

The Fairfax County FEDERATION

of Citizens Associations *Established 1940*

May 2009

THE BULLETIN

Volume 58, Number 8

General Membership Meeting



Thursday, May 21, 2009

7:30 p.m.

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

Topic: 'Report from Richmond'

Guest Speakers:

State Senator George L. Barker (39th District)

Delegate David L. Bulova (37th District)

Delegate Mark D. Sickles (43rd District)

Election of Federation Officers for 2009 - 2010



Upcoming Membership Meetings

June 18, 2009 7:00 p.m.

(Please note the change in time.)

Federation Picnic and "State of the County"

Guest Speaker: The Honorable Sharon Bulova
Chairman, Fairfax County Board of Supervisors



Federation Board Meetings

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

May 28

June 25



Request for 2009 Legislative Program Ideas

Each year, the Federation publishes an extensive legislative program covering issues of interest to our members. The program is shared with the Board of Supervisors and General Assembly delegation.

Last year, under the leadership of Charles Dane, the Federation submitted its first program in decades in which Sally Ormsby was not involved. We discovered it is quite a time-consuming process; this year, our Legislative Committee will be working on it throughout the summer so that our membership can adopt the program earlier in the fall. Therefore, we are requesting suggestions for inclusion in the 2009 Legislative Program.

The program includes priorities and positions, as well as a

President's Message

This spring, the Federation is proud to present a full slate of candidates for office for the first time in almost five years. We have a returning Treasurer of proven competence, a Corresponding Secretary (for the first time in many years) who has served most recently as Second Vice President as well as Recording Secretary, two volunteers to serve as Recording Secretary (with over 22 meetings a year, it really is a job for two folks), a Second Vice President who has been active in his local district council activities and a First Vice President who has served as a Federation Committee Chair and is also a Federation Representative to a county committee. I've been convinced to return and run again as president and am glad to be considered.

Our May meeting features our election of officers after the annual 'Report from Richmond'. We have invited six members of the Virginia General Assembly who attended our March 2009 Citizen of the Year Banquet: Delegates David Albo, Kristen Amundson, David Bulova and Mark Sickles, and Senators George Barker and Toddy Puller. We have confirmation from some of them and are hoping the others will be able to join us.

Save the date and join us for the festivities of our annual picnic on Thursday, June 18th. We expect the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors' Chairman Sharon Bulova to continue the tradition of helping us install our newly elected officers and then provide her 'State of Fairfax' report. Remember, we will start the picnic at 7:00 p.m. instead of our normal 7:30 p.m. time (our permit restricts us to no later than the end of daylight, and as we'll be there just about mid-summer's night eve we'll want to have as much daylight as possible).

Plan to attend our last formal meeting of the Federation year on May 21st, and at our picnic in June. See you there!

Enjoy,

Jeffrey Parnes, President

FedPres2008@FairfaxFederation.org

703-424-2956

number of recommendations for our General Assembly delegation to consider during the upcoming 2010 session. To view last year's legislative program, visit www.fairfaxfederation.org/resolutions/. To submit ideas, or if you have any questions or would like more information, or would like to serve on the Legislative Committee, please contact Jeff Parnes at fedpres2008@fairfaxfederation.org or 703-424-2956.

**Fairfax County Federation of Citizens Associations
Membership Meeting of April 16, 2009**

DRAFT MINUTES

(for approval at the May 21, 2009 membership meeting)

The April 16 membership meeting of FCFCA was held at the Packard Center at 7:30 p.m. (Attendance list is attached to file copy.) President Jeff Parnes introduced the Federation's Second Vice President, Esther Ferington, who then introduced the evening's three speakers, all of whom are Federation representatives to other organizations, and Education Chair Charles Dane, who provided an update on school transportation issues. She also distributed a list of Federation representatives.

Program

The first speaker was Jim Davis, the Federation representative to the Engineering Standards Review Committee (ESRC). The ESRC reviews proposed changes to the county's Public Facilities Manual; changes are submitted to the county staff, which presents them to the committee. The committee members include representatives of builders, heavy construction operators, surveyors, and citizens at large from a variety of organizations, including the Federation and the League of Women Voters.

