

The Fairfax County
FEDERATION
of Citizens Associations *Established 1940*

February 2014

THE BULLETIN

Volume 63, Number 5

Federation Membership Meeting

**Thursday, February 20, 2014
7:30 p.m.**

Braddock Hall

9002 Burke Lake Road, Burke, VA

Topic: Stormwater Budget

**What does the 2¢ Stormwater Service District
Tax support?**

**Speaker: Mr. Randy Bartlett, Deputy Director of
Public Works and Environmental Services**

Mr. Bartlett will discuss the programs supported by the Stormwater Services District Tax and an update on the regulatory requirements driving the program. Stormwater services represented nearly 4% of the Capital Improvement Program budget or 0.5% of the FY2014 adopted budget.



Federation Board Meeting

February 27, 2014, at 7:30 p.m.
Hidden Oaks Nature Center

New on the Federation Website

Home page: Meeting schedule, with topic

Budget: Excel file with 13 years of County budget details; Report on effect of retirement age on retirement cost; Report on affordability of real-estate tax increase

Education: March 1 conference on Special Education

Land use: Updated RSU and Fairfax Forward information

Visit us at

www.FairfaxFederation.org

See us also on Facebook: Search for "Fairfax Federation".

Follow us on Twitter: @TheFCFCA

President's Message

Greetings:

It's time for Federation members and officials to think about County and School budgets for FY2015.

New school superintendent Dr. Karen Garza has proposed a \$2.5 billion budget for FY2015, a net increase of 2.4 percent, or \$59.4 million, from the FY 2014 Approved Budget. The FCPS budget includes significant increases, along with cost reductions and increased fees. Her proposed budget, which assumes continued growth in student population and proposes employee raises and larger class sizes, requires an increased transfer from the Board of Supervisors of \$98.1 million, or 5.7%, instead of the County-suggested increase of 2.0%. All other things being equal, Dr. Garza's budget requires the equivalent of a 5-cent (4.5%, average of \$250) real estate tax increase (each penny on the real estate tax rate produces roughly \$20 million).

On February 25, County Executive Ed Long will propose his budget for the many County programs and operations, including the transfer to FCPS. We will be testifying on behalf of our members when the supervisors hold hearings in early April. They decide on the budget later that month.

The Federation Board has assigned committee leaders and officers to review various parts of the budget. The Budget Committee will consider their recommendations, the proposed budgets, and the needs and concerns of homeowners—our members. We will try to balance competing desires for appropriations with the concomitant need to protect taxpayers from tax increases that outstrip recent growth in their incomes—if any. This is not an easy task, but a necessary one, to give the Federation essential credibility with the supervisors.

There are no simple answers. Desire and need for important government services remain, along with the importance of treating government employees fairly. At the same time, the revenue necessary to fund the county is constrained. While many citizens continue to do well financially, many others don't. Cutbacks in federal spending and contracting are hitting Fairfax County hard. Some of our neighbors are experiencing flat or even declining household income. We, like the supervisors, must make hard decisions; identify priorities; measure outcomes and performance; and insist on efficiencies.

Our review process makes every effort to eliminate emotions, in order to focus on hard data and analysis. We will debate issues and challenge each other with a goal of adopting a fair and fact-supported recommendation. I invite your comments. Feel free to contact me on the FY2015 County and FCPS budgets.

