

# The Fairfax County FEDERATION

of Citizens Associations *Established 1940*

June 2008

## THE BULLETIN

Volume 57, Number 10

### Federation Membership Picnic



**Thursday, June 19, 2008**

**7:00 p.m.**

*(please note the earlier start time)*

#### **Annandale Community Park**

(the park adjacent to the Packard Center  
see page six for directions to the parking lot)

**4022 Hummer Road, Annandale**

***The Federation will provide food and drinks.***

***If you plan to attend, please rsvp to  
Jeffrey Parnes at 703-424-2956 or  
FedPres2007@fairfaxfederation.org.***

In case of inclement weather, the picnic will be in  
the Packard Center Main Conference Room.

#### ***Guest Speaker:***

***The Honorable Gerry Connolly***

***Chairman, Fairfax County Board of Supervisors***

***Topic: "The State of the County"***



### Membership Reminder

**Please note the Federation membership  
does *not* meet in July and August.**

The next membership meeting will be

**Thursday, September 18, 2008.**

**7:30 p.m.**

***Enjoy a safe and peaceful summer!***



### Federation Board Meetings

Packard Center Main Conference Room 7:30 p.m.

**July 26**

**August 23**



### ***President's Message***

Well, my first year as Federation president is almost completed. It has been an honor to serve in that capacity, and a pat on the back to know that the membership was willing to elect me to another term. More importantly, it has been a year of service by the overall Federation Board.

We went into this year with both Vice President positions vacant, but two long-serving Board members stepped up to the task and filled the vacancies. Charlie Dane, our Education committee chair (who's still serving in that capacity) became our First Vice President in charge of Membership, and in a year's time increased the Federation membership by just about 50%, a task that is reflected in the membership that turns out at our monthly meetings, and new folks who have stepped in to fill other board vacancies. Esther Ferington, initially elected as Recording Secretary, accepted the position as Second Vice President, shepherding our various representatives to multiple county, state, federal, and non-governmental bodies. She's ensured that nary a vacant position exists, and still serves as Recording Secretary at our membership meetings.

We have filled our vacant Land Use Committee chair position with Jim Colby, who has taken an active role, and works in conjunction with our Environment Committee Chair, Flint Webb, to ensure the Federation takes positions sensitive to both land use and environmental considerations. We have a candidate for the vacant Public Safety Committee Chair now that Merrily Pierce has stepped down, and are looking for a replacement for Tania Hossain who had to step down as Human Services Chair. Look at our Contact Us page on our website [www.fairfaxfederation.org/contactus1.htm](http://www.fairfaxfederation.org/contactus1.htm) to see the full list of volunteers who make the Federation what it is.

This month, we celebrate the Federation successes at our annual picnic. I hope you will be able to join us at the festivities (be sure to RSVP on our website home page, so we'll have a proper count to bring enough for all to enjoy). Our featured speaker will be former Federation President and current Chairman of the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors, Gerald Connolly.

At our picnic, remember that our organization is only as good as the people who volunteer to make it possible. If you'd like to step up, there are positions that are vacant and others over the course of the year that will become open. Your efforts would make our success possible. We thank you. In addition, the last person I want to thank who makes it possible for you to be reading me – our Bulletin Editor and past President Carol Hawn. Without her continuing effort, this means of communication would not be possible. Thanks to all who made this year a success, and see you at the picnic!

Enjoy,

*Jeffrey Parnes, President*  
[FedPres2007@FairfaxFederation.org](mailto:FedPres2007@FairfaxFederation.org)  
703-424-2956

**Fairfax County Federation of Citizens Associations  
Membership Meeting of May 15, 2008**

**DRAFT MINUTES**

*(for approval at the June 19, 2008 membership picnic)*

The meeting of FCFA was held at the Packard Center at 7:30 p.m. (Attendance list is attached to file copy.) President Jeff Parnes introduced State Senators Richard Saslaw and Chap Petersen and Delegate Tom Rust as part of the evening's program, "Report from Richmond," on this year's General Assembly session. Senator Ken Cuccinelli later joined the meeting in progress and was introduced at that time.

