

# The Fairfax County FEDERATION

of Citizens Associations *Established 1940*

April 2014

## THE BULLETIN

Volume 63, Number 7

### Federation Membership Meeting

Thursday, May 15, 2014  
7:30 p.m.

**Mason Government Center**  
6507 Columbia Pike, Annandale, VA 22003

**Topic: Annual Meeting, Election of Officers**

**Reminder:**

**Citizen of the Year Banquet**  
Sunday, April 27, 2014  
Starting at 6 PM

**Crowne-Plaza Hotel, Tysons Corner**



### Federation Board Meeting

April 24, 2014, at 7:30 p.m.  
Hidden Oaks Nature Center

### 2013 Awards at the Citizen of the Year Banquet

The Fairfax County Federation of Citizens Associations is honored and delighted to present its 2013 awards at the Citizen of the Year Banquet on April 27 at the Crowne-Plaza in Tysons:

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**

### New on the Federation Website

**Budget:** A link to the budget resolution.

**Transportation:** Announced meetings on transportation issues.

*Visit us at*

***www.FairfaxFederation.org***

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

Follow us on Twitter: @TheFCFCA

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

Greetings:

We all know and appreciate that Fairfax County is a diverse place. We have neighbors who were born all over the United States and the rest of the world. Some have families that have lived in Northern Virginia for generations, while others moved here in the last few years. We are regularly exposed to different customs, languages, cultures and food. Fairfax County is an exciting place in which to live and work. It's a place to learn and grow.

There is another changing demographic that should cause us and our government to pause and think. Fairfax County has been a great place to find high-paying jobs. However, while presenting the FY2015 county budget, County Executive Ed Long informed the Federation that this phenomenon is changing. Job growth at the high end of the compensation scale has slowed to a trickle, while low-wage jobs are growing more rapidly. And many think this is a long-term trend.

Demographic changes are not good or bad; right or wrong. But they do need to be understood. A county with job growth at the low end of the compensation spectrum will be harder pressed to generate historical increases in tax revenue that have been necessary to support a strong school system and robust county services. Yet, most residents are not likely willing to accept downgraded schools or county services. A less affluent county cannot afford to send the same level of income and sales tax dollars to Richmond that support schools and low real estate taxes in much of the rest of the Commonwealth. Yet legislators from "receiving" jurisdictions have no motivation to reduce their share of state revenues or our tax burdens.

Raising local taxes higher provides incentives for the more mobile (and often, more affluent) residents to leave Fairfax County. (Of the 20 professionals in the small Fairfax County-based law firm where I am affiliated, nine rarely come to the office and several live in other states. Many people can "work here virtually" and not "live here physically.") Raising taxes also hurts lower-income individuals, leaving them with less disposable income. There is no easy answer.

What is certain is: Business as usual will not likely work for Fairfax County. Our county is changing in ways that will affect government revenues and services. We need to start a broad dialog now to guide Fairfax County as it changes economically. The Federation and its members need to be active participants in the discussion.

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	no meeting	—	24-Apr	Hidden Oaks Na-
27-Apr	Citizen of the Year Banquet	Crowne-Plaza Hotel		
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	Braddock Hall

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!

### Janyce Hedetniemi Selected as Fairfax County Citizen of the Year

At-Large Planning Commissioner Janyce Hedetniemi will be honored as the 2013 Fairfax County Citizen of the Year at the annual awards banquet sponsored by the Fairfax County Federation of Citizens Associations on Sunday, April 27 at the Tysons Corner Crowne Plaza Hotel in McLean.

Commissioner Hedetniemi is known for her dedication to the county as evidenced by her work as an at-large member of the Fairfax County Park Authority Board and Chair of the Fairfax County Transportation Advisory Commission. She was a member of the Tysons Land Use Task Force and Vice-Chair of the Task Force Steering Committee which helped formulate comprehensive plan language for Tysons. In 2012, she helped form and served as the first chair of the Braddock District Land Use and Environmental Management Committee. Commissioner Hedetniemi is an at-large member of the Fairfax County Planning Commission and serves on the Commissions' special committees: Transportation, Tysons and Residential Studios. Not at all new to community relations and constituency development, Commissioner Hedetniemi, during her tenure as Director of the Office of Community Liaison at the National Institutes of Health (NIH), created a national model for Federal/Community collaboration which has been acknowledged as a

*(Continued on page 6)*

### The No-Increase 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 be the same as the tax in 2014, the tax rate in FY2015 would be:

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

Solving: rate = 1.105/1.0654 = 1.0372 (includes stormwater)

The tax rate would be 1.0147 plus the stormwater charge of 0.0225.

