

ARTICLES OF INTEREST

Hanover considers scrapping vehicle, landfill decals

Supervisors will hold public hearing on repealing part of code

BY KATHERINE CALOS
Richmond Times-Dispatch

Car decals and landfill-access stickers — and the fees that go with them — might be on the way out in Hanover County.

On Wednesday, the Board of Supervisors approved a public hearing April 13 on repealing the section of the county code that requires vehicle decals and fees.

County decals currently cost \$10 and are good for the lifetime of the vehicle. County residents must have a county decal or a solid-waste sticker (also \$10) to access the county's solid-waste

convenience centers.

The county receives about \$120,000 a year in decal revenue and has about \$5,000 in costs for the program, said Joe Casey, deputy county administrator.



Stanley

proposed scenario.

Board Vice Chairman Aubrey M. Stanley suggested that people also be allowed to access solid-waste convenience centers without a sticker by proving residency.

"I agree that we need the process to be citizen-friendly,"

said Supervisor John E. Gordon Jr., who initiated the discussion last month. "We can provide some tax relief and some process relief."

The loss of revenue would be split evenly between the school system and county government.

The proposed budget for fiscal 2012 has a net gain of \$1.772 million from changes in the state budget, according to a presentation by Kathleen T. Seay, director of finance.

Schools will be the big beneficiary, with \$1 million in increased revenue and \$790,000 in reduced expenses for the Virginia Retirement System.

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Tax revenue climbs in March

12.4 percent jump from last year continues Va.'s growth streak

BY TYLER WHITLEY

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State tax revenues continued their upward movement in March, jumping 12.4 percent over the March 2010 totals,

Gov. Bob McDonnell reported Thursday. They have risen in 12 of the past 13 months, he said.

McDonnell cautioned that March is not a significant month for revenue collections and noted that more than 250,000 Virginians are lacking "good-paying jobs."

But he said revenues rose more than 9 percent for the fifth month in a row, "clearly in-

dicating that Virginia's economy is on the path toward recovery. We have made significant progress in providing a positive, pro-business environment in Virginia."

Secretary of Finance Richard "Ric" Brown noted that revised Virginia Employment Commission data show that Virginia lost 15,000 jobs in calendar year 2010, compared with the previ-

ously reported loss of 5,200 jobs.

In March, sales-tax collections were 8.5 percent ahead of the year earlier total, while withholding taxes were up 0.6 percent, Brown said.

Year to date, total revenue collections rose 4.9 percent, ahead of projections of 4 percent. Adjusted for the accelerated sales-tax program, state reve-

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Revenue

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nues have grown 6.7 percent, again ahead of the forecast of 5.6 percent. The higher revenues

likely mean that the state can up its revenue forecasts when it adopts a revised budget next year.

Brown noted that April and May are significant collection months. Fourth-quarter collec-

tions must total about \$4.6 billion to meet the forecast, he said. They were up \$4.5 billion in the fourth quarter of last year.

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