

The Fairfax County

FEDERATION

of Citizens Associations

Established 1940

March 2007

THE BULLETIN

Volume 56, Number 7

Upcoming Forum and Meetings



The February Forum is rescheduled.

Thursday, March 22, 2007

8:00 p.m.

**Sunrise Valley Elementary School
10824 Cross School Road, Reston**

Guest Speaker:

The Honorable Catherine M. Hudgins
Supervisor, Hunter Mill District

**Topic: Growth: What if . . .
the Washington Region grew differently?**



March Membership Meeting

March 29, 2007 7:30 p.m.

Packard Center Main Conference Room
(Please note this is the last Thursday of the month.)

Guest Speaker: Tony Griffin
Fairfax County Executive

**Topic: The County Executive's Advertised
Fiscal Year 2008 Budget Plan**



April 19, 2007 7:30 p.m.
Packard Center Main Conference Room

**Tourism in Fairfax County:
the "FX Marks the Spot" Campaign and
Jamestown 2007**

May 17 and June 21 7:30 p.m.



2007 Federation Board Meetings

All Board meetings at 7:30 p.m. at the Packard Center.

April 26 May 24 June 28



President's Message

The Federation congratulates Sally Ormsby as the 2006 Citizen of the Year and Lee Rau as a Citation of Merit recipient. Each was honored at a packed Citizen of the Year Banquet, co-sponsored by the Federation and *The Washington Post*, on **March 11** with **Congressman Tom Davis** as the guest speaker. The Award Selection Committee recognized Sally's lifelong commitment to volunteerism and environmental issues. Lee's deep involvement with affordable housing also merited recognition. Congressman Davis spoke on the value of the many task forces and organizations on which Sally has worked as well as the resulting achievements. He lamented that such citizen involvement is missing from congressional operations and that Congress could use Sally to help solve some systemic problems. Mr. Davis graciously recommended Sally as a "Citizen of the Decade" for her lifetime of volunteerism.

The **NEXT MEMBERSHIP MEETING** is **THURSDAY, March 29** at **7:30 p.m.** with **Fairfax County Executive Tony Griffin**, who will discuss the advertised fiscal year **2008 County Budget**. Please note this is the last Thursday of the month. The Federation Board has prepared a draft resolution on the proposed county budget (*beginning on page three*) that will be adopted after Mr. Griffin's presentation.

However, before then, because the February forum was cancelled due to inclement weather, our program on **Growth: What if...the Washington Region grew differently?** co-sponsored by the Federation and National Capital Region Transportation Planning Board (TPB) has been rescheduled for **MARCH 22** at **8:00 p.m.** at **Sunrise Valley Elementary School** (not the Packard Center). **Hunter Mill District Supervisor Cathy Hudgins**, who is also TPB chair, will help lead the discussion as the event will offer hands-on interactive participation. See the enclosed flyer and RSVP so we know how many people will participate in the event.

Our **April 19** membership meeting will feature "Tourism in Fairfax County-FX Marks the Spot," and **Jamestown 2007**. On **May 17**, we will have a "Report From Richmond" with **Delegates Steve Shannon** and **Vince Callahan**. Our Human Services Co-chairs **Tania Hossain** and **Bettina Lawton** are planning the **Emergency Preparedness Workshop** now scheduled for **June 7** at the Little River Glen Senior Center. The workshop will be co-sponsored by the Federation and **District Supervisors Sharon Bulova** (Braddock), **Penny Gross** (Mason), **Linda Smyth** (Providence), and **Elaine McConnell** (Springfield). We will wrap up the year on **June 21** with a Picnic and **Board of Supervisors' Chairman Gerry Connolly** giving his "State of the County" presentation.

Please check our website www.FairfaxFederation.org and sign up for email blasts or schedule change notifications. As always, if you would like to become more involved with, or have questions about, the Federation, please contact me or any other board member.

John Jennison, President

FedPres2006@FairfaxFederation.org

(703) 591-5586

Federation Committee Reports and Other News

2007 Legislative Report - General Assembly Wrap-up

The Virginia General Assembly session adjourned on February 25, 2007 as scheduled. The Federation had an ambitious program with several new items added to the program for this year. We did not fare well, as noted in the following summary:

- A bill passed to prohibit smoking in restaurants unless a sign to the contrary is posted. The Federation sought a total prohibition in public places with minor exceptions.
- Revision of the Payday Loan Act failed. While the Federation sought reduction of the usurious interest charges, the bills that failed addressed establishing a database so that borrowers could not have more than three outstanding loans at one time.
- The Federation sought an increase in the minimum wage from the current \$5.15 an hour, but several bills proposing this increase all failed. Perhaps the legislators should try to live on \$5.15 an hour!
- The electric utilities will once again be regulated – partially. Deregulation did not entice more competition as envisioned. The Federation sought a study on this issue.
- The Water Quality Improvement Fund (WQIF) provides funding for point source pollution mitigation to help clean up the Chesapeake Bay. The Federation sought increased funding; instead, the legislature earmarked WQIF funding for Richmond and Lynchburg sewer facilities.
- Success! Organ donors will be eligible for a state tax deduction for unreimbursed expenses related to the transplant operation.
- The Federation's position would prohibit the "taking" of private property for private development. Alas, the legislature defined "public uses" as those lands owned, occupied and enjoyed by the public or *public corporation or private entities with a written agreement that the facilities will be used by the public*; other criteria were also included, such as blighted property