**Program**

Senator Richard Saslaw began by reviewing the General Assembly's actions on mental health issues following the Virginia Tech tragedy of 2007. The assembly took action to ensure that people who are committed on an outpatient basis or institutionalized will be recorded in the database of those not permitted to buy firearms. It also changed the rules regarding the handoff of records related to mental health from high schools to colleges, upon request by colleges. In other action in the session, a number of immigration-related bills were submitted, but most did not pass.

Senator Saslaw noted that a week before the end of the session, the transportation funding package agreed to last year was abruptly impacted by a Virginia Supreme Court decision that the North Virginia Transportation Authority and the parallel Hampton Roads authority could not constitutionally impose fees or taxes. Delegates Tom Rust and John Cosgrove organized a conference of legislators in the affected regions to discuss next steps, and there are many more phone calls and meetings to come. Complicating the situation, projections for revenue are down and the overall budget situation is tough. He thinks that the two houses can get something done on transportation, but does not believe there can be regional plans without a statewide plan as well. Road maintenance, which comes first in the VDOT budget, is eating up funds that could have been spent for construction; ultimately, a statewide solution is needed. Several local projects (Braddock Road between Kings Park and Wakefield Chapel Road, Route 50 near Arlington, etc.) cannot be undertaken until July 1 at the earliest because there is no money left.

Delegate Tom Rust spoke next. He noted that the mental health issue, in the wake of Virginia Tech, was a bipartisan effort that made many improvements in the system. This also helped address some of the issues with the 2006 police shooting at the Sully police station. He also noted the General Assembly had acted on higher education and public infrastructure revenue bonds as part of a package of other capital facilities, creating something like a six-year rolling plan that will allow better planning. He also mentioned that payday lending was hotly debated this session and a compromise bill resulted. He also discussed the limited action on immigration issues.

In other topics, Delegate Rust mentioned the federal letter rejecting funding for rail to Dulles, which has now been reversed and issues related to overcrowding and sprawl in western Fairfax and Loudoun Counties. He also was responsible for the final bill that completed the deal bringing the headquarters of Volkswagen of America to Fairfax County. He further described the recent transportation conference of some 30 legislators from Hampton Roads and Northern Virginia, which was bipartisan and included both Senators and Delegates. The conference agreed there is a

need for regional components for Northern Virginia and Hampton Roads side by side with a statewide component, rather than seeking only regional solutions.

Senator Chap Petersen also discussed the transportation funding distribution formula for road maintenance, which does not favor Northern Virginia; the formula for construction is more favorable. He also noted the progress with mental health provisions and with the bond bill for higher education. He noted he had worked for and helped pass a bill on tree preservation which allows localities to pass ordinances on this topic, in coordination with Delegate David Bulova and Senator Patsy Ticer. He also put forward a Student Bill of Rights related to student loan reform. He introduced a renewable energy bill, which did not pass, but the fact the topic was debated was a step forward. The major unfinished business is reaching a compromise on transportation funding.

Senator Ken Cuccinelli went into more detail on the mental health reforms. He said that changes this year represent greater strides forward than any in the last 25 to 30 years. Still, the mental-health system remains seriously in need of further change and he sees this as a multiyear project. Involuntary commitments are normally the last step for families. One-sixth of local jail inmates are mentally ill, and jails are becoming the de facto mental health facility of last resort. These inmates are good candidates for rehabilitation if the system can be fixed. He also clarified that the laws just passed will allow colleges and universities in Virginia to request and receive mental health records for specific students from both public and private high schools in Virginia, and further, that high schools in Virginia can also respond to specific requests for records from colleges and universities outside of Virginia. These are waivers by the state that are permitted under HIPAA. High schools cannot, however, volunteer this information to institutions of higher learning, as colleges told the legislature this could overwhelm them.

