

# Feeling the Pain

The Opioid Epidemic in Virginia

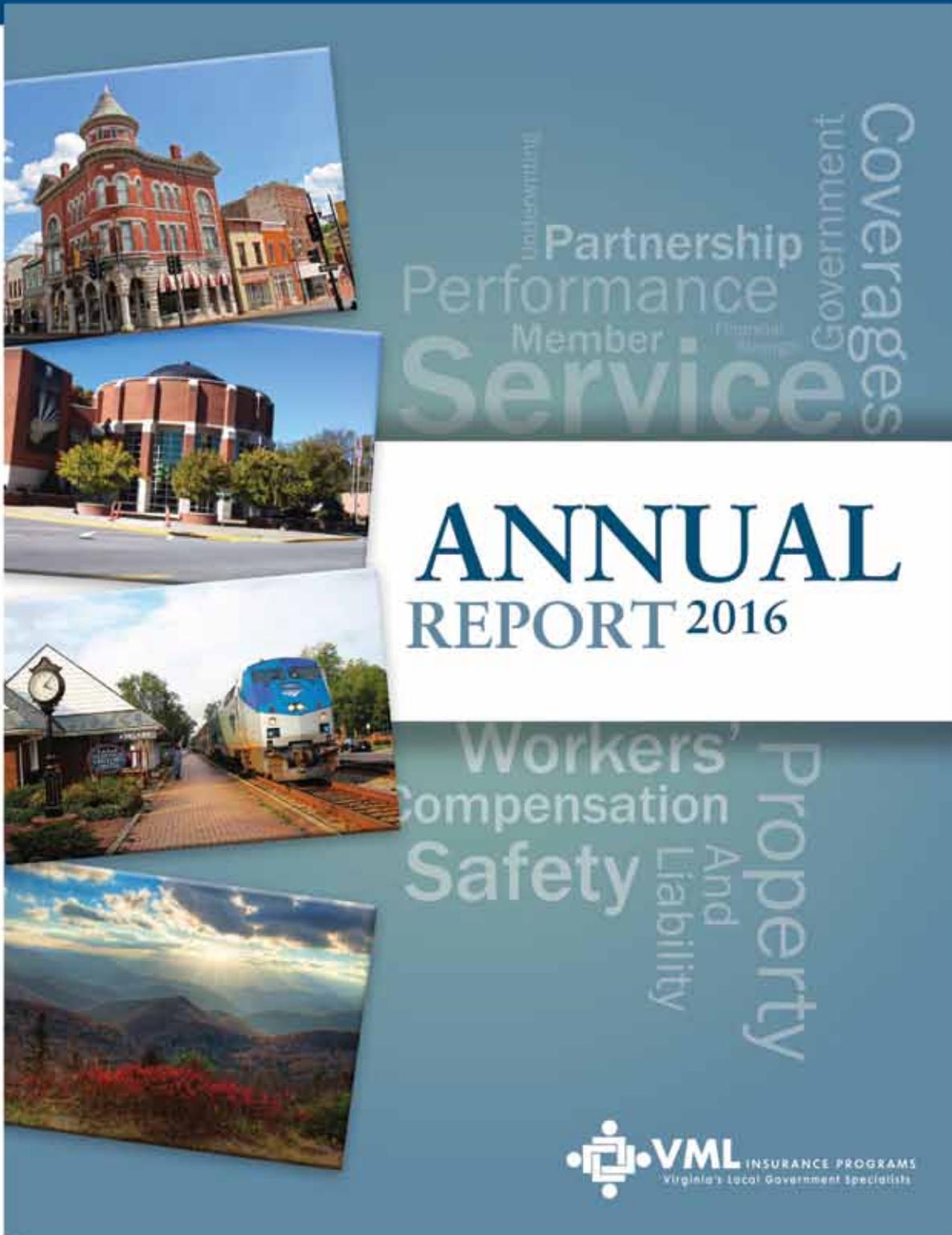


**Inside:**  
Annual Conference highlights

# Why choose VMLIP? Service.

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## On the cover

*Opioid prescriptions in the U.S. have tripled in the past 20 years, according to the CDC.*

## Departments

**Discovering Virginia** ..... 2

**People**..... 3

**News & Notes**..... 5

**Jobs**..... 28

**Professional Directory**..... 29

## Features



### Put a pin in it

Roanoke County is a national leader in the use of Geographic Information Systems. If the data is useful to citizens, they have a way to map it. County officials say it's what's expected from today's smart phone society.

Page 11



### 25 innovations for a greener government

More than two dozen localities in Virginia were recognized by VML for their green initiatives. Here's a quick list of some simple, affordable ideas you can use in your community.

By Christina Luman-Bailey

Page 20



### Feeling the Pain

As opioid overdoses in Virginia climb, it's no longer some other state's problem. This month's cover story reveals the hard facts about opioid use in Virginia and how localities can help the state to fight this epidemic.

Page 14

By Andrea Erard, Esq.



### Scenes from the 2016 VML Annual Conference

Hurricane Matthew didn't stop our members from gathering in Virginia Beach for three jam-packed days of learning and networking. From the awards to the nationally renowned speakers to the lighter moments, our photo album captures the highlights.

Pages 22-27

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# The First Lady and other treasures of Wytheville

**O**N AN ABSOLUTELY BEAUTIFUL fall day, our new Director of Member Services, Mike Polychrones, and I headed out to Southwest Virginia for one of our regional suppers. We stopped in Wytheville to have lunch with VML Past President and Mayor of Wytheville, Trent Crewe. It is always nice to catch up with the folks that have worked so hard to build the Virginia Municipal League into the great organization that it is.

We enjoyed a lovely lunch at Graze on Main. A food review here: I had the Fried Green Tomato BLT. It is made with pimento cheese and it is a fabulous southern treat all the way around!

Graze has a fresh modern look, but is respectful of the history of the area. It is located in downtown Wytheville in the Bolling Wilson Hotel. We ate in the private dining room that had been the vault when the building served as a bank. Historic photos line the space as well.

We were thrilled when Mayor Crewe gave us a tour of the Bolling Wilson Hotel. The hotel honors Wytheville native and former First Lady Edith Bolling Wilson in a creative and unique way. While the rooms and furnishings are quite modern in this boutique hotel, there are reminders of Mrs. Wilson's legacy all around. Some floors are designed in shades of purple for her love of orchids. Others show her love and bourbon. Canaries are present throughout as she had to care for her grandmother's birds.

We were treated to a view of the surrounding area from the rooftop patio. The mountains around us were carpeted by the stunning autumn colors and the Town of Wytheville was highlighted in the warm sun. It was a beautiful sight. For more on the Bolling Wilson Hotel, visit [www.bollingwilsonhotel.com](http://www.bollingwilsonhotel.com).

I became intrigued by the story of Edith Bolling Wilson and did a little research upon my return. I am sure that most of you know that she was the second wife of President Woodrow Wilson. She was also a direct descendant of Pocahontas and her great-grandmother was Thomas Jefferson's sister. She and the President met when they were both widowers and married soon after.

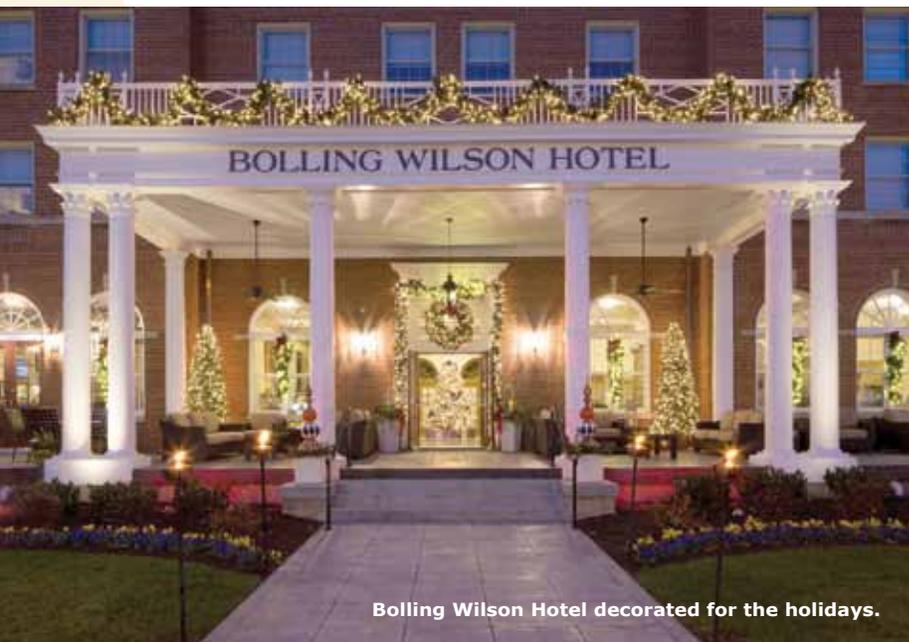
As First Lady during World War I, Edith Bolling Wilson set an example for the country by adhering to rationing rules and bringing in sheep to "mow" the White House lawn. In 1919, President Wilson suffered a stroke that left him paralyzed. First Lady Wilson began screening the information that was brought to her husband. In taking an active role in helping President Wilson to complete his term, many called her "The Secret President." To some, she was de facto the first woman President of the United States. In her memoir, she calls her role one of "stewardship."

The birthplace of Edith Bolling Wilson is a museum across the street from the Bolling Wilson Hotel. To learn more about this fascinating woman or the museum, go to [www.edithbollingwilson.org](http://www.edithbollingwilson.org). 

TOWN OF WYTHEVILLE MUSEUM ARCHIVES



Edith Bolling Wilson



Bolling Wilson Hotel decorated for the holidays.

