

# The Fairfax County FEDERATION

of Citizens Associations

Established 1940

March 2006

**THE BULLETIN**

Volume 55 Number 7

## Federation Membership Meeting



**Thursday, March 23, 2006**

**7:30 p.m.**

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

**Please note this meeting will be held the  
fourth Thursday of the month.**

***Guest Speaker: Anthony Griffin,  
Fairfax County Executive***

***Topic: The County Executive's Advertised  
Fiscal Year 2007 Budget Plan***



## Upcoming Membership Meetings

**April 27, 2006 7:30 p.m.**

***Please note this meeting will also be held the  
fourth Thursday of the month.***

***Guest Speaker: The Honorable Dick Saslaw  
Topic: "Report from Richmond"***

**May 18, 2006 June 15, 2006**

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



## Remaining Federation Board Meetings

**April 20 May 25 June 22**

**7:30 p.m.**

**Packard Center Main Conference Room**



## *President's Message*

Our **March 23 membership meeting** will feature **Fairfax County Executive Tony Griffin** who will discuss the **FY 2007 Advertised County Budget**. The Federation Board has a recommended resolution on the budget that will be brought to the membership for approval after Mr. Griffin's presentation. The proposed budget resolution, as well as a draft resolution on zoning ordinance amendments regarding modifications of fence and yard requirements, are published in this *Bulletin*. Please share the resolutions with your association and notify them of the upcoming membership vote.

At our **February 16 membership meeting**, we were extremely pleased to have **Mason District Supervisor Penny Gross** give an outstanding presentation on the efforts to clean up the **Chesapeake Bay**. The presentation reviewed the complexity of the program and necessity of unified regional and national alliances to resolve the problems with our water resources. In response to a query of what the Federation can do, our Environmental Committee will formulate five simple conservation steps and promote those to help membership educate residents on Bay-friendly activities.

By the time you read this, we will have held our **Citizen of the Year** banquet. I want to extend The Federation's congratulations to the awardees, **Marlene Blum** as **Citizen of the Year**, **Bill and Janie Strauss** with a **Citation of Merit** and **Carson Lee Fifer** with a **Special Gratitude Award**. Rome may be known for its roads and Sparta for its schools, but Fairfax County has its legacy of volunteers. I want to extend The Federation's appreciation and gratitude to all volunteers in the county who have improved our quality of life. I also thank *The Washington Post* for co-sponsoring the banquet and awards.

The **next board meeting** is on **April 20**. Our **April 27 membership meeting** will feature a "**Report From Richmond**" by **State Senator Dick Saslaw** and, hopefully another legislator to take the place of Senator Jeannemarie Devolites-Davis who regrettably cannot make it. *Please note the April membership meeting is the fourth Thursday of the month*. Also, we are tentatively considering an outdoor picnic for our June 15 membership meeting. Stay tuned for meeting updates at [www.FairfaxFederation.org](http://www.FairfaxFederation.org).

*John Jennison, President*

[FedPres@FairfaxFederation.org](mailto:FedPres@FairfaxFederation.org) ♦ (703) 591-5586

### **Nominating Committee Looking for Officer Candidates**

The Nominating Committee is in the process of finding candidates for to serve as Federation officers for the 2006 - 2007 year. If you are interested in serving, or would like additional information, please contact Carol Hawn, Nominating Committee Chair, at (703) 266-6872 or [cahawn@att.net](mailto:cahawn@att.net).

Fairfax County Federation of Citizens Associations  
Membership Meeting of February 16, 2006

**DRAFT MINUTES**

(for approval at the March 23, 2006 membership meeting)

The meeting of FCFCA was held at the Packard Center at 7:30 p.m. (Attendance list is attached to file copy.) President John Jennison introduced Flint Webb and Walt Sisson, co-chairs of the Environment Committee. They introduced Supervisor Penelope Gross.

**Program**

Supervisor Gross had been invited to speak on efforts to clean up the Chesapeake Bay.