Best regards,
Rob

FCFCA Calendar 2013-2014				
Membership Meeting			Board Mtg	
Date	Program	Location	Date	Location
2013				
Jul	no meeting	—	—	—
Aug	no meeting	—	22-Aug	Braddock Hall
19-Sep	Membership discussion and vote on Federation resolutions	Mason Governmental Center, Main Conference Room (MCR)	26-Sep	Braddock Hall
17-Oct	Legislative Package	Mason Governmental Center, Large Conference Room (LCR)	24-Oct	Braddock Hall
21-Nov	Public Safety—New Police Chief; Final vote on Legislative Package	Mason Governmental Center (MCR)	—	—
Dec	no meeting	—	5-Dec	Hokkaido Sea-
2014				
16-Jan	School Budget	FCPS Administration Center	30-Jan	Hidden Oaks Na-
20-Feb	Stormwater Budget	Braddock Hall	27-Feb	Hidden Oaks Na-
27-Mar	County Budget	Mason Governmental Center (MCR)	20-Mar	Hidden Oaks Nature Center
10-Apr	Report from Richmond	Mason Governmental Center (MCR)	24-Apr	Hidden Oaks Nature Center
27-Apr	Citizen of the Year Banquet	Crowne-Plaza Hotel Tysons Corner, McLean		
15-May	Annual Meeting; Election of Officers	Mason Governmental Center (MCR)	22-May	Hidden Oaks Nature Center
19-Jun	Picnic, Installation of Officers, State of Fairfax	Annandale Community Park	26-Jun	TBD

Changes from the previous bulletin are shown in red.

Braddock Hall is at 9002 Burke Lake Road, Burke

All meetings start at 7:30 pm, except at 6:30 pm on Jun 19 (the picnic).

The deadline for submissions to *The Bulletin* (our newsletter) is the first day of the month for that month's issue.

Do you want to have an impact?

The Federation is as strong as its voice, and the Federation's many committees make up its collective voice. If you are interested in serving on any of the committees that make up the backbone of the Federation please contact the committee chairs, listed below, using the following email addresses:

Budget: Linda Boone & Rob Jackson	FedBudgetChr2014@fairfaxfederation.org
Citizen Association Services: Don Hinman	FedAssociationServicesChr2014@fairfaxfederation.org
Education: Ed Saperstein & Tim Thompson ..	FedEducationChr2014@fairfaxfederation.org
Environment: Flint Webb	FedEnvironmentChr2014@fairfaxfederation.org
Human Services: Cherie Tripp Lejeune & Morgan Jameson.....	FedHumanServicesChr2014@fairfaxfederation.org
Land Use: Fred Costello & Matthew Bell.....	FedLandUseChr2014@fairfaxfederation.org
Legislation: Frank Anderson & Bill Barfield.....	FedLegislationChr2014@fairfaxfederation.org
Membership: Tania Hossain.....	FedMembershipChr2014@fairfaxfederation.org
Public Safety: Daniela Cockayne	FedPublicSafetyChr2014@fairfaxfederation.org
Resolutions: Bill Hanks	FedResolutionsChr2014@fairfaxfederation.org
Transportation: Karen Camplin & Jeff Parnes.....	FedTransportationChr2014@fairfaxfederation.org

The committees conduct the bulk of their business by email and formulate positions and suggest actions for consideration by the Board and by the Federation members. They also provide inputs to the Federation's legislation and budget presentations. Here's a chance to make a mark in an area of your interest. Join us in making our County a better place to live!

County Code Violations

The Mason District Council (<http://www.masondistrict.org/>), a volunteer civic association and a Board member of the Federation, just finished a survey of homeowners concerning violations of the county code. Those responding to the survey found many violations:

- Physical condition of area businesses and roadways
- Speeding on neighborhood roads
- Illegal boarding houses (more than four unrelated people living in a home)
- Quality of education
- Traffic congestion

Of the 528 survey respondents 46% did not expect the County to act on complaints. Others did not know how to file a complaint (35%) or did not know a complaint had to be filed (20%).

These violations degrade the quality of life in the neighborhood and impact home resale values. The county code can be found at <http://library.municode.com/index.aspx?clientId=10051>.

The Council is currently considering the next steps, which will include working with the County (<http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/code/>) to rectify the situations.

County Maintenance of Stormwater Facilities

In October, the Federation passed a resolution recommending that the county take over maintenance of the approximately 600 HOA stormwater facilities that it currently does not maintain. Compliance will thus be assured and the HOA's will be relieved of this cost.