**Alexandria appoints special assistant to manager**

Alexandria City Manager Mark Jinks announced the appointment of **Hillary Orr** as Special Assistant to the City Manager. Orr's appointment is the second in a new Management Fellow program Jinks initiated last year to provide development opportunities for early career, mid-level City staff. Orr joined the City of Alexandria in 2013 as the Complete Streets Coordinator and

was promoted to a Principal Planner in 2015. Prior to her work in Alexandria, Orr was a Senior Program Manager with the New York City Department of Transportation. The Special Assistant position is filled by a Management Fellow with a 10-month appointment and assists with developing and implementing a wide variety of city projects.

**Virginia Beach names deputy city manager**

Fire Chief **Steven Cover** has been

named the new Deputy City Manager in charge of public safety for Virginia Beach. He will oversee the city's first-responder services: the Police Department, Fire Department, Emergency Medical Services,



- Cover -

Emergency Communications and Citizen Services, and the Office of Emergency Management. He has been the city's Fire Chief since 2007. Cover was a command staff member of a Virginia Task Force Urban Search & Rescue Team that responded to the Pentagon after the 9/11 attacks, to Oklahoma City after the bombing of the federal building in 1995, and many other disasters. Cover is past president of the Virginia Fire Chiefs Association, was the 2015 Virginia Fire Chief of the Year and was a member of Gov. Terry McAuliffe's transition team.

**Big Stone Gap gets new manager**

**Stephen Lawson** has been named Town Manager of Big Stone Gap. His most recent position was that of Director of Parks and Beautification for Macon-Bibb County, Georgia. During his tenure with Macon-Bibb, he received numerous awards, including that of Georgia's 2013 Public Works Employee of the Year and the 2015 MaconBibb Director of the year. Steve is a graduate of the 2014 Leadership Macon class and was named New Town Macon's Partner in Progress in 2013 and 2015.

**Haymarket names new town manager**



- Murray -

The Town of Haymarket has appointed **Kimberly Murray** as its new Town Manager. Murray most recently served as the Economic Redevelopment Director for the City of Winchester. Prior to her work in Winchester she served as Economic Development and Planning Manager for the Town of Strasburg. Before relocating to Virginia in 2013, Murray served several years in municipal and state government in Vermont.

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**Purcellville manager honored by ICMA**

**Robert Lohr, Jr.**, Town Manager of Purcellville, was recently recognized by the International City/County Management Association (ICMA) for his 30 years of service dedicated to the local government profession. Lohr has served as Town Manager of Purcellville since March of 1993, during which time the population has grown from approximately 1,600 residents to an estimated 9,000 residents. Prior to serving in Purcellville, Lohr was Town Manager of New Market, for seven years. During his tenure in Purcellville, the town has constructed a new Wastewater Treatment Plant, purchased the Fireman's Field complex, renovated the old Purcellville Baptist Church as the new Town Hall building; and received a AAA bond rating and awards for fiscal management.



- Lohr -

**VACo/VML Pooled OPEB Trust elects new board members and officers**

Four local government officials were elected at the 2016 Annual Meeting of the VACo/VML Pooled OPEB Trust to serve on its Board of Trustees. Joining the Board of Trustees for the first time are **Ronald H. Williams**, Treasurer of Suffolk, and **Scott Zaremba**, Deputy Administrator of Chesterfield County. Incumbent members **Kevin Boggess**, City Manager of Salem, and **Susan Quinn**, COO of Fairfax County Public Schools, were reelected to the Board. The Board elected Quinn to serve as Chairman and **Eugene H. Walter**, Director of Finance for Henrico County, to serve as Vice Chairman.

**Staunton welcomes new tourism sales and marketing manager**

**Katie Campbell** has been named Staunton's new Group Sales and Marketing Manager, a position created this fiscal year in the city's tourism department. Campbell's recent experience includes serving as project manager for

the Heifetz International Music Institute in Staunton and for the Hylton Performing Arts Center at George Mason University in Fairfax County. She was Marketing and Audience Development Coordinator at the Hylton Center.

**Hottinger promoted to master communicator**



- Hottinger -

The Harrisonburg-Rockingham Emergency Communications Center (HRECC) has announced the promotion of Senior Communicator **Alyssa Hottinger** to the position of Master Communicator. She currently serves as a certified training officer providing high level instruction to newly hired HRECC employees and she is a member of the Telecommunications Emergency Response Team (TERT) and the Virginia Communications Cache. Hottinger was named the 2015 HRECC Communicator of the Year.

**Manassas treasurer retires after 18 years**

**Robin Perkins**, Treasurer of the city of Manassas, has announced her retirement. She began volunteering in the Treasurer's Office a couple of days a week. Years later, with the advent of personal computers, Robin was the first City Treasurer to create the original tax database for city residents. She has dedicated her career to good stewardship as she collects taxes, pays invoices and handles the city of Manassas' investment portfolio.

**Amherst County fills three key positions**

The Amherst County Board of Supervisors has hired **Stacey Wilkes**, CPA, as the county's first Director of Finance. Wilkes has served as the Treasurer for the Town of Appomattox for the past six years.

**Layne Sandifer** of Monroe, Virginia will be the county's new Public Information Officer and FOIA Officer. Sandifer graduated from Bluefield College with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Communication/Marketing in May 2016.

**Mover and Shakers**

Do you know someone who's on the move? Send your announcements about new hires in local government, promotions, retirements, awards and honors to our editor at [nchafin@vml.org](mailto:nchafin@vml.org).

The county selected **Linda Martin Warner** as the new Human Resources Coordinator. Warner has over twenty years of experience in management, human resources and policy writing. Most recently, she was a Senior Policy Analyst and HR Consultant at the Virginia Department of Social Services in Richmond.

**Belyea returns to Woodstock**



- Belyea -

**Mandy Belyea** has been named Deputy Town Manager of Woodstock. Belyea previously worked as the town's Finance Director before taking the same position with Shenandoah County in 2014. Belyea began her career with KPMG LLP in Washington, D.C., before she moved back to her native Shenandoah County in 2006.

**Burke to join Manassas Public Works**

Steven Burke, formerly town manager of Front Royal, is now Director of Public Works for the city of Manassas. He will oversee the department's operations, including streets, traffic controls, vehicle maintenance, buildings and grounds, cemeteries, horticulture, stormwater and trash and recycling programs. Burke brings more than 20 years of experience in local government, first with Pinellas County, Florida, then with Front Royal, where he worked as town engineer, interim director of planning and zoning, director of public works and director of environmental services.

## Donating food in exchange for parking fines

THIS HOLIDAY SEASON, a growing number of cities are waiving their parking-ticket fines in exchange for donations to local food banks, according to the International Parking Institute.

Among the earliest adopters was the Lexington, Ky., Parking Authority, which received national attention for its innovative “Food for Fines” program that excuses \$15 in parking fines for every 10 cans of donated food. In its first year, the program generated 6,200 cans of nonperishable foods in lieu of more than 600 meter citations valued at \$14,500.

The Las Vegas City Council approved a program to allow donations of food or children’s toys equal in value to the parking fine during the upcoming holiday season, according to the city’s parking manager, Brandy Stanley.

The City of Albany, N.Y., collected 5,000 meals worth of food by excusing late fees on parking tickets for citizens who donated canned goods.



## Middletown unveils Veterans’ Memorial

MIDDLETOWN DEDICATED its new Veterans’ Memorial Wall on Veteran’s Day, November 11. Project Chairman Raymond Steele also announced that Sixth Street in Middletown has been renamed as Veterans Way.

During the ceremony, a local boy scout troop helped raise a U.S. flag, a Prisoner of War flag and a Virginia state flag on each of the monument’s three flagpoles.

Mayor Charles Harbaugh IV addressed the crowd of roughly 400 attendees to thank veterans for their service and to thank the community for its role in helping to build and pay for the memorial. The project was begun and completed in just 10 months. The purchase of commemorative bricks by residents helped to fund the memorial.



## Young adults migrating away from rural Virginia counties

MOST OF VIRGINIA'S COUNTIES are experiencing a significant outflow of their 15- to 24-year-old population, according to a recent report from UVA's Demographics Research Group. Compared with the last decade, the rate of out-migration has risen in most rural localities in Virginia. Between 2000 and 2005, localities outside Virginia's metro areas experienced a 6.8 percent decline in their 15- to 24-year-old population from out-migration. In the first five years of this decade, the out-migration of 15 to 24-year-olds from Virginia's non-metro localities increased to 9.4 percent.

The loss of so much of rural localities' young population in recent decades is transforming the age distribution of their communities.

### On the plus side...

If all this sounds a bit gloomy for rural counties, keep in mind that the large majority are still attracting more people than they are losing, and in many cases their populations are growing. While nearly every rural county is losing a large portion of their young population, most are attracting an even larger number of older people, including retirees.

**Source:** *StatChat from the Demographics Research Group at UVA. Visit [StaChatva.org](http://StaChatva.org).*



## Roanoke Valley Broadband Authority recognized with Governor's Award

THE CITY OF ROANOKE and the Roanoke Valley Broadband Authority received the prestigious Governor's Technology Award for Cross-Boundary Collaboration at a ceremony during the annual COVITS conference held in September.

The Award recognizes local, state and educational public sector information technology (IT) projects that have improved government service delivery and efficiency as chosen by Virginia Governor Terry McAuliffe, Secre-

tary of Technology Karen Jackson, and Chief Information Officer of the Commonwealth Nelson Moe.

"We are honored to be recognized by the state for the work we're doing to ensure the Roanoke Valley continues to be a great place to live, work, and start or grow a technology business," said Frank Smith, President and CEO of the Roanoke Valley Broadband Authority. "This affirms that as a community we have found yet another creative way to ensure our region is competitive on the national scene."