She began by saying that the clean up effort will require partnerships between government, nonprofits, the environmental community, and the public. She reviewed water's significance in state, local, and even international disputes. Locally, we have reservoirs that will maintain the Potomac's flow of drinking water even in drought periods, but more than half of the U.S. population relies on groundwater. A dispute between Maryland and Virginia over a Virginia intake pipe in the Potomac ultimately had to be resolved by the Supreme Court.

For many years, the Chesapeake Bay's water quality was not a policy focus. The Bay was seen primarily as a regional resource. The regional multi-state Chesapeake Bay Program was established in 1983. In 1998-99, the Chesapeake Bay 2000 agreement was drafted. This led to the Chesapeake Bay Policy Committee, of which Supervisor Gross was the chair. The committee work was based on four principles: voluntary action, voice, equity, and good science. The Metropolitan Areas Working Group reached out to Councils of Governments from Baltimore to Hampton Roads, with considerable outreach to other organizations and local governments.

The Chesapeake Bay 2000 agreement provided a roadmap to delisting the Bay as an impaired water body by 2010, but it depends upon EPA numbers on water quality standards. In 2003 and 2004, the Chesapeake Bay Blue Ribbon Watershed Finance Committee was established to explore ways to pay for the cleanup. It was chaired by former governor Baliles; Supervisor Gross was its only local official member.

The committee's 2004 report, *Saving a National Treasure*, is also a good overview of the Chesapeake Bay clean-up issue; it is available online at <http://www.chesapeakebay.net/pubs/blueribbon/index/cfm>. During deliberations of the committee, the total estimated clean-up cost rose from \$18 billion to \$28 billion. The committee proposed a fund of \$12 billion with an 80/20 federal-state split, for a total capitalization of \$15 billion. There would be a Chesapeake Bay Finance Authority committee; Supervisor Gross also served on the committee to establish the structure of the authority. But the money was not available. Reallocating existing money will not be enough. An interstate compact is also needed. The report was shelved.

Other recommendations in the report included better coordination among federal programs affecting water quality in the Bay and in the headwater states; making the Secretary of Agriculture a member of the executive council, rather than an appointee; allowing cap-and-trade permits but not allowing their use to build excess capacity in local treatment plants; fees for stormwater management (locally, the Fairfax Board of Supervisors has chosen instead to dedicate one penny of the real estate tax, avoiding administration and billing costs); a specialty fertilizer surcharge; and efforts to educate homeowners and to promote low-impact development. Legislation to add information on runoff and environmental effects to specialty (home use) fertilizer bags was killed last year. Senator Patsy Ticer has reintroduced it this year, but it has been carried over to 2007.

In other efforts, state and local governments have had a meeting of roundtables. Supervisor Gross chairs the Potomac Watershed Roundtable. The Virginia Watersheds Alliance of all Virginia watersheds has formed.

Locally, the Health Department and Department of Environmental Quality

disagree on septic systems, which are a growing source of nitrogen pollution in the Bay. Peat systems and Wisconsin land mounds have a high rate of failure, yet have been approved by the Health Department, which needs to coordinate with DEQ. There are a variety of local initiatives to limit stormwater runoff, including green roofs.

Supervisor Gross encouraged continued advocacy on water quality and watershed issues; the debate over the flush tax and water quality last year was a good sign. Governor Warner's last budget proposal included increased funding for the Water Quality Improvement Fund. She encouraged a dialogue, not "us against them", among all regions and groups. She is heartened by the stormwater management penny and said we should get cracking on getting the projects built as soon as possible. She would like to see riparian buffers planted along streams, volunteers energized, and the biggest splash for the cash.

We are at a turning point as the population grows, the forests disappear, and time is running out.

Supervisor Gross also responded to questions on increased numbers of diseased fish in parts of the Potomac, riparian barriers for cattle, loan programs for expensive no-till or low-till planting machines, linkage between nitrogen pollution in the air and water through air deposition, impact of infill development on trees and impervious surfaces, and tree preservation. She said that the main sources of water pollution from Fairfax County are in nonpoint source stormwater runoff, some due to construction, most to everyday activities, which includes sediment, grit, heavy metals, oil, fertilizers, and more. On the positive side, phosphorus levels in the Potomac are greatly reduced due to the federal ban on phosphorus in detergents. The county's backlog of stormwater management projects is so great that it would require 20 cents of the real estate tax to eliminate it all in one year; in practice, that would not be possible anyway, as the projects must be done over time. The main purpose of these projects is to stabilize stream beds; a stream restoration in Kingstowne a few years ago was a model project.

