

The Fairfax County FEDERATION

of Citizens Associations

Established 1940

February 2006

THE BULLETIN

Volume 55 Number 6

Federation Membership Meeting



Thursday, February 16, 2006

7:30 p.m.

**Packard Center Main Conference Room
4022 Hummer Road, Annandale**

Guest Speaker:

***The Honorable Penny Gross,
Mason District Supervisor***

Topic: The Chesapeake Bay



Upcoming Membership Meetings

March 23, 2006 7:30 p.m.

***Please note this meeting will be held the fourth
Thursday of the month.***

***Guest Speaker: Anthony Griffin,
Fairfax County Executive***

***Topic: The County Executive's Advertised
Fiscal Year 2007 Budget***

April 20, 2006 May 18, 2006

June 15, 2006

**Packard Center Main Conference Room
4022 Hummer Road, Annandale**



Federation Board Meetings

February 23, 2006 March 9, 2006

April 27, 2006 May 25, 2006

June 22, 2006



President's Message

Our February 16 membership meeting will feature Mason District Supervisor Penny Gross who will discuss the Chesapeake Bay and regional and county efforts to clean up the bay and protect the watershed. This promises to be an informative program as the county continues to focus on the health of our natural resources.

Our January 19 membership meeting featured FCPS Deputy Superintendent Brad Draeger with discussions of the school budget and the federally-mandated No Child Left Behind program. The presentation highlighted the school system's gains made by targeting resources to supplement the delivery of education services to definable sub-group populations of students. Also at our January meeting, the membership unanimously voted to approve the *Reclassification of Perennial Streams to Intermittent Streams Resolution*.

The Citizen of the Year banquet will be on March 19. The Award Selection Committee, comprised of Norman Neiss (*the Federation*), Bernice Colvard (*League of Women Voters of the Fairfax Area*), Anne Rodriguez (*Fairfax County Arts Council*), Bill Hanks (*Committee of 100*), Lynn Terhar (*County Council of PTAs*), and Cynthia Huheey (*Alliance for Human Services*), selected Marlene Blum as *Citizen of the Year* in honor of her decades of dedication in areas of education and human services. The Committee also voted to recognize Bill and Janie Strauss with a *Citation of Merit* in recognition of their efforts in creating Fairfax Families Care that helped with the relocation of Hurricane Katrina refugees in our area. Finally, Carson Lee Fifer will be awarded a *Special Gratitude Award* for his advocacy of affordable housing including co-founder of Affordable Housing Opportunity Means Everyone (AHOME) in the county. Our guest speaker will be the Honorable Gerald E. Connolly, Fairfax County Chairman of the Board of Supervisors.

On February 25 at 10:00 am, the Mantua Citizens' Association will hold a program on Senior Citizen's Issues. I plug this because I hope the outstanding forum will generate discussion for the addition of a senior services board position and committee at the Federation, and to share the best practices that other civic associations have with program topics. All are welcome to attend the informative event at the Mantua Elementary School.

The next board meeting is on February 23. Our March 23 membership meeting is on the Fairfax County's fiscal year 2007 advertised budget with a presentation by County Executive Tony Griffin. Please note the membership meeting will be the fourth Thursday of the month.

Finally, the Federation notes with regret the recent passing of Jack Herry, former Chairman of the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors.

John Jennison, President

FedPres@FairfaxFederation.org (703) 591-5586

**Fairfax County Information Technology Policy
Advisory Committee (ITPAC) Meeting Summary**

January 26, 2006

Ed Blum was re-elected as ITPAC Chairman; Anne Kanter was re-elected as the Vice-chairperson.

800 MHz Rebanding Update: David Barney and Jack Anderson, Fairfax County Department of Information Technology (DIT), gave a briefing on the progress of the 800 MHz project. The project involves a complete shifting in the frequencies used by the Fairfax police, fire, school security, and other safety agencies. The shift in frequency allocation, approved by the FCC, was initiated by Sprint/NEXTEL, which has agreed to pay the "reasonable" costs of the rebanding, including equipment, software, etc. and has posted \$5 billion so far for the nationwide effort. The county has formed a "Rebanding Committee" coalition with Arlington, Loudoun, Prince William, and nearby counties to coordinate this effort and to insure operability between their respective safety services. The main issue at present is to get the FCC to delay the implementation date in order to better coordinate the requirements between counties and with Motorola, manufacturer of the new radios; the FCC has not replied regarding this request. Police Captain Ted Arnn, Department of Public Safety Communications, and Dean Cox, Fairfax County Fire and Rescue, presented testimony as to the utility of this project in improving communications and service to Fairfax and other counties. The final cost is yet undetermined, but is supposed to be covered by Sprint/NEXTEL in its entirety.

