

The Fairfax County FEDERATION

of Citizens Associations

Established 1940

January 2006

THE BULLETIN

Volume 55 Number 5

Federation Membership Meeting



Thursday, January 19, 2006

7:30 p.m.

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

Guest Speaker:

**Brad Draeger, Deputy Superintendent
Fairfax County Public Schools**

**Topics: The Superintendent's Proposed Fiscal
Year 2007 Budget and No Child Left Behind Act**



Upcoming Membership Meetings

February 16, 2006 7:30 p.m.

**Guest Speaker: The Honorable Penny Gross
Mason District Supervisor**

Topic: The Chesapeake Bay

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



Federation Board Meetings

January 26, 2006 7:30 p.m.

February 23, 2006 7:30 p.m.



President's Message

The challenges of transportation, education, land use, taxes, emergency preparedness and the budget face the residents of Fairfax County in 2006, and the Federation will continue its 60+ year mission to work with civic and homeowner associations through its membership network to find ways to meet the challenges and improve the quality of life in Fairfax County. I presented the Federation Legislative Program to the Northern Virginia General Assembly Delegation on January 7. The program with its ten priorities covers our response to many of these challenges and may be viewed on our website, www.FairfaxFederation.org.

Our January 19th membership meeting will feature FCPS Deputy Superintendent Brad Draeger with a discussion of the No Child Left Behind program. The program requires student testing in addition to the Virginia Standards of Learning and the testing results allow transfers from under-performing schools to performing schools, regardless of enrollment levels. This US Department of Education program is only partially funded by the federal budget with the shortfall picked up by the state and county taxpayer. Come join us as Mr. Draeger explains these and other program components.

Also at our January meeting, we will vote on a proposed resolution on *Reclassification of Perennial Streams to Intermittent Streams (page three)*. The resolution acknowledges the complexity of stream bed physical environments and recognizes the impact reclassification has on land use. It requests the county modify the Chesapeake Bay Preservation Ordinance and Public Facilities Manual provisions to include more scientific techniques in stream bed research, and that the reclassification notification of the property owners and public is increased, among other things. Please review the resolution with your association members and prepare to vote on it at the meeting.

Looking ahead, our next membership meeting is February 16th and will feature The Honorable Penny Gross, Mason District Supervisor, who will give a presentation on the health of the Chesapeake Bay. Unfortunately, the December 15th meeting with The Honorable Gerry Connolly, Chairman of Fairfax County Board of Supervisors, was cancelled due to inclement weather. We will try to reschedule the Chairman for later this year.

The deadline for submission of Citizen of the Year Award applications is January 15th. Consider acknowledging those who have helped Fairfax County through their volunteer efforts by nominating them for the award. Also, I thank Esther Ferington for her Katrina Assistance Review (*page two*).

Finally, we have our New Year initiatives: 1) I would like to form a Senior Services Committee to recognize the growing elder population in the county and its impact on the county budget and services; and 2) we are planning to partner with the Citizen Corps to identify 100 civic and homeowner association leaders to undergo emergency preparedness training. It may be time for your association to become part of the response network. If you have volunteer time to give, come and be part of the Federation - just let me know.

Have A Safe and Prosperous New Year!

John Jennison, President

FedPres@FairfaxFederation.org ♦ (703) 591-5586

The December 15, 2005 monthly membership meeting was cancelled due to inclement weather. We apologize for any inconvenience this might have caused members. Because of this, our guest speaker, The Honorable Gerry Connolly, Chairman, Fairfax County Board of Supervisors, will be rescheduled for a meeting later this spring. The Federation's Inclement Weather Policy is on *page 2*.

Update on Assistance to Gulf Coast Evacuees in Fairfax County

Esther Ferington, FCFA Recording Secretary

Background: I have talked with Karen Shabon of the county human services staff three times since the Hurricane Katrina disaster sent a significant number of evacuees to Fairfax County and the region, most recently for our December meeting. She has been very generous with her time and assistance.