The County Board of Supervisors approved the county taking over the maintenance, using Best Management Practices; however, the county is considering having contractors do the work.

The plans and budget for stormwater maintenance will be discussed at the February Federation meeting (see Page 1).

Keep Your Association Information Up-to-Date

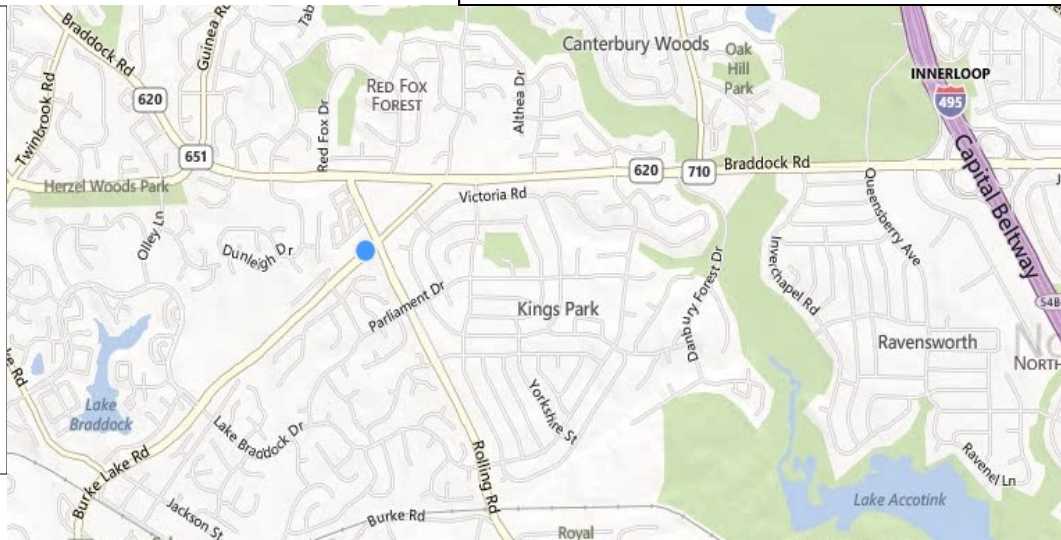
Fairfax County lists approximately 2500 Community Associations (<http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/internet/assoc.htm>). Be sure your association keeps its contact information up to date, using <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/opa/hoaupdate.htm>.

Meeting Announcements

The Federation is now on meetup.com. Sign up on meetup.com to get the latest meeting information.

Directions to Braddock Hall

Take Capital Beltway to west on Braddock Road. Go 2.6 miles on Braddock to left on Burke Lake Road. Go 0.3 miles on Burke Lake, pass Rolling Road. Turn right into second driveway after Rolling Road.



Fairfax County Federation of Citizens Associations

P.O. Box 3913, Merrifield, VA 22116-3913

www.fairfaxfederation.org

2013-2014 President: Rob Jackson

Newsletter Editor: Frederick A. Costello

The Bulletin is the newsletter of the Federation. It is usually published monthly, except in August. The purpose is to provide information to member communities; federal, state, and local officials; and other interested persons. 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 Fred Costello with newsletter name and email address changes, comments, or suggestions at FedBulletinEditor2013@fairfaxfederation.org or 703-620-4942.

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 or, for more information, you can call 703-620-4942.

Apartment Buildings next to Your House?

The Fairfax Federation was at least temporarily successful in having the County change its proposed policy of allowing Residential Studio Units (RSU's) to be put into every residential district. The Mason District Council was instrumental in the Federation's success, organizing many meetings and activating many citizens. The proposed change in the zoning ordinance would have allowed new "houses" and remodeled existing houses to contain between three and 75 apartments, 250-to-500 sq. ft. each. The Federation resolution, as sent to County officials, called for limiting the RSU's to areas zoned R-20 or higher. The resolution and the public outcry caused Timothy Sargeant, Chairman of the County's RSU Committee (under the Planning Commission) to call for limiting such buildings to areas zoned R-12 or higher, although the Federation's analysis showed that there are enough areas zoned R-20 and above to accommodate the demand forecast by the George Mason University's Center for Regional Analysis.