The icing on the cake was that none of the Federation seven long-standing priority issues was resolved. These issue areas are conservation, education mandates, Dillon Rule reversal, infrastructure funding, local land use authority, updating the state/local tax structure, and equal taxing authority.

*Sally Ormsby,
Legislative Committee Chair*

Education News

The Human Relations Advisory Committee (HRAC) to the Fairfax County Public School (FCPS) Board has been tasked to identify ethnic, religious and other communities that may not have been fully involved when issues critical to the educational process of their students are addressed by the School Board. To ensure that FCPS is effective in involving all segments of our diverse community, Charlie Dane, the Federation's representative on HRAC, is asking Federation member representatives to share any thoughts about groups of students or parents with whom the FCPS could better engage. Also, can you suggest some ways that FCPS could better involve those groups. Please send any suggestions or comments to Charlie at c-ddane@cox.net.

Sally Ormsby, Lee Rau Honored at Banquet

As noted by Federation President John Jennison in his column (*see page one*), the 57th Annual Awards Banquet was a great success. The event, co-sponsored by the Federation and *The Washington Post*, was held March 11, 2007 at the Fairview Park Marriott Hotel; Eleventh District Congressman Tom Davis was the guest speaker. Two great Fairfax County volunteers were honored, Sally Ormsby was named the 2006 Citizen of the Year and Lee Rau received a Citation of Merit. Their biographies are below.

2006 Citizen of the Year

Sally B. Ormsby

As best stated in one of the numerous letters supporting Sally Ormsby for Citizen of the Year, "it is hard to remember a time when Sally wasn't deeply involved in helping shape Fairfax County public policy... we are indeed blessed to have a dedicated, intelligent citizen who can constructively approach issues within a deep and broad context of understanding."

For well over three decades, Sally Ormsby has personified the word 'dedication', serving as an effective and efficient citizen leader. During that time, she has been involved in countless projects resulting in major, positive impacts on county government and in the lives of all Fairfax County residents. Her organizational skills, grasp of state and local government, her environmental knowledge, and her amazing ability to remember facts have served us all well.

Whether through her extensive work with the Woodson High School PTA, Mantua Citizens' Association, Providence District Council of Civic Associations, Fairfax County Federation of Citizens Associations, League of Women Voters of the Fairfax Area, Fairfax Committee of 100, Community Appearance Alliance, Park Partners, Citizens Committee on Land Use and Transportation, New Millennium Occoquan Watershed Task Force, Northern Virginia Regional Commission, or Fairfax County Virginia 2007 Committee, to name a few, or as a Director of the Northern Virginia Soil and Water Conservation District, Sally has served as the role model for effective community service. While many of these organizations are overlapping in nature, she understands the important differences of each, and the vital part each plays in the growth of Fairfax County and the Northern Virginia region as a whole.

Sally is a true civic leader: she doesn't wait to be asked, but identifies a need and moves forward to take on the task. Her committed leadership, coupled with an ability to inspire others to get involved and seek positive change, is a permanent fixture in countless organizations, resulting in small efforts turning into large accomplishments that significantly improve the quality of life for all Fairfax County residents. Her historical memory and hours and years of public service are legendary. Another letter of support notes, "It's amazing that Sally's schedule somehow accommodates so many meetings and events."

One of Sally's greatest traits is her unselfish tenacity; she has always taken every available opportunity to contribute back the knowledge she gains in each endeavor to enhance efforts to undertake the next public policy challenge. Her persistence is best encountered when called to rise to a challenge. She was instrumental in leading the Mantua Citizens' Association through the aftermath of the disastrous tank farm fuel spill, resulting in action by the Environmental Protection Agency and Commonwealth that focused on protection and remediation efforts.

Sally's knowledge of the General Assembly and the legislative process adds a valuable component to many of the organizations on which she has served. She accomplishes a tremendous amount of behind the scenes research and writing, is superb at clearly defining issues, researching and developing options, and drafting resolutions. Her focus on detail is well known, and she can always be counted on to be thorough and very accurate. Her capacity for pursuing goals until positive solutions are achieved is unlimited.