Jim Davis explained that while the zoning ordinance is "what you can do," the Public Facilities Manual describes "how you can do it." He provided the manual's table of contents as an overview of the topics covered. The entire Public Facilities Manual is now available online on the county web site in the Land Use and Development section. The manual addresses, for example, sidewalks, streets, and geotechnical aspects. One example of a proposed modification of interest to the Federation was the classification of "perennial streams," since the classification of a stream affects the permitted land use near it.

He used life-size rectangular wooden forms to illustrate a recent issue about the permitted maximum dimensions of a "water drop." A water drop is the low rectangular opening beside a road that allows water to run off into the storm drain. If the dimensions are too large from top to bottom, a small child can get inside, but if the dimensions are too small, the drop may clog.

He noted that the Public Facilities Manual has already changed a great deal and will continue to change, due to environmental concerns. By its nature, all development causes some damage; the issue is how to set limits to that damage. In our area, stormwater runoff, non-point-source pollution, and siltation are contributing to dead zones in the Chesapeake Bay.

The second speaker was Jeff Nolan, the Federation representative to the School Board Advisory Committee on Students with Disabilities. He noted that a committee on the needs of students with disabilities is required by state

law. The committee conducts an annual conference (except for last year); the conference this year will be held at Marshall High School. The committee also provides an annual report to the Fairfax County School Board. This year, the Fairfax City School Board has requested a briefing on the report, which the committee is providing with the permission of the Fairfax County School Board.

About 17 percent of the Fairfax County school population, or one in six students, are considered special education students. There has been a steady increase in costs associated with special-education students, but this has kept pace with the increase in costs associated with all students. The committee is concerned about an initiative by the school system to respond more quickly, informally, and cheaply to requests for special-needs intervention for a specific student. The committee wants to be sure this new approach is effective. On the other hand, the committee is happy to see that the approach includes a close working relationship with the school staff and a strong collaboration with instruction services.

In response to a question, Jeff Nolan said that the federal stimulus has allowed a "net zero" in the special education budget, avoiding previously expected cuts, but is not a permanent source of added funding beyond the two-year period covered by the stimulus.

The third speaker was Mark Tipton, the Federation representative to the Trails and Sidewalks Committee. The committee has 17 members, including one from each magisterial district of the county and representatives from the Federation, the Fairfax County Park Authority, the Northern Virginia Regional Park authority, the Fairfax Area Disability Services Board, the Northern Virginia Builders

(see DRAFT MINUTES - continued on page 3)

Fairfax County Federation of Citizens Associations

4022 Hummer Road, Annandale VA 22003

www.fairfaxfederation.org

2008-2009 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 with 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 event, or if it is announced that Fairfax County Government or Schools will be closed the day after a scheduled Federation membership meeting or event 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 or you can call 703-266-6872 for more information.

(DRAFT MINUTES - continued from page 2)

Association, the Washington Area Bicycle Association, and the Clifton Horse Society. It promotes and provides input for the development of the county's trail and sidewalk system.

Funding for pedestrian needs has come primarily from transportation bonds and from federal grants and VDOT. Developers sometimes build sidewalks themselves, but often provide the money for sidewalks as monetary proffers. They may also request sidewalk waivers. Trails (as opposed to sidewalks) are covered by the Park Authority and funded primarily by park bonds, although some trail funding comes from transportation bonds and VDOT; almost no funding for trails is from developer proffers. There are 300 miles of trails in Fairfax County parks and about 20 miles of bike lanes, which are fairly new to the county. In answer to a question, he said that that there will probably be no funding from the transportation portion of the stimulus for trails and sidewalks; that funding is more likely to go to large road projects because of the paperwork and other requirements involved for funding each project. There are currently 350 escrow accounts holding developers' proffers; the accounts do not grow with interest and total about \$2.4 million. In many cases they are being held pending the remaining required steps, such as a road widening, before sidewalk construction. However, as costs rise, often the funding is not enough for the planned sidewalk.