## Smithfield Public Works receives APWA accreditation

THE TOWN OF SMITHFIELD'S PUBLIC WORKS Department is the smallest agency in Virginia – and second smallest in the nation – to become accredited by the American Public Works Association (APWA).

The three-year process resulted in the small public works department – comprised of only 19 staff members – becoming the 97th such public works agency accredited by the APWA.

The department made many process improvements in order to meet accreditation standards including maintenance programs for facilities, equipment and vehicles and a snow and ice control program.

The APWA identifies accreditation as a means of “formally verifying and recognizing public works agencies for compliance with the recommended best practices set forth in the Public Works Management Practices Manual.”



## Emergency Management opens regional office in Harrisonburg

THE VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT of Emergency Management has opened an office in Harrisonburg that officials say will improve the department's ability to respond to incidents in Central Virginia, including service to the city of Charlottesville and Albemarle, Buckingham, Fluvanna and Nelson counties.

The objective is to better work with local governments on responding to disasters in the area. The state runs seven regional offices throughout Virginia, each with specialists in disaster response, recovery and hazardous materials, as well as a regional coordinator. Gene Stewart will be chief regional coordinator for the Region Three office.



## See the Tree

### Holiday tours of Executive Mansion spotlight local heritage ornaments.

Thanks to all the VML member localities that submitted beautifully crafted, local heritage ornaments for the Governor's Mansion Holiday Tree.

VML hopes you will make a special trip to Richmond to see your ornament and those from other Virginia communities on the tree.

Holiday tours of the Executive Mansion are held on several dates between December 1 and 20.

For tour dates and times, go to [www.executivemansion.virginia.gov/events](http://www.executivemansion.virginia.gov/events).



# Rededicating ourselves to rebuilding community

## National Civic League supports your civic engagement goals

**M**ORE AND MORE cities and towns are discovering that civic engagement is a fundamental ingredient for governance. As Norfolk Mayor Kenneth Alexander has said, “just as our citizens need our city government for services, City Hall needs to enthusiastically welcome the participation of citizens.”

The National Civic League works with cities to create, recognize and share successful civic engagement practices nationwide. Founded in 1894 by then-civic leader Theodore Roosevelt and other interested citizens, the League focuses on creating a positive, productive partnership between cities and the residents, businesses and organizations interested in the well-being of their community.

### All-America City Awards

One of the ways in which NCL promotes civic engagement is through the annual All-America City awards, which recognize ten cities each year for excellence in civic engagement. The awards began in 1949 when League President George Gallup said that we should recognize the top ten cities nationwide just as was done at the time for football teams. Since that time, 21 communities from Virginia have been recognized as All-America Cities, with one, Roanoke, recognized five times.

#### Petersburg

One of the first Virginia cities to be recognized as an All-America City was Petersburg, Virginia, which won the recognition in 1953 for a community-based campaign to raise funds to build a new hospital. The campaign was begun in 1949 and the new facility was occupied and in use by January of 1953. The new hospital had room for 180 beds and modern equipment, and had a total cost of over \$3 million.

#### Norfolk

A few years later, in 1959, Norfolk won designation as an All-America City. At the time, the city’s population was growing rapidly and the impoverished areas were struggling with a tuberculosis epidemic. The city also had the highest number of venereal disease cases in the nation, and this was only compounded by a raging crime rate.

In response, the city council authorized a large urban renewal project that resulted in 465 acres in and around the



### Apply to be an All-America City

#### 2017 Awards – Grade Level Reading

The 2017 All-America City Award program will be done in partnership with the Campaign for Grade-Level Reading to recognize and celebrate communities that move the needle on grade-level reading. The application deadline is January 31, 2017. Visit [www.gradelevelreading.net/aacaward](http://www.gradelevelreading.net/aacaward) for more information on the 2017 Awards. The 2017 Awards are a revisit of the 2012 Awards and will follow a different format than the classic Award program.

#### 2018 Awards

The 2018 Awards will return to the classic AAC format and theme. The application will be released by March 2017. To sign up to receive the application when it is released, visit [www.nationalcivicleague.org](http://www.nationalcivicleague.org).

heart of the city being cleared and rebuilt, costing upwards of \$45 million in urban renewal loans and \$12 million in local taxes.

Norfolk won designation again this year, this time for several youth-related programs. The first is a collective impact effort modeled after the Harlem Children’s Zone that engages the community in improving the health and academic success of low-income children and youth.

Through another program, Teens With a Purpose, teenagers help each other with issues related to safety, racial profiling, and other concerns through the arts and humanities, peer-led programs, and special events. Norfolk was also recognized for a summer youth education and employment program, Norfolk Emerging Leaders, that prepares teens for meaningful employment.



**Portsmouth was a finalist for the All-America City Award in 2014 for its Healthy Portsmouth Initiative which included a citywide fitness and nutrition program.**

### Roanoke – Five-Time Winner

The city of Roanoke has been recognized five times, most recently in 2012. The City was recognized for Star City Reads – a project to increase the rates of childhood literacy and kindergarten readiness. The city engages Parent Resource Coordinators who meet regularly with parents in the community to connect them with resources that would ensure that the child would be able to attend school each day and to promote the importance of reading in the home.

The program also provides literacy training to child care providers and combats summer learning loss by expanding the scope of summer learning camps. It also provides summer activities for children who are not eligible for remedial summer school. As an incentive to read, children were issued reader cards to receive discounts at local merchants, like pizza parlors and ice cream shops.

### Portsmouth

Portsmouth won recognition as an award finalist in 2014 for its Healthy Portsmouth Initiative, which was funded by a grant from the National Association of Chronic Disease Directors. The city expanded bike lanes, increased the number of walkable areas, expanded the number of tobacco free areas, engaged civic groups in neighborhood revitalization and launched a citywide fitness and nutrition program.

In cooperation with local emergency management services, the city also started a Community Health Emergency Care Knowledge and Understanding Program (CHECK UP) to educate individuals with chronic medical problems how to access appropriate health care services.

### Civic Index measures engagement

Beyond the All-America City awards, the National Civic League has several other programs that help cities improve local governance. The League publishes a Model City Charter, available through their website, which has been used by cities for many decades to set up city manager systems or other

forms of governance. In addition, the League has created a Civic Index that cities can use to measure levels of civic engagement in their communities.

The League also manages several programs to advance the use of civic engagement in particular arenas, such as youth success, racial equity, health equity and environmental sustainability. Regarding youth success, for example, advancing grade-level reading is the theme of the All-America City Awards program for 2017. Regarding sustainability, we are working with other national organizations to encourage cities to make it easier for residents and businesses to use solar energy.

Whether it's through awards programs, models and surveys, or topic-specific assistance, the National Civic League is working to serve localities. NCL encourages you to become a member and sign up for their email list.

In his 2008 book, "Community, The Structure of Belonging," Peter Block writes that "the vitality and connectedness of our communities will determine the strength of our democracy." With the hopelessness that many feel about national politics these days, it's important to recognize the rising role of cities and their communities. This is where the National Civic League and many of you come in – to restore trust in the value and importance of local government. 

**About the author:** *Doug Linkhart has served as the President of the National Civic League since 2015. Prior to that, he served as an elected official for 18 years and as a city department head for four years.*



**Roanoke won its fifth All-America City Award in 2012 for Star City Reads – a project aimed at boosting childhood literacy and kindergarten readiness.**

# Beahm elected VBCOA president

**W**ARREN COUNTY Building Official David C. Beahm was elected president of the Virginia Building and Code Officials Association (VBCOA) at the organization's annual business meeting held September 19 in Williamsburg.

Also elected at the meeting were First Vice President Gregg Fields, director of code administration, Alexandria; Second Vice President Pete Mensinger, special projects manager, Alexandria; and Sergeant at Arms James S. Moss, building official, Grayson County. Richmond Code Enforcement Operations Manager John G. Walsh is the immediate past president.

The business meeting was held during the association's annual school and conference, which included an array of educational sessions on topics such as leadership, legal aspects of code enforcement, the Virginia Rehabilitation Code and wood construction.

Walsh presented Jimmy Moss with the President's Award for Excellence in recognition of Moss' contributions to VBCOA, including his spearheading the adoption of High School



**VBCOA officers elected: (L to R) VBCOA President David C. Beahm, Warren County Building Official; Second Vice President Pete Mensinger, Special Projects Director, Department of Code Administration, Alexandria; Sergeant At Arms James S. Moss, Building Official, Grayson County; and First Vice President Gregg Fields, Director of Code Administration, Alexandria.**



**(L to R) VBCOA members Paula Johnson, Prince William County; Michelle Coward, Richmond; Shahriar Amiri, Arlington; Carolyn Chavis and Farrah Henderson, Richmond.**

Technical Training Program in several jurisdictions in southwest Virginia.

In addition, Steve Shapiro, the Hampton deputy director of community development, received an award recognizing his long-term service to code enforcement and the Newport News Code Compliance Team was recognized for its efforts in code enforcement. South Boston Code Official Charles Hudson and Page County Building Official Kenny Fox were recognized posthumously for their contributions to the profession.

VBCOA, an affiliate organization of VML, is a statewide organization of building safety professionals dedicated to the protection of the health, safety and welfare of all persons who live and work in the Commonwealth of Virginia. VML Director of Research Mary Jo Fields serves as executive director.

## VBCOA named Merit Chapter of the Year International Code Council also recognizes two VBCOA members

THE INTERNATIONAL CODE COUNCIL (ICC), the organization that promulgates the building codes followed by most governments in the U.S., has named the Virginia Building and Code Officials Association a 2016 Merit Chapter of the Year. The award recognizes VBCOA and its members for furthering the goals and objectives of ICC.

ICC named Chesterfield County Building Official Richard Witt as the Gerald H. Jones Code Official of the Year. The award recognizes meritorious contributions to the code enforcement profession and efforts to further the

cause of safety in the built environment.