Although her expertise in land use, transportation, and legislative matters is

(see Biographies - continued on page 7)

Fairfax County Federation of Citizens Associations
Proposed Resolution

**Fairfax County Advertised Fiscal Year 2008 Budget and
 Fiscal Years 2008-2112 Capital Improvement Program**

Background

The County Executive's proposed fiscal year (FY) 2008 Budget Plan totals \$5.8B (billion), of which the General Fund portion is \$3.32B. Of the latter amount, \$2.22B would be transferred out to the Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS), the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Agency (WMATA - Metrorail and Metrobus), transit systems, debt service, etc.

Property Tax Rates – The current real estate tax rate is \$0.89 per \$100 of assessed value. One real estate tax penny will represent \$22.7M (million) in tax revenue. The County Executive proposes no tax rate increase or reduction.

Revenue –

- General Fund revenues are estimated to be \$3.29B, an increase of 2.88%, with real estate tax receipts representing 59.8% of the revenue base.
- Real property assessments will increase an average of 4.15% (11.8% in FY07), [with only 2.94% from new growth].
- **Residential** equalization values will **decrease** for the first time since 1998; the decrease will be 0.33% compared with increases of 20.57% in FY07 and 23.09% in FY 06.
- **Non-residential** values will **increase** 13.57% compared with 16.64% in FY 07, 12.74% in FY 06 and 3.74% in FY 05.
- Revenue from personal property taxes will be 15.6%, 70% of which is provided by the state.
- Property taxes comprise 74.4% of General Fund revenues. Other local taxes, e.g., sales, BPOL, utility, auto licenses, etc., total 14.7%. Revenue from the state will be 2.7%, and 0.9% will come from the federal government, nearly all of which is social services aid.

Revenue Enhancements – Some fees would be increased to offset an increase in the cost of providing service, as follows:

- Refuse collection fee increase from \$315 to \$330 per year
- Sewer service rate increase from \$3.50 to \$3.74 per 1,000 gallons of water used
- Sewer availability charge increase from \$6,138 to \$6,506 for new single-family home

Expenditures – General Fund disbursements total \$3.32B, a 1.34% increase over the FY07 revised budget. Direct County operating expenditures (personnel, operations, recovered costs, capital equipment, and fringe benefits) total \$1.2B, a 3.88% increase over the FY 2007 revised budget. Debt service for County capital improvements will be \$113.37M. The proposed budget, with a funding shortfall of \$27M, has been balanced using \$21M set aside by the Board during FY 2006 and \$6M anticipated to be available during FY 2007 Third Quarter Review.

Schools – The proposed schools transfer is \$1.73B, which is 52.3% of General Fund disbursements. This represents a 3.5% increase over FY07, consistent with the Board of Supervisor's guideline of 3.5%, plus \$8.0M for the second phase of the Schools' Initiatives for Excellence and \$147.9M in debt service for school facilities. Other County

expenditures for schools include \$60.5M for school nurses, clinic room aides, Comprehensive Services Act (CSA), Head Start, School Age Child Care (SACC), school crossing guards, and School Resource Officers. The School Board requested a transfer of \$1.60B plus \$8M for the Initiatives for Excellence, an increase of 5.1% over FY07 and \$78.4M over the FY07 transfer.

Compensation –

- A 2.0% personnel **reduction** in each department (\$16.28M savings) will help to meet budget limitations due to the flattening residential real estate market.
- FY 2008 will be the sixth year of full implementation of the County's Pay for Performance system for 8,000 non-public safety personnel. The performance rating range is 0-6 with 0.5 increments. The performance pay increase was \$9.8M in FY 2006, \$10.8M in FY 2007, and it will be \$12.0M in FY 08. [Fringe benefits will increase 8.2% to \$14.8M.]
- The Uniformed Public Safety Personnel still use the old salary program and will realize both the market rate adjustment and merit step increases. They will receive a 2.9% market rate adjustment (4.92% in FY 07). Merit step increments and shift differential costs total \$3.0M, and a 1% decrease in the employee retirement contribution will cost \$1.0M. The total uniformed personnel increases total \$15.8M.

Other Expenditures – The budget includes **70 new positions for staffing new facilities and public safety**, including:

- 8 police detectives - \$1.1M
- 1 victim services advocate (Police Department) - \$0.1M
- 2 Criminal Justice Academy instructors and one police psychologist - \$0.3M
- 3 Juvenile Court positions [counselors and Information Technology (IT)] - \$0.2M
- 14 employees for new Public Safety and Transportation Operations Center - \$3.2M
- New SACC Center expansion at Key Center - \$0.2M
- Katherine K. Hanley Family Shelter, opening summer 2007, full-year operating cost - \$0.3M
- Health Department - \$2.4M
- New Youth Crisis facility, full-year cost - \$0.6M
- School-based substance abuse and violence prevention and early intervention (12 schools) - \$0.6M

Other proposed budget highlights of continuing or increased funding include:

- Continuing a penny each of the tax rate for affordable housing and for storm water management - \$22.7M each
- Capital renewal projects - \$21.9M
- Athletic field maintenance - \$4.9M
- Land acquisition - \$2.0M
- Transportation "spot improvements" - \$1.0M
- Environmental projects (including use of landfill gas to heat West Ox campus) - \$0.7M
- Wildlife biologist and staff person for Animal Shelter - \$0.1M
- Transportation (continuing obligation):
 - County transit operations - \$34.7M
 - Metro operating and capital - \$18.5M (total County

(see **Draft Budget Resolution** - continued on page 4)

(Draft Budget Resolution - continued from page 3)

contribution - \$64.9M)

- Information Technology - \$13.8M
- 2 new and 2 renovated libraries (staff, equipment, operations) - \$2.7M
- Countywide voter mailing (645,700 registered voters) of new voter information cards, etc. - \$0.3M
- Support for expanded Fairfax Public Law Library - \$0.04M
- Consolidated Community Funding Pool - \$8.7M (5% increase over FY 07)
- Increases in health insurance premiums, retiree health benefits, dental insurance and retirement funding - \$7.4M
- Higher fuel and utility costs (\$3.9M) and O&M for 7 new facilities (\$1.5M)

Other new initiatives proposed by the County Executive for FY08 are:

- A comprehensive revitalization strategy with establishment in the County Executive's office of a new Community Revitalization and Reinvestment committee, one element of which will be a competitive Neighborhood Grant Program (\$0.1M) of \$2,000 to \$3,000 each with the goal of stabilizing communities;
- Supervised visitation and supervised exchange program (\$0.1M) for cases of joint parental custody and foster care children;
- Support of global climate change strategy (\$0.1M) to support energy efficient or renewable energy projects.

The **Human Services** area of the budget addresses all programs that serve the needs of various populations, from low-income residents to the homeless to seniors.

- The County's population is aging in place. Since 1970, the median age has increased from 25.2 years to 37.6 years of age. From 2000 to 2020, the number of residents over the age of 65 is expected to grow by 80 percent, comprising 1 out of every 9 residents. The proposed budget includes \$66.56M for senior services, including \$0.925M for the Senior Plus Program.
- The state subsidy for the Child Care Assistance and Referral (CCAR) program has been cut by \$13M; the budgeted amount represents a 30% decrease (\$-10.36M) in funding affecting 2,025 children. The waiting list has now grown to more than 3,500 eligible children.
- The budget includes \$0.9M to address the long (16 day) waiting period for adults to receive a mental health evaluation and \$0.58M for an eight-bed Youth Crisis Care facility to youths aged 12-17 in crisis with mental health problems.

Capital Improvement Program – The advertised FY 2008-2012 Advertised Capital Improvement Program (CIP) provides for capital projects from all funding sources - bonds, General Fund, proffers, etc. The FCPS has a separate CIP for which the County pays the bonded indebtedness in addition to the transfer to FCPS for operations. The proposed total debt service is well within the parameters set by the County's financial principles, e.g., it represents 8.0% of General Fund disbursements (10% allowable maximum) and 0.09% of the market value of taxable property (3% allowable maximum). There will be a transportation bond referendum on the November 2007 ballot in the amount of \$125M.

Proposed Resolution

WHEREAS, residential real estate equalization assessments have

dropped dramatically this year to a 0.33% decrease, but the non-residential equalization assessments have maintained a healthy increase of 13.57%, which will help to balance County revenues; new growth shows a 1.68% increase, down from 2.94% in FY 2007;

WHEREAS, the advertised FY 2008 budget links its spending program to the Board of Supervisors' Priorities to carry out its vision elements - education, public safety and gang prevention, affordable housing, environmental protection, transportation improvements, and revenue diversification to reduce the burden on homeowners;

WHEREAS, the County is largely reliant on real estate tax revenue, especially residential property tax receipts, to provide funding of the County and schools programs. In FY 2008, 59.8% of General Fund receipts will come from real estate taxes whereas 49.8% came from this source in FY 2000. Including new growth, the real estate tax base will increase 4.15% in FY 2008, compared with a 22.7% increase in FY 2007.

WHEREAS, the federal and state governments mandate that Fairfax County and other local governments provide specific programs and services without providing sufficient funds for implementation. In FY 2007, these mandated programs cost the county \$1.268B, for which the county received only \$553M, a difference of \$715M. Including the FCPS mandated programs costing \$262M, the total impact represents about 50 cents on the real estate tax dollar.