Recently, the committee has helped county staff who are assembling a list of missing sidewalk connections (gaps). As a member of the committee, Mark Tipton solicited members of the Federation to let him know about such gaps and he has submitted four requests based on this input. Another recent issue was a request last year by the Potomac Heritage Trail Association to Fort Belvoir for trails along Route One and in the Accotinck Wildlife Refuge, both within the base. Then-Chairman Gerry Connolly supported both proposals. The base commander is willing to discuss the Route One trail, although he will not provide Army funds for it. He declined to allow the trail in the Accotinck Wildlife Refuge. A third issue came up due to a short stretch of sidewalk in Supervisor Gross's district that was unusually expensive (due to the need for a retaining wall); she has asked the committee to look into ways to reduce the cost of sidewalk construction. Mark Tipton noted that the Park Authority has proposed a \$4 fee to enter certain parks, which will discourage trail usage. The four parks in question have some of the largest trail networks in the county. However, the committee had not yet had a chance to discuss the fee.

He answered several questions on topics that included specific sidewalks and roads in need of sidewalks, particularly in the Mount Vernon district, where there continue to be persistent pedestrian safety issues, including a recent fatality; volunteer opportunities for clearing trails (those interested can contact a variety of groups including Fairfax Trails and Streams and MORE, a

mountain biking group); and funding for trail and sidewalk maintenance, which is minimal, as opposed to construction.

Charles Dane, Education Chair, provided an update on a topic addressed at last year's membership meeting featuring Federation representatives—the School Transportation Task Force. The task force, which concluded work last year, included three representatives from the Federation; two supported the majority recommendation and one signed the minority report. All three recommended greater input from the community and additional groups. When this was done through extensive community dialogue, 75 percent opposed the bell schedule change, which was dropped.

The School Board then considered looking at the task force's re-engineering proposals as an opportunity for savings; this was defeated on a 6-6 vote. It seems clear that a much more robust computer program would be required to adjust the bus schedules, which are currently still done by hand by staff members. Jeff Nolan, a member of the Federation's Education Committee, arranged meetings with some of his colleagues at BEA with representatives from the school system to look at what would be required to provide an adequate computer system to schedule the buses. This would require development of a series of modules, an expense that would have to be included if the motion for re-engineering had passed.

Esther Ferington thanked each of the speakers and thanked all of those who volunteer as Federation representatives for their time and effort.

Business Meeting

a. President Jeff Parnes noted that a proposed slate of officers should be presented at the April meeting but is not yet complete. The slate will be published in the next newsletter. Election of officers is at the May meeting. He asked for additional nominations from the floor but received none. He encouraged those present to submit their own or others' names to the Nominating Chair, immediate Past President John Jennison, if they are interested in serving.

b. President Jeff Parnes then reviewed the upcoming membership meetings. The May 21 meeting will be the annual "Report from Richmond." He has invited the six local state legislators who attended the Federation's Citizen of the Year (COY) banquet. The June meeting will be a picnic and the guest speaker will be Chairman of the Board of Supervisors Sharon Bulova.

c. President Jeff Parnes thanked Carol Hawn for her efforts as the Newsletter Editor for the Bulletin, which included the March 19 membership minutes provided by Esther Ferington. Charles Dane provided some additional comments on the March 19 minutes, which

(see DRAFT MINUTES - continued on page 4)

(DRAFT MINUTES - continued from page 3)

were accepted as friendly amendments. The minutes, as amended, were moved, seconds, and unanimously approved.

d. Flint Webb, the Environment Chair, reported that the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) of the Metropolitan Washington Air Quality Committee (MWAQC) met on April 14 and he is looking forward to a report from Ana Prados, who is now the Federation representative to the TAC. He thanked Kosmo Tatalias for an article on polyaromatic hydrocarbons from sealants used in asphalt, which is an issue for runoff.

e. Fred Costello, the Land Use Chair, is looking into the question of the cost of completing the backlog of stormwater management capital projects. President Jeff Parnes reported that he and Fred Costello had attended the Smart Growth Conservation Summit. Fred Costello also planned to attend a land use workshop in Herndon.

f. Charles Dane, who as First Vice President is also the Membership Chair, reported that, counting one pending membership, the Federation has fifty paid member associations. As compared to last year, this reflects nine non-renewals and nine new member associations.

g. There was a brief discussion of the web site, which now has some video clips for the first time. The video clips include Federation President Jeff Parnes's public testimony on the county budget.