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

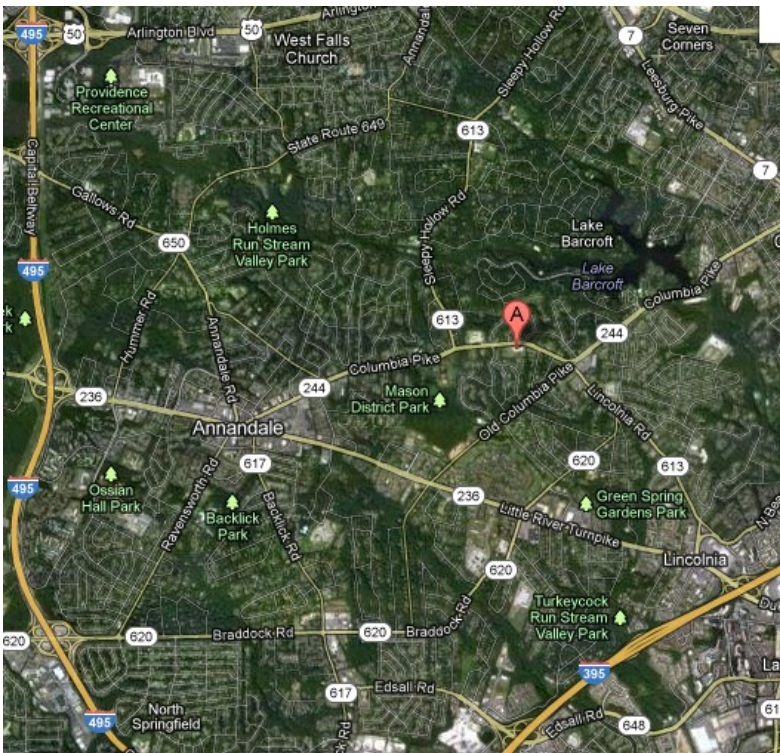
Fairfax County lists approximately 2500 Community Associations (<http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/internet/assoc.htm>). Be sure your association keeps its contact information up to date, using <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/opa/hoaupdate.htm>.

### 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.

## Membership Meeting Minutes

Thursday, March 27, 2014

[Draft to be submitted for approval on 5/15/2014](#)

The March meeting of the membership of the Fairfax County Federation of Citizens Associations was called to order by President Rob Jackson at 7:35 p.m. at the Mason Government Center (6507 Columbia Pike, Annandale, VA 22003).

### Administrative Matters

**Minutes**—It was moved and seconded that the minutes March Membership Meeting be approved. The motion passed on a voice vote and the minutes were approved.

**Treasurer's Report**—Scott Schlegel presented his report, receipt and filing was moved by Ms. Thurmond and seconded by Mr. Goldberg. After a voice vote, the report was filed for the record.

**Citizen of the Year**—Tania Hossain, chairman of the event, noted that invitations had been sent and encouraged attendees to RSVP quickly. The 2013 Citizen of the Year honoree is Janyce Hedetniemi. Citation of Merit honorees are Tena Bluhm and Kathy Kaplan. Special Gratitude honorees are Congressman Jim Moran, Congressman Frank Wolf, and Delegate Jim Scott. Information is on the website about the event. Members need to market tables for the banquet. Sponsor levels are on the website also as well as the brochure. We continue to look for sponsors.

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

There was no other urgent business for the membership.

### Program: FY2015 Budget Presentation

Ms. Boone introduced County Executive Ed Long and Deputy Director Department of Management and Budget Joe Mondoro who presented an overview and highlights of the FY2015 advertised budget. Sequestration has ended for now but continues to impact the economy in the county. The General Assembly bill concerning transportation passed last year which provides \$125M to the county for transportation projects. Multi-year budget approach is working. New CIP review process has been undertaken by the schools and county to look at infrastructure needs. The utility rate for Stormwater Division will increase to \$.0375 over the next 5 years. An IT Plan will be coming next year for technology needs as well as Public Safety needs.