I think it's important for civic leaders in the county to have a basic understanding of this unusual situation because it doesn't fit into the familiar county issues and might otherwise be forgotten or not taken into account. Also, media coverage has been focused on individual families and it has been hard to get an overall picture of the evacuee situation here. I am also leaving the door open to the possibility that some of us involved with a variety of community organizations may be aware of other ways to offer help through those activities as well.

Basics: This information is current as of mid-November, when a presentation was prepared on the county and nonprofit response up to that time. In all, 1367 evacuees were registered with the Red Cross in Fairfax County by mid-November, the best estimate for the total number in the county at that time. Until early November, the Red Cross was temporarily co-located in the East County Government Center in Falls Church, where there is also a Skills Source Center. Now that the large-scale arrival of evacuees is over, this co-location is no longer occurring.

Of these evacuees, 523 households (consisting of 1014 people) have applied for public assistance through the county, including 703 adults and 311 children.

Key areas of concern have been school placement, housing, and jobs. In November, the Community Services Board also hosted a workshop for trauma responders, given the extent of the losses many evacuees have experienced.

Fairfax Families Care: From the beginning, the response has been through a public-private partnership. One part of this is Fairfax Families Care, an organization set up in response to the situation. As of November 10, Fairfax Families care had raised \$64,355, with additional fundraising events planned. None of the money has gone to administration. Funds raised have gone directly to evacuee families for rent, security deposits, household goods, and similar immediate needs. The Federation has supported this effort with an article in the October newsletter informing associations about, and encouraging donations to, Fairfax Families Care with a link to the organization placed prominently on its homepage.

A coordinating council including Fairfax Families Care, the Council of Governments, the county, and local nonprofits was very important in organizing and coordinating productively in the initial phase of this situation. At this point, the county is playing specific roles in taking applications for public assistance and providing other services. It has contracts with three major local nonprofit providers, which are more community-based, to provide more of the case management and services for individual families. These providers are Reston Interfaith, Northern Virginia Family Services, and United Community Ministries.

Housing: The top priority and biggest challenge in dealing with the evacuees has been housing. The county set a goal of finding housing for 100 households through the Department of Housing and either has exceeded this goal or is on track to do so. As of November 10, a total of 87 families had been connected to housing through the Department of Housing and 29 were pending. These placements have been made through various payment sources, including some donated units. Other evacuee families are believed to be staying with family or friends or paying for housing through their own resources. Many upon arrival did not request hotel vouchers from the Red Cross, suggesting they had family or friends to stay with.

Housing remains a priority, especially in the medium to long term. Very active discussions are continuing with FEMA and HUD about what they are willing and able to fund and for how long. This is an unprecedented event and the federal agencies are working through this as they go. Unlike news reports in some other parts of the county, there is no single deadline when people in the county

will lose emergency housing assistance; they are qualifying for housing under many different programs, which may have different timetables or criteria.

Schools: In terms of the school system, the displaced children qualify as homeless under federal law and can be placed quickly without full paperwork. Within three weeks of the hurricane (by late September), 143 evacuee children were enrolled in Fairfax County. Children continued to enroll as they arrived.

Employment: Evacuees are not generally asking for job or skill training; instead, they are asking for help with job matches. They run the gamut from working in a law firm to the trade industries.

As of mid-November, 42 had been placed in jobs, but the numbers were beginning to grow. Before that point, many were still trying to get settled before they could make plans or job hunt. (Getting settled could, I assume, include finding missing relatives, determining status of home and neighborhood on Gulf Coast, dealing with insurance and other claims, finding housing, and so on.)

The Skill Source Centers, which work directly with the Chamber of Commerce, are under the regional Workforce Investment Board, which is a federal program. By November 10, the Centers had hosted more than 44 employers at 7 job fairs. Several were mini job fairs focused on a single area, such as healthcare, information technology, retail and services, and business. The Chamber also held a general job fair for the evacuees.

Reports from the Skill Source Centers are that approximately half of those applying for work are looking to permanently relocate in Fairfax County rather than returning to the Gulf Coast.

