

The Fairfax County  
**FEDERATION**  
of Citizens Associations *Established 1940*

March 2014

**THE BULLETIN**

Volume 63, Number 6

**Federation Membership Meeting**

**Thursday, March 27, 2014  
7:30 p.m.**

**Mason Government Center**

6507 Columbia Pike, Annandale, VA 22003

**Topic: FY2015-2016 County Budget**  
**Speakers: Mr. Ed Long, County Executive**  
**and**  
**Joe Mondoro, Deputy Director,**  
**Department of Management and Budget**



**Federation Board Meeting**

March 20, 2014, at 7:30 p.m.  
Hidden Oaks Nature Center

**2013 Awards Announced**

The Fairfax County Federation of Citizens Associations is honored and delighted to announce the 2013 award recipients:

Citizen of the Year Award Honoree:

**Janyce Hedetniemi**

Citation of Merit Award Honorees

**Tena Bluhm**

**Kathy Kaplan**

Special Gratitude Award Honorees

**Congressman Jim Moran**

**Congressman Frank Wolf**

**Delegate Jim Scott**

Citizen of the Year Banquet on Sunday, April 27, 2014, starting at 6 pm at the Tysons Crowne Plaza Hotel in McLean.

**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; Updated report on affordability of a real-estate tax increase.

**Environment:** Link to the Feb 20, 2014, Membership-meeting presentation on storm-water facilities maintenance.

***President's Message***

Greetings:

More on the budget. County Executive Ed Long recently released his proposed budget for FY15, while the County mailed residents new real estate tax assessments. He recommends spending \$6.9 billion; a net increase of 13 employee positions; and a proposed increase in the transfer to FCPS of \$39 million (including debt service). The Schools have asked for a total increase of \$98 million. That request for additional funding does not consider the additional \$30 million in state aid for FCPS that our legislators believe is forthcoming. The County also provides an additional \$72.6 million in support for our schools (Head Start, School Health, Resource officers, school crossing guards, after-school programming, field maintenance and recreational programs, etc.). Plus the County pays the debt service of Schools' bonds in the amount of \$177.2 million.

Most county residents received higher real estate assessments (6.54% on average), with larger percentage increases for town-houses and condos than for single family homes. Commercial assessments are down slightly, due in large part to the highest office vacancy rate since 1991. Under state law, unless the Board of Supervisors reduces the real estate tax rate to counterbalance the higher assessments, they are raising taxes. Don't be fooled to think otherwise. Moreover, the Supervisors voted to advertise a two cent increase in the tax rate, plus a quarter cent more for storm water. The County did not propose higher fees for real estate development services or an increase to the target cash proffer for schools. I'm concerned about this lack of parity.

The Federation Board is concerned about the size of the tax increase, which is much larger than the average increase in residents' incomes (2.1% in 2013). We voted at the February meeting to express such concern to the County. Most of the feedback I've received so far has been consistent with the Board's concern about higher tax rates. A number of comments have urged the tax rate to remain as FY2014 levels, but recommend that less money be given to the county in favor of higher transfer to FCPS.

The Federation's Budget Committee is working on budget issues. The Board will consider a resolution on March 20, with the Membership voting on March 27. I will testify to the Supervisors in early April. They vote later that month.

If your association has an opinion on the county budget, I strongly urge attendance at the March 27 meeting. Those associations that show up will control our positions. If you only attend one Federation membership meeting this year, this is the one to attend.

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	Mason Governmental Center	—	—
Dec	no meeting	—	5-Dec	Hokkaido Seafood Buffet
2014				
16-Jan	School Budget	FCPS Administration Center	30-Jan	Hidden Oaks Nature Center
20-Feb	Stormwater Budget	Braddock Hall	27-Feb	Hidden Oaks Nature Center
27-Mar	County Budget	Mason Governmental Center	20-Mar	Hidden Oaks Na-
10-Apr	TBD	Mason Governmental Center	24-Apr	Hidden Oaks Na-
27-Apr	Citizen of the Year Banquet	Crowne-Plaza Hotel Tysons Corner, McLean		
15-May	Annual Meeting; Election of Officers	Mason Governmental Center	22-May	Hidden Oaks Na-
19-Jun	Picnic, Installation of Officers, State of Fairfax	Annandale Community Park	26-Jun	TBD

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

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!

