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June 2021 VLGMA eNews

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Mester's Message



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Wow, a year has passed and this is my last newsletter article as VLGMA President. While this has been a challenging year given the pandemic and social justice events it has also given us many opportunities to demonstrate what local government professionals do best... be adaptable, flexible, creative and responsive in serving our communities. Thanks for joining me this past year as we reviewed the Code of Ethics and Ideals in this monthly article to ensure we achieve our VLGMA vision. Check out one more article with this focus. It has been an honor to serve our association and profession as the 34th President this past year and as this door closes, I know many more doors are opening and our paths will continue to cross.

Community Conversations - Understanding How Citizens Visit Downtown Harrisonburg and Evolving to Fit their Needs

We should have been having this conversation a year ago. Smoothly moving from public engagement, to completing a study, to implementation would have been the preferable course of action. But sometimes pandemics get in the way of your best laid plans and turn a one-year project into a two-plus effort.

A DAO in the Life - Amy Snider, Harrisonburg Assistant to the City Manager

When you are asked if your work is like a television series, how do you respond? Some days we may wish local government looked like an episode of *Parks and Recreation*, but the ever-changing work of real-life public administrators is much more challenging.

Civic Engagement - Locality Spotlight

Tell us your story! Is your community doing something amazing in the world of civic engagement? Localities across our great Commonwealth have been forced develop creative ways to engage their citizens over the past year. Did you lead an initiative or develop a program that you are proud of? Let us know about it so we can do a spotlight on it. Please submit stories to mstallings@smithfieldva.gov so we can consider it for a locality spotlight in an upcoming newsletter!

Institute of Government Update

We look forward to welcoming back local government leaders from across the country to Charlottesville for our LEAD programs later this year. Stay tuned for more info.

Certificate News

The Local Government Management Certificate Program just started our summer courses: HR, Finance, and Performance Management and Planning Administration (second session summer

course).

VRSA - Targeted Training for Chief Appointed Officers

A Cicadia High

A celebration after seventeen years of dormancy,
this orgy of such passionate intensity
that all around experience a rare high decibel
and a peak into this cicada romantic festival.

Hard for us to ever capture
the exhilaration of this communal rapture.
Can you imagine a better gift
than to be serenaded by this sensational bliss?



Position Changes And Other Events

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UVA Cooper Center | P.O. Box 400206, Charlottesville, VA 22904

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