Items of concern about the budget include that real estate values are not back to 2008 levels. Mr. Long does not want to approve anything in upcoming budgets that cannot be sustained. There will be continuing challenges to fully fund FCPS and county employee compensation.

The county has cut so much in past years, but we have now identified a core level of services. The extra \$20M in cuts that the Board of Supervisors asked for are significant – libraries, school readiness, etc.—areas where the advertised budget had put extra funding for FY2015.

Jobs are slowly starting to increase, however, the unemployment rate inched up to 4% last month. New jobs in the county have changed from high paying ones to construction or other lower paying ones.

AAA bond rating saves the county money. The last bond sale garnered a 2.84% rate. There was a watch issued by one of the rating agencies because of three reasons: the county used onetime money for recurring expenses; the level of reserves should be increased from 7-8% currently to 15-20%; and there was concern about the liability gap of the retirement system – Mr. Long commented that the county would grow those funds from 72% to be 80%. Revenues are not growing as they have in the past; the new normal is smaller increases in revenue.

The Business and Professional Occupational License (BPOL) revenues are lower than expected, no other extra revenue sources except to ask for a referendum to allow a meals tax. The meals tax failed two times with voters already. Reduced revenue growth is the new normal. Further, 63% of revenue comes from real estate taxes. We don't have magic ways to increase revenue.

Increased home values have resulted in an average 6.54% increase in real estate assessments; with no commercial real estate increased values and high vacancy rates. Need to increase commercial real estate values and reduce vacancy rates.

The Board of Supervisors approved an advertised real estate rate that is 2 cents more than the current rate, or \$1.105. They did that to allow room for discussion of possible increases in the adopted budget.

School budget comprises 52.1% of county expenditures. Support for schools has not wavered. Since 2009 over 650 county cuts were made—police fire, DFS, etc. The Schools have traditionally gotten a fair share of any revenue increases.

The Schools budget request was for a 5.7% increase while the Advertised budget allows for a 2% increase in funding. There is a gap in funding the schools, which did not include an estimated \$30M from the state budget.

A market pay study for county employees revealed that the fire department was out of market, so a 3% pay increase is in the budget. The Board wants to consider a 2% increase for county employees. The Board has to consider what is sustainable for FY2016 and beyond. Pay is important to recruit and retain quality employees and teachers.

The 911 call center equipment must be replaced at a cost of \$5M. Computer aided dispatch terminals will cost \$11M. Increased public assistance caseloads transferred from state must be funded. The

Community Funding Pool resources help community organizations serve residents.

Mr. Long stated in the future that if we build a facility, we must be able to staff it. Buildings under construction now will be staffed.

World Police and Fire Games are coming next year, June 27-July 5, and will be an international event. Funding to support the games is required along with lots of volunteers. Opening ceremony will be at RFK Stadium; the athletes' village will be in Reston and athletic events will take place in Virginia, the District and Maryland.

The budget assumptions for the FY2016 budget will be offered by the Board when it adopts the FY2015 budget. The level of

*(Continued on page 5)*

(Continued from page 4)

the schools transfer and county employee compensation projections are always included. Mr. Long opened the floor for questions.

Q: What technology upgrades are needed in police cars?

A: New terminals are needed.

Q: Additional revenue—what are other possible revenue enhancements? User fees? Carryover amounts?

A: Fees get updated or reviewed annually. The Board of Supervisors asked to look at SAC fee increases this year. Meals tax could be done—requires a voter referendum. Residential permits fee of \$25 fee could be added. The county must have a balanced budget. Emergencies happen. Mr. Long feels the county is running too close on revenue estimates. Reserves are used for true emergencies only. Rainy day fund can only be used when projected revenues fall by \$55M and then the Board can only take half of the amount from the rainy day reserve. In 2009 the county had to dip into the rainy day fund.

Q: What will county look like in a decade?

A: Diverse community, migration of new residents is at the lower end of income scale. Some new industries are coming to the county such as genome and genetics industries. We will also need technology companies to run “big data”. Town centers like Reston and Tysons will increase as well as density; additional growth in Springfield and Merrifield; more communication and outreach to community; and more urbanization in general.