In response to a question as to what the Federation can do to get the word out, she suggested sharing simple suggestions with members—perhaps 5 bullet points—that could be included in the newsletter. For example, homeowners should fertilize (if at all) only in the fall, not in the spring.

**Business Meeting**

- a. The minutes for the January 19 membership meeting were approved unanimously as written.
- b. Patrick Rea reported that membership letters had been sent out to associations in the Mason District in advance of this evening's program with Supervisor Gross. Follow-up contacts are planned.
- c. The Treasurer's Report was presented and approved.
- d. Jeff Parnes reported that the Federation website now includes a password-accessible section where Board members can post materials as an alternative to sending them out as e-mail attachments.
- e. Charles Dane reported that the school system has reported a \$15 million carryover from the previous fiscal year. Due to the carryover, the requested increase in the transfer from the county has been reduced from 9.8 percent to 8.8 percent.
- f. Flint Webb reported that the Technical Advisory Group is working on reasonably available control measures (RACM) to reach air-quality attainment. He said the city of Alexandria has had a setback in efforts to keep the Mirant plant from operating.
- g. President John Jennison asked whether there were Bay-friendly water runoff tips for homeowners that could be included in the Federation newsletter, building on Supervisor's Gross's suggestion. Flint Webb and Walt Sisson will work on this.
- h. Steve DeBianco reported on the zoning ordinance amendments, for which staff reports are to be forthcoming. These amendments will affect lot widths

**(see DRAFT MINUTES - continued on page 7)**

## Proposed Resolution

### **Fairfax County Advertised Fiscal Year 2007 Budget**

(for consideration and approval at the March 23, 2006 Federation membership meeting)

#### Background

The County Executive's proposed Fiscal Year (FY) 2007 Budget Plan totals \$5.49B (billion), of which the General Fund portion is \$3.18B.

Property Tax Rates – The current real estate tax rate is \$1.00 per \$100 of assessed value. One real estate tax penny will represent \$21.9M (million) in tax revenue. The County Executive proposed a tax rate reduction of 7 cents.

Revenue – General Fund revenues are estimated to be \$3.32B, an increase of 8.8%, with increased revenues due primarily to real estate tax receipts, which represent 59.6% of the revenue base. Real property assessments increase an average of 11.8% (23.56% in FY06), with only 2.94% from new growth. Residential equalization values increase 20.57% compared with 23.09% in FY 06. Non-residential values increase 16.64% compared with 12.74% in FY 06 and 3.74% in FY 05. Revenue from personal property taxes will be 15.8%, 70% of which is provided by the state. Property taxes comprise 75.4% of General Fund revenues. Other local taxes, e.g., sales, BPOL, utility, auto licenses, etc., total 15.1%. Aid from the state will be 2.6%, and 1.3% will come from the federal government, nearly all of which is social services aid.

Revenue Enhancements – Some fees would be increased, providing an additional \$5M in revenue, as follows:

- Refuse collection fee increase from \$270 to \$315 per year
- Sewer service rate increase from \$3.28 to \$3.50 per 1,000 gallons of water used
- Sewer availability charge increase from \$5,874 to \$6,138 for new single-family home

Expenditures – General Fund disbursements total \$3.17B, a 2.74% increase of the FY06 revised budget. Direct County operating expenditures (personnel, operations, recovered costs, capital equipment, and fringe benefits) total \$1.17B, a 3.88% increase over the FY 2006 revised budget. Debt service for County capital improvements will be \$112.81M. Budget proposals are based on the Board's six priorities and seven Vision Elements.

Schools – The Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS) transfer will be \$1.52B, a 6.0% increase over FY 06 consistent with the BOS guideline. Additional County expenditures for schools include \$142.69M in debt service for school facilities and \$56.6M for school nurses, clinic room aides, Comprehensive Services Act (CSA), Head Start, School Age Child Care (SACC), school crossing guards, and School Resource Officers. The School Board requested a transfer of \$1.56B, an increase of 8.8% over FY 06 and \$40.2M above the guidelines.