Public Safety Technology: Computer Aided Dispatch (CAD) and Public Safety Information Systems Replacement Initiative. Disnise F. Drake, DIT Public Safety Information Systems Architect, gave a presentation on the progress of a planned CAD system for the county's public safety organizations. The concept includes the linking of public safety activities under one command center in order to improve the dispatch of personnel to needed situations on a timely basis. These agencies include police, fire and rescue, emergency medical service, emergency management services, and sheriff services. The communications media will reside on the new 800 MHz rebanded systems in the future, but is envisioned to also work on the present radio system. So far, six vendors using commercial off-the-shelf software and hardware have been pre-qualified. This system is already in successful operation in Wilson, North Carolina, though the Fairfax project is much larger. The request for proposal will be issued February 10, 2006; final selection of the contractor will occur in July. The final cost has not yet been determined and will depend on the successful vendor's bid. Project completion is planned for 2008.

The next meeting is scheduled for March 2, 2006.

Respectfully submitted,

Vic Mukai

Federation Representative to the ITPAC

**A Call for Local-History Articles, Essays,
and Vignettes**

Esther Ferington

Federation Representative to the Fairfax 2007 Committee

As part of the Virginia 2007 Community program to commemorate 400 years of Virginia history since the founding of Jamestown, the Fairfax County 2007 Community Citizen Planning Committee is soliciting original, non-published, history-related items for publication in a book as a legacy project for county residents. All interested persons are encouraged to participate in this exciting competition and become a piece of Fairfax County history. The deadline for submission is June 1, 2006.

The book will contain at least four vignettes, anecdotal articles, or essays from each of the last four centuries, 1607–2007, for a total of at least 16 selections. Writers may submit articles or photographs about events, personalities, geographical features, localities, or any subject that has had historical significance within today's Fairfax County geographical boundaries.

A committee of historians from the county, area educational facilities, and the Fairfax County Libraries will evaluate the work submitted. The selected articles will be published in a softbound volume to be distributed to libraries, historical sites, and schools within the county. The publication will also be available for sale at sites throughout the county. Articles or photographs not included in the volume will be filed in the unpublished manuscript file at the Virginia Room of the Fairfax City Regional Library.

Each contribution—written, photographic, or other—must be the sole property of the person submitting it, or it must be shown that the owner has given permission for its use. This is a volunteer project with no compensation for any submission. The authors will have the satisfaction of participating and having their work reflect the pride Fairfax County residents feel about our rich and diverse history that will carry through over the next 100 years.

For information about the Fairfax County 2007 Community Citizen Planning Committee or the history book, please contact the Office of Public Affairs at (703) 324-3187, TTY 711 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/opa/va2007/. You can also click on the Fairfax 2007 link on the Federation website. For more information about Jamestown 2007 and the Virginia 2007 program, visit www.jamestown2007.org.

Inclement Weather Policy

If either Fairfax County Government or Public Schools are closed after 12:00 noon the day of a Federation meeting, or if it is announced that Fairfax County Government or Schools will be closed the day after a scheduled Federation meeting due to inclement weather or emergency, the meeting is cancelled. We will make every attempt to post the cancellation on our website, www.fairfaxfederation.org. You can also contact (703) 266-6872 for more information.

**Fairfax County Federation of Citizens Associations
Membership Meeting of January 19, 2006**

DRAFT MINUTES

(for approval at the February 16, 2006 membership meeting)

The meeting of FCFCA was held at the Packard Center at 7:30 p.m. (Attendance list is attached to file copy.) Some business was conducted before the program. For simplicity, the program is recorded first, then the business meeting. President John Jennison introduced Charles Dane, Chair of the Education Committee. Charles Dane introduced Deputy Superintendent Brad Draeger of the Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS).

Program

Brad Draeger had been asked to speak on two subjects: briefly on the proposed school budget and at greater length on the impact of No Child Left Behind (NCLB).