Q: Vacant buildings—east county human services building—why not use existing building instead of building a new one?

A: Leased space is expensive. Hard to get large properties together to build something, but sometimes it is necessary.

Q: Verizon will not maintain boxes at the 911 Center because of their age. Why?

A: We need to replace the boxes which Verizon will then maintain.

Q: What are the health care and pension requirements for county employees?

A: Volume 2 of the budget has contribution rates for employees and the retirement programs for each class of employee. New employees cannot retire before age 55, rule of 85, with a defined benefit plan.

Q: Feds went from defined benefit to a small defined benefit but larger defined contribution plan?

A: That could be expensive, too. County human resources/consultant conducted a study 2 years ago and decided to remain with a defined benefit plan.

Q: If lower income people are moving into the county. How will they be able to afford to live here?

A: Apartments are more affordable. County is always looking at increasing the affordable housing stock. Over half (53%) of the homeless work; there about 1300 homeless persons at any time in the county.

Q: In comparison to the reduction of over 600 County positions, FCPS had reduced 1400 positions and now in the FY2015

budget proposes to reduce another 700 positions. How many vacant positions has the County had open for over a year?

A: A query is being addressed that will be posted on the county’s website. The county requires agencies to keep about 8% of vacancies open in order to meet the payroll budget.

Q: What do you mean by the need to revamp the 911 Center?

A: No, 911 boxes need upgrading, not the PSTOC itself.

Q: Lack of code compliance is impacted by lack of county attorneys. How are salaries for county attorneys viewed as an investment or expense?

A: Attorneys are investments, but we have to be able to afford them.

Q: How do you calculate (project) out-years numbers?

A: Use econometric models and financial tools.

Q: Do you apply risk analysis?

A: Yes

Q: Income in the county has only risen by 2%. What about income increases in 2016?

A: Mr. Long worries about it. Homes are moving faster but pent up demand for housing has caught up. Unemployment rate was up last month.

President Jackson presented Mr. Long and Mr. Mondoro with new Federation mugs to commemorate their discussion with the membership.

### **Federations’ Budget Resolution**

The membership moved to a discussion of the Federation’s Budget Resolution.

#### **Revenue**

Discussion began with correcting an error in the Board recommended resolution. Need to strike and remove the paragraph in the Revenue section that proposes increasing cigarette taxes. Ms. Horn moved and Mr. Birch seconded to remove the paragraph. After discussion the motion was withdrawn and a substitute motion was made by Ms. Horn and seconded by Mr. Birch that reads: “**Resolved**, the Federation urges the Board of Supervisors to look at all possible sources of revenue (within its authority) including but not limited to meals tax, BPOL, increasing residential permitting fees, SACC fees, etc.” The motion passed 41 For 0 Opposed 0 Abstentions.

#### **Libraries**

Per Ms. Kaplan the VA Code authorizes the Trustees to approve the budget. There was a philosophical discussion about the budget and what our priorities were as the Federation. Motion by Ms. Kaplan to delete the \$100,000 funding for the study was seconded by Ms. Trainer. The motion was approved 40 For 0 opposed 3 Abstentions.

Main motion to approve the Library section as amended was moved by Ms. Kaplan and seconded by Ms. Cockayne. It passed with a vote of 38 For 3 Opposed 0 Abstentions.

#### **Debt Management**

Resolution approval was moved by Mr. Schlegel and seconded by Mr. Thompson. An amendment was added to the wording of

(Continued on page 6)

(Continued from page 5)

the resolution to read, "Resolved, that the Federation recommends that the county continue to adhere to its sound financial management policies and practices, including matching recurring requirements with sustainable and recurring sources of revenue, and if necessary defer or eliminate any new debt issuance that might place the county's strong debt rating and healthy financial condition at risk." Passed on vote of 36 For 2 Opposed 4 Abstentions

Correction of typo passed on a voice vote.

Final Resolution as amended passed on a vote of 39 For 0 Opposed 4 Abstentions.

#### County Employee Compensation

Ms. Boone moved and Ms. Kaplan seconded the motion to add this section recommending a 2% increase in compensation for county employees. After discussion, the motion failed on a vote of 15 For 23 Opposed 5 Abstentions and will not be part of the Federation's Budget Resolution.