WHEREAS, FCPS has requested a County transfer increase of \$78.4M (5.1%); the County budget guideline to FCPS for FY 2008 was a 3.5% increase; of the FCPS request, \$8M represents a commitment by the County to contribute to the teacher Initiatives for Excellence Program. Thus, the FCPS requested increase in the transfer is \$70.4M (4.61%), or \$17M over the County's guideline. Further,

- FCPS has savings and budget reductions from FY06 and FY07 enabling an increased carryover of \$9.8M to be applied to the FY08 budget, and FCPS has held department increases to FY07 costs.
 - The FCPS FY08 budget includes a 2% COLA plus step increases (an average of 2.2%) for those teachers and employees with less than 20 years of service; those FCPS teachers and employees with over 20 years in teaching, i.e., our most experienced teachers, are scheduled to receive only a 2% pay increase unless they are eligible for their every-three-years step increase.
 - The FCPS transfer request includes \$27.0M mandated by Federal or State governments and \$35.1M for market scale adjustments and health benefits.
 - The FCPS budget includes 21 program expansions in addition to those associated with Federal and State mandated increases and employee compensation; the FCPS budget proposes no new programs.
 - The other FCPS program expansions include adding full-day kindergarten to 21 schools (\$5.6M), an expansion of the foreign language immersion program (\$0.7M), and another 19 programs. Eliminating all of these other expansions except for membership adjustment for increases in special education and ESOL membership (\$1.3M), alternative school program to serve expelled students who previously attended a privately-funded program (\$1M), custodial supplies (\$.06M) and computer maintenance to cover expiring warranties (\$0.4), would mean a total County transfer increase of about \$60.6M not including the \$8M County
- (see **Draft Budget Resolution - continued on page 5**)

(Draft Budget Resolution - continued from page 4)

commitment for Initiatives in Excellence, nor the \$1.6M for a 3% salary increase for those FCPS teachers and employees with over 20 years' experience.

WHEREAS, except for the real estate tax, nearly 90% of County revenues are capped, limited or controlled by the state, costing the County millions in possible revenue to offset real property taxes because it does not have the same taxing authority as cities and towns;

WHEREAS, the County Executive has directed a 2% across-the-board personnel reduction; he also proposes 70 new positions, primarily associated with new facilities and public safety;

WHEREAS, the County Executive addressed the sharp increase in the cost of the Pay for Performance system in the early years of its implementation by establishing an average maximum increase of 4.5%, but these merit increases steadily grown in cost, representing \$12.0M in FY08 compared with \$10.8M in FY 2007 and \$9.8M in FY 2006.

WHEREAS, the Board of Supervisors directed that a comprehensive review of the current compensation system for general county employees be undertaken and completed prior to FY08 budget preparation; the central findings of the study were that current compensation and pay for performance is generally competitive but tend to favor new hires over current employees, resulting in needed revisions to the process, which should be reflected in the Board's budget decisions;

WHEREAS, the County Executive addresses a number of human services programs, among them:

- *Decreasing* the budget by \$10.36M for the Child Care Assistance and Referral (CCAR) Program because of a decrease of \$13M in the federal and state subsidy; the budgeted amount represents a 30% decrease in funding, affecting 2,025 children. The waiting list has now grown to more than 3,500 eligible children.
- setting aside \$0.2M in reserve pending Board approval to establish an Office to Prevent and End Homelessness;
- including a one-time increase of \$0.9M to address the 16-day waiting period between a request for adult mental health service and provision of an assessment;
- the County was designated one of 10 communities leading the nation with "great" ideas for serving its increasingly aging population, and the Board of Supervisors has appointed a Long-Term Care Coordinating Council of community leaders to assess and plan programs to serve seniors;
- funding of \$0.58M would fill a critical need by providing an eight-bed Youth Crisis Care facility for mental health intervention and services for youth aged 12-17 in crisis;
- including \$0.41M for the Hypothermia Response Program to provide the homeless with hypothermia emergency shelters during the cold winter months; there is also \$0.12M in the CSB budget for 2 positions to support this program;

WHEREAS, the County Executive has also released the Advertised Capital Improvement Program (CIP) for Fiscal Years 2008-2012, which proposes \$181.67M from the General Fund plus approximately \$1.95B in bond funds for capital projects. In addition, the County Executive:

- Proposes a revision to the "Ten Principles to Sound Financial Management" to authorize the use of *variable rate debt* "to increase the County's financial flexibility, provide opportunities for interest rate savings, and help the County manage its balance

sheet through better matching of assets and liabilities";

- Has established a Construction Inflation Reserve to reflect the true costs of capital projects in the CIP to be implemented in coming years; and
- Has an inter-departmental team provide guidance on security issues at proposed new County facilities and will apply the principles of Crime Prevention through Environmental Design in the design phase of all future County facilities.