h. Among district council representatives, Art Wells reported that the new Braddock Supervisor, John Cook, is hiring a new staff and ramping up operations. The most recent Braddock District Council meeting featured a legislative back brief from state legislators, including Senator Richard Saslaw. Karen Pohorylo of Mount Vernon reported that the Mount Vernon Council is reinstating its transportation task force. The Mount Vernon Gala will be May 2 and RSVPs are requested by April 22. Kosmo Tatalias reported that the next Providence District Council meeting will be a report from state legislators, and President Jeff Parnes reported that the next Sully District Council meeting would be the same.

i. Fred Costello asked, as a new committee chair, when it is appropriate to submit a letter without consulting the Federation Board or membership. This has commonly been the case for certain committees which must respond before a Federation Board meeting will occur. A discussion ensued and concluded that this is usually done in regard to urgent matters when the timing does not permit such consultation, that the person doing so should be sure to inform the Board, and that they should clearly identify their role (title) in signing the document. Kosmo Tatalias asked that this information be added

to the policies and procedures document.

j. President Jeff Parnes noted that, due to a business obligation, he will not be at the May meeting, which will be chaired by First Vice President Charles Dane.

Next Membership Meeting: May 21, 2009.

Next Board Meeting: April 23, 2009.

Meeting adjourned at 10:00 p.m.

H1N1 Flu Update

As you know, the H1N1 flu virus is still being diagnosed throughout the United States. As of yesterday, 23 cases have been reported in the Commonwealth of Virginia. In September, 2006, the Federation heard a presentation on Fairfax County's advanced planning for pandemic flu or other health emergencies. The presentation by Dr. Raja Satouri, Fairfax County Health Department, remains relevant for the H1N1 outbreak. To read the minutes of Dr. Satouri's presentation, visit www.fairfaxfederation.org/minutes-agenda/200609MinutesMember.pdf. The minutes contain a link to the county's plan for pandemic flu. The updated link is www.fairfaxcounty.gov/emergency/pandemicflu/countyplan.pdf. This is a solid resource for community leaders and others interested in how the county intends to respond to events such as that currently being experienced.

The Health Department reminds residents that new viruses, such as H1N1, can spread easily from person-to-person and potentially cause a pandemic. People have little natural immunity to new viruses. Although there is no vaccine ready to protect against this current strain, like any flu, there are steps you can take to protect yourself and others. The Health Department encourages anyone with influenza-like illness to follow these standard guidelines:

- If you get sick, stay home from work or school and limit contact with others to keep from infecting them.
- Sneeze and cough into your upper sleeve, not your hands.
- Wash your hands often, scrubbing your hands together for 20 seconds with soap and water, especially after you cough or sneeze. Alcohol-based hand cleaners are also effective.
- Try to avoid close contact with sick people.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose or mouth. Germs are spread that way.

For more information about influenza, including the H1N1 virus, visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/hd/flu/swineflu.htm. At this website, you can find links to a number of guides and other educational materials to share with your community. You can also request materials, or obtain more information, by contacting the Fairfax County Health Department at 703-246-2411. For the latest information, you can also visit www.cdc.gov/swineflu/.

Meet the Candidates for Federation Offices

As noted in the President's Message (*see page one*), the Federation will hold its annual election of officers for the upcoming year at its May 21, 2009 meeting. Below are brief biographies of those that have agreed to run for office and serve, if elected.

President - Jeffrey Parnes

Jeff has served two terms as Federation President, and is the Sully District Council (SDC) Representative to the Federation Board. He serves as the SDC First Vice President and is its Land Use and Transportation Committee Chair. He is also the Sully District Representative to the Fairfax County Transportation Advisory Commission on which he serves as Vice President. He lives in Chantilly Highlands.

First Vice President - Tania Hossain

Tania recently served on the Federation's 2009 Budget Committee, focusing on the county's human services needs. She also chaired the Federation's Human Services Committee and coordinated the 2007 Senior Emergency Preparedness Program.

She currently chairs the Fairfax County Extension Leadership Council; is an At-Large member of the Commonwealth's Extension Leadership Council and a member of the Advocacy Committee; producer for The Inside Scoop, broadcast by Fairfax Public Access Channel 10; Project Committee member to Leadership Fairfax, Inc.; a member of the Fairfax Community Emergency Response Team; and a member of the Providence Players. She resides in the Yorktown Square community and is a member of the Merrifield Citizens Association.

Second Vice President - Kahan Dhillon

Kahan Dhillon is running for Second Vice President of the Fairfax County Federation.