### Federation Letter to BOS on the County Budget

Chairman Bulova & Supervisors:

Hi Sharon, I hope all is well with you. My recovery continues, and I'm feeling much stronger all of the time.

I am writing in my capacity as president of the Fairfax County Federation of Citizens Associations. On Thursday, February 27, 2014, the board of directors of the Fairfax County Federation of Citizens Associations met and voted to send the Board of Supervisors the following statement.

The board of directors of the Fairfax County Federation of Citizens Associations reminds the supervisors that the increases in residential assessments will result in an average tax increase of 6.54%, while average income for county residents (2013) rose by only 2.1%. Moreover, increases in fees for service (storm water, waste disposal, etc.) are increasing in many areas that will contribute to the further "tax impact" on county homeowners. We urge the Board of Supervisors to consider this disparity between tax increases and taxpayer income growth in both advertising and setting the real estate tax rate for the coming year.

Thank you for your time and consideration. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

With best regards,

Rob Jackson, President

Fairfax County Federation of Citizens Associations

### An Equitable Real-Estate Tax Rate

The tax (including the storm water charge) on a \$500,000 home in 2014 is:

$$\text{Tax}_{2014} = 1.105/100 * \$500,000 = \$5525$$

Real-estate assessments rose 6.54%. If the tax in 2015 is to rise the same percentage as household income (2.1%), the tax rate in FY2015 can be computed from:

$$\text{Tax}_{2015} = \text{rate}/100 * \$500,000 * 1.0654 = 1.021 * \text{Tax}_{2014}$$

Solving:  $\text{rate} = 1.021 * 1.105 / 1.0654 = 1.059$ .

For your real-estate tax to rise no more than your income rose, the real-estate tax, including the storm water charge, should be \$1.059. The advertised rate is 1.1275 (including storm water).

### Keep Your Association Information Up-to-Date

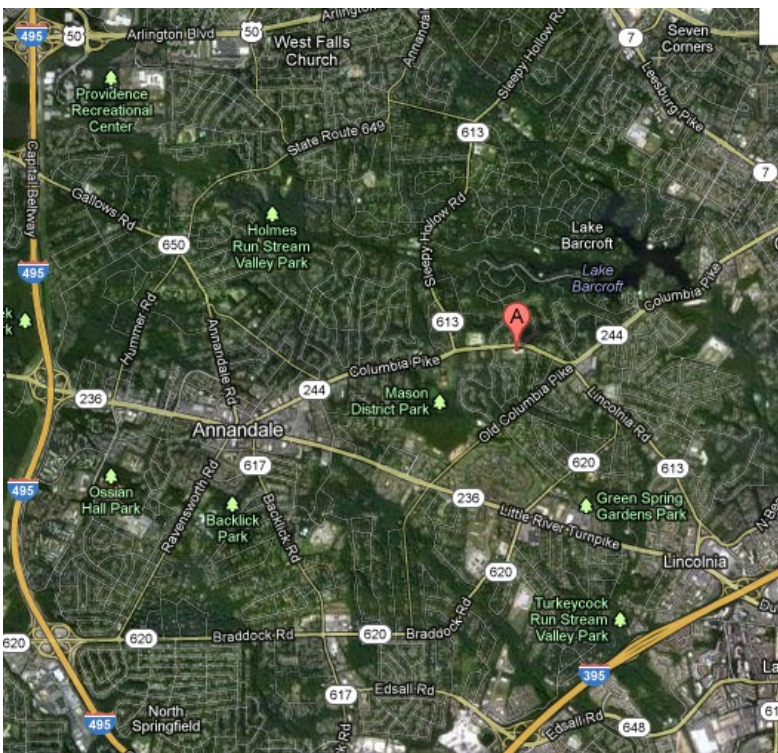
Fairfax County lists approximately 2500 Community Associations (<http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/internet/assoc.htm>). Be sure your association keeps its contact information up to date, using <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/opa/hoaupdate.htm>.

### Meeting Announcements

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

## Directions to the Mason Government Center

From I-495 (the Beltway), Take the Little River Turnpike East towards Annandale exit. Follow Little River Turnpike into Downtown Annandale. Turn LEFT at the traffic light at John Marr Drive. At the next traffic light, turn RIGHT onto Columbia Pike. Follow Columbia Pike past the Mason District Park (on your right). The Mason Governmental Center is on your right, in the same building as the Police Station, 0.5 miles past the park entrance .