WHEREAS, the advertised General Fund budget includes \$34.7M (an 11.8% increase) for County transit system funding and \$18.5M (a 7.0% increase) for Metro capital, operations and maintenance obligations;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Fairfax County Federation of Citizens Associations (the Federation) appreciates the County Executive submitting to the Board of Supervisors a fiscally responsible proposed budget regarding the tax rate, programs and/or initiatives.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Federation offers the following observations regarding the FY 2008 Advertised Budget Plan and the FY 2008-2012 Capital Improvement Program:

- a. County Vision and Board Priorities – We again commend the budget's focus on the Board's six priorities in carrying out the seven elements of the County Vision. Further, we support each of the priorities - education, public safety and gang prevention, affordable housing, environmental protection, transportation improvements, and revenue diversification to reduce the tax burden on homeowners.
- b. County Management – We also commend the County on having one of the lowest ratios of government employees per capita as well as one of the lowest crime rates of any jurisdiction of its size in the country while having the fewest safety officers per capita. This speaks well for County management and the quality of its work force.
- c. Bond Rating – We applaud the County for retaining its triple AAA bond rating for many years, thanks in large part to its wise policies in the "Ten Principles of Sound Financial Management." We hope the County retains this status for many years to come.
- d. Real Estate Tax Rate – We appreciate Fairfax County having one of the lowest real estate tax rates in the Northern Virginia region. Because the County provides programs and services mandated but not funded by the federal and state governments that cost County taxpayers about 30 cents on their real estate property tax dollar, we encourage the Board of Supervisors to continue urging our state and federal legislators to fully fund their mandates.
- e. Legislative Authority – It is essential that the General Assembly grant counties, specifically Fairfax with the Urban County Executive form of government, the same taxing authority as cities and towns, which would allow diversification of the County's revenue base. We will strongly support the County's efforts to obtain such enabling legislation.
- f. Revenue Additions – We recognize the need to increase the refuse collection fees to prevent a financial loss in providing this service. We also recognize the necessity of increasing the sewer service rate in order to ensure that the County's sewage treatment plants meet discharge standards set by EPA.

(see **Draft Budget Resolution - continued on page 6**)

*(Draft Budget Resolution - continued from page 5)*g. Programs

- (1) Stormwater Management Program – We strongly support continuation of dedicating one penny on the tax rate for the storm water management program because 70% of County streams are in only fair to poor condition. This problem must be attacked in several ways--by educating the public on how to be good environmental stewards, by enforcing the County's environmental ordinance requirements, and by convincing the development community that it is in everyone's best interests to protect natural resources to the extent possible during construction. We realize that much more than the one penny per year will be required to solve the significant, accumulated stormwater management problems that need to be addressed. This is an important countywide issue that we hope receives timely attention and will support enhancing the pace of resolving the current situation.
- (2) Affordable Housing – The ability of lower- and middle-income workers to afford housing in the County is becoming increasingly difficult with high housing costs. We strongly support the County's program to preserve existing affordable housing stock and to invest in programs that will provide such housing so that employees can live closer to their places of employment. We support continued dedication of one penny of the real estate tax rate for affordable housing.
- (3) Human Services – In light of all the proactive work being done to enhance the quality of life and address the needs of the homeless, those needing mental health services, and seniors who are aging in place in the County, the Federation supports the following proposed programs and expenditures:
 - \$66.56M for the seniors program, including \$0.915M for the Senior Plus Program, as well as establishment of a Long-Term Care Coordinating Council;
 - Setting aside \$0.2M in reserve pending results of the Strategic Plan to End Homelessness and establishment of an Office to Prevent and End Homelessness;
 - a one-time increase of \$0.9M to address the 16-day waiting time between a request for adult mental health service and provision of an assessment; and
 - funding of \$0.58M to fill critical need by providing an eight-bed Youth Crisis Care facility for mental health intervention and services for youth aged 12-17 in crisis.

We express our deep concern about the decrease of \$10.36M in the Child Care Assistance and Referral Program (CCAR) because of the \$13M reduction in state subsidy and encourage you to plead with the Governor for assistance for this program.

- h. Schools – The Federation could support the entire FCPS increased request of 4.6% in the County transfer, but we recognize that this is a tight budget year for the County. While we have not identified the amount of money involved in the several expansions of County programs, we have accepted that there is less flexibility than normal in the County budget.

- (1) The Federation has identified only those FCPS activities that are mandated, fair, or in our opinion essential to the functioning of our education program. This results in the elimination of all of the expenditure adjustments on page 27 of

the FCPS proposed budget, including the transportation study (\$0.3M), except for the compensation and benefits, membership adjustments, and transfer categories, and three (alternative school program, custodial services and computer maintenance) in the new resources category. The Federation therefore requests a County transfer of \$62.2M (about 4.1%) plus the \$8M previously committed by the County for the Schools' Initiatives for Excellence.

- (2) Further, the Federation has always supported full-day kindergarten and hopes that the BOS could identify an additional \$2.7M to fund full-day kindergarten at 10 additional schools.

i. Capital Improvement Program

- We commend the County for providing funding for some capital improvements, such as major maintenance, from the General Fund to supplement use of bond financing for major capital projects, which we understand the rating houses appreciate.
- We also commend the County Executive for establishing a Capital Inflation Reserve to present a more realistic picture of actual construction costs in future years. For future budgetary planning, we continue to recommend that each proposal for a new facility should include the projected annual costs of operation and maintenance.
- We agree with the County Executive's program to address security issues at new facilities by applying Crime Prevention through Environmental Design principles. In addition, we recommend the application of "green building" principles to conserve energy and mitigate stormwater runoff and its impacts.