The legislators answered questions on a bill, which did not pass,

*(see DRAFT MINUTES - continued on page 3)*

**Fairfax County Federation of Citizens Associations**

4022 Hummer Road, Annandale VA 22003

[www.fairfaxfederation.org](http://www.fairfaxfederation.org)

**2007-2008 President:** Jeffrey M. Parnes

**Newsletter Editor:** Carol A. Hawn

*The Bulletin* is the newsletter of the Fairfax County Federation of Citizens Associations. It is usually 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@verizon.net](mailto:cahawn@verizon.net) with newsletter name and address changes, comments, or suggestions.

**Federation 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 will not be rescheduled, although speakers may be asked to attend an upcoming meeting. We will make every attempt to post the cancellation on [www.fairfaxfederation.org](http://www.fairfaxfederation.org) or you can call 703-266-6872 for more information.

**(DRAFT MINUTES - continued from page 2)**

to do away with the existing proffer system by developers, on the governor's climate change commission, on allocation of transportation funds, on BRAC's impact on transportation and infrastructure, on HOT lanes (including construction impacts, effects on energy use, and variable tolls), on equal county-city-town taxing authority, on Virginia's 2-year time window on HIPAA waivers (which must then be renewed, unlike in some other states), and on the status of the township referendum for Reston.

**Business Meeting**

a. The minutes for the April 17 membership meeting were unanimously approved.

b. Treasurer Scott Schlegel presented the Treasurer's Report, which was received. The meeting unanimously approved a motion to reimburse the purchase of an updated version of Quicken, the current one having expired. It was also noted that the website renewal will be paid next month.

c. Art Wells reported on behalf of the Nominating Committee that the current officers have agreed to stand again for election. The committee has proposed a slate, therefore, of Jeffrey Parnes, President; Charles Dane, First Vice President; Esther Ferington, Second Vice President; Recording Secretary and Corresponding Secretary, currently vacant. This list of nominees was published in the Federation newsletter, *the Bulletin*. Following Art Wells's report, nominations were requested from the floor. Hearing none, the proposed slate was approved by acclamation.

d. Art Wells reported that BRAC-related construction has begun in Bethesda and footings have been poured at Fort Belvoir for the new hospital.

e. Carol Hawn, Bulletin editor, noted that materials for the next issue are needed within a few days after Memorial Day.

f. Charles Dane, chair of the Education Committee, reported on recent testimony on the school budget. He also reported that the committee had received an informative presentation and held a lively discussion on steps being taken by Fairfax County Public Schools to close the minority academic achievement gap.

g. Flint Webb, chair of the Environment Committee, summarized the report published with the meeting agenda regarding the process of ordinance removal at the Engineering Proving Grounds in advance of final road construction. He also explained that the criteria defining a Code Red versus Code Orange air quality day have changed, so there are expected to be more Code Red days this summer. In other news, he reported that the EPA has determined that the Washington area has attained the 1-hour ozone standard, an important milestone.

h. Jim Colby, chair of the Land Use Committee, provided an update on the continuing issue of zoning ordinance amendments (ZOAs). A waiver for a Dranesville application is pending and may set a precedent; the McLean Citizens Association (MCA) is following the matter closely. Jim Colby sent a letter retransmitting the Federation's December 2006 resolution urging "clear and consistent standards."

i. Charles Dane, who as First Vice President is Chair of the Membership Committee, reported there are now 48 paid members, with two more expected; five of the total of 50 will also be credited for next year. This meets the goals for membership for this year. He will meet with Esther Ferington

to discuss goals for next year's membership increase.

j. Bob Jordan of the MCA noted that he and the MCA greatly appreciated Charles Dane's recent presentation to the MCA about the Federation and advantages of membership.