The Federation's success is considered a "temporary" because the County has not finalized the program.

A recent article adds another caution concerning the health risks in RSU-type buildings. See:

<http://www.theatlanticcities.com/housing/2013/12/health-risks-small-apartments/7929/>

Although the last Planning Commission hearing was held on January 6, 2014, a Residential Studios Committee was established for further investigation. The dates and times for Committee meetings are listed below. All meetings will be open to the public and will allow opportunities for discussion.

- February 11, 2014, at 7:00 p.m. Conference Rooms 4/5 Government Center
- March 3, 2014, at 7:00 p.m. Conference Rooms 4/5 Government Center
- March 26, 2014, at 7:00 p.m. Shared Conference Room 120C (inside the cafeteria) Government Center

Questions and comments can also be submitted through the Planning Commission's email at plancom@fairfaxcounty.gov.

The RSU's are intended to house the handicapped, the disabled, the homeless, the newly graduated, the retired, and others with low incomes. The first two uses would require visits by employees from the County's Health and Human Services Agency. According to the County's plan, 80% of the units would be subsidized, with rent controlled by the County.

Redevelopment of Reston

Following a January 28, 2014, open hearing by the Board of Supervisors, a decision on changes to the Comprehensive Plan proposed by the Department of Planning and Zoning has been postponed until the Board meeting on February 11 at 3:30 pm. At the hearing, many citizens expressed their concern about the lack of space for parks and recreation, the amount of overdevelopment the changes would permit, and the lack of control of the balance between commercial and residential development. A video of the January 28 hearing can be viewed at

<http://reston2020.blogspot.com/2014/02/video-board-of-supervisors-public.html>

(Scroll down until you see the video screen.)

Current Federation Members

The Federation welcomes all citizens associations in Fairfax County to join in our collective effort to be an effective voice on behalf of residents to local, state, and federal officials. Associations may join at any time. Our membership application is on the last page of this newsletter and online at

www.fairfaxfederation.org/membership1.htm.

At time of publication, current members, having voting rights at Federation meetings, are:

Braddock

Country Club View Civic Association
Middleridge Civic Association
North Springfield Civic Association
Oak Hill Citizens Association
Ravensworth-Bristow Civic Association
Red Fox Forest Civic Association
Stone Haven Civic Association
Truro Homes Association

Dranesville

Colvin's Glen/Colvin's Forest Citizens' Association
Glen Haven Farms Homeowners Association
Marlborough Nantucket Community Association
McLean Citizens Association
McLean Hamlet Citizens, Inc
Potomac Hills Citizens Association

Hunter Mill

Fox Mill Estates Homes Association
Reston Citizens Association
Townes of Coppermill Property Owners Association
Woodside at Holly Oak

Lee

Amerliegh Homeowners Association
Groveton, Virginia, Civic Association
Hayfield Citizens Association
Huntington Grove II Homeowners Association

Mason

Adams Walk Homeowners Association
Annandale Acres Civic Association
Hillbrook-Tall Oaks Civic Association
Lafayette Village Community Association
Lincolnia Park Civic Association
Parklawn Civic Association
Ravenwood Park Citizens Association
Skyline House Unit Owners Association
Sleepy Hollow Citizens Association
Sleepy Hollow Woods Civic Association
Sunset Manor Civic Association

Mount Vernon

Huntington Community Association
Montebello Condominium Unit Owners Association
Stratford on the Potomac Section IV Homeowners' Association
Waynewood Citizens Association