#### Pension Fund

Mr. Costello moved approval of the resolution and it was seconded by Mr. Wyse. There was discussion and one friendly amendment to change the word conduct to "appoint". The section passed 24 For 19 Opposed 2 Abstentions and was added to the Federation resolution.

#### Budget Process

Mr. Thompson moved approval and Mr. Wells seconded the motion which passed 41 For 0 Opposed 0 Abstentions. It will be added to the Resolution.

#### Education

Mr. Saperstein moved approval and Mr. Thompson seconded it. Ms. Horn moved and it was seconded to remove the words "at least" from the resolution clause. The amendment passed on a voice vote. After discussion, the amended section was added to the Federation's resolution on a vote of 35 For 2 Opposed 8 Abstentions.

#### Revenues

Motion to approve the entire Revenues section was made and seconded. The vote was 41 For 0 Opposed 2 Abstentions. The section was added to the Federation resolution.

#### Budget Resolution

Approval of the entire Federation budget resolution was moved by Mr. Saperstein and seconded by Ms. Horn. Discussion was about the need to reduce the tax rate or keep it the same and how to identify where the additional revenue could be found. The entire resolution as amended passed on a vote of 38 For 3 Opposed 2 Abstentions.

#### Old Business/New Business

An invitation to AHOME's fundraising reception was announced by Mr. Hanks. The reception will honor Congressman Gerry Connolly. For details contact Mr. Hanks or go to the website.

The Federation was advised that if there is no Special Session budget approved at the state, FCPS will have to issue pink slips because of time requirements.

#### Adjournment

The Federation Membership meeting adjourned at 10:34 p.m.

#### Next Meetings

The Membership Meeting, April 10, 2014, was cancelled. (The next membership meeting will be May 15, 2014.) The next Board Meeting will be on April 24, 2014, at the Hidden Oaks Nature Center, 7701 Royce Street, Annandale.

*Minutes prepared by Linda Boone, Recording Secretary*

(Continued from page 3)

successful model for conflict resolution between the NIH and its community. Commissioner Hedetniemi served as the President of the Braddock District Council for two years and has been the President of the Oak Hill Citizens Association since 1997.

The Federation will recognize as 2013 Citation of Merit honorees Commissioner **Tena Bluhm** and author/naturalist **Kathy Kaplan**.

Commissioner Bluhm serves as the Chair of the Fairfax Commission on Aging and has worked tirelessly on behalf of older adults and the issues of aging. She assisted in the planning and presentation of two major seminars presented by Fairfax County on Universal Design and Creating a Village. She has put a "face" on aging issues in Fairfax County and sought ways to make the county aging friendly. Commissioner Bluhm currently serves her homeowners association as president, is a member of the Braddock District Council and lives in Fairfax with her husband Ray.

Ms. Kaplan has worked tirelessly for library advocacy and has been awarded the Reston Citizens Association 2013 Citizen of the Year award for her work. She currently serves as the Chair of the Federation's Library Committee that reviews proposed changes to the county's library system including the Beta Plan, changes that would have degraded county libraries by reducing staff, eliminating educational requirements for librarians, and eliminating Youth Services for all branches. A lifelong naturalist and award winning author, Ms. Kaplan has lived in Reston for 31 years and served as co-chair of the Residential, Urban Design and Liveability workgroup for the RCS Reston 2020 during the first years of the Reston Master Plan Special Study Task Force.

The Federation will recognize the dedicated and distinguished careers of **Delegate Jim Scott** (HD-53rd), **Congressman Frank Wolf** (VA-10th), and **Congressman Jim Moran** (VA-8th) for their service to Northern Virginia residents and Fairfax County in particular.

"I am delighted that so many outstanding members of the community, who give continuously, have been selected as this year's honorees." said Federation President Rob Jackson.

The Federation, established in 1940, is the countywide voice for homeowner, civic, and community associations. More information on the 2013 honorees and banquet RSVP are available on the Federation's website at [www.fairfaxfederation.org](http://www.fairfaxfederation.org). Media contact Tania Hossain – (703) 489-5999 / [fedcoy2014@fairfaxfederation.org](mailto:fedcoy2014@fairfaxfederation.org)

## **Federation's Resolutions on the Fairfax County Advertised Fiscal Year 2015 Budget**

**Introduction:** The following resolution was adopted by the Federation Membership on March 27, 2014. The final resolution will be submitted to the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors.