Compensation – FY 2007 will be the fifth year of full implementation of the County's Pay for Performance system for non-public safety personnel. The performance rating range is 0-6 with 0.5 increments. This performance pay increase in FY 2006 was \$9.8M; in FY 2007 it will be \$10.8M. Fringe benefits will increase 8.2% to \$14.8M.

The Uniformed Public Safety Personnel still use the old salary program and will realize both the market rate adjustment and merit step increases. They will receive a 4.25% market rate

adjustment (3.07% in FY 06) plus an across-the-board salary adjustment of 2% based on a comparative review of neighboring jurisdictions. Merit step increments and shift differential costs total \$2.4M. The total uniformed personnel increases total \$21.2M.

Other Expenditures – The budget includes 156 new positions, of which 147 are for new facilities and public safety, including:

- A new Fire and Rescue 7<sup>th</sup> battalion - \$1.7M and 8 positions
- Addition of fourth fire technician to each Fire and Rescue company - \$3.3M and 32 positions
- Additional support for eight District Police Stations and emergency operations - \$4.2M and 29 positions
- Criminal Investigations Bureau supplement - \$0.9M and 6 positions
- Police Department support - \$0.5M and 5 positions
- Expansion of after-school program at middle schools - \$2.4M
- Youth Worker Program - \$0.1M
- New Jennings Courthouse expansion - \$9.3M and 32 positions
- New Katherine K. Hanley Family Shelter start-up costs and operations for 6 months - \$1.2M
- Several other projects related to adult and health services, Medical Reserve Corps, child care, The Enterprise School, and the new Operations Center - total of \$7.7M

Other proposed budget highlights, except for compensation, include:

- Continuing a penny of the tax rate for affordable housing and for storm water management
- Information Technology initiatives - \$16.8M (\$16.0M from General Fund)
- \$8.2M for Consolidated Community Funding Pool (10% increase over FY 06)
- \$11.1M to contributory agencies
- \$5.4M for higher fuel prices and \$0.8M for higher utility costs

"Investment Opportunities" to establish reserves for longer term liabilities, totaling \$137M, include:

- Reserve for GASB 45 (post-retirement health benefits) - \$10.2M
- Reserve for existing Jennings courtrooms renovation and elevators - \$15.55M
- Reserve for construction inflation adjustments - \$12.0M
- Reserve for County entryway signage enhancements - \$0.5M
- Reserve for land acquisition/facility opportunities - \$8.0M
- Reserve for critical Board infrastructure projects - \$10.0M (\$1.0M per district)
- Reserve for safety enhancements at bus shelters and bus stops - \$10.0M
- Reserve for capital renewal projects - \$11.84M (of estimated \$80M need over next ten years)
- **Reserve for Board consideration - \$56.85M**

Transportation highlights are:

- Metro funding - total obligation of \$61.3M; \$19.5M from General Fund
- County transit systems - \$30.7M

Capital Paydown Program – The budget includes \$26.16M for:

- Capital renewal (\$2.45M) - general maintenance, generator replacement, repairs, etc.

*(see FY07 Budget Resolution - continued on page 4)*

**(FY07 Budget Resolution - continued from page 3)**

- Park maintenance (\$2.18M) - general and grounds maintenance at non-revenue supported park facilities, ADA compliance projects
- Athletic field maintenance (\$5.06M) - includes \$0.9M for synthetic turf (\$0.5M from Athletic Services Fee)
- Trails and Sidewalks (\$0.4M) - repair and replacement of sidewalks; trail maintenance
- New and renovated County facilities (\$5.89M) - \$1.0M for land acquisition, \$1.0M for Salona purchase payment, \$3.18M for Lorton Central Max facility building stabilization mitigation, \$0.4M for Commercial Revitalization District maintenance, etc.
- Senior initiatives (\$1.2M) - \$0.5M for CARE program, \$0.4M for new long-term care non-profit, and \$0.3M for Incentive Fund - grants
- Emergency management (\$0.7M)
- Roads/Developer defaults/Survey and mapping (\$1.68M) - \$1.0M for spot improvement program, \$0.45M for developer default projects, etc.
- Payments and obligations (\$1.87M) - \$0.75M for new SACC Centers, \$1.01M for contribution to NVCC, etc.
- Revitalization initiatives (\$0.9M)
- Courthouse expansion opening (\$4.76M) for systems and loose furniture.