Providence

Holmes Run Acres Civic Association
Mantua Citizens Association
Tysons Manor Homeowners Association
Walnut Hill Homeowners Association

Springfield

Innisfree Community Association
Middle Run Estates Homeowners Association
West Springfield Village, Civic Association of

Sully

Chantilly Farm Homeowners Association
Chantilly Highlands Homes Association
Virginia Run Community Association

Membership Meeting Minutes

Thursday, January 16, 2014

[Draft to be submitted for approval on 2/20/2014](#)

The January meeting of the membership of the Fairfax County Federation of Citizens Associations was called to order by President Rob Jackson at 7:10 p.m. at Fairfax County Public School (FCPS) Administrative Building, 8115 Gatehouse Road, Falls Church, VA. There was a quorum present.

Administrative Matters

Minutes—November 2013 Membership minutes were approved unanimously as presented; filed for the record. Several members mentioned that they had not received the meeting agenda or minutes. President Jackson will discuss the distribution list with the Webmaster.

Treasurer's Report—Federation bought MacBooks to account for the Federation's funds. Membership revenue is up. Report was received by the Membership and filed.

Bulletin—Mr. Costello indicated that several corrections were made to the Bulletin after the deadline. He asked that responses be timely. January Bulletin is still not posted on the website.

There was no other urgent business for the membership.

Program: School Budget

Kristen Michael, Director of the Office of Budget Services, FCPS, presented the FCPS budget for FY2015 and provided a one-page handout summary of the budget. The 56-slide presentation is posted on the FCPS website at <http://www.fcps.edu/fs/budget/documents/proposed/FY15/FY15ProposedBudgetPresentation.pdf>.

The proposed FY2015 budget of \$2.58B is a 2.4% increase from FY2014. The budget includes a \$98.4 million (5.7%) increase in the transfer from the County budget. The new Superintendent, Karen Garza, met with the School Board, Board of Supervisors, and others in the community to vet the budget.

Enrollment, retirement rates, structural imbalances, step increases for most eligible employees, and medical insurance are factors listed as justifying the 5.7% increase in the transfer from the County budget. The Board of Supervisors had suggested a 2% increase. The County's transfer represents 72% of the schools budget. State funds, federal aid, reimbursements for out of county students comprise the rest of the budget revenue. Also the Schools will receive additional revenue from charges for use of the buildings and AP/IB course charges.

Elementary costs per pupil are \$10,802, middle school costs are \$11,302, and high school cost is highest of all. Instructional support includes all the costs of school based staff, materials, building, etc.

Growth in number of students enrolling is similar to other school districts in the region. Special Ed students comprise those students who have individual education plans (IEPs).

Teachers salaries are based on 10-month work contract, not the full 12-months work period. Staffing standards for each school is contained in the back for budget,

The Superintendent had begun implementing managerial cuts and reductions to the Schools. Then she structured the budget around what requirements were needed in the Schools. Several recommendations of the State School Efficiency Review were identified in the budget:

- Reduction in custodial staff and consolidation to central oversight. The displaced 731 staff (instructional aids, clerical, and custodians) will be reduced through attrition, moving to other jobs or schools, and retirements.
- Reduction in assistant principals at smaller schools.
- Reduction in cost of bus transportation

New teachers and staff (414) will be hired to meet student population growth. The net reduction in staffing will be about 317 positions.

It was suggested that the schools should provide student achievement information to show value for the dollars spent.

There is currently one guidance counselor for each 259 students in high school.

It was suggested that anyone interested in the budget should review all the information in the budget presentation. Further, a look at the program budget to see the impacts/effects of increases/decreases would be informative.

Ms. Michael received a newly redesigned Federation coffee mug to commemorate her visit to the Federation.

Old Business/New Business

No old or new business was discussed.

Adjournment

Membership meeting adjourned at 8:47 p.m.