k. President Jeff Parnes noted that next month's meeting will be an outdoor picnic at the Annandale Community Park - Hidden Oaks park pavilion near the Packard Center (enter as usual and follow the first road to the left; follow the signs and park in the lot near the pavilion). He noted that the Board would discuss arrangements for food at the picnic at its meeting May 22.

l. Art Wells reported for the Braddock District Council on the recent dedication ceremony for the memorial to Mary Read, who died in the Virginia Tech tragedy. The memorial is on park land near the corner of Wakefield Chapel Road and Braddock Road. The ceremony included performances by the Annandale High School Band. He also reported the council is coordinating efforts by local associations to raise money for beautification efforts on sections of Braddock Road. VDOT has announced the median will only be mowed by state crews three times this year, but the mowing by Sheriff-supervised inmates will continue this year. July 8 will be the annual Braddock picnic, and the next Braddock-GMU Forum will be July 9.

m. Jim Davis reported for the Mount Vernon Council on several topics, including the Corps of Engineers proposed plan for a berm and stone flood wall at Belle Haven and an unusual public hearing before the Planning Commission over the Leatherland property, in which there were a number of abstentions and the Planning Commissioner for the affected area voted against the proposal. The proposal was recommended for approval and will now go to the Board of Supervisors for consideration.

n. Jeff Parnes reported for the Sully District Council that the next meeting would feature eight state legislators for a report from Richmond.

**Next Membership Meeting:** June 19, with a special start time of 7:00 p.m., outdoor picnic. Gerry Connolly, Chairman of the Board of Supervisors, will speak on the State of the County.

**Next Board Meeting:** May 22.

Meeting adjourned at 10:00 p.m.

**Seeking Input on Bond Release Brochure for HOAs**

Fairfax County land development officials are currently drafting a brochure to help increase citizen understanding of the complex details surrounding the bonds that the county collects from developers to ensure they fulfill their obligations as stated in the building plans of residential developments. The county releases the bond back to the developer once a community's "public infrastructure" is in full compliance with the plan. The brochure will explain the procedures followed and the role HOA Boards can play on behalf of their newly-built communities. The Huntington Grove II HOA Board in Lee District gained first-hand knowledge of this process through its recently completed bond-release process, which lasted six years. The Huntington Grove II Board requested the county prepare a brochure to help de-mystify the process; a draft is expected in June. Board member Don Hinman will distribute the draft to interested HOA representatives, as well as coordinate the preparation of a Federation response to the draft. Please contact Don if you are interested in reviewing the draft at 703-765-5939 or at [donald.hinman@usda.gov](mailto:donald.hinman@usda.gov).

## **Federation Committees End-of-Year Reports**

### **Education Committee**

This was a busy year for our committee. Two members and a third Federation representative participated on the School Board's Transportation Task Force (TTF). The TTF was charged with providing community opinion on various school transportation parameters and assessing the acceptability of changing school start times so high school students could begin school later in the morning - a change consistent with their changed physiology. The TTF began in September, met almost weekly, reviewed pages upon pages of documents, met with school transportation officials, and delivered their report in March. The report and documents are available on the Fairfax County Public School's (FCPS) website.

During the fall, the committee provided input into the Federation's Legislative program, which also involved reviewing FCPS's legislative agenda as well as discussing our draft position with FCPS staff. We sought information on FCPS policy and procedures for review of residency requirements. Two members joined the committee, bringing our total membership to seven.

With the downturn in residential property assessments and accompanying reduction in County revenues, this became a difficult budget year for both the County and FCPS, and many hard decisions had to be made. Although the Federation's January meeting with the FCPS Superintendent was cancelled due to weather, the Committee provided its position on the Superintendent's proposed budget in testimony in early February. That testimony is posted on the Federation website under the Education Committee.