Cindy Davis was elected to an at-large, three-year term on the Code Council at ICC's recent meeting in Kansas City. Davis is the Deputy Director of the Division of Building and Fire Regulations for the Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development.



**Richard Witt**



**Cindy Davis**



# Put a pin in it

## Roanoke County's cutting edge GIS gives residents and county officials millions of pieces of data at the touch of a button

**I**N 1979, ROANOKE County began the first step in a journey toward what would become a revolutionary Geographic Information System. The county began the process with a parcel map to simplify the mapping process. The vision that one day citizens would benefit from this innovation would not evolve for many years. That first step was nearly 37 years away from the highly innovative system the County now employs – the Environmental Systems Research Institute (ESRI) Local Government Information Model.

The initial parcel mapping originated from an aerial fly-over of the entire county. Over the next 15 years, Roanoke County staff updated the pen and ink tax maps by hand.

### Roanoke County has been consistently recognized as a national leader in GIS services with awards from the National Association of Counties and two Governor's Awards from the Virginia IT Symposium.

Fast forward to 1991 when the county planner proposed moving the pen and ink tax maps into a digital format. The Engineering and Inspections office used emerging technology to place the information on the first version of a GIS website.

In 2012, the GIS staff set out to make the complex, simple – to provide information to citizens and staff in an easy-to-use format that could be accessed on any device.

Today, citizens can use a suite of web-based applications providing quick and easy access to the wealth of data maintained by the county. Each application can be used on desktops, smartphones, and tablet devices. The apps provide 24/7 access to the organization and typically supplement customer service phone lines managed by departmental staff.

While many localities offer GIS services, Roanoke County has been consistently recognized as a leader in the United States by both the National Association of Counties and the Virginia Association of Counties. For the past two years, the county's GIS program has been recognized with Governor's Awards at the Commonwealth of Virginia IT Symposium.

### A quick tour of the county's web applications

**TaxView – a tax parcel viewer** – provides citizens with local government property tax and assessment information,

and supplements that information with Google Streetview, 3-D pictures and Tri-View information for a given neighborhood. TaxView offers a map-based view of tax parcel information that enables supporting agencies, organizations and the general public to locate an area of interest and review common information stored typically in the local government's computer aided mass appraisal and tax receivables database.

It offers a standard overview of property data in a community for real estate professionals and other consumers so they can view this information on all homes as they walk or drive through neighborhoods. Users are able to search for a specific address, owner name or parcel number, view authoritative property characteristics, and email this information to a friend or co-worker. They can also provide feedback to local governments so the quality of parcel boundaries and associated characteristics improve over time.

**VoterView – an election polling locations app** – helps citizens locate their election polling place and obtain information about current elected officials. The application is typically used by citizens during an election season but can be used throughout the year to determine which officials represent the precinct in which they reside. The Election Polling Places application is often used by clerks, election commissions or other local government organizations responsible for managing elections.

**SchoolView – a school locator application** – helps residents and visitors locate a school district and facility near them. Once the address or current location is found, the application will identify the district, closest schools and other relevant information.

**ParkView – a parks and recreation finder** – is typically used to locate a park that offers a recreation activity of particular interest. It's also used by visitors to locate a park they might like to visit. ParkView provides a simple way to search parks by their names or recreation opportunities offered in parks. People can enter their address or click on the Current Location button to locate the parks. The application will present the list of nearby parks and provide relevant information about them. The application is often used by parks departments, planning departments, facilities departments or other local government organizations responsible for managing parks and recreation activities.

**The property report application** offers an interactive property report of tax parcel information that enables supporting agencies, organizations and the general public to locate an area of interest and review common information. It offers real estate professionals and other consumers a standard overview

## Roanoke County's GIS

of property data which they can view, print and save for homes of interest.

Users are able to search for a specific address, owner name or parcel number, view authoritative property characteristics, home sales, and e-mail this information to a friend or co-worker. Users can also provide feedback to help improve the quality of the application over time.

**GovView** – a government services app – helps residents locate a government facility and obtain information about the various services provided by that government agency. To locate a service, simply click on the magnifying glass within the app and enter an address or activity in the search box.

**PoliceView** is an interactive, user friendly app that provides the general public with important information about select crime activity in a neighborhood for the past 30 days. Access to this information facilitates better decisions and helps provide a safe community through data-driven policing, collaborative regional efforts, and public education initiatives. The PoliceView application leverages new technology by allowing users to visualize police activity geographically. In addition, PoliceView is optimized to be mobile friendly for use on smartphones and tablets and is accessible to a wide array of modern desktop and mobile internet browsers.

**Site Selector** provides enhanced services for businesses, site selection consultants and corporate real estate executives. It locates available buildings and sites, while combining a property search with key community and demographic information.

The county's Economic Development Department uses the new application daily to communicate to consultants and businesses the available development sites and buildings around the county. The app allows the department to easily share information using email, twitter, Facebook, or embedded URLs with one click of the mouse. Access to this information facilitates better business decisions and helps to ensure that investments in the county are sustainable and align with business objectives.

**Mountain Valley Pipeline Viewer** provides the general public with information regarding pipeline activity. Access to this information facilitates better understanding of the project and provides quick dissemination of updated pipeline information to the public. The Mountain Valley Pipeline Viewer application leverages new technology by allowing users to visualize pipeline activity geographically. The app is optimized for use on smartphones and tablets.

**The Neighborhood Concern Reporting Application System** is a comprehensive management system for Code and Zoning Enforcement that handles the entire life cycle of a reported concern. The requirements for this system fall into several categories: citizen engagement, enforcement inspections, workflow automation, and reporting.

The citizen engagement aspect of the application consists of an online submission form and a status checker widget. The online Neighborhood Concern form allows reported concerns to be plotted on a map. Once the form is submitted, an interactive confirmation window provides a case-number. The case number can be searched using the status checker widget. Historical enforcement cases can be viewed alongside active cases.



Check out the apps at  
[gis.roanokecountyva.gov](http://gis.roanokecountyva.gov)

The selection of a violation type will propagate the available choices of processing steps and corrective measures. Users can take pictures and upload them directly to the database. Inspection records and their attached images can be instantly seen in the online status checker and desktop dashboard. The desktop dashboard has the same editing capabilities of the mobile application, plus the ability to query data, plot measurements and create maps. A nightly automated process uploads newly submitted concerns and cross references them with other GIS layers.

In keeping up with the demands of today's culture, the GIS team has developed a more contemporary version that can be used on any device. OneView delivers what is expected from today's "smart phone" society in a location-aware, mobile application to provide seamless access to GIS data.

This improved access and increased transparency promotes engagement and helps foster informed decision making by government and local businesses.

What was unimaginable 37 years ago is now reality. Citizens, business professionals and staff use these applications to quickly access data including real estate sales, land records, planning and zoning records, schools, government services, environmental features, and utilities information. The improved operational efficiency extends to the field where staff save many hours on data collection.

The GIS staff continues to improve the GIS website, and is currently developing a strategic plan to implement future goals for the program that will benefit the needs of citizens and departments. The Maps and Apps template is constantly updated and improved to provide the citizens of Roanoke County with award-winning technology. 

*Written by Roanoke County GIS Manager David Wray, GIS Specialist Gary Coleman, and Communications and Information Technology Director Bill Hunter. For more information about the County's GIS programs, contact David Wray at [dwray@roanokecountyva.gov](mailto:dwray@roanokecountyva.gov).*

# Vienna stream restoration goes beyond the surface

## Makeover improves wildlife habitat and water quality

**T**HE HUNTERS BRANCH stream in Vienna recently received a makeover that's definitely more than surface deep. While the town's restoration project has transformed the once wild-looking and steep stream bank into a lovely, inviting, and more natural streambed, the real benefactors of the project are the aquatic and land-based wildlife and plant life around the stream.

"This project also has a regional impact," notes Vienna's Public Works Director Michael Gallagher. "Anything downstream, including the Chesapeake Bay, will benefit from the reduction in sediment, which carries with it many pollutants. This project is really about improving water quality and reducing pollutants."



**BEFORE:** This January photo shows the "wild," overgrown banks along Hunters Branch Creek prior to the restoration.



**AFTER:** This October photo shows the large rocks used in the restoration project to help create pools of water.



**DURING:** The bulk of the restoration work was undertaken during the spring.

Work on the restoration project began around the first of the year and was essentially completed late in the spring. The contractor, Angler Environmental, returned this fall to plant hundreds of seedlings, trees, and ground cover around the stream.

Over time, Gallagher explains, erosion can reduce the quality of natural streambeds, making them appear steep and dangerous. Projects like this one recreate a more natural stream and streambed, where water pools or flows in various areas.

Large rocks were used to create the pool areas and also to help stabilize the bank. This particular project also was designed to minimally impact trees, Gallagher adds, noting that no trees were hauled from the site. Trunks from some of the trees that were removed were used to provide structural stability. Other removed trees were used to create a mulch trail on the site. Still other trees, along with root balls, were sunk below the waterline to bring carbons back into the stream, which helps support wildlife habitats.

Gallagher reports that while inspecting completed sections throughout the rehabilitation process, he came across ducks, deer, and fox.

The cost of the project was approximately \$1.5 million, of which the town of Vienna contributed \$100,000. The remainder was funded through a Department of Environmental Quality grant and Fairfax County Stormwater District tax monies.

This kind of stream restoration project, says Gallagher, is one of the few ways that the town of Vienna can have a large impact on improving regional water quality and reducing pollutants.