The advertised FY 2007-2011 Advertised Capital Improvement Program (CIP) provides for capital projects from all funding sources - bonds, General Fund, proffers, etc. The FCPS has a separate CIP for which the County pays the FCPS bonded indebtedness separate from the transfer to FCPS for operating funds. The proposed total debt service is well within the parameters set by the County's financial principles, e.g., it represents 8.0% of General Fund disbursements, 8.2% of Combined General Fund Disbursements, and 0.09% of the market value of taxable property. There will be one bond referendum on the November 2006 ballot for public safety in the amount of \$125M. Projects would include design, construction and related costs for various public safety projects, including the renovation and expansion of the Reston, McLean and Fair Oaks Police Stations, a new replacement Great Falls Fire Station, Phase I improvements for the Fire and Rescue Training Academy, renovation and capital renewal of portions of the Historic Courthouse, renovation and expansion of the West Ox Animal Shelter, and capital renewal of Facilities Management major system upgrades at older public safety buildings.

**Proposed Resolution**

**WHEREAS**, real estate assessments have skyrocketed again this year for at least the sixth consecutive year with double-digit residential assessment increases; the residential sector increased 20.57% and the non-residential sector 16.64%, the latter representing the second consecutive double-digit increase.

**WHEREAS**, the County Executive proposes a reduction in the real estate tax rate of 7 cents, from \$1.00 to \$0.93 and proposes once again that one cent of the tax rate (\$21.9M) be dedicated annually to affordable housing and one cent to the stormwater management (SWM) program.

**WHEREAS**, the advertised FY 2007 budget links its spending program to the Board of Supervisors' Priorities to carry out its vision elements - education, public safety and gang prevention, affordable housing, environmental protection, transportation improvements, and revenue diversification to reduce the burden on homeowners.

**WHEREAS**, the County is becoming increasingly reliant on real estate tax revenue, especially residential property tax receipts, to provide funding of the County and schools programs. In FY 2007, 59.6% of General Fund receipts will come from real estate taxes whereas 49.8% came from this source in FY 2000. Residential property owners have seen their assessments rise in double-digit percentages for each of the past six years. Including new growth, the real estate tax base will increase 22.7%.

**WHEREAS**, rescission of the County decal would result in less County administrative burden and personal relief from the nuisance of scraping and replacing the decal each year, but it works against diversification of County revenue sources.

**WHEREAS**, the federal and state governments mandate Fairfax County and other local governments to provide specific programs and services without providing sufficient funds for implementation. In FY 2006 these mandates cost the county \$1.193B, an increase of \$114M over FY 2005, but for which the county receives only \$533M, a difference of \$660M (about 30 cents on the real estate tax dollar). Since FY 1996, the average annual growth rate for mandate costs borne by the County is more than 8% per year.

**WHEREAS**, the Fairfax County School Board requested an 8.8% increase in funds transfer from the County, the advertised budget calls for a 6.0% increase for a total transfer of \$1.52B for school operations. This does not include \$142.7M for schools debt service or \$56.6M for County-funded programs such as SACC, CSA, Head Start, School Resource Officers, nurses, clinic aides, etc. All school-related funding represents 52.2% of the advertised County budget. While school enrollment has stabilized, the number of students with special needs continues to rise and requires more funding. The federal and state governments continue to underfund the No Child Left Behind, Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, and the Standards of Learning mandates. Also, the cost of benefits continues to outpace inflation. As of March 9, 2006, state funding support for FCPS is still being determined by the General Assembly.

**WHEREAS**, except for the real estate tax, nearly 90% of County revenues are capped, limited or controlled by the state, costing the County millions in possible revenue to offset real property taxes because it does not have the same taxing authority as cities and towns.

**WHEREAS**, the County Executive proposes 156 new positions, 147 due to new facilities and public safety and 9 new positions related to workload demands.