### Fairfax County Federation of Citizens Associations

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

[www.fairfaxfederation.org](http://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 [FedBulletinEditor2014@fairfaxfederation.org](mailto:FedBulletinEditor2014@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](http://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 — "temporary" because the County has not finalized the program. 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.

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 date and time for the final Committee meeting is listed below. The meeting will be open to the public and will allow opportunities for discussion.

- 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](mailto: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**

At its February 11 meeting, the Board of Supervisors passed the changes to the Comprehensive Plan proposed by the Department of Planning and Zoning for the Reston area, along the Dulles Toll Road. No changes were made despite that fact that, at the Board's January 28 hearing, many citizens expressed their concern about the lack of space for parks and recreation, the amount of over-development 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.)

Visit us at

**[www.FairfaxFederation.org](http://www.FairfaxFederation.org)**

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

Follow us on Twitter: @TheFCFCA

### **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](http://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, February 20, 2014

[Draft to be submitted for approval on 3/27/2014](#)

The February meeting of the membership of the Fairfax County Federation of Citizens Associations was called to order by President Rob Jackson at 7:33 p.m. at Braddock Hall (9002 Burke Lake Road, Burke, VA 22015).

### Administrative Matters

**Minutes**—Approval of the January Membership Meeting Minutes – In the future there will be links in MailChimp to the minutes and the agenda on the Federation website. The draft Minutes will need to be posted on the Federation website. A watermark will be added on the draft document to differentiate them from final version. Mr. Tim Thompson moved approval of the minutes; it was seconded by Ed Saperstein. The minutes were approved as presented with 1 abstention since a member had not received a copy of the Minutes to review.

**Treasurer's Report**—over \$17,000 in revenue which is ahead of last year's projection. 47 HOAs are members this year. The report was received and filed for the record.

**Meetup**—Information on Meetup platform and the new email system will be coming. Tania Hossain is working on both tools now. One attendee got the information about this meeting from Meetup.

**Bulletin**—Input to the Bulletin is due on March 1.

There was no other urgent business for the membership.

### Program: Environment

The Stormwater Budget: What does the 2¢ Stormwater Service District Tax support? Mr. Randy Bartlett, Deputy Director of Public Works and Environmental Services, Fairfax County presented information about the Stormwater budget and what comprises its cost centers/program projects.

The County Executive has asked for a 5-year budget. Drivers for the Stormwater Division's budget are:

- Chesapeake Bay TMDL (total maximum daily limit)
- Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) Permit—awaiting approval
- Local TMDLs
- Infrastructure
- Dam Safety

In 2010 a review was performed about what program projects should be included in the program if it was fully funded. The programs will be moving forward in stream and water quality improvements. Fully funded program projects would cost \$97.8M per year or 5 cents on the tax rate for the Stormwater Service District. There is not much Federal Stormwater funding and only a little state funding in the last year. Most of the projects are unfunded mandates from the federal government. There is not full funding of the \$97.8M, the rate is currently only 2 cents. There are law suits being brought in other areas by businesses and residents that could be brought in Fairfax County if Stormwater does not meet the federal mandates.

The Chesapeake Bay TMDL plan, developed by the Stormwater Division to meet the standards, includes a 15-year period to

construct/remediate facilities. The "chevy", not the "cadillac", plan is to achieve mandated contaminant reductions of:

- 5% during the initial 5 years
- 35% during the second 5 years
- 60% during the final 5 years

Phosphorus is the contaminant of concern.

The money originally gained by the one cent tax and later increases has been used to:

- inventory areas of concern such as categorizing 84 water areas as impaired, up over 400% from the waters identified in 2004, and prepare action plans
- identify MS4 Permit areas that need retrofits, structural and course controls, illegal/improper discharge sites, etc.
- develop plan and provide for staffing.

Stormwater Division has evaluated ½ cent and ¼ cent per year increases. Stormwater Division is proposing to fund these remediation projects at the ¼ cent per year rate up to 5 cents. Bonds would be another way to also fund the program needs, but the cost of debt service made the option not as attractive.