He noted that 95 percent of the budget is from state and local sources. The expenditures for school programs are similar to last year, except for those increases prioritized in four budget tiers, which collectively reach the proposed total increase of just under 10 percent. Baseline spending is \$2.1 billion. Enrollment in the schools is flat; this may be due to fewer multifamily homes in some parts of the county. Increases in the number of ESOL (English for Speakers of Other Languages) students, special needs students, and students from poverty remain high, but less than in the past; the number of ESOL students increased by 29 percent, versus 40-50 percent in recent years. The county competes with Loudoun County for new teachers, with Loudoun hiring 1200 next year and Fairfax 1600. Loudoun has committed to an "initiative for excellence" taking up 74 percent of their county's revenues for the schools. They are spending more per pupil than Fairfax County. FCPS wants to increase its compensation for teachers with master's degrees to compete with Montgomery County levels in this area.

No Child Left Behind (NCLB) has five goals to be met by 2014, including proficiency in math and reading for 100 percent of the students; mastery of English by 100 percent of limited-English-proficiency (LEP) students; 100 percent of students to be taught by highly qualified teachers; and 100 percent of schools to be safe, drug-free, and conducive to learning. Some of these goals come with sanctions. If a school doesn't meet its yearly achievement targets, it can be forced to transport students to other schools of their parents' choice and to set aside some Title I funds for private tutoring; if problems persist, it must be reconstituted. NCLB includes no measures to increase the number of highly qualified teachers, who are hard to find for math and science. Some states are changing licensure and certification so more teachers can be labeled as highly qualified. NCLB also emphasizes more information for parents. FCPS is now posting Standards of Learning (SOL) scores and safety violations online for all schools and is developing school profiles that will include the percentage of highly qualified teachers and other figures.

NCLB relies on testing six subgroups—limited English proficiency (LEP), black, white, Hispanic, learning disabled, and economically disadvantaged—at several grade levels. Scores for all subgroups must meet rising yearly goals set by the Commonwealth, leading to a 100 percent passing rate by 2014. At least 95 percent of each group must be tested. Subgroups in a school are tested if there are more than 50, a

cutoff level set by the state. Special education subgroups are a challenge; at first 1 percent could be exempted, but now 3 percent can. The system may be moving toward alternative assessments. LEP students are given a one year exemption from testing even though it takes seven years to achieve fluency. However, after students leave the ESOL program their scores are counted in the LEP group for two additional years.

Under NCLB, 163 of the 188 Fairfax County sites, or 87 percent, have made adequate yearly progress (AYP). To meet the standards for next year, 122 schools must improve on this year's scores. Increases are needed in 402 out of the 2632 possible NCLB subgroups. More than a third are subgroups of students with learning disabilities. Sixty-six schools are at highest risk of failing future tests, of which 27 have low scores only in the learning disabled area; this pattern is the same nationwide. Dogwood and McNair elementary schools had to allow transfers out under NCLB. Dogwood made AYP this year and is on track to progress out of this status (a "passing" performance is required for two years). McNair is carved out of several poverty areas and its boundaries need to be rebalanced. New schools like McNair also take two years to qualify for Title I. A portion of its Title I funds have been set aside for use by parents in hiring private tutoring organizations from an approved list. NCLB success stories include Hybla Valley Elementary and Irving, Kilmer, Lanier, and Twain middle schools. Dr. Draeger said that the Gifted and Talented program would be maintained, and that he is holding schools accountable for educating the more advanced students at a high level.

The schools are using assessment coaches and the Benchmark Assessment Resource Tool (BART) so teachers know how they are doing throughout the year. Other strategies include targeting money to specific schools, equitable staffing and allocation of resources by poverty and ESOL rates, community-based summer schools, and expansion of full-day kindergarten to more schools.

A federal consultant's audit determined NCLB's cost to FCPS is over \$60 million. The NCLB cost per student in Virginia ranges from \$95 to \$900; in Fairfax County it is \$200 to \$300 per student. Costs will rise as the testing of grades 4, 6, and 7 begins and targets increase. Unlike the SOLs, NCLB adds subgroups, but it only addresses two of the four SOL topics. NCLB pushes SOL scores higher in math and reading, but there is now less emphasis on science and social studies.