- j. Citizen Participation – Once again, we encourage the Board of Supervisors to re-establish the Citizens Budget Advisory Committee to follow the budget process, look at long-range trends, and submit recommendations on important budget issues to the Board for their consideration.

- k. Value Analysis and Value Engineering – The Federation membership approved at its September 2005 meeting and sent to the Board a resolution encouraging the County to use the Value Analysis and Value Engineering process to assess its programs to determine how they might be accomplished more efficiently. As an example, we cited the savings realized by New York City, which has been following this approach in its programs. It is appropriate at annual budget preparation time that we reiterate our support for this efficiency approach to county programs to realize any cost savings possible while carrying out operations efficiently and effectively.

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that the Federation appreciates the challenges that you, the Board, face and the hard choices that you will be making because we understand the budget numbers represent the variety of services provided to all the citizens of Fairfax County.

Due to the cancellation of the February forum, the minutes of the January 18, 2007 membership meeting will be approved at the March 29, 2007 membership meeting. The minutes were published in the February *Bulletin*, available on our website: www.fairfaxfederation.org.

(Biographies - continued from page 2)

invaluable, Sally is best known for championing measures to preserve and improve our environment. She is an outstanding leader, innovator, and cheerleader on issues impacting the Potomac Watershed. Whether as an active member of both the Citizens Task Force on the Occoquan Basin or its successor, the New Millennium Occoquan Watershed Task Force, or in her many hours of detailed, respected, and varied testimonies on behalf of the environment before the Planning Commission, Board of Supervisors, and the Virginia General Assembly, she has served as a vocal and consistent advocate for the environment. Her leadership on the Potomac Watershed Roundtable has resulted in the group being the major functioning portion of a statewide effort to improve water quality. Always paramount in her mind and actions is her unwavering dedication to reducing pollution and protecting local, regional, and state waterways. Environmental preservation is a true passion for her, and her dedication to this passion is infectious. Fairfax County is cleaner, greener, and more caring because she has been an integral part of county life.

She is also the well-known unrelenting champion of the parks and recreation bond drives through her work with Park Partners, the Park Authority's leading advocacy group. Her leadership in this organization has resulted in the passage of each of the recent park bonds. Current and future residents will enjoy the parks and facilities funded by these bonds.

Sally is the epitome of citizen responsibility; her boundless energy and wellspring of solutions make her one of our county's most valuable citizens. Fairfax County is very fortunate to have benefited from her many contributions. This honor is extremely well deserved, and for her lifetime of outstanding dedicated commitment to Fairfax County, the Federation is proud to recognize Sally Ormsby as the 2006 Citizen of the Year.

2006 Citation of Merit Recipient**Lee A. Rau**

"Commitment to Community" appropriately describes Lee A. Rau. As a Reston resident since the 1960s, Lee has consistently devoted his talents to resolving issues confronting not only his community but Fairfax County, and in particular, the issues of affordable housing and revitalization. By volunteering his expertise to the time-consuming task of negotiating complex legal agreements, whether by stabilizing an organization's finances, collaborating with property owners, or assisting nonprofits in attaining goals, Lee has greatly contributed to making Fairfax County a better place to live.

In 2002, Lee was appointed as the Hunter Mill District Commissioner on the Fairfax County Redevelopment and Housing Authority and chairs its Planning and Development Committee. He has used his considerable talents of persistence and patience to guide the Committee in identifying available properties with potential to increase the stock of affordable housing. As Commissioner, Lee facilitated the formation of a limited partnership for the county to purchase the Cedar Ridge Apartments, a 195-unit complex in Reston, in 2006.

Lee also chairs the Fairfax County High Rise Affordability Panel, charged with developing policy and guidelines to resolve the issue of providing affordable and workforce housing within new high-rise residential developments. He has used his skills of diplomacy to bring very diverse interests together on this challenging issue.

A longtime supporter of the economic and social revitalization of the historic Lake Anne Village area in Reston, Lee participated in the creation of the Reston Community Reinvestment Corporation. He continues to serve on the Corporation as well as related task forces and committees, encouraging rehabilitation to revitalize the urban area as an economically sustainable mixed-use neighborhood and promote the stability of older neighborhoods.

Shortly after the creation of Reston Interfaith in 1970, Lee was appointed to represent the Church of the Good Shepherd, serving for over 20 years. Between 1991 and 1995, he served on the Reston Interfaith Board of Directors; he used his legal expertise to assist the organization in stabilizing its financial

procedures to continue providing essential social services in the community. In 1990, he helped create Reston Interfaith's Housing Corporation through which the organization finances the purchase of affordable units. A friend notes, "Lee cares deeply about the less fortunate and is thrilled to be able to use his talents on affordable housing and redevelopment issues. In fact, one of the reasons he was looking forward to retirement is being able to have more time to volunteer for causes in which he believes".