**WHEREAS**, the County Executive has addressed the bloat in the Pay for Performance system by establishing an average maximum increase of 4.5%, resulting in FY 2007 merit increases of \$10.8M compared with \$9.8M in FY 2006.

**WHEREAS**, the County Executive has also released the Advertised Capital Improvement Program (CIP) for Fiscal Years 2007-2011, which proposes \$26.16M from the General Fund plus approximately \$7.5M in bond funds for capital renewal and major maintenance.

**WHEREAS**, the annual salary of the Board of Supervisors has been \$59,000 since 1998, and the salaries of elected local board and council members in Montgomery County, MD, and the District of Columbia are much higher than even the salary proposed by our Board.

**WHEREAS**, the advertised budget includes increases for transportation to meet its Metro capital, operations and

*(see FY07 Budget Resolution - continued on page 5)*

**(FY07 Budget Resolution - continued from page 4)**

maintenance obligations, as well as to support County transit systems, such as Connector bus service enhancement.

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Fairfax County Federation of Citizens Associations (the Federation) appreciates the County Executive having submitted to the Board of Supervisors a proposed budget with considerable flexibility regarding the tax rate, programs and/or initiatives.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Federation offers the following observations regarding the FY 2007 Advertised Budget Plan and the FY 2007-2011 Capital Improvement Program:

- a. County Vision and Board Priorities - We commend the budget's focus on the Board's six priorities in carrying out the seven elements of the County Vision. Further, we support each of the priorities - education, public safety and gang prevention, affordable housing, environmental protection, transportation improvements, and revenue diversification to reduce the tax burden on homeowners.
- b. County Management - We also commend the County on having one of the lowest ratios of government employees per capita as well as one of the lowest crime rates of any jurisdiction of its size in the country while having the fewest safety officers per capita. This speaks well for County management and the quality of its work force.
- c. Bond Rating - We applaud the County for retaining its triple AAA bond rating for many years, thanks in large part to its wise policies in the "Ten Principles of Sound Financial Management." We hope the County retains this status for many years to come.
- d. Real Estate Tax Rate
  - (1) Again this year, we stress that residents cannot be expected to continue to fund County government primarily with rapidly escalating real estate taxes. This is the sixth year of double-digit residential assessment and tax increases. Residents are concerned about the significant increase in these taxes again this year. We support reduction of at least 10 cents in the tax rate for FY 2007 and recommend consideration of a further reduction if such a decrease will not jeopardize essential programs. If third quarter excess revenues allow, after consideration of unmet critical needs, we recommend a further reduction in the real estate tax rate.
  - (2) Northern Virginia, because of its proximity to Washington, D.C. and Dulles International Airport, is a magnet for businesses to locate here. With every new business attracted here by the Economic Development Authority (EDA) come new families and children, all of whom require public services - education, transportation facilities, police, fire and rescue, libraries, etc. The burden of financing these facilities and services falls primarily on the residential homeowner. We recommend a reduction of the County's contribution to the EDA and a cost-sharing of EDA with the local business community.
  - (3) Since the County provides programs and services mandated, but not funded, by the federal and state governments that cost County taxpayers 30 cents on their real estate property tax dollar, we urge the Board of Supervisors to continue urging our state and federal

legislators to fully fund their mandates.