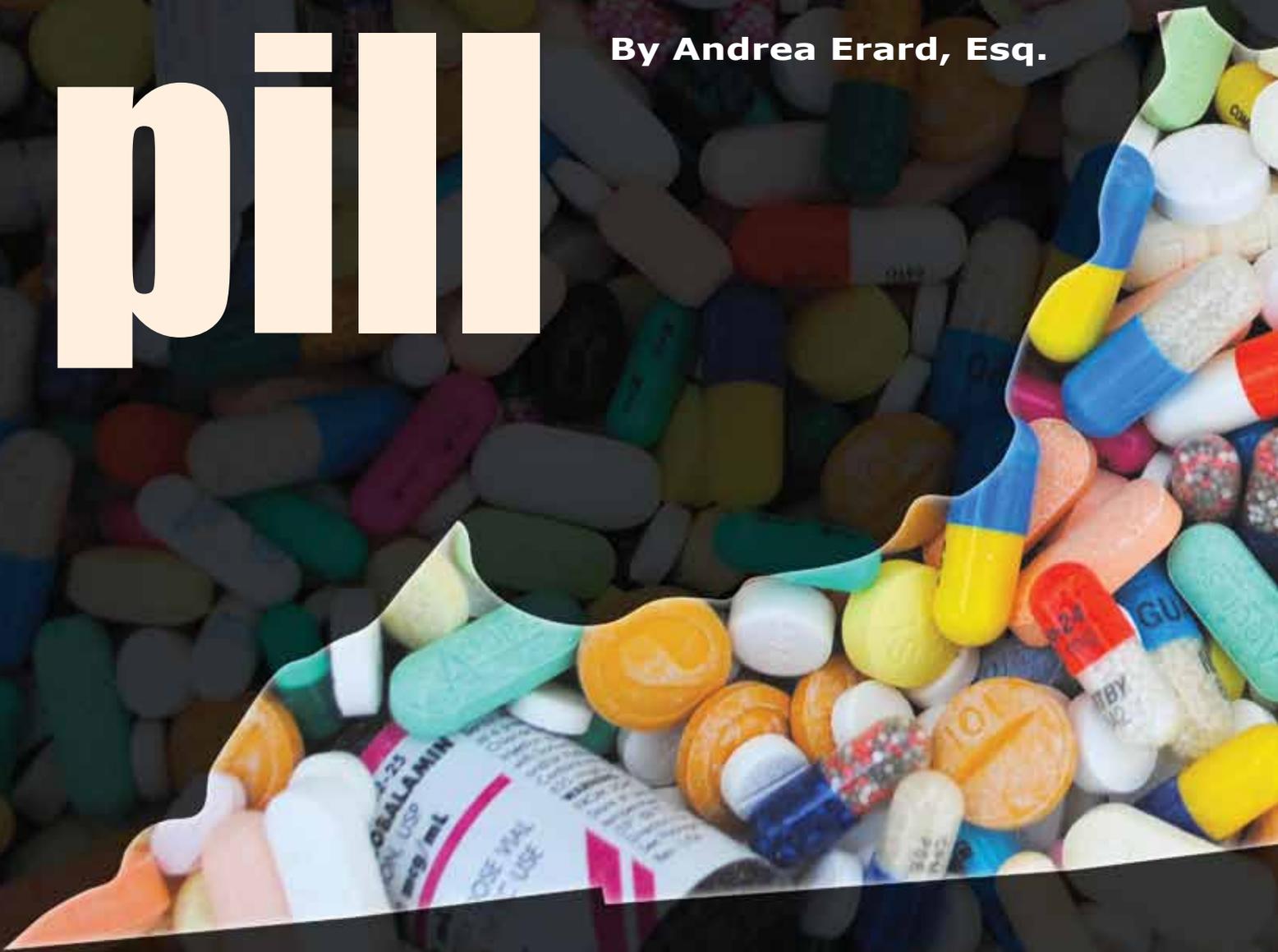
Points earned for this project as well as a similar one at Wolfrap Creek in Wildwood Park helped the town earn certification earlier this year from the National Wildlife Federation as a Community Wildlife Habitat. 

**About the author:** Lynne DeWilde is the Communications and Marketing Manager for the town of Vienna.

Photos by Adam Kincaid and Lynne DeWilde.

# A bitter pill

By Andrea Erard, Esq.





**YES, VIRGINIA.** There is an opioid crisis here. Statewide, there is a minimum of two deaths per day from opioid and heroin overdoses. Between 2012 and 2014, the Virginia Department of Health reported a 38% increase in deaths from prescription opioid and heroin overdoses.

## Opioid crisis

The beginning of Virginia's opioid crisis emerged in the southwestern part of the state over ten years ago.

The Office of Substance Abuse Services at the Virginia Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services, in conjunction with the State Medical Examiner's Office, discovered a connection between opioid use and those employed by the coal and forestry industry in southwest Virginia. The physical demands of these jobs often led to injuries and disabilities. With injuries and disabilities came the prescribing of pain medications such as Vicodin, OxyContin, Percocet, morphine and codeine.<sup>1</sup> The prescribing and use of these pain medications kindled the opioid epidemic because, through legitimate prescriptions, some people became addicted.

Dr. William A. Hazel, Virginia Secretary of Health and Human Resources, points out that physicians have increasingly prescribed opiates and that those numbers have skyrocketed. In June, Secretary Hazel stated "...frankly, in the Press Ganey scores where hospitals are rated, one of the quickest ways to get yourself marked down publicly is to not prescribe narcotics for pain management. So that has led to pressure for physicians to prescribe."<sup>2</sup>

The Centers for Disease Control confirms that opioid prescriptions have roughly tripled over the past twenty years.



Secretary Hazel points out "We're five percent of the world's population yet we use...over 80 percent of the opiates in the world."<sup>3</sup>

Dr. Jim May with the Richmond Behavioral Health Authority agrees that there are increasing numbers of people who start with prescription pain medicine and then turn to heroin. According to May, "A lot of them started with prescription drugs and, when they became unavailable through prescription means and they had to start buying on the street, they realized heroin was cheaper and they switched to heroin. So, we're seeing a lot of that. It's a different avenue to get there, but heroin is still number one."<sup>4</sup> Seventy-five percent of heroin users started out abusing prescription opioids.<sup>5</sup>

**75%**  
**of heroin users  
started out abusing  
prescription opioids.**

Southwest Virginia continues to have high rates of accidental drug overdoses, but unfortunately, so does the rest of the state. Richmond residents suffered almost three hundred fatal overdoses between 2007 and 2015.<sup>6</sup>

## Opioids and the brain

Common opioids are hydrocodone (Vicodin), oxycodone (OxyContin, Percocet), morphine (Kadian, Avinza), codeine, and other similar drugs. These medications relieve pain by reducing the intensity of pain signals that reach the brain. They also increase the amount of dopamine in the limbic reward system of the brain which causes intense feelings of pleasure. When a person is addicted, the limbic reward system hijacks the systems in the brain that regulate judgment. Once the addiction takes hold, the brain essentially works against recovery and this pattern persists even through years and years of sobriety.<sup>7</sup> The American Society of Addiction Medicine (ASAM), after a four-year process, now defines addiction as a primary disease and a chronic brain disorder, not a behavioral issue.

Generally speaking, when taken as prescribed, opioids that are used short term for medical purposes do not lead to addiction. However, regular use several times a day for several weeks or more can lead to physical dependence and addiction.

OxyContin was reformulated in 2010 to make it harder to abuse by snorting and injecting. Unfortunately, that is when Opana abuse began to rise. Opana is more potent than OxyContin, and also potentially more deadly. Those abusing Opana either snort or inject it; because Opana is an extended release pill, when snorted or injected, the full effect of the drug is released all at once. Opana was reformulated in 2012, but continues to be abused.<sup>8</sup>

Another drug that is also increasingly abused is fentanyl. The Centers for Disease Control states that fentanyl is fifty times more potent than heroin and one hundred times more potent than morphine. Sometimes fentanyl is mixed with heroin. Across the state in 2013, there was an increase of more than 100% in deaths attributed to fentanyl use.<sup>9</sup> In 2007, Richmond had no deaths due to fentanyl. Last year, there were 16 deaths in Richmond due to fentanyl.<sup>10</sup>

# Local police now have power to REVIVE

THANKS TO NEW LEGISLATION in Virginia, police officers – and anyone else properly trained – can use Naloxone to reverse the effects of an opioid overdose.

In March of this year, the Virginia Beach Police Department became the first law enforcement agency in the state to train officers and allow them to keep Naloxone on hand.

In just the first six months of carrying Naloxone in their patrol cars, Virginia Beach officers reversed 30 overdoses.

Local EMS officials applaud the program, noting that police are often able to respond to a call faster than EMS because they have so many patrol cars on the streets at once.

Until recently, only highly qualified EMTs were able to

administer the drug. Now that it comes in the form of a nasal spray, it can be administered by any first responders, family members, and even addicts themselves.

Virginia Beach also offers naloxone training classes for the general public. To date, 86 residents have attended the trainings.

In addition to legislation that made Naloxone widely available in Virginia, Delegate John O'Bannon also sponsored legislation to develop a pilot project, now known as REVIVE. The program, run by the Virginia Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services, provides kits and training on how to administer Naloxone.

Since launching REVIVE, the DBHDS has trained roughly 26 law enforcement agencies – including Virginia Beach – as well as 5,000 individuals and 1,200 trainers.

The REVIVE kit contains instructions, latex gloves, a breathing mask and an atomizer device to connect to the naloxone container. The naloxone must be obtained separately from a pharmacy. CVS pharmacies in Virginia now sell it without a prescription for under \$50 per dose.

Another law that took effect this year provides that anyone trained to administer naloxone will be protected from criminal or civil liability as long as they stay with the overdose victim until first responders arrive.