Emergency and Flood Response is a smaller cost center that helps mitigate structure flooding where the county is liable.

Dam Safety and Facility Rehabilitation is an area expected to grow if the county assumes responsibility for all stormwater structures in the county. Currently there are 1,540 county maintained structures, but over 3,720 that are privately owned. The county's current responsibility is to inspect the private structures once every 5 years and the proposed budget for FY2015 is \$4.5M. If the county assumes responsibility for the private ones also, the budget could increase to about \$16.5M per year. The Board of Supervisors has been briefed on this and the discussion with the Board continues.

The county has 4 big manmade lakes. Sediment builds up quickly in the lakes and must be dredged to maintain healthy plants and fish. Aerators and other devices should help with water quality. County is looking for various means to count toward its federal mandates for the Chesapeake Bay and under the Water Quality Act.

Conveyance System Rehabilitation is another large program cost center. There are over 16,000 miles of pipe and paved channel. Reinvestment of 1% per year is required for 100 year life of these pipes and channels. Several projects were depicted in before and after photos.

Q: How well do these remediations hold up?

A: There is not a long history to review yet, but most appear to be holding up well. The county is trying various remediation methods and techniques and evaluating which provide the best service with the least costs.

Reston and Vienna are included in the county for stormwater projects. Fairfax City is not part of the service district.

Stormwater Division partners with Virginia Department of Transportation, Fairfax County Public Schools, Fairfax County Parks and other agencies to coordinate projects and support.

Q: Is staffing for the program administration adequate?

A: Staffing for the program has increased to an adequate number based on 1.5 cent tax.

*(Continued on page 6)*

(Continued from page 5)

Q: Is there a place to get info for our HOAs about best practices and how to make improvements?

A: Check the Stormwater Division and Soil and Water Conservation websites. Rain gardens, rain barrels, etc. can be installed privately and have impact on water runoff. The Stormwater Program's recommendation to the Board of Supervisors:

- Move forward steadily but slowly
- Initial plan is ¼ cent/year
- Continue to evaluate alternative solutions
- Budget needs will continue at \$100M per year over time.

Q: How often should a biometric study of a private pond be done?

A: Probably about every 5 years or if there appears to be a problem.

Q: How does Fairfax County work with other jurisdictions?

A: Prince William and Loudoun County must meet the same standards as Fairfax County, so we consult on projects areas that join other jurisdictions.

Q: In terms of spending, compared to other jurisdictions, does Fairfax County do about what is required of it? More than required? Not enough?

A: We are not doing more than is required. We are ahead of most communities in what we are doing because there are resources in Fairfax County to do remediation and the county has been working on its stormwater issues for a longer time.

Q: Does Stormwater Division work with VDOT on projects?

A: Upon invitation from VDOT, but there is no review and approval of VDOT projects. VDOT has its own MS4 permit. VDOT's permit is a Tier 2 permit while the county's is a Tier 1 permit which means the county has more stringent permit requirements than VDOT has.

Q: What is the effect of all the salt that is being used on the roads because of weather events?

A: No "nutrients" are involved so, compared with the benefit to public safety, there is no justification to stop road treatment.

Q: When all of this projected work is done, what is the impact on the Chesapeake Bay?

A: Already there are effects—algae plumes have decreased, crabs and oysters are back, fishing is improving and the Bay appears to be coming back.

### **Old Business/New Business**

**HB 791:** Mr. Hinman asked for support for the Bill. Time is critical because the bill will be decided very soon by the General Assembly.

**AHOME speaker:** AHOME President, Jim Edmondson, is available as a speaker/program for neighborhood associations, district councils and other groups on the topic "Affordable Housing Challenges in Fairfax County, 1986-2016." Organization program chairmen may negotiate a mutually convenient date, time, and place via email exchanges to:

**jedmondson@eandgroup.com.**

### **Adjournment**

Membership meeting adjourned at 9:16 p.m.

### **Next Meetings**

Board Meeting, February 27, 2014, Hidden Oaks Nature Center, 7701 Royce Street, Annandale; Board Meeting (including Budget recommendations), March 20, 2014, Hidden Oaks Nature Center, 7701 Royce Street, Annandale; Membership Meeting (Budget), March 27, 2014, Mason Governmental Center, 6507 Columbia Pike, Annandale, VA 22003.

