its authority spelled out in the state code.

The reason for the 3 percent reduction in FY14 is due in large part to the low cost of fuel, particularly natural gas, which Dominion purchases to generate power. While

future rate increases.


VEPGA also helped its members identify additional savings in the past year. It did so by sharing the results of a rate comparison analysis required by its contract with Dominion. That analysis showed that a number of VEPGA members stood to save a total of \$4.2 million by switching to different rate schedules that better fit the service they were being provided. While the average potential savings worked out to about \$10,600 per account, some members stood to save much more. For example: \$152,194 for a school board account, \$165,806 for a county account, and \$460,371 for a city account. VEPGA will continue analyzing the numbers annually. It will inform members of any potential savings they might realize by switching to a different rate schedule.

Through membership in VEPGA, local governments in Virginia are afforded the unique opportunity to

allowing localities to negotiate rates, terms and conditions rather than have them set by the State Corporation Commission (SCC). By not being charged rates set by the SCC, VEPGA members have realized an annual savings of about \$16 million since 2011. This translates into a 4.3 percent savings. The current contract expires June 30, 2014. Negotiations for a new contract are underway.

VEPGA’s Energy Efficiency & Conservation Committee (EECC) also assists members in controlling energy use and costs by arranging for presentations on topics associated with rates, federal and state programs, new technologies, rating initiatives, renewable resources, available grants, metering and legislative issues. All VEPGA members are encouraged to make the EECC a resource for information sharing and to suggest topics for discussion. VEPGA members

also can participate in online informational meetings featuring subject experts without the need for travel. Additionally, VEPGA’s Joint Action Committee (JAC) meets every quarter with Dominion representatives to address issues regarding street lighting construction, maintenance, repair and billing, as well as work projects such as relocations and overhead to underground conversions. The committee recently launched a pilot project to examine whether construction times can be shortened and costs reduced if local governments handle more of the design and construction of certain electricity projects.

Steve Sinclair, chief of the Public Utilities Branch for Fairfax County, is chairman of VEPGA, a VML affiliate organization. VML Director of Environmental Policy Joe Lerch serves as its executive secretary. VEPGA’s membership includes 168 cities, towns, counties and other political subdivisions. Learn more about the association at www.vepga.org. 



VEPGA Chairman Steve Sinclair.

the savings in fuel costs (known as fuel factor) for VEPGA members could have been greater, the association’s board decided to bank part of the savings to lessen the effect of any

negotiate their electricity rates directly with the utility. VEPGA employs counsel and consultants with considerable expertise in energy matters to take advantage of Virginia law

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utilities that provide reliable and safe electricity at a reasonable price. Our commitment to the communities that we serve goes beyond keeping the lights on and appliances running. Our success is intertwined with that of each family and local business. MEPAV is part of a vital American tradition that makes communities better places to live and work. It's a tradition that works.



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MEPAV monitored assortment of utility legislation

THE 2013 GENERAL Assembly considered more than 50 significant energy and environmental-related measures of interest to the Municipal Electric Power Association of Virginia and its members. Significant revisions were made to the landmark 2007 electric utility re-regulation statutes. None of the changes made affected the municipal electric utilities adversely.

The legislature considered a measure proposed to restrict the use of advanced electric meters by all of the state's electric utilities. These advanced meters have been used to provide remote meter reading, develop information on utility infrastructure needs, load control and swifter location of outages. The introduced bill would have provided for State Corporation Commission (SCC) regulatory oversight over municipal use of these meters in a way that greatly restricted their use. The measure was amended to remove any regulatory oversight of municipals by the SCC before it failed in committee.

The General Assembly approved legislation allowing a utility's customer to contract with a firm to own or operate renewable energy generation and sell it back to the customer. This bill, which will likely shift some costs from these renewable project customers to other utility customers, authorizes the SCC to set up a pilot program. The legislation limits the new pilot program to the area served by one investor-owned electric utility. The measure will allow the use of certain federal tax credits to lower the cost of these types of projects to retail customers while those tax benefits remain in place.

Legislation also passed establishing the Virginia Nuclear Energy Consortium Authority as a political subdivision of the state. The authority was created to make Virginia a national and global leader in nuclear energy and to serve as an interdisciplinary study, research, and information

resource for the state on nuclear energy issues.

The legislature rejected legislation that would have directed the Commission on Electric Utility Regulation to study the establishment of a mandatory renewable energy portfolio standard. Also rejected was legislation exempting solar energy equipment from state and local taxation, as well as a proposed study of the creation of a state renewable energy utility.

The association and its legislative consultant, Thomas Dick, closely monitored the work of the legislative committees and subcommittees as they reviewed proposed legislation. The association worked closely with the utility industry and interested groups to make sure that any proposed legislation did not create problems for municipally-owned electric utilities.

The MEPAV Annual Conference was held in Virginia Beach May 22-24 with presentations by speakers on an assortment of topics. Topics covered included the effect of federal regulations on MEPAV, advanced metering infrastructure, engaging the community in energy savings education and how to get along with elected officials.

The conference was attended by about 77 members and guests, and supported by 23 businesses. Nine utility members were represented and eager to learn and share information.

In addition to the conference, members and vendors also met at a fall Engineering & Operations Workshop held in Culpeper. Topics covered in the sessions included over-voltage regulators, a storm stories roundtable, planning and design of electricity systems and pole attachment issues.

In its 59th year, MEPAV has 46 individual members who work for the 16 municipal electric utilities in the state. The membership also includes 15 honorary members and 30 companies with interest in the operation of

municipal electric utilities.


Municipal electric utilities in Virginia have effectively served their customer-owners since the late 1800's. MEPAV's mission remains focused on meeting the needs of its members by providing information and support to those 16 localities that operate electric utilities. Fostering a spirit of coop-



MEPAV President Mike Moon of Manassas.

eration and communication among Virginia's municipal electric systems remains a high priority. Coordinating legislative efforts with municipalities and other utilities is critical to the success of the organization.

The municipal electric systems continue to be self-regulated by their local governments, providing them with the flexibility to address energy efficiency and conservation issues based on local needs.


MEPAV is a VML affiliate organization. Mike Moon, director of utilities in Manassas, serves as president. VML Director of Marketing and Member Services Kimberly Pollard serves as its executive secretary-treasurer. 



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