Rob Jackson, President  
Fairfax County Federation of Citizens Associations  
April 2014

### **Education Resolution**

**Whereas**, approval of the Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS) advertised FY 2015 budget would result in a county transfer increase of about 5.7%, and the County Executive has proposed an increase in the county transfer to FCPS of about 2.0% for a difference of about \$64 million and FCPS represents about 52% of the proposed County budget; and

**Whereas**, based on the current tax rate, in the County Executive's proposed budget the projected increase in revenue for Fairfax County is about \$145 million;

**Whereas**, since FY 2009 the county's transfer to FCPS has grown at only a 1.1% compound annual growth rate whereas the general county fund has grown at a 1.4% growth rate; and

**Whereas**, over the last several years FCPS has increased class size twice, substantially reduced summer school, and salaries have stagnated with our maximum teacher salary now ranked 8<sup>th</sup> out of 10 Washington area school districts—10 being lowest, not the highest; and

**Whereas**, between FY 2009 and FY 2014 FCPS student population has increased about 15,000 (compound annual growth rate of 1.9%) with about 3,000 more students expected for FY 2015, and certain populations that require more expensive services have grown at an even faster rate, such as, students who receive free and reduced price lunches and ESOL students; and

**Whereas**, Fairfax County is one of the wealthiest counties in the U.S. and school bonds routinely pass overwhelmingly.

**Therefore be it resolved**, the Federation requests the Board of Supervisors provide FCPS with a fair share of available funds which should be a county transfer increase to FCPS of 50% of the FY 2015 projected increase in revenue for Fairfax County.

### **Libraries Resolution**

**Whereas**, the Fairfax County Public Libraries are centers for self-directed education for all ages and provide skilled research assistance and instruction for individuals and groups, and

**Whereas**, the Library Budget has been cut from \$34 million in 2007 to \$27 million in 2013 during the same time that two new branch libraries were opened and at the same time population and cost of living were increased, and

**Whereas**, the per capita Materials Budget has decreased from \$6.33 in FY 2000 to \$2.11 in FY 2013, and

**Whereas**, Fairfax County Public Library has 45-50 vacant positions,

**Whereas**, the size of the Library collection fluctuated as books were regularly added to and culled from the collection, there was a net loss of over 400,000 books between 2006 and January 2014, and

**Whereas**, the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors voted November 19, 2013 an increase of \$1M as a consideration item to the FY 2015 Library Budget for non-fiction materials, and the Library Board of Trustees Budget Committee voted February 3, 2014 to increase the library budget by \$2M to include \$1 M for Materials budget and \$1 M for other items including continuing education for librarians, and

**Whereas**, the Fairfax County Public Library is crucial to the future of the county as an economic powerhouse.

**Therefore be it resolved** that the Federation calls for a \$2.0 million increase in the FY2015 budget to: conduct a strategic plan, increase of the materials budget to restore depleted collections, fill vacant staff positions, broaden the function of the library to support literacy for children and adults, increase technical resources and library support for new businesses as strategies for furthering economic development in the county.

### **Debt Management Resolution**

**Whereas**, Fairfax County has maintained a Aaa rating from Moody's Investors Service since 1975, a AAA rating from Standard & Poor's since 1978 and a AAA rating from Fitch Ratings since 1997, and

**Whereas**, as of January 2014, Fairfax County is only one of nine states, 39 counties, and 33 cities to hold a Triple-A rating from all three rating agencies, and

**Whereas**, the county's 10% debt ratio (debt service expenditures, as a percentage of Combined General Fund disbursements) is consistent with its surrounding and stable rated counties including Montgomery, Loudoun, Arlington and Prince William, and

**Whereas**, the county has continued to fund its pension system based on actuarial estimates and in accordance with county code and has increased its pension funding in recent years to offset weak market returns, and

**Whereas**, Fairfax County has been able to maintain its triple-A bond rating throughout many economic downturns and Federal Government budget reductions over the past 36 years by following its sound financial management practices.

**Therefore be it resolved**, that the Federation recommends that the county continue to adhere to its sound financial management policies and practices, including matching recurring requirements with sustainable and recurring sources of revenue, and if necessary defer or eliminate any new debt issuance that might place the county's strong debt rating and healthy financial condition at risk.