*By Nancy Chafin,  
Editor, Virginia Town & City.*



Officer Chris Jennejohn keeps a REVIVE kit in his patrol car and has been trained to administer naloxone to treat an opioid or heroin overdose.

## The dollar cost: \$613 million per year in Va.

Not only is opiate addiction costing lives, but it is costing our communities, too. Unfortunately, there are no statistics available for the true cost of opiate abuse. Those costs include arrests, transportation, incarceration, court costs, supervised probation, treatment for addicted inmates, as well as the cost of foster care and other services funded through local Community Policy and Management Teams. Opioid prescriptions cost Medicaid \$26 million annually.<sup>11</sup> Virginia's Medicaid program spent \$26 million on opioid use and misuse in 2013, with \$10 million of this spending occurring in Southwest Virginia. In 2008, the Joint Legislative Audit and Review Commission (JLARC) estimated that untreated substance abuse costs Virginia state and local governments \$613 million per year in public safety and health care services alone.<sup>12</sup>

## Governor's Task Force tackles the problem

In 2014, Governor McAuliffe created a 32-member Governor's Task Force on Prescription Drug and Heroin Abuse. The initial purpose of the Task Force was to outline and recommend measures to address opioid and heroin abuse. The co-chairs of the Task Force are the Secretary of Health and Human Resources, Dr. William A. Hazel and the Secretary of Public Safety and Homeland Security, Brian J. Moran.

Since its inception, the Task Force has worked to increase awareness of the opioid epidemic, expand use of the Prescription Monitoring Program, enhance availability of treatment, provide additional training for law enforcement and develop storage and disposal strategies for prescription drugs.

The Task Force issued an Implementation Plan in June,

## Opioid crisis

2015 and issued an updated version in October of last year. The update sets forth 31 recommendations for further action.

### New laws that save lives

Some of the recommendations of the Task Force were introduced as legislation in the 2015 session of the Virginia General Assembly and, thanks to HB 1458, now there is expanded availability of naloxone.

Virginia now has REVIVE!, the Opioid Overdose and Naloxone Education (ONE) program. REVIVE! provides training on how to recognize and respond to an opioid overdose emergency with the administration of naloxone.

HB 1841 has led to increased use of the Prescription Monitoring Program to prevent “doctor shopping.” HB 1810 also provided additional protection to health care providers by pre-

venting data from the Prescription Monitoring Program from being used inappropriately in civil proceedings. The goal of HB 1810 was to allow prescribers to appropriately, medically assist patients while minimizing the risk of civil litigation for the health care providers. HB 1738 requires that where Schedule II drugs have been disbursed, hospice programs must notify the pharmacy of a patient’s death within 48 hours.

In April of 2016, new guidelines were directed to hospital emergency departments in Virginia. These guidelines encourage physicians to limit prescribing painkillers. The guidelines also recommend that if painkillers are prescribed, that only a three-day dose be given.

“I think the answer is really treating addiction, because that’s the problem. Opioid addiction is really the same as heroin addiction. It’s just trading one for the other,” said Dr. Kirk L. Cumpston, a toxicology professor at VCU and medical

## Local drop-off sites helps residents safely dispose of drugs

LOCALITIES ARE THE FRONT LINES for coordinating drug take back programs. Take-back programs help residents to safely dispose of unused or expired drugs in their medicine cabinets, one of the main sources where opioid abusers, including teens, gain access drugs.



**The Roanoke Valley Prescription Drug Task Force partnered with the City of Roanoke’s Solid Waste Division to put signage on their trash trucks. Residents’ awareness of the safe drug disposal options in Roanoke Valley rose from 12% in 2010 to 57% in 2016. Source: Roanoke Area Youth Substance Coalition.**

More than 100 local law enforcement agencies in Virginia partnered with the DEA’s National Take Back Initiative on October 22 to provide drop-off locations. In that single day, more than 20,000 pounds of unused, expired, or unwanted drugs were collected across Virginia. This was the twelfth National Take Back Day. Since the program’s inception in 2010, Virginia local law enforcement has helped to collect a total of 224,000 pounds of pills.

Drop off locations primarily included the police de-

partment or sheriff’s offices, CVS, Rite Aid, independent pharmacies, Kroger and WalMart stores.

Roanoke has been a long-time participant in the National Take Back Initiative. In early 2010, the Roanoke Area Youth Substance Abuse Coalition (RAYSAC) and the Western Virginia Water Authority (WVWA) joined together to address the environmental and health risks involved in the improper disposal and misuse of prescription drugs, an issue that impacted the entire southwestern community.

Although the problem had not presented itself in the Roanoke Valley the way it had in larger cities, the Western Virginia Water Authority wanted to educate customers that flushing medications down drains could result in trace amounts of the pharmaceuticals showing up in our waterways.

The Roanoke Valley Prescription Drug Task Force provides a community-wide strategic plan to address the environmental and health issues surrounding prescription disposal and misuse. The Rx Task Force agreed to participate in the National DEA Drug Take Back every six months, and to offer more sites for disposal. There are now two permanent collection boxes in the Roanoke Valley.

The Roanoke Prescription Drug Task Force is the recipient of the 2011 Virginia American Water Works Association Community Relations Program of Excellence, the 2012 NACWA National Environmental Achievement Award for Public Information and Education and the 2012 National DEA Community Drug Prevention Program Award.

*By Nancy Chafin,  
Editor, Virginia Town & City.*

**The DEA has scheduled the next National Drug Take Back Day for April 2016. For more information about how your community can host a drop off site, go to: [www.deadiversion.usdoj.gov/drug\\_disposal](http://www.deadiversion.usdoj.gov/drug_disposal).**

# There's hope in the Roanoke Valley

ROANOKE VALLEY HOPE aims to tackle drug addiction on a different front. The program allows substance abusers to get rid of their drugs without fear of being arrested and to enter a program to help them become drug-free. Launched in August of 2016, this initiative is the first of its kind in Virginia, bringing together multiple community resources working toward one common goal: Saving lives.

Taking the lead, the Roanoke Police Department invites substance abusers, including those with opioid addictions, who wish to participate in the program to contact them for help. Also, the second Monday of every month is “Drop-In Day” at the Bradley Free Clinic – an open door to those seeking to overcome addiction.

In addition to the Bradley Free Clinic, community partners include other clinics, addiction centers, Roanoke’s Fire-EMS and Social Services departments, and the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs.

Respondents are fast-tracked for treatment through the participating community resources and paired with volunteer “angels” who support them along the way. As of the end of October 2016, 20 people have taken advantage of Drop-In Day, and 24 walk-ins have sought help at the Police Department.

The initiative begins a shift from arrest to treatment, but it’s not a replacement for traditional police tactics. Those who choose to violate the existing laws to further a criminal drug enterprise for personal gain will still be arrested by police. This type of intervention is an additional tool to help save lives and break the cycle of substance abuse disorder.

While the program is new in Virginia, localities across the country have also implemented it. Roanoke Police Lt. Bill Breedlove heard about a similar program and brought the idea forward to the Police Chief last year. Although the program started in Roanoke, people from across the region are coming in for assistance.

“It’s been wonderful to work together with the community to make a difference in people’s lives. The amount of community buy-in has been great,” says Breedlove, who oversees the program. “It is a ray of hope for participants and their families because they know there’s someone out there that’s been through it. The program is a phenomenal resource, and helps to reinforce the belief that there is a way to beat this thing.”

*By Melinda Mayo,  
Communications and Media  
Officer for the City of Roanoke*

director of the Virginia Poison Center.<sup>13</sup> “It’s really providing inpatient or outpatient treatment for addiction. ... I think that’s where a lot of work needs to be done. We definitely need that kind of resource.”<sup>14</sup>

In Virginia, there is an additional \$11 million included in the next fiscal budget. It is anticipated that these funds will be matched by federal funding to increase access to state rehabilitation facilities. This is the first significant increase in funding for substance abuse services in seven years.

The Governor’s Task Force noted, “A common and poignant statement from law enforcement professionals was, ‘We cannot arrest our way out of this problem.’ Law enforcement must have access to the training, support, and tools that can help end the costly cycle of incarceration, and increase opportunities for effective treatment without compromising public safety.”<sup>15</sup>

Opioid addiction does not discriminate in terms of race, gender or socioeconomic status, although white males have the highest rate of death. There also appears to be a trend toward suburban and non-urban areas.<sup>16</sup>

In March 2016, President Barack Obama said the number of deaths from opioids was a threat that must be positioned alongside promoting a strong economy and the threat of terrorism on the federal government’s priority list.<sup>17</sup> 

**About the author:** *Andrea Erard is an attorney in private practice in Richmond, Va. She is an adjunct professor in local government law at the University of Richmond Law School. She is a former assistant county attorney for Hanover County.*

<sup>1</sup> “Virginia Policy Changes Aim to Stem Opioid Deaths, Increase Treatment,” by Craig Carper, WCVE, June 22, 2016

<sup>2</sup> Ibid.

<sup>3</sup> Ibid.

<sup>4</sup> Ibid.

<sup>5</sup> “Anatomy of Addiction: How Heroin and Opioids Hijack the Brain,” January 11, 2016, National Public Radio

<sup>6</sup> “Virginia Policy Changes Aim to Stem Opioid Deaths, Increase Treatment,” by Craig Carper, WCVE, June 22, 2016.

<sup>7</sup> Anatomy of Addiction: How Heroin and Opioids Hijack the Brain, January 11, 2016, National Public Radio

<sup>8</sup> For more information on opiana addiction, go to [www.americanaddictionfoundation.com](http://www.americanaddictionfoundation.com).

<sup>9</sup> Virginia Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services.

<sup>10</sup> “Virginia Policy Changes Aim to Stem Opioid Deaths, Increase Treatment,” by Craig Carper, WCVE, June 22, 2016

<sup>11</sup> Virginia Commonwealth University, Opioid Crisis Policy Brief.