Co-Recording Secretaries (2) - Patty Parker and Ed Wyse

Patty Parker lives in Mantua with her husband and six cats. She has two grown children attending university. She is a former school teacher and has lived in several countries in Asia for over 13 years. She has recently become interested in local government and looks forward to learning more about the Federation and being more participatory.

Edward Wyse is a delegate to the Federation from the Civic Association of West Springfield Village, where he has been the Secretary since 2005.

Corresponding Secretary - Esther Ferington

Esther lives in the Clermont Woods neighborhood in Lee District. She is the current Second Vice President of the Federation and previously served as the Federation Recording Secretary. Esther has been a member of the Federation Board since December 2003. She was also the Federation representative to the Fairfax County 2007 Community Citizen Planning Committee.

Treasurer - Scott Schlegel

Scott is the Project Lead for the FAA's Airport Surface Detection Equipment, X-Band radar system (ASDE-X), a surface surveillance system designed to reduce the number of Category A and B runway incursions. Scott has also served as the Federation's Treasurer for the past 3 years. Scott is a certified Project Management Professional, holds a Bachelor of Science Degree in Business Administration, a Master of Financial Management and a Master of Business Administration in Finance and Investments.

Board Adopts Fairfax County Fiscal Year 2010 Budget

An Update from the Federation Budget Committee

On April 27th, the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors, in a unanimous 10-0 vote, adopted the fiscal year (FY) 2010 budget, which begins on July 1st. The FY 2010 adopted budget includes a real estate tax rate of \$1.04 per \$100 of assessed value. In addition, a stormwater service fee of \$0.01 per \$100 assessed value is being imposed to provide support for stormwater operations and capital project activities. Coupled with a 12.6 percent decline in the average residential assessment, the resulting average tax bill will be a modest reduction from the current fiscal year.

The FY 2010 plan provides for a balanced budget. Total General Fund Disbursements are projected to total \$3.33 billion, a decrease of \$92.05 million or 2.69 percent from the FY 2009 Revised Budget Plan. Excluding adjustments in the current fiscal year, the actual decrease from the FY 2009 level is \$22.28 million or 0.66 percent from the FY 2009 Adopted Budget Plan.

Of the \$106.4 million in reductions included in the county executive's proposed budget, the adopted budget restores \$22.73 million by reallocating funding budgeted for fuel (\$6.3 million), reducing some of the amount originally needed to absorb state cuts (\$5.1 million) and reallocating part of the penny for affordable housing (\$10.3 million) to restore critical human services and public safety programs.

The FY 2010 county executive's advertised budget plan proposed a reduction of 524 positions as a result of the lines of business review. The board's adopted budget restores 218 positions originally proposed to be eliminated. These restored positions include:

- * 60 - human services,
- * 72 - Fire and Rescue Department,
- * 63 - Police Department (including 28 for the School Resource Officer Program),
- * 11 - lakefront parks (Lake Accotink, Burke Lake and Lake Fairfax),
- * 2 - Mount Vernon Lockup,
- * 2 - watch officers for the Office of Emergency Management,
- * 2 - air quality monitoring for the Health Department,
- * 2 - Planning Commission positions,
- * 2 - property maintenance/zoning inspector positions,
- * 1 - David Pinn Community Center, and
- * 1 - Green Spring Gardens Park.

Therefore, the net change in positions in FY 2010 will be a decrease of 306 positions from FY 2009.

Additional information on the FY 2010 budget is available online and by calling the Fairfax County Department of Management and Budget at 703-324-2391, TTY 711.

Source: <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/news/2009/fiscal-year-2010-budget-adopted.htm>

The Federation thanks its Budget Committee, co-chaired by Kosmo Tatalias, Charlie Hall, and Carey Campbell, for their thorough analysis of the FY 2010 advertised budget plan, and guiding the membership through this difficult budget year.

Fairfax County
FEDERATION
of Citizens Associations

4022 Hummer Road
Annandale, VA 22003

Membership Meeting

Thursday,
May 21, 2009

7:30 p.m.

The Packard Center
4022 Hummer Road, Annandale

Topic: 'Report from Richmond'

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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 on the left.

Keep right to the large parking lot.

Please use the left entrance into the
Packard Center Building.

www.fairfaxfederation.org