**And be it further resolved**, that the county be mindful and aware of its pension and other long-term obligations and closely monitor the effects of sequestration and other Federal Government budget reductions on the county's economy.

**And be it further resolved**, that the County include Economic Development Authority debt service in the FY2015 and future budgets.

### **Pension Fund Resolution**

**Whereas**, people live much longer than they did when the county retirement system was instituted (life expectancy is now 83, as compared to 70 not many years ago); and

*(Continued on page 8)*

(Continued from page 7)

**Whereas**, county employees are eligible for retirement at an far earlier age than in the private sector; and

**Whereas**, county employees are usually able to work and actually do work after retirement from the county; and

**Whereas**, the long-term liability of the pension fund is great.

**Therefore be it resolved**, that the county appoint a blue ribbon commission to study the effect of increasing the retirement age on the near- and long-term pension costs and the impact on staffing.

#### **Revenues Resolution**

**Whereas**, real estate values have increased on average 6.54% during the recent equalization process, meaning that maintaining the property tax rate of \$1.085 per \$100 would still generate about \$2.3B in revenue and increase the cost for the average homeowner of roughly \$333 per year; and

**Whereas**, county residents' income has increased only 2.1%; and

**Whereas**, tax payments are paid from income rather than home value; and

**Whereas**, the effects of the comprehensive State Transportation Act contains significant tax increases on sales, wholesale gasoline/diesel, property transfers, and other taxes.

**Whereas**, the rising additional fees that directly affect homeowners (stormwater fee, waste disposal, etc.) further increase the "tax burden" on homeowners.

**Whereas**, the Board of Supervisors has the authority to adopt a zoning ordinance to assess and impose transportation impact fees on any development needing a building permit, the collected impact fees to be used to pay all or part of the costs of reasonable road improvement, and that new transportation revenues collected from fuel taxes be used to alleviate congestion on county roads.

**Therefore be it resolved**, the Federation endorses maintaining a tax rate of \$1.085 per \$100 of assessed valuation, and urges that the Board of Supervisors work to accommodate recommended program funding for Schools and libraries as described above.

**And be it further resolved**, the Federation urges the Board of Supervisors to look at all possible sources of revenue (within its authority), including but not limited to meals tax, BPOL, increasing residential permitting fees, SACC fees, etc.

**And be it further resolved**, the Federation recommends that the Board of Supervisors adopt a zoning ordinance to assess and impose transportation impact fees on any development needing a building permit, the collected impact fees to be used to pay all or part of the costs of reasonable road improvement, and that new transportation revenues collected from fuel taxes be used to alleviate congestion on county roads.

**And be it further resolved**, the Federation recommends the Board of Supervisors obtain the equivalent of one penny or \$20M from other revenue sources.

#### **Resolution on County Budget Process**

**Whereas**, there are no fewer than 86 Fairfax County boards, authorities and commissions, and 10 citizen advisory groups to the FCPS, all of which are advocacy groups for everything from

trees to pets and child care to the elderly, none address a balanced, thorough analysis and prioritization of expenditures and revenue sources of the Fairfax County and Public Schools' budgets; and

**Whereas**, the ongoing financial situation creates counterproductive competition among vital programs, making carefully tailored cuts especially problematic; and

**Whereas**, a few of the District Supervisors have their own advisory committees on the county budget, whose chairs meet irregularly to exchange ideas; and

**Whereas**, community input must not only be broad, but also be informed by a depth of knowledge that effectively employs the diverse expertise of those who live and work in Fairfax County; and

**Whereas**, the Advertised Property Tax Rate for FY2015 had to be set just one week after the County Executive released his FY2015 Advertised Budget; and

**Whereas**, the county's increasing participation in public-private partnerships, including the Tysons transit and other community redevelopments, may expose taxpayers to open-ended financial risks without adequate public discussion; and

**Whereas**, the Advertised Budget was released on February 25, 2014, and the public hearings on the budget are scheduled to begin 41 days later, on April 8; and

**Whereas**, the most recent edition of the county's *Performance Measurement Matters* newsletter is dated Fall 2008; and