Business Meeting

- a. The minutes for the October 20 and November 17 membership meetings were approved unanimously as written.
- b. President John Jennison shared the new Federation brochures and thanked Carol Hawn, Esther Ferington, and others for their work. He noted that he will ask the Board to consider a new Senior Services Committee. He reported Congressman Tom Davis is interested in a debate next fall co-sponsored by the Federation and League of Women Voters of the Fairfax Area; the Democratic candidate will be approached after that primary. Arlington County Civic Federation wishes to work with the Federation on legislative matters. There will be a celebration of the completed county trail system on May 7 and the Federation could sponsor a half-marathon. President John Jennison testified to the local state legislative delegation and the testimony was well-received. Flint

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Webb has been reappointed as the Federation representative to the Metropolitan Washington Task Force on Air Quality.

c. The Treasurer's Report was presented and approved.

d. Bill Hanks, chairman of the Resolution Committee, introduced the stream reclassification resolution from the Land Use and Environment Committees. Sally Ormsby asked that one passage be restored to the original wording as a friendly amendment. The resolution was passed unanimously.

e. Esther Ferington drew members' attention to the report on the county and nonprofit response to the 1367 Gulf Coast evacuees registered in Fairfax County. President John Jennison suggested a portion of the Citizen of the Year banquet proceeds might be donated to this cause.

f. The next newsletter deadline is January 30.

g. Patrick Rea reported a good response to the recent membership mailing, resulting in 12 new members. With the new brochure, a broader mailing is planned. Carol Hawn noted that 50 brochures will go to each Supervisor and 25 to each library, with others at the government center. Jeff Parnes requested a PDF of the brochure for the website. Charles Dane suggested the district representatives compare their membership list with the Federation's, and use the brochures to personally contact potential members. President John Jennison suggested sharing a booth at Celebrate Fairfax.

h. Jeff Parnes reported that the website now has all Federation Bulletins (newsletters) from September 2005 to date; all meeting agendas; and all membership minutes. He has updated all the District Council contacts. Links on the homepage that have been requested are being added.

i. Charles Dane reported that the FCPS education program budget will not be issued until mid-March, making it difficult to compare changes in the base program. The current budget proposal represents a 10 percent increase, which seems unlikely to prevail.

j. Merrily Pearce noted there are openings on the Citizen Corps Council. The council also has \$30,000 from a federal grant, and Citizen Corps member groups, such as the Federation, can apply.

k. Carol Hawn reported a homelessness summit is scheduled for April 7 at Freddie Mac on a plan to end homelessness in the county in ten years. Let her know if you are interested in attending.

l. Flint Webb reported on the adequate outfall revisions for the Public Facilities Manual (PFM). He noted that there are new air quality standards this February. The ozone transport commission, encompassing states from Virginia to Maine, is trying to coordinate requirements. The group hopes to have model rule legislation by the end of this session. The federal Department of Energy has mandated that the Morant coal-fired plant in Alexandria must continue to operate due to a lack of other back-up power sources for the District of Columbia. It is exceeding the national ambient standard for sulfur dioxide by a factor of 15.

m. Roger Hoskins attended the Tyson's task force and found it interesting.

n. District council reports were as follows: Sally Ormsby reported that the recent Providence District Council meeting included a task

force meeting with the Tyson's land use consultants. New officers were elected; the new chair for Providence is Charles Hall. Art Wells reported that Braddock District Council is gearing up for a new round of association workshops. Judy Harbeck reported from Mount Vernon that the next meeting will be on affordable housing, including determining what the \$18 million from last year is going toward. Development of one of the last Route One parcels, North Hill, is in some dispute. BRAC remains a concern, but is in a holding pattern. Roger Hoskins reported the Mason District Council sponsored a seminar on personal financial planning. Jeff Parnes reported that the next Sully District Council meeting will be on public safety.

o. Sally Ormsby reported the Citizen of the Year date will be either March 12 or March 19. Carol Hawn reported that the selection committee for the award is scheduled to meet shortly.

p. Mary Anne Lecos reported that a new nonprofit effort associated with the Office for Children has been formed with the goal of promoting early childhood development and raising funds from the business community. The Freddie Mac Foundation has donated \$250,000. She is on the board. She asked that the Federation become a member of the School Readiness Network, at no cost to the Federation, and add a link to the Fairfax Futures website, www.fairfaxfutures.org, on the Federation website. Both requests were unanimously approved.

q. Sally Ormsby has reviewed the legislative bills and will go over this at the Board meeting. She attended environmental lobby day in Richmond and went to a briefing by Senator Patsy Ticer on a bill to cut mercury emissions at sites like the Morant plant. She secured more sponsors for the bill.

New Business

Bill Hanks reminded members of the need for home computer security given the upsurge of malicious software. He noted Osama bin Laden's threat to "get you in your homes" could suggest cyber attacks.

