

A State Affiliate of ICMA

# November 2022 VLGMA eNews

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### **Tim's Thoughts**

**Past, Present, and Future** In the past two weeks I have had the pleasure to represent VLGMA at two outstanding events. First on October 12<sup>th</sup> I was fortunate enough to be able to attend the retiree's luncheon at the Hanover Tavern.

## **Registration Opening Soon for the 2023 VLGMA Winter Conference**

The conference is scheduled for February15-17 at the Hotel Madison & Shenandoah Valley Conference Center in Harrisonburg. The Co-Chairs are busy planning a great conference and fun social events too! Stay tuned for more information in the next few weeks.

## **Civic Engagement - Faith and Blue Recap**

#### By Michael Stallings, Town Manager, Town of Smithfield

Back in September I told you all about the Faith & Blue Weekend. The Faith & Blue mission is to "facilitate safer, stronger, more just and unified communities by directly enabling local partnerships among law enforcement professionals, residents, businesses, and community groups through the connections of local fait-based organizations." The Town of Smithfield dipped our toes in the water with the program for the first time this year. We moved our National Night Out event to October to be the kickoff for our events. We partnered with a local church to host our main event.

## **Certificate News**

#### We are in full swing for classes for the Fall semester!

#### New College!

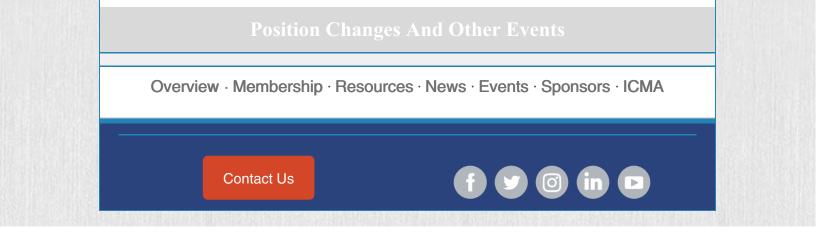
The School for Public and International Affairs, the Center for Public Administration and Policy, and the Local Government Program are in a new college as of this academic year. We are pleased to be a part of the College of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences with other complementary departments such as economics, political science, sociology, and many others. Please visit the website for more information. <u>https://liberalarts.vt.edu/</u>

# The Gifts of Gratitude

Gratitude can open the eyes to the wonders of life that daily arise.

A shower's cascading warmth, a mountain view. Serendipitous moments on gratitude's menu. A stranger's smile, an evocative song, a pause to breathe. I know you can add lots of your own grateful moments to these.

Gratitude is truly a miraculous yeast transforming life into a perpetual Thanksgiving feast.



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