**Whereas**, the County and FCPS already develop a 5 year staffing plan and budget outlooks; and

**Whereas**, while the "performance" of most departments and agencies are reported in the county's proposed budget under the heading of Performance Measurement Results, many county offices report activities, such as attending meetings and preparing reports rather than citing work accomplishments/results; and

**Whereas**, both the county government and schools provide many non-mandated programs that should be reviewed for effectiveness, especially during economic downturns; and

**Whereas**, the Commonwealth's Transportation Plan imposes significant sales tax increases, wholesale gas taxes, and increased fees on property transfers; and

**Whereas**, Fairfax County has an obligation to ensure the most efficient use of tax dollars at a time of continuing shortfalls, to minimize damage to essential county and schools programs, and to limit the burden on county taxpayers.

**Therefore be it resolved**, the Federation praises the county's extensive series of public meetings to solicit community input on spending priorities, and urges that such meetings be continued in future years.

**And be it further resolved**, the Federation strongly urges that the processes/calendar for county residents' informed input to the budget decision-making process allow at least 60 days between release of the Advertised Budget and the public testimony on the budget.

**And be it further resolved**, the Federation strongly advocates for year-round review of the budget by a citizens' advisory com-

(Continued on page 9)



(Continued from page 8)

mittee to the Board of Supervisors, comprised of members whose focus is not advocacy of specific causes but a balanced, in-depth analysis and prioritization of expenditures and revenue sources for Fairfax County government and Public Schools' budgets.

**And be it further resolved**, the Federation urges all District supervisors to appoint budget advisory committees, and at the very least appoint a chairman who can participate in countywide meetings with other district budget committee chairs.

**And be it further resolved**, the Federation urges the County to publish 5-year budget goals.

**And be it further resolved**, the Federation recommends that the county establish an inventory of all public-private partnerships that may expose taxpayers to unexpected budget obligations, and establish a process that ensures broad public discussion of any partnership that may entail hidden risks for taxpayers.

**And be it further resolved**, the Federation requests that all Performance Measurement results in departmental budgets and Lines of Business documents, the latter of which needs to be updated, be reported in terms of accomplishments/results.

### **Apartments in Your Neighborhood**

Here is an abbreviated version of Mason District's Carol Turner's report on the county's March 26 meeting on Residential Studio Units (RSU's).

The meeting consisted of presentations from three different home builders. One was a non-profit organization to help the homeless, alcoholics, drug-addiction folks, etc.; another was a private developer that builds assisted living for the poor and needy; and the last one was a representative from the Montgomery County Housing Department. All three showed that the Fairfax County's RSU proposal is worthless. The rent from the 20% market units will not make up for the 80% below-market apartments. Rent from a 50/50 split might. The for-profit developer saw only one advantage: developers would not be required to provide as many parking spaces as currently required. The Montgomery official said that many of these buildings for the poor start with sufficient funds but within a few years the money runs out and the buildings become dilapidated with 11 people living in a 1 bedroom apartment and no one watching or caring. Charitable organizations, government agencies, and other sources have insufficient funds to help build RSU's and then support them. Competition is tough for the little funding available. The non-profit presenter said that the RSU amendment has too many objectives. Her organization has one purpose: to get the homeless off the streets and into a stable home. The non-profit organization is run so well that its supporters know it can be trusted to fulfill its one purpose.

The current proposal is only for single people earning less than 60% of AMI. More than half of the 700 homeless people in Fairfax County are in families. The RSU's would not help them. In addition, county residents do not trust the Board of Supervisors to do what is best for the existing citizens in exercising the great powers given it by the proposal.

### **Current Federation Members**

The Federation welcomes its newest member, Lincolnia Hills/Heywood Glen Civic Association, which represents 430 housing units in Mason District and the City of Alexandria.

As of March 31, 2014, Federation members are, by district:

#### **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**

Glen Haven Farms Homeowners Association  
Marlborough Nantucket Community Association  
McLean Citizens Association  
McLean Hamlet Citizens, Inc  
Potomac Hills Citizens Association

#### **Hunter Mill**

Colvin's Glen/Colvin's Forest Citizens' Association  
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 Hills/Heywood Glen Civic 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

**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; margin: 10px auto; width: fit-content;"> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>THE FEDERATION</b>                      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
# 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																	
<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