Next Membership Meeting: February 16, 2006, "Chesapeake Bay" with the Honorable Penny Gross, Mason District Supervisor.

Next Board Meeting: January 26, 2006

Meeting adjourned at 10:00 p.m.

Summit on Homelessness Announced

The Fairfax County Planning Committee to End Homelessness, and the Community Planning Collaborative on Homelessness (CPCH) Council, are sponsoring a day-long summit titled, "*Creating a Blueprint for Success*" on Friday, April 7, 2006 from 8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. at the Freddie Mac headquarters in Tysons Corner. The summit, for business, faith, and community leaders, will look at proposals to end homelessness across the country, and network on plans to end homelessness in Fairfax County within the next ten years. Registration is limited to 300 attendees. For additional information, or to request an invitation, please contact Donna Haber, Department of Systems Management for Human Services, at (703) 324-7122 or donna.haber@fairfaxcounty.gov.

Fairfax Futures School Readiness Network

The Federation is among several county-wide groups which have joined the Fairfax Futures School Readiness Network.

What is Fairfax Futures? A nonprofit dedicated to strengthening investment in the quality of our youngest citizens' early experiences in order to improve their chances of success in school and life.

The School Readiness Network consists of the County's Office for Children, Fairfax County Public Schools, corporations, county-wide organizations, nonprofits, and individuals committed to raising awareness and funding for improving the quality of preschool and child care in Fairfax County - primarily through professional training of preschool teachers and child care providers. For additional information about the School Readiness Network, please visit the Fairfax Futures website at www.fairfaxfutures.org. A kick-off for the School Readiness Network was held on February 1, 2006.

Mary Anne Lecos will serve as the Federation's liaison to Fairfax Futures. We thank her for her service in this important endeavor.

County Advertised Budget to be Released February 27, 2006

At the February 27, 2006 Board of Supervisors meeting, Fairfax County Executive Anthony Griffin will release the Fiscal Year (FY) 2007 Advertised Budget Plan. Immediately thereafter, the plan will be available online at <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dmb>. Public hearings on the advertised budget are scheduled for April 3 - 5, 2006. To sign up to speak at the hearings, please call (703) 324-3151. The Federation position on the FY 2007 budget will be the topic of the March 23, 2006 membership meeting, with Mr. Griffin as the guest speaker. We hope you will join us for an informative evening.

Reminder to Update Association Contact Information

The Fairfax County Office of Public Affairs requests that all civic, homeowner, or other residential associations notify them whenever there is a change in contact information, such as the election of a new President or Manager. You can call them at (703) 324-3187 or email the information to publicaffairs@fairfaxcounty.gov. Please note the county uses the Community Association List to contact communities with important land use or other information.

The Fairfax County Federation
of Citizens Associations

and

The Washington Post

request the pleasure of your company at the

Fifty-sixth Annual Awards Banquet

honoring the

2005 Fairfax County Citizen of the Year
Marlene Blum

Citation of Merit Recipients

Bill and Janie Strauss

Special Gratitude Award

C. Lee Fifer

Guest Speaker

The Honorable Gerald E. Connolly
Chairman, Fairfax County Board of Supervisors

Sunday, the Nineteenth of March

at the

Fairview Park Marriott Hotel

3111 Fairview Park Drive · Falls Church, Virginia

Reception 6:30 p.m. Dinner 7:30 p.m.

\$60 per person Cash Bar

RSVP by March 10, 2006

Tickets will be held at the door.

Vegetarian meal available upon request.

Information: 703-273-2048

Make checks payable to "FCFCA" and send to:

The Federation

4022 Hummer Road, Annandale VA 22003

Please include: Name(s), Company/Association,
Address, Telephone, and Email

www.fairfaxfederation.org

Fairfax County
FEDERATION
of Citizens Associations

4022 Hummer Road
Annandale, VA 22003

*Federation Membership
Meeting*

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4022 Hummer Road
Annandale*

Guest Speaker:

*The Honorable Penny Gross,
Mason District Supervisor*

Topic: The Chesapeake Bay

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Directions to the

Packard Center, located in Annandale Community Park

Take I-495 (Capital Beltway) to Little River Turnpike (Route 236 - Exit 52B);
go east toward Annandale.

Turn left at the first stop light onto Hummer Road.

Go 200 yards to the entrance of Annandale Community Park, which is on the left.

Keep right to the large parking lot. Please use the left entrance into the Packard Center.

www.fairfaxfederation.org