Donations and Volunteer Assistance: As noted above, the county has entered into contracts with three nonprofits to handle case management and coordination. If you would like to assist in any way, contact them at the following specific contact numbers and names:

North county: Reston Interfaith, Gail Roberts, 571-323-9560

Central county: Northern Virginia Family Services, Zondra, 703-219-2108

South county: United Christian Ministries, Robin Gilmore, 703-768-7106 x 325
TTY for all three: 711

You can also contribute directly to Fairfax Families Care at www.fxfc.org.

There is also a virtual bulletin board of needs on the Volunteer Fairfax website at www.volunteerfairfax.org. When I last checked, it included detailed needs such as lamps and a toaster for one family.

Ways to Help: The county website lists the following additional ways to help: "Support a family" with community and school connections, transportation, furnishings, and household items. The three nonprofits, above, will match volunteers to families. Target contributions to child care expenses. Offer job placements. Donate an unoccupied unit or house for a set period. Offer to pay first month(s) rent and/or security deposit.

Inclement Weather Policy

With the ongoing potential for inclement weather, please note the following policy: if either Fairfax County Government or Public 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 emergency, the Federation will not hold the meeting. This does not pertain to regularly scheduled closures, such as holidays. Meetings will not be rescheduled. We will make every attempt to post the cancellation on our website, www.fairfaxfederation.org. You can also contact (703) 266-6872 for more information.

www.fairfaxfederation.org

Proposed Resolution

Reclassification of Perennial Streams to Intermittent Streams

(for consideration and vote by the Federation Membership at the January 19, 2006 meeting)

Background

Fairfax County has met the requirements of Virginia's Chesapeake Bay Preservation Act and implementing state regulations through its Chesapeake Bay Preservation Ordinance (CBPO) and Public Facilities Manual (PFM). A major provision of the Ordinance is providing for perennial streams with continuous flow to be protected by a 100-foot buffer on each side, called Resource Protection Areas (RPAs). The RPAs are shown on the official County RPA map that is approved by the Board of Supervisors. The remainder of the County is designated a Resource Management Area where intermittent streams and headwaters areas have no protection.

The County's PFM establishes the criteria for reclassifying a perennial to an intermittent stream, requiring only two sets of visual observations, taken between seven and thirty days apart, of the lack of surface flow during other than drought conditions. If reclassified to intermittent, a stream loses its RPA status and the 100-foot buffer. Loss of this protection could lead to land disturbance and development within the former RPA. The PFM also allows administrative approval of a stream reclassification from perennial to intermittent.

Nearly all Fairfax County streams have streambeds consisting of a sediment layer made up of particles ranging in size from silt to coarse gravel and small stones. These sedimentary streambeds range in depth from an inch to several feet, except for those few short stretches where the sediment layer has been scoured down to a stone bench or the channel armoring layer. Scientific research and engineering studies have shown that perennial streams, in addition to the flow of water above the streambed, have continuous flow through these sedimentary streambed layers. Many of these studies have shown that such hyporheic (through-the-streambed) flow continues even when the surface flow is not visible during periods when the U.S. Drought Monitor Index or local monitoring stations indicate abnormally dry or drought conditions. Such sediment layers provide an important habitat for many invertebrate species and insect larvae and play a much more important role morphologically than the surface waters. Relying on the mere absence of visible surface water as the sole criterion for perennial to intermittent stream reclassification can result in misclassification.

Proposed Resolution

Whereas, the Fairfax County Chesapeake Bay Preservation Ordinance (CBPO) and Public Facilities Manual (PFM) presently require only visual observations of the absence of surface flow, with no requirement for evaluation of hyporheic flow through the streambed, as the basis for changing a stream classification from perennial to intermittent;

Whereas, Federal agencies such as the U.S. Geological Survey, Bureau of Land Management, Corps of Engineers, and Environmental Protection Agency, as well as numerous state and local agencies, use a variety of proven techniques, such as dye injection tests, isotope migration tests, bore holes, and piezometry (measurement of flow by special instruments) to detect flow through sedimentary streambeds;

