

# The Fairfax Chronicle

---

February 2010

[www.chroniclenewspapers.com](http://www.chroniclenewspapers.com)

Volume 7 • Number 5

# NEWSBRIEFS

## Board Chairmen Honored

Jan. 13, 2010, looked like a homecoming at the Government Center in Fairfax as past chairmen of the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors were recognized with a framed listing containing the names of all who served in that capacity since 1870 and photos of those who served since 1966 under the urban county executive form of government. Of the nine who served since that form of government was adopted, six survive. Those not living are Frederick Babson, Jr. (1966–1970), William Hoofnagle (1970–1072) and Jack Herrity (1976–1987).

The candid portraits in black and white of the living chairmen were taken by photographer Diana Adams and presented to the county by the Fairfax County Federation of Citizens Associations, who commissioned the artist's work. Those photos include Jean Packard (1972–1975), Audrey Moore (1988–1991), Tom Davis (1992–1994), Kate Hanley (1995–2003), Gerry Connolly (2004–2008) and Sharon Bulova (2009–present).



Photo by Irma A. Clifton  
Former Supervisor Jean Packard stands before her photo at the Fairfax County Government Center. The photo on the right is that of former Supervisor Audrey Moore.

In accepting the display on behalf of the county, Chairman Sharon Bulova stated that it was a wonderful addition to the Government Center and helped to recognize the legacy of service to the citizens of the county by these individuals. A large gathering of friends and family of those honored included Congressman Gerry Connolly's parents and sister, the wife and family of Jack Herrity and children and grandchildren of the other honorees. The group was treated to a lavish, international foods reception catered

by the Annandale High School Culinary Arts Program.

Supervisor Pat Herrity, son of Jack Herrity, said his family contributed one of their favorite candid photos of his father for the display. The photos of Frederick Babson and William Hoofnagle were provided from the collection in the Fairfax County Public Library Virginia Room.

The photos and framed listing are on display outside of the meeting room area on the main level of the Government Center.

—Irma Clifton

## Fairfax County Civil War Sesquicentennial Activities Planned

The Fairfax County Civil War Sesquicentennial Committee held their kickoff meeting at Frying Pan Park on Jan. 23, 2010, to begin making plans on how the county will mark the anniversary of a war that tore a nation asunder. As part of a nationwide remembrance, the county's

efforts are being spearheaded by a number of historic and tourist-minded organizations, including Visit Fairfax; the Bull Run Civil War Roundtable; the National Park Service; the county's Park Authority, Library System, History Commission and other museums and historical societies throughout the county.

Over the five-year period of the war, from 1861 to 1865, a surprising number of battles, skirmishes, encampments and other actions took place within Fairfax County, and the committee has already

begun compiling a listing of these events, both large and small, and to plan how they can be appropriately commemorated. Plans for reenactments such as the Battle of Ox Hill, which took place in September of 1862, and the Grand Review of U.S. Troops by President Abraham Lincoln in November of 1861 at Bailey's Crossroads, are already well underway. The activities of Colonel John S. Mosby and his Rangers will also be commemorated in some way yet to be determined.

To get involved, or for information on statewide activities, visit the Web site [www.VirginiaCivilWar.org](http://www.VirginiaCivilWar.org). The Fairfax County Civil War Sesquicentennial Com-

mittee will begin posting its activities in early March.

—Irma Clifton

## Supervisors Plead for More Public Involvement in Making Public School Funding Decisions

*What follows is the text of an open letter from Fairfax County Board of Supervisors Chairman Sharon Bulova and Lee District Supervisor Jeff C. McKay.*

Fairfax County and Northern Virginia have always played by the rules, but now the rules may change.

The composite index of local ability-to-pay (LCI) is the measure used to determine the state and local shares of K–12 education costs. It is based on a formula (adjusted gross income, taxable retail sales and true value of real property). The county's LCI is scheduled to drop from .76 to .71, as a result of the dire economic climate and increase in student population.

The county, therefore, is facing a comparative decrease in our ability to pay for K–12 education. The LCI is counted on by local governments and school divisions every two years to plan their budgets.

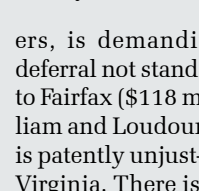
When we adopted our budget last year, reductions were made on both the school and general county sides of the budget. We are by no means out of the woods. Once again, we are faced with making tough decisions that could include painful cuts and reductions. Unfortunately, this year's challenge was exacerbated by former Gov. Tim Kaine's budget proposal to defer the LCI, costing Fairfax County \$61 million in school funding.

Decisions on the state budget are now in the hands of the General Assembly and Virginia's new governor, Bob McDonnell. Governor McDonnell made economic recovery, jobs and allowing Northern Virginia to keep more of the dollars we generate the centerpieces of

his campaign. At this critical time, we ask Governor McDonnell to keep his promises to Northern Virginia. As Governor McDonnell said during his campaign, "A great education leads to the opportunity of a great job."



Fairfax County Board of Supervisors Chairman Sharon Bulova



The outcry over this attack on Northern Virginia has been swift, strong and steadfast, uniting elected officials on both sides of the aisle, County taxpayers and the business community. The Fairfax County Board of Supervisors, like many others, is demanding that the proposed deferral not stand. The loss of \$61 million to Fairfax (\$118 million when Prince William and Loudoun counties are added in) is patently unjust—an affront to Northern Virginia. There is no doubt that our educational system is unparalleled and seen as one of the nation's best. The first-class rating of our schools has helped make Fairfax County and Northern Virginia the economic engine of the state.

If Fairfax County and the other negatively affected jurisdictions in Virginia are unsuccessful in defeating this proposal, we will have no other choice than to seek a legal remedy. The proposal to freeze the LCI should not be viewed as a budget proposal. It is a change in implementing a long-agreed-upon formula. It is changing the rules that we have played by in good faith. If the formula can be arbitrarily changed this year, no jurisdiction in the commonwealth can rely upon it in years to come.

We need your help. Call or write to Governor McDonnell. Tell him the LCI must not be frozen—for the sake of our children.



Congressman Gerry Connolly addresses members of the federal Virginia Task Force 1 upon their return home from their mission in Haiti at the Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Training Academy. Fairfax County Board of Supervisors Chairman Sharon Bulova, Fire Chief Ronald Mastin and officials representing FEMA and USAID also addressed the returning search and rescue team members.

## What Happens to Your Business When You Don't Advertise?

Nothing!

For advertising rates and information, call Dan Kelly 703-440-9550.

**Chronicle Newspapers**