Lee is always willing to serve when called upon. He served as General Counsel to acquire the storefront space now occupied by the Greater Reston Arts Council in Reston Town Center, promoting and displaying the art of local residents.

Through his dedicated commitment and effective service, particularly on the issues of affordable housing and revitalization, Lee Rau has contributed greatly toward improving the quality of life, not only in the Reston community, but throughout Fairfax County. The Federation is honored to recognize Lee's volunteerism with a Citation of Merit Award.

Women in Media**Sunday, March 25, 2007 2 – 4 p.m.**Fairfax County Government Center Board Auditorium
12000 Government Center Parkway, Fairfax

The Fairfax County Commission and Office For Women invite residents to join a panel to discuss strides women have made in the media; review the history of women in media; discuss challenges women face in advancing in media; and discuss how the Internet is changing media and journalism.

The panelists will include George Mason Professors Dr. Janette Kenner Muir and Dr. Cindy Lont, who will be joined by Maureen Bunyan, ABC News 7 Anchor; Peggy Fox, USA 9 Reporter; and Colleen M. Hahn of the Equal Footing Foundation.

This event is sponsored in partnership with George Mason University; it is free to the public and refreshments will be provided. Prior registration is requested; to register, or for more information, please call 703-324-5730 (TTY: 703-324-5706), or visit the Office for Women website: www.fairfaxcounty.gov/ofw.

Meeting Cancellation Policy

If either Fairfax County Government or Schools are closed after 12:00 noon the day of a Federation membership meeting, or if it is announced that Fairfax County Government or Schools will be closed the day after a scheduled Federation membership meeting due to inclement weather or other emergency, the Federation will not hold that event. This does not pertain to regularly scheduled closures. Membership meetings may not be rescheduled. We will attempt to post the cancellation on www.fairfaxfederation.org or you can call (703) 266-6872 for more information.

Fairfax County Federation of Citizens Associations
4022 Hummer Road, Annandale VA 22003www.fairfaxfederation.org**2006-07 President:** John Jennison
Newsletter Editor: Carol Hawn

The Bulletin is the newsletter of the Fairfax County Federation of Citizens Associations. It is published monthly, with the exception of July and August. The purpose is to provide information to member communities, federal, state, and local officials, and other interested persons in Fairfax County. Articles reflect the view of their author and may be reprinted with the use of the following citation: *The Bulletin* of the Fairfax County Federation of Citizens Associations.

Please contact Carol Hawn at (703) 266-6872 or cahawn@att.net with name and address changes, comments, or suggestions.

What if . . .

the Washington Region grew differently?

**A public forum on alternative land-use
and transportation scenarios**

When: Thursday, March 22, 2007
Time: 8:00 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.
Where: Sunrise Valley Elementary School Cafeteria
10824 Cross School Road, Reston, 20191
(directions, below)



What if people lived closer to their jobs?
What if people lived and worked closer to transit?
What if new roads and transit were built?
How would travel conditions change?

On the evening of March 22, citizens will have a chance to talk about how different patterns of growth might affect driving, congestion, and transit use in the region. The meeting will be sponsored by the National Capital Region Transportation Planning Board (TPB) in partnership with the Fairfax County Federation of Citizens Associations. Fairfax County Supervisor Cathy Hudgins, Transportation Planning Board (TPB) Chairman, will help lead the discussion.

For more information about the program, please contact TPB staff member John Swanson at (202) 962-3295 or jswanson@mwkog.org.

Directions to Sunrise Valley Elementary School

Take I-495 (Capital Beltway) to the Dulles Toll Road
(Route 267 – Exit 45);

Go west toward Reston.
(Please note this portion of the road is a toll road.)

Take the Hunter Mill Road exit (Route 674 – Exit 14).
Turn left onto Hunter Mill Road.

Turn slight right onto Sunrise Valley Drive.

Turn left onto Cross School Road. The school is on the left at 10824 Cross School Road.



Fairfax County
FEDERATION
of Citizens Associations

4022 Hummer Road
Annandale, VA 22003

Upcoming Meetings

Thursday, March 22, 2007

8:00 p.m.

Sunrise Valley Elementary School
10824 Cross School Road, Reston

*Growth: What if . . . the Washington
Region grew differently?*



Thursday, March 29, 2007

7:30 p.m.

Packard Center Conference Room
4022 Hummer Road, Annandale

*The Fairfax County Advertised
Fiscal Year 2008 Budget*

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Directions to

Sunrise Valley Elementary School
10824 Cross School Road, Reston

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Turn slight right onto Sunrise Valley Drive.

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10824 Cross School Road.

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 on the left.

Keep right to the large parking lot.

Please use the left entrance into the
Packard Center Building.