Whereas, County staff has drafted language that addresses this deficiency in the procedures for reclassification of perennial streams;

Whereas, in addition to measurements taken in a particular stream reach being considered for reclassification, it is essential to check at points both upstream and downstream to determine the presence of surface and hyporheic flow and the flow rates;

Whereas, County staff has proposed changing the criteria for considering perennial stream reclassification so that observations would not be conducted if

the U.S. Drought Monitor Index indicates that conditions are "abnormally dry" or drier; and

Whereas, County staff has proposed requirements for notifying affected landowners, neighbors and nearby communities of any application for reclassification of a perennial stream;

Therefore be it resolved, that the Fairfax County Federation of Citizens Associations (the Federation) recommends that the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors modify the CBPO and the PFM to include the following provisions:

- a. that even if visible flow is not present, a stream or any portion thereof shall be deemed perennial when County staff determines the presence of dynamic pools of water in the sedimentary bed or the presence of water on the true channel bottom (located below the moveable bed load at the top of the channel armoring layer);
- b. that techniques to make the above determination may include physical field tests such as dye injection, isotope migration, bore holes, piezometry or other accepted standard methods to determine hyporheic flow and the flow rate;
- c. that the County staff determine for data collection and reclassification determination purposes, where possible, the surface and hyporheic flows, the presence of dynamic pools, and the presence of water on the channel bottom, at the proposed ending point of perennality upstream and for 150 feet below the reach in question downstream, as shown on the official RPA maps adopted by the Board of Supervisors;
- d. that the County consider a stream for reclassification based on visual observations and the above techniques only during periods when the U.S. Drought Monitor Index and local measurements indicate normal or wetter than normal conditions; and
- e. that the County require the notification of other property owners of the stream proposed for reclassification and nearby neighbors, homeowner associations and civic associations of record, as well as reasonably proximate property owners upstream, downstream and adjacent to the stream.

Be it further resolved, that the Federation recommends that the County make publicly available all data generated during the reclassification process.

Due to the cancellation of the December meeting, draft minutes for both October and November membership meetings will be approved at the January 19th meeting. The October minutes can be found in the November newsletter, while the November minutes can be found in the December newsletter. Both are available at www.fairfaxfederation.org.

CORRECTION

The date of the Fairfax County Airports Advisory Committee public forum, reported in the December 2005 issue of *the Bulletin*, gave the incorrect date. If you are interested in testifying before the Committee, the forum is rescheduled for Tuesday, February 14, 2006, at 7:30 p.m. in Conference Room 7 of the Fairfax County Government Center, 12000 Government Center Parkway, Fairfax. For more information, please contact Carol Hawn at (703) 266-6872 or cahawn@att.net. We apologize for any inconvenience this has caused.

Fairfax County
FEDERATION
of Citizens Associations

4022 Hummer Road
Annandale, VA 22003

*Membership
Meeting*

Thursday,
January 19, 2006
7:30 p.m.

*Packard Center
4022 Hummer Road
Annandale*

Guest Speaker:

*Brad Draeger,
Deputy Superintendent,
Fairfax County Public
Schools*

**Directions to the
Packard Center,
located in
Annandale Community Park**

Take I-495 (Capital Beltway) to Little
River Turnpike (Route 236 - Exit 52B);

go east toward Annandale.

Turn left at the first stop light onto
Hummer Road.

Go 200 yards to the entrance of
Annandale Community Park,
which is on the left.

Keep right to the large parking lot.

Please use the left entrance into
the Packard Center.

*County Advertised Budget to be
Released February 27, 2006*

At the February 27, 2006 Board of
Supervisors meeting, Fairfax County
Executive Anthony Griffin will release
the Fiscal Year 2007 Advertised Budget
Plan. The plan will be available online at
<http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dmb>.
Public hearings on the advertised budget
are scheduled for April 3 - 5, 2006. To
sign up to speak at the hearings, please
call (703) 324-3151. The Federation
budget position will be the topic of the
March membership meeting.

www.fairfaxfederation.org