The Committee also contributed to the Federation's position on education in the testimony on the County's budget. After the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors committed transfer monies to FCPS in a very reasonable amount given that the budget situation worsened after the BOS had advertised a 3-cent tax rate increase, the Education Committee developed the Federation's Board position on the FCPS advertised budget. While the Federation has, whenever reasonable, supported all-day kindergarten, the Federation Board strongly opposed adding all-day kindergarten and the foreign language in elementary schools (FLES) to any additional schools. This position was consistent with the membership's position opposing any new programs in its testimony on the County budget. Adding programs that create a commitment to fund, when the budget situation may be even tighter, did not seem fiscally prudent. However, the School Board has decided to add all-day kindergarten to five schools and the FLES program to four schools. The most difficult budget recommendation the Committee wrestled with was the trade-off between a slightly higher class size and a higher cost-of-living increase for the teachers. The Federation Board favored the higher 2.5% COLA, believing that hiring

and retaining quality teachers was more important. However, the School Board elected for the second year in a row to restrict the teacher and staff COLA to 2%.

The Committee closed its formal meeting year beginning an effort to understand what strategies the FCPS has and may undertake to close the Minority Academic Achievement gap, and we will continue this review over the summer. Our members continued to be active on two of the School Board's Advisory Committees, and next year plans to focus on the Gifted and Talented Program.

*- Charles Dane, Chair*

*Federation Education Committee*

*FedEducationChr2007@fairfaxfederation.org*

### **Environment Committee**

At the beginning of the year, the Washington Area was putting the final touches on the Fine Particulate Matter State Implementation Plan (SIP) – the plan for meeting the National Ambient Air Quality Standard (NAAQS) for particulate matter less than 2.5 microns in aerodynamic diameter. There was a controversy about how emissions from the Mirant Potomac River Generating Station would be treated. The Federation testified that among other concerns, the emissions from the Mirant plant needed to be evaluated to be sure that they were not causing the air quality of downtown Alexandria from exceeding the NAAQS. This effort led to Ana Prados, one of our Committee Members being appointed to the Fine Particulate Matter (PM<sub>2.5</sub>) Workgroup. The working group is developing standards for how the impacts from emissions from new sources of fine particulate matter and precursors will be evaluated to ensure that new sources will not cause local air quality to exceed the PM<sub>2.5</sub> NAAQS. While the Federation's interest in the issue concerns the impacts from the Mirant plant, the policies and procedures developed by the working group will be applied throughout the Commonwealth.

Despite the strong criticism of the PM<sub>2.5</sub> SIP, I was reappointed to another one-year term as the Federation's representative on the Metropolitan Washington Air Quality Committee (MWAQC) Technical Advisory Committee (TAC). There are no SIPs to work on this year, but the EPA has proposed revisions to both the ozone (O<sub>3</sub>) and PM<sub>2.5</sub> NAAQS for which Fairfax County will probably be designated non-attainment and the TAC will start working on the SIPs for the new standards. The Washington Metropolitan Area Council of Governments Transportation Planning Board will be revising their travel demand models this year to account for employment changes caused by the Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) involving Ft. Belvoir and other employment centers in the region. BRAC will have profound effects on Fairfax County. The TAC will also be reviewing efforts to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions in the area.

*(see Environment Committee - continued on page 5)*

(*Environment Committee - continued from page 4*)

Speaking of climate change, the Committee drafted, and the Federation passed, a resolution to encourage green building practices in Fairfax County. Climate change is likely to be a recurring theme this year both on a national and local level, giving concrete meaning to the old adage "think globally, act locally".

The Committee has also been working on other issues. There were three new environmental positions in the Legislative Program: 1) calling for collection and recycling of compact fluorescent lamps, 2) calling for research and mitigation of the effects of endocrine disrupters in the water supply system, and 3) calling for legislation that will encourage energy conservation and development of renewable energy sources. We reiterated and revised a position calling for the relocation of the Pickett Road Tank farm to a more appropriate location that will minimize the possible impacts to residential neighborhoods. We can also claim a limited success this year with legislation passing a tree preservation provision – a legislative position that the Federation has been requesting since 2003.