*Minutes prepared by Linda Boone, Recording Secretary*

### **Disaster Resiliency**

A Community Collaboration Workshop will be held to prepare citizens for a disaster. It will include:

- Emotional and Spiritual Care
- Disaster 101
- Fairfax County Volunteer and Donations Annexes
- Centers for Disaster Response

and more! Register online at:

[www.volunteerfairfax.org/individuals/Resiliency-Summit.php](http://www.volunteerfairfax.org/individuals/Resiliency-Summit.php)

WHEN: March 25, 2014

WHERE: Mount Olive Baptist Church, 6600 Old Centreville Road, Centreville, VA 20121

TIME: 8 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.



### **Report on County Libraries**

Kathy Kaplan, the Federation's Chairman of the Library Committee, submitted the following report to the Federation Board:

The Advertized FY15 Library budget will not halt the downward spiral of the library if it is not amended by the Board of Supervisors. The amount of increase in the FY15 Advertized budget is only \$585,505, relative to the FY14 Approved budget. Subtracting out the 1.29% pay increase of \$275,005 and the materials increase of \$250,000, there is only \$61,500 left over for computer replacements, licenses for databases and software requirements.

Librarians throughout the system are overworked. Some librarians have left to take positions in surrounding systems. The 45 library-staff positions funded since last October have not been filled.

In January 2014, library discards were up to 17,000. In November and December 2013, discards had been down to 10,000 each month. It's too early to know if the discard policy changes made mid-February have slowed the culling of books in good condition.

I think the budget should be increased. I did write all the supervisors about the budget and the unfilled positions. And I will be speaking at the April 9 public hearing about the budget. I hope some of you will also speak.

## **Code Enforcement**

Rob Jackson submitted the following report on his attendance at the Mason District Council's community forum on code enforcement in early February. The Council's Mollie Loeffler has been doing great work on code enforcement issues.

The cafeteria at Sleepy Hollow ES was full, and we saw that residents are extremely upset and angry about a perceived lack of effective enforcement of the various county codes, including health, zoning, occupancy, litter, etc. There is great anger over overcrowding, parking, backyard junkyards and operating businesses from residences. The Federation will look into these issues as they are not likely unique to Mason District.

Documentation of Violations Residents want the ability to upload photos (and videos) to the county complaint website. The Department of Code Compliance (DCC) agreed to work on this, as this documentation can assist in enforcement work. The County Attorney's Office (CA) did say that, absent the creator being willing to authenticate the documents in court, they are not admissible in an enforcement trial. (She studied the same rules of evidence that I did.) We should, however, examine whether the photos or videos could be used in court (at least for some purposes) if accompanied by a proper affidavit or declaration from the creator. I'm not sure whether the CA's reluctance was an evidentiary concern or a reaction to a county policy of BoS "blind eyes." See below.

False IDs. Both the county and residents complained about the use of false IDs by people under investigation. It's unlawful to use a fake ID in connection with an attempt to buy alcohol. There was general consensus among county employees that they would like to see the law extended to cover the presentation of a fake ID to a county inspector. Mason residents supported this idea. We should probably investigate this issue for possible inclusion in our 2015 legislative program. If it's a misdemeanor to use a fake ID to buy beer, why isn't it a misdemeanor to present a fake ID to claim falsely that one is a relative to avoid eviction for overcrowding? Overcrowding is dangerous as the County's slideshow demonstrated. There are residences in the county where boarders are padlocked into rooms or basements at night for the safety of the landlords, but at the risk of certain death in a fire. The photos made my skin crawl. We need to help stop this. Illegal boarding houses are dangerous to human life.

Retaliation. There seems to be a genuine fear of retaliation against people making complaints. We should investigate whether making or carrying out threats of retaliation is illegal and, if not, whether we should consider whether this issue should be added to our 2015 legislative program.

Contacting the DCC. The DCC prefers complaints be made over the phone, even when they are anonymous because the county can ask questions to get the right information, often missing on anonymous web-based complaints. At the same time, the county posts complaint-based info on its website. It encourages residents to keep track of their complaint over the Internet. This is an education opportunity for the Federation.