<sup>12</sup> Joint Legislative Audit and Review Commission (2008), “Report to the Governor and The General Assembly of Virginia. Mitigating the Costs of Substance Abuse in Virginia.”

<sup>13</sup> “New opioid prescription guidelines offered to Va. ER docs,” John Ramsey, Richmond Times-Dispatch April 12, 2016.

<sup>14</sup> Ibid.

<sup>15</sup> Task Force Update page 4.

<sup>16</sup> “Prescription Drug and Heroin Abuse in Fairfax County: Recent Trends and Strategies for Prevention; A Report to the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors” December 2014, page 3, quoting Bridget M. Kuehn, JAMA.

<sup>17</sup> “New opioid prescription guidelines offered to Va. ER docs,” John Ramsey, Richmond Times-Dispatch April 12, 2016.

# Innovation Drives Go Green Challenge

## 25 innovative ideas for a greener government

**T**WENTY-TWO LOCALITIES were certified through VML's Green Government Challenge in 2016. The Go Green program, launched in 2008, challenges local governments continue to find ways to reduce their energy usage, thus saving money from lower utility payments, promoting healthier lifestyles and reducing carbon footprints. Through the Challenge, localities implement specific green practices which earn them points toward their green certification.

Cities, towns and counties conducted energy audits, adopted anti-idling policies for fleet vehicles, completed greenhouse gas emissions inventories, conducted public campaigns to conserve water, ran "take back" programs for the collection of unused or expired prescription medicines and more.

Participants also can come up with their own innovative programs, ranging from low-tech, low-cost initiatives to complicated capital projects.

Here's a sampling of some of the creative programs that local governments shared in their Green Government Challenge applications.

### Alexandria

The city worked with a developer on the creation of a multi-purpose athletic field

with artificial grass located on the roof of an 18 million-gallon nutrient management facility. The aim is to enhance nitrogen removal from the wastewater treated at the city's public utility.

The city also planted more than 450 new trees on public property and supported the planting of 172 more by residents on private property through the city's native tree sale.



**The City of Richmond is using dogs from the city shelter to chase geese from the water treatment plant instead of using chemical deterrents. (Above) "Duck Dynasty" patrols the grounds at the plant accompanied by DPU Water Plant Program Manager Arnie Eberly.**

Working with volunteers and staff, the city completed energy efficiency and water conservation improvements in 40 units in the housing authority's Princess Square apartments and educated residents on energy and water conservation techniques.

### Purcellville

Purcellville partnered with Solarize NoVA and the Northern Virginia Regional Commission to offer free solar assessments, and bulk contract rates for solar installers.

The town also has established a tree farm on town property. Seedlings are used to replace dead or dying trees throughout the town.

More than 1,200 acres of land in Purcellville, including three natural springs and the town's 25 million-gallon reservoir, have been placed in permanent conservation easement. This action helps ensure long-term water production.

### York County

York County used a Community Development Block Grant to begin repairing and replacing aging housing in one low-income area. Those that are replaced will be rebuilt to Earth-Craft standards to improve energy efficiency, use less water and improve indoor air quality. For the homes to be repaired, energy-efficient appliances, windows or doors are replaced, and high efficiency heat pumps replace old heating systems.

The county also uses environmental friendly ways to reduce mosquitos, such as mosquito fish and vacuum pot larvaciding.

### Ashland

Ashland replaced incandescent bulbs with compact fluorescent bulbs, installed programmable thermostats in the public

**STAY TUNED for the December issue in which we'll report on innovative, affordable and sharable green practices in these localities:**

- Arlington County
- Newport News
- Charlottesville
- Hampton
- Prince George County
- Roanoke
- Vienna
- Falls Church
- James City County
- Herndon
- Radford

works annex and installed LED traffic and street lights. The town also installed permeable pavement in several locations.

## Albemarle County

Albemarle County has implemented an integrated pest management program that reduces chemical use and has adopted a safer chemical policy that requires “green” certified chemical use in custodial, mechanical and grounds management.

The county also has extended public transportation to a highly-traveled corridor.

## Lynchburg

In Lynchburg, almost three-quarters of the buses in the Greater Lynchburg Transit Company are hybrid vehicles.

The city has amended its zoning ordinance to require sidewalks and bicycle racks associated with commercial and multi-family developments.

To encourage the efficient use of space and to create a pedestrian-friendly environment, the city has no parking requirements for downtown and allows for waivers for minimum parking standards based on proximity to public transit.

## Williamsburg

Williamsburg designates parking spaces for low emission vehicles and has installed two electric car stations in one of its garages. The city has also added bike lanes to major roads and installed 92 bike racks throughout the city.

## Richmond

Richmond uses city shelter dogs at the water treatment plant to chase off geese instead of using chemicals, thus saving dollars and reducing chemical usage.

The city has a host of other initiatives including participating in an oyster shell recycling program, adoption of a Complete Streets Policy that will help make communities healthier and more livable, and completion of a solar roadmap to improve the solar energy market in the community.

## Hopewell

Hopewell is reducing nutrient discharges to the James River through a nitrogen reduction treatment project at its water treatment plant. The city also completed construction and installation of air pollution control equipment on the sewage sludge incinerator at the Hopewell Water Renewal Center.

Virginia’s local governments can take pride in the steps they have taken to reduce energy costs, contribute to a healthier environment and reduce their carbon footprint. Congratulations to the VML members earning certifications this year. For more information, visit [www.gogreenva.org](http://www.gogreenva.org). 

**About the author:** *Christina Luman-Bailey is vice mayor of the city of Hopewell, chairman of the Go Green Virginia Advisory Committee and a member of VML’s Executive Committee.*



**Cosponsored by the  
Virginia Municipal League and the  
Virginia Association of Counties**

**January 4, 2017 – Richmond**



THIS YEAR’S VML FINANCE FORUM will be held on Wednesday, January 4, 2017 from 10 a.m. until 3 p.m. at the Omni, 100 S. 12th Street, Richmond, VA 23219.

**Topics:** The forum provides an excellent opportunity for local elected officials and staff to be brought up to date on a number of important issues. Topics will include:

- **State Revenues and 2017 Budget**
- **Local Finance Trends and Perspectives**
- **VRS Local Budget Pressures**
- **Assessment of Local Revenues**

**Who should attend:** Members of city and town councils and county boards of supervisors, managers and administrators, budget and finance officers, legislative liaisons and other interested local government staff.

**Registration:** You can register yourself and others online at [www.vml.org](http://www.vml.org). The cost is \$75. Cancellations must be made in writing by December 30, 2016.



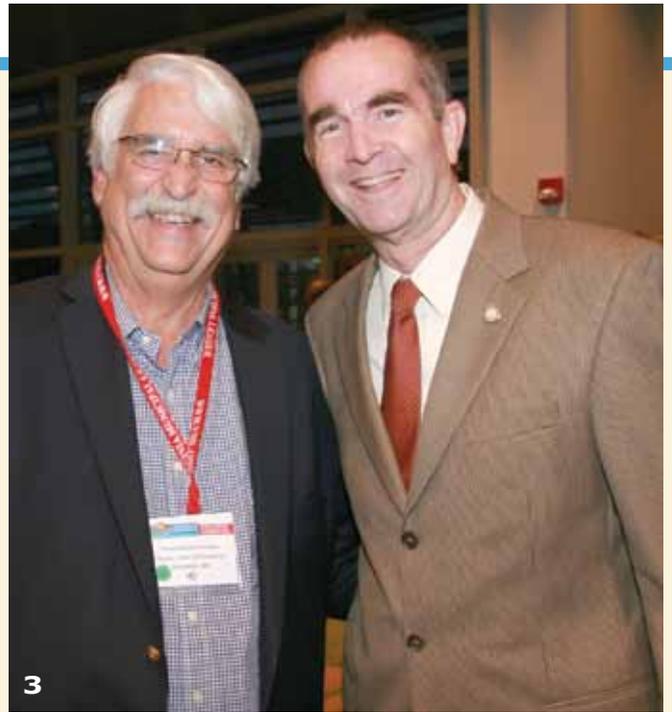
**VML ANNUAL CONFERENCE**  
OCTOBER 9-11, 2016 • VIRGINIA BEACH



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## Live Locally, Advocate Nationally

VML'S ANNUAL CONFERENCE has always delivered the latest updates on hot-button issues affecting local governments relayed by nationally recognized experts. This year was no exception. Legislative advocacy at the state and national level was the focus of several sessions. Breakout sessions and roundtables provided an array of best practices. Networking events offered fun laid back evenings for 500+ conferees to build collegial relationships in an atmosphere of good food, good friends and great entertainment. **1.** Christiansburg Councilmembers (L to R) Cord Hall, Harry Collins and Steve Huppert. **2.** Hopewell City Councilmember Jasmine Gore. **3.** VML's Immediate Past President Ron Rordam, Mayor of Blacksburg and Lieutenant Governor Ralph Northam. **4.** Former astronaut and NFL player Leland Melvin was the keynote speaker for the closing session.



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**1.** Attorney Eric Gregory of Hefty, Wiley and Gore, P.C. spoke on the issue of proffers. **2.** Daun Hester of the Virginia House of Delegates was the keynote speaker for the Women in Local Government Breakfast. **3.** Exhibitor Evan Myatt of Playground Specialties shows off on the playground equipment. **4.** VML Executive Board Member Jill Carson (L) of Pennington Gap Town Council and exhibitor Angela Roisten of Virginia Credit Union. **5.** VML Clerk and Press Operator Patrick Ford (L) receives the NLC Stutz Award from NLC First Vice President Matt Zone. Patrick was honored for 25 years of service to VML – and counting!