- (4) There are pros and cons regarding the proposed rescission of the County vehicle decal. On balance, the Federation ( \_\_ supports \_\_ does not support) getting rid of the decal.
- e. Legislative Authority - It is essential that the General Assembly grant counties the same taxing authority as cities and towns, which would allow diversification of the County's revenue base. We will strongly support the County's efforts to obtain such enabling legislation.
- f. Revenue Additions - We recognize the need to increase the refuse collection fees to prevent a financial loss in providing this service. We also recognize the necessity of increasing the sewer service rate in order to ensure that the County's sewage treatment plants meet discharge standards set by the EPA.
- g. Programs
  - (1) Stormwater Management Program - We strongly support dedication of one penny on the tax rate for storm water management program since 70% of the County streams are in only fair to poor condition. This problem must be attacked from several angles, e.g., educating the public on how to be good environmental stewards, enforcement by the County of environmental ordinance requirements, and convincing the development community that it is in everyone's best interests to protect natural resources to the extent possible during construction.
  - (2) Affordable Housing - The ability of middle-income and lower-income workers to afford housing in the County is becoming increasingly difficult with rapidly increasing property values. We strongly support the County's program to preserve existing affordable housing stock and to invest in programs that will provide such housing so that employees can live closer to their places of employment. We support dedication of one and a half pennies of the real estate tax rate for affordable housing in the expectation of the achievement of the County's goal of preserving 1,000 affordable units and creating 200 new affordable units by the end of FY 2007.
- h. Schools - The Superintendent and School Board feel they need a transfer increase of at least 8.8%, an increase of \$40.1M above the 6.0% guideline increase, to support unfunded mandates, the increase of students needing special services, higher benefit premiums, and to meet program goals. We believe the quality of our public school system must remain as high as possible and we therefore support the Tier 3 proposed funding level, which would require an increase of \$105.9M over the FY 2006 transfer.
- i. Capital Improvement Program - We commend the long-range view of the County's capital program needs by including the long-range forecast beyond the coming five years. Since the Advertised CIP follows the County's priority needs, we offer no specific comments on it. For future budgetary planning, we continue to recommend that each proposal for a new facility should include the projected annual costs of operation and maintenance.
- j. Board salaries - The Federation supports increasing the salary of the members of the Board of Supervisors from \$59,000 to \$75,000 per year, effective in January 2008.  
(see FY07 Budget Resolution - continued on page 6)

**(FY07 Budget Resolution - continued from page 5)**

- k. Citizen Participation - Once again, we encourage the Board of Supervisors to re-establish the Citizens Budget Advisory Committee to follow the budget process, look at long-range trends, and submit recommendations on important budget issues to the Board for their consideration.
- l. Value Analysis and Value Engineering - The Federation membership approved at its September 2005 meeting and sent to the Board a resolution encouraging the County to use the Value Analysis and Value Engineering process to assess its programs to determine how they might be accomplished more efficiently. As an example, we cited the savings realized by New York City, which has been following this approach in its programs. It is appropriate at annual budget preparation time that we reiterate our support for this efficiency approach to county programs to realize any cost savings possible while carrying out operations efficiently and effectively.
- m. Bottom Line - The net expenditures of our recommendations may slightly exceed net revenues, taking into consideration the third quarter surplus, in which case we recommend that the difference be taken from "Investment Opportunities."

***Proposed Resolution*****Proposed Zoning Ordinance Amendment - Modification of Certain Fence and Yard Requirements in Conjunction with Other Development Applications****Background**

Current law allows property owners to seek variances from the Board of Zoning Appeals (BZA) to minimum lot width, yard setbacks, and maximum fence height, but in 2004 the Supreme Court of Virginia determined that current law allows variances **only** if strict adherence to the Zoning Ordinance would restrict all reasonable use of the property.

The Board of Supervisors subsequently determined that Fairfax County should have more flexibility in granting variances, or "modifications", to zoning requirements. In late 2005, Planning & Zoning Staff published a table of potential modifications and conducted several work sessions to gather public comments.

In January 2006, the Board of Supervisors instructed staff to suggest a series of Zoning Ordinance Amendments (ZOA): (1) modification of fence and yard setbacks in conjunction with other development applications, plus a change to the method for measuring the height of accessory structures; (2) changes related to a possible 50% reduction in minimum required yards; and (3) changes related to the minimum lot width.

The Planning Commission will hold a public hearing on subject proposed ZOA on March 23, 2006; the Board of Supervisors hearing is scheduled for May 1st. The Staff Report dated February 27, 2006 presents rationale for the proposed ZOA. County staff will conduct a public information meeting on item (2) on March 20, 2006. A ZOA regarding item (3) will be considered later in 2006.

**Proposed Resolution**

**WHEREAS**, County Staff has proposed amendments to the Zoning Ordinance that will permit certain property modifications in conjunction with the review of special permit, special exception, or rezoning applications;

**WHEREAS**, the proposed amendments provide flexibility to address site-specific circumstances that may warrant relief from the specified