Parking. Residents are very angry about the parking of commercial vehicles in residential areas. We need to help educate people about the rules. Not every truck is a commercial vehicle. Other concerns are cars with Maryland tags – not paying personal property taxes. Cars parked in back and side yards -

does not violate the code. Cars in the street – FCPD authority. Cars in the yard – DCC authority. We need to teach ourselves more about the rules.

Legislative Blind Eyes. There is concern that, at least some supervisors, are closing their eyes to violations or even discouraging adequate enforcement of the codes. Much of this is a local issue that can be best addressed in elections. But I do think the Federation must make it clear we expect the County to follow and enforce its laws in a fair and reasonable manner. We certainly don't want people to be treated arbitrarily. People need notice and a chance to fix things, but some are not interested in compliance. There, the County must take effective steps in those cases.

As our former Federation president has said so well, so often, we are at our best when we work on a bottom-up basis. We've demonstrated this with RSUs. Code compliance seems another opportunity to engage with the members associations, government officials, and the homeowners of Fairfax County. Let's all think about this issue for a while and, working with member organizations, develop a strategy to help our members help their communities. I see Land Use and Public Safety taking the lead.

To follow this issue, visit the Mason District Council's website: <http://www.masondistrict.org/>

The site includes the results of a survey of Mason District citizens.

## **New Northern Virginia Commuter Tools on 511**

Commuters on I-395 and I-95 now have a new web tool designed to make their daily trips a little easier. The Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) has launched the new features for commuters on its 511 mobile app and website at <http://www.511virginia.org/nova>. Users can click the direct link or the "Northern Va. I-95/395" tab from the main page to see:

- Current travel times in HOV lanes vs. regular lanes
- Park-and-ride locations, number of spaces and by what time a lot is typically full
- Schedules and bus stops for PRTC buses
- Real-time travel information for VRE routes
- Whether the HOV lanes are open to traffic or closed

The enhancements are part of VDOT's program to ease congestion during construction of the 95 Express Lanes. The new web tool is Virginia's first integrated corridor management (ICM) initiative - technologies used to enhance multi-modal transportation operations in the I-95/395 corridor.

To report a road problem with VDOT, please use [VDOT's online work request service](#). Through VDOT's system, they are able to provide you with such services as:

- Filling potholes
- Drainage culvert cleaning and repair
- Guardrail repair
- Street sign replacement
- Traffic lights
- Removal of debris from roadways, and shoulder repairs.

You may also visit [511Virginia.org](http://511Virginia.org) to access the latest road conditions.

**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](http://www.fairfaxfederation.org/memberappl.htm)

<b>Association Name:</b>		<b>and address:</b>		<b>Date:</b>	
<b>Position</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Address</b>	<b>Phone/FAX (XXX.XXX.XXXX)</b>	<b>E-mail see note #2</b>	
<b>President</b>					
<b>Treasurer</b>					
<b>1<sup>st</sup> Delegate</b>					
<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Delegate</b>					
<b>3<sup>rd</sup> Delegate</b>					
<b>4<sup>th</sup> Delegate</b>					
<b>Please indicate person and address above to send future membership renewals:</b>					
<b>Association Size/Federation Dues:</b>		<b>District?</b>	<b>Association Type?</b>		
<b>Organization's web site:</b>		<b>Month new officers installed:</b>			
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 <a href="mailto:fedtreas2014@fairfaxfederation.org">fedtreas2014@fairfaxfederation.org</a> 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;"> <p><b>THE FEDERATION</b>                      Attention: Membership Vice President                      P.O. Box 3913                      Merrifield, VA 22116-3913</p> </div>		Dues, Delegates, & Bulletins			
		# of Residences	Dues	Voting Delegates	Bulletins (emailed) <i>One per delegate</i>
		Under 100	\$20	1	+ \$10 per each mailed
		100-1000	\$40	2	+ \$10 per each mailed
		Over 1000	\$60	3	+ \$10 per each mailed
<b>Please print this page landscape mode using the properties box</b>					

**Future membership renewals:** 1. Submitter, 2. Association Address, 3. President, 4. Treasurer, 5. 1<sup>st</sup> Delegate, 6. 2<sup>nd</sup> Delegate, 7. 3<sup>rd</sup> Delegate, 8. 4<sup>th</sup> 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