# Recognizing Excellence in Virginia Local Government

## The 2016 Innovation Award Winners

**The Town of Bridgewater won the Economic Development Award and the top honor, The President's Award, for their Generations Park – a regional recreation destination.**

(L to R) Town Paralegal Alex Wilmer; Town Superintendent Jay Litten; and Parks Coordinator Megan Byler.



**The City of Newport News won the Public Safety Award for its STEP program – providing summer training and employment for at-risk youth.**

(L to R) Councilwoman Tina Vick; Youth Gang Violence Prevention Coordinator MarHonda Echols; STEP Coordinator LaToya Delk; Legislative Liaison Jerri Wilson; and Assistant City Manager Alan Archer.





**The City of Harrisonburg won the Communications Award for Safety Sally - a safety awareness campaign aimed at children and parents.**

(L to R) Captain Mike Armstrong; Fire Chief Ian Bennett; Public Information Officer Mary-Hope Vass; City Manager Kurt Hodgen. Front and center: Safety Sally.



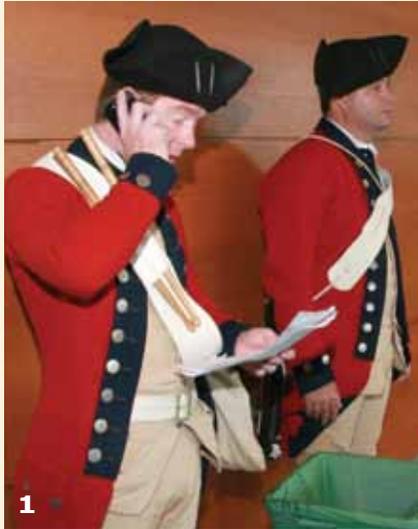
**The Town of Warrenton won the Working with Youth Award for its student postcard project – a civics education program that also gathered students’ input for the town’s comprehensive plan.**

(L to R) Councilman Sean Polster; Mayor Powell Duggan; Councilman Bob Kravetz; and Town Manager Brannon Godfrey.



**The City of Norton won the Infrastructure Award for its Community Gateway and Safe Routes to School.**

(L to R) Carol Caruso; Councilman Mark Caruso; John Warren, Director of Division of Mines, Minerals, and Energy; City Manager Fred Ramey; Robert Williams, VDOT; Calvin Clifton and Dave Wilson of Mattern and Craig Engineering.



1



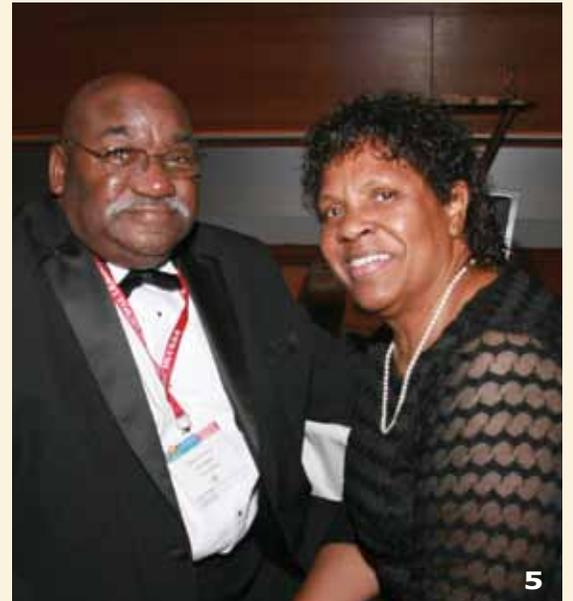
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**1.** A Williamsburg patriot takes a call while waiting to herald the invitation to next year's VML conference to be hosted by the City of Williamsburg. **2.** VML Executive Committee Member Anita Price, Roanoke City Councilmember, with fellow Councilmember Ray Ferris. **3.** A jazz quartet entertains members at the reception before Host City Night. **4.** Outgoing VML President Ron Rordam (L), Mayor of Blacksburg, welcomes Incoming President Bob Coiner, Mayor of Gordonsville, to the podium for his inaugural address. **5.** VML Executive Committee member Willie Green, Vice Mayor of Galax, and his wife Sue at the Annual Banquet. **6.** Karri Cornett (L) and Maetta Crewe of Wytheville enjoy the All-American treats at Host City Night.



6



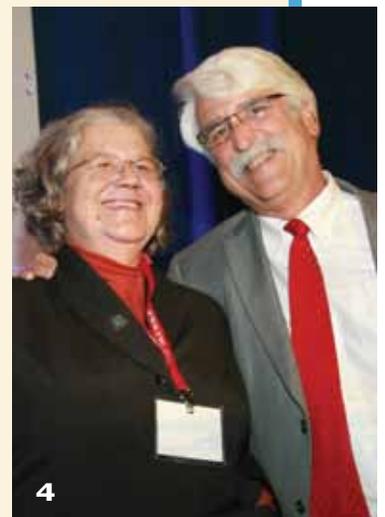
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**1.** Twenty-three communities were honored in the first year of VML’s Stairway to Success – a program recognizing local governments that are taking actions to promote early childhood education in their communities. **2.** Joan Foster, Mayor of Lynchburg, accepts the Go Green Government Award from VML incoming President Bob Coiner. **3.** Cary Sienicki, Councilmember in Vienna, won a free registration to next year’s VML Conference. **4.** VML Director of Research Mary Jo Fields shares a laugh with outgoing VML President Ron Rordam.



VML ANNUAL CONFERENCE  
OCTOBER 9-11, 2016 • VIRGINIA BEACH

**Police Officer, Colonial Beach**

This job is open until filled. Full time.  
Salary: DOQ/DOE. Full Benefits.

**Accountant II, Petersburg**

Job Deadline: December 18, 2016. Full time.  
Salary: \$41,104 - \$67,699. Full Benefits.

**Deputy Director – Code Administration, Alexandria.**

Job Deadline: November 30, 2016. Full Time.  
Salary: \$92,307.80 - \$163,504.38. Full Benefits.

**Water Treatment Plant Operator III, Winchester**

This job is open until filled. Full Time.  
Salary: \$38,355.20. Full Benefits.

**Benefit Programs Supervisor, King and Queen County**

This job is open until filled. Full Time.  
Salary: \$33,726 Minimum (Salary based on experience). Full Benefits.

**Transportation Engineer (Civil Engineer IV), Alexandria**

Job Deadline: December 1, 2016. Full Time.  
Salary: \$72,528 - \$116,537. Full Benefits.

**Town Attorney, Middleburg**

Job Deadline: December 16, 2016. Position Type: Contract. Salary: Negotiable.

**Senior Building Inspector, Poquoson**

Job Deadline: December 2, 2016. Full Time.  
Salary: \$41,046 - \$53,360 DOQ Full Benefits.

**Environmental Planner, Lynchburg**

This job is open until filled. Full Time.  
Salary: \$36,524 - \$61,963. Full Benefits.

**Appraiser Supervisor, Newport News**

Job Deadline: December 10, 2016. Full Time. Salary: \$60,485 - \$72,582. Full Benefits.

**Street Maintenance Supervisor, Vienna**

This job is open until filled. Full Time.  
Salary: \$56,552.00 - \$91,190.00 DOQ / DOE. Full Benefits.

**Deputy Finance Director, Vienna**

Open until filled. Full Time.  
Salary: \$83,553.00 - \$134,729.00 DOQ / DOE. Full Benefits.

**Deputy Director of Finance, Christiansburg**

This job is open until filled. Full Time. Salary: \$63,598 - \$75,131 DOQ Full Benefits.

**Senior Management Analyst/Budget, Loudoun County**

This job is open until filled. Full Time.  
Salary: \$52,621 - \$78,931. Full Benefits.

**Superintendent of Waste Management, Norfolk**

Job Deadline: December 4, 2016. Full Time.  
Salary: \$71,500 - \$116,280. Full Benefits.

**Clerk of Council, Leesburg**

Job Deadline: December 2, 2016. Full Time.  
Salary: \$54,244 - \$91,048 DOQ Full Benefits.

**Want to see more jobs?**

Go to [www.vml.org](http://www.vml.org) for details on these listings and for the most comprehensive listings of local governments jobs throughout Virginia. Jobs in every discipline are added weekly. VML members can also post job openings at the site free of charge.

**Public Information Officer, Christiansburg**

This job is open until filled. Full Time.  
Salary: \$57,130 - 94,266. Full Benefits.

**Wednesday, Jan. 25, 2017**

VML's 2017 special legislative event will provide an outstanding opportunity for local government officials to interact with members of the General Assembly.

**Location:** Library of Virginia  
800 East Broad Street  
Richmond, VA 23219

**Schedule:** 3 - 5:30 p.m. Keynote address and legislative briefings  
5:30 - 7 p.m. Reception

**Quality reception.** We will once again host a high quality reception that will facilitate members of the General Assembly meeting with local elected officials. All legislators from both chambers have been invited by VML to attend the reception, which will be held in the foyer of the Library of Virginia adjacent to Capitol Square.

**Make appointments with state legislators.** By conducting the briefing on important legislation at 3:00 p.m., local officials will have time to meet with their delegates and senators earlier in the day. (Briefing materials on specific issues will be distributed the week prior to the event). Also, for those attendees who spend the night in Richmond, you may choose to make appointments for the following morning as well.

**Registration.** Register online at [www.vml.org](http://www.vml.org). The cost is \$50. Cancellations must be made in writing by Jan. 18, 2017.

**Hotel reservations.** A block of rooms has been set aside at the Hilton Richmond Downtown, at 501 East Broad Street, Richmond, VA 23219. Telephone: (804) 344-4300. A group rate of \$132 is available through January 6, 2017. Make your reservation today!



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 Follow VHDA's Blog: [vhda.com/blog](http://vhda.com/blog)



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