

Frederick 1st in online business effort

By **SARAH L. GREENHALGH**

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WINCHESTER — Frederick is the first state locality to implement an online process for people wanting to start a new business.

Called Virginia's Business One Stop (BOS), the new Web portal allows for online submission of local business licenses by integrating the initial application requirements of the county for a local business license and helping people with the required paperwork to get a new business started.

This local feature of the state's BOS system streamlines the pro-

cess for entrepreneurs to register certain businesses completely online and is part of a business initiative program established by Gov. Bob McDonnell.

"Frederick is the first to come across the finish line," said Peter Su, director of the Virginia Department of Business Assistance and assistant secretary of commerce and trade.

Su says McDonnell approved the project in December 2010 and state officials met with counties and cities last year who were using the Bright System — which includes the software necessary for the merge with the state BOS.

He said that each agency has its own website, but the Bright System makes it so they can all work together.

"We met with about 50 localities back in June," Su said. "Frederick is the first to get on board with the idea. Anytime we can lessen the amount of time or paperwork that it takes to get an application done, we are improving the system."

Along with multiple online billing and tax applications, Frederick County Commissioner of Revenue Ellen Murphy is looking forward to adding this to the long list of services offered within the department.

"We're excited to offer this new service to the businesses of Frederick County," she said in a news release. "This is a great example of local and state governments working together to help small businesses. I hope other localities will join in this state effort."

According to its website, co.frederick.va.us, a "business license" is required within 30 days of opening a business, engaging in a business or providing business or professional services in Frederick County.

All licenses must be renewed annually. There are different business categories, ranging from re-

tail and wholesalers to food services and contractors. It includes architects, surgeons, massage therapists, engineers and fortune tellers, whether an employee, 1099-worker or self-employed.

"We applaud Frederick County for taking this pro-business step by joining the Virginia Business One Stop," said Su, "the New BOS is part of Governor Bob McDonnell's promise of making business formation faster in the Commonwealth."

— Contact Sarah L. Greenhalgh at sgreenhalgh@winchesterstar.com