Next Meetings

Board meeting: January 30, 2014 at 7:30 p.m. Hidden Oaks Nature Center

Membership meeting: February 20, 2014 at 7:30 p.m. at Braddock Hall.

Minutes prepared by Linda Boone, Recording Secretary

Call-In Show for HOAs and Condo Associations

Caller, you're on the air! What is your question about managing and/or living in a homeowners' association or condominium association? Are you a new board member seeking guidance about your leadership role? Are you a member who needs information about what it means to live in a homeowners' association or condominium association? Are you a manager seeking best practices on how to manage a community concern?

On one Tuesday of every other month, including March, Fairfax County Government Channel 16 at 7 p.m. will air a live, call-in TV program, [Your Community, Your Call: What's On Your Mind?](#) View the live broadcast online at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/cable/channel16/asx/live_stream.asx (CC) This is your opportunity to call in or e-mail questions about HOA/Condo topics of concern. Industry professionals will answer your questions during the hour.

Call 703-818-1445 during the show or email your questions ahead of time to ycyc@fairfaxcounty.gov. To be put on the notification list for the next airing, send an email to the same address.

Return this form to Membership Vice President at address shown below.

Please tell us who is submitting this form: and your email address:

Federation Membership Application/Renewal for Fiscal Year 2013-2014 (starts July 1, 2013)
 Print this form in landscape mode and submit by mailing with a check to address shown below.
 You may also complete this form on line at www.fairfaxfederation.org/memberappl.htm

Association Name:		and address:		Date:																
Position	Name	Address	Phone/FAX (XXX.XXX.XXXX)	E-mail see note #2																
President																				
Treasurer																				
1st Delegate																				
2nd Delegate																				
3rd Delegate																				
4th Delegate																				
Please indicate person and address above to send future membership renewals:		District?	Association Type?																	
Association Size/Federation Dues:		Organization's web site:																		
1. Number of votes is based on association size. Dues are based on association size and number of mailed bulletins (see chart below): 2. Bulletin notices are distributed by e-mail at no cost. Mailed Bulletins are \$10 per subscription. Unless otherwise noted, email addresses provided above will be added to the Federation's email list for distribution of Federation notices 3. Membership dues are from July 1 to June 30 of the following year. Separate invoices may not be mailed. To determine whether your association's membership is current check with the Federation Treasurer at fedtreas2014@fairfaxfederation.org 4. Mail application form and check, payable to "Fairfax County Federation of Citizens Associations" or simply "FCFCA", to: <div style="border: 2px solid black; padding: 5px; margin: 10px auto; width: fit-content;"> <p style="text-align: center;">THE FEDERATION Attention: Membership Vice President P.O. Box 3913 Merrifield, VA 22116-3913</p> </div>																				
		<table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th># of Residences</th> <th>Dues</th> <th>Voting Delegates</th> <th>Bulletins (emailed) One per delegate</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Under 100</td> <td>\$20</td> <td>1</td> <td>+ \$10 per each mailed</td> </tr> <tr> <td>100-1000</td> <td>\$40</td> <td>2</td> <td>+ \$10 per each mailed</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Over 1000</td> <td>\$60</td> <td>3</td> <td>+ \$10 per each mailed</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>			# of Residences	Dues	Voting Delegates	Bulletins (emailed) One per delegate	Under 100	\$20	1	+ \$10 per each mailed	100-1000	\$40	2	+ \$10 per each mailed	Over 1000	\$60	3	+ \$10 per each mailed
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Future membership renewals: 1. Submitter, 2. Association Address, 3. President, 4. Treasurer, 5. 1st Delegate, 6. 2nd Delegate, 7. 3rd Delegate, 8. 4th Delegate
District: B. Braddock, D. Dranesville, H. Hunter Mill, L. Lee, M. Mason, MtV. Mount Vernon, P. Providence, Sp. Springfield, Su. Sully
Association type: Civic, Coop, Condo, Homeowner
Association Size/Federation Dues: For example: 90/\$20