Committee member John Sunda completed the Virginia Master Naturalist Program, a statewide corps of volunteers providing education, outreach, and service dedicated to the beneficial management of natural resources and natural areas within their communities. The process for becoming a certified Virginia Master Naturalist typically takes 6 to 12 months, starting with completion of a 40-hour basic training course offered by the local chapter. An additional 8 hours of advanced training are also required. An important part of the certification process is the required 40 hours of volunteer service. For years, John has actively monitored the stream quality of a section of Bull Run, and now, in addition to being a valuable resource on water quality issues, John has also received comprehensive training about the flora and fauna of our County.

Several Committee members have helped with the annual Alice Ferguson foundation stream cleanup. Besides coordinating stream cleanup along the Accotink Creek, Duane Murphy has been working to preserve trout habitat.

The committee is currently working on a resolution to require that vegetative buffers "run with the land" in another joint effort with the Federation Land Use Committee.

Committee members represent the Fairfax Federation on the following boards, commissions and committees: Flint Webb, Metropolitan Washington Air Quality Committee, Technical Advisory Committee and Jim Davis, Engineering Standards Review Committee.

- *Flint Webb, P.E.*

*Environment Committee Chair*

*FedEnvironmentChr2007@fairfaxfederation.org*

### **2007 - 08 Membership Report**

An effort to re-enlist former association members and solicit new members garnered a 50 percent increase in individual Civic and Homeowner Association members, with seven new member associations. Six of the seven District Council representatives were active on the Federation's Executive Board, and Federation presentations were made to the Braddock and Providence District Councils and to the McLean Citizens Association. We look forward to continuing this progress in the coming year.

#### **Fairfax County Launches Neighborhood Enhancement Partnership Program**

Fairfax County announces a funding opportunity for selected projects through the Neighborhood Enhancement Partnership Program. The program aims to enhance the quality of life in neighborhoods by supporting projects and initiatives that assist in the ongoing effort to encourage increased resident participation in civic engagement and neighborhood beautification efforts.

The goals are to:

- Promote healthier, safer and cleaner neighborhoods.
- Enhance neighborhood appearance.
- Encourage or create a culture of engagement, including facilitating communication and connections in neighborhoods between individuals, youth and families.
- Build or nurture community leadership within a neighborhood.

A total of \$100,000 is available in Fiscal Year (FY) 2009. Awards up to \$5,000 will be made on a one-time basis to selected projects. Eligible organizations may submit proposals for multiple projects.

Organizations eligible to receive the award include:

- Neighborhood or civic associations such as community service clubs or homeowners associations that formally serve a neighborhood or neighborhoods.
- Nonprofit or faith-based organizations that have an active partnership with a neighborhood/civic association.
- Organizations located within the unincorporated portions of Fairfax County. The incorporated towns of Vienna, Herndon and Clifton also are eligible.

Applications are available at Board of Supervisors' district offices or can be downloaded from the county website: [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/admin/cm/solicitations.htm](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/admin/cm/solicitations.htm). Applications must be submitted for the first half of FY 2009 no later than 2 p.m. on July 2, 2008, and Nov. 26, 2008, for the second half.

For additional information about the Neighborhood Enhancement Partnership Program, contact Sara Brinkmoeller at 703-324-5551, or visit [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/admin/cm/solicitations.htm](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/admin/cm/solicitations.htm).

Fairfax County  
**FEDERATION**  
of Citizens Associations

4022 Hummer Road  
Annandale, VA 22003

**Membership Picnic**

Thursday,  
June 19, 2008

7:00 p.m.

**Annandale Community Park**

4022 Hummer Road, Annandale  
(see directions, below)

**Guest Speaker:**

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

**Topic:** 'The State of the County'

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**Directions to the**

**Annandale Community Park and the Packard Center**

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.

Take the second left (after the maintenance facility); park in the large lower lot.

The pavilion is on the right side of the parking lot. **Signs will be posted.**

***www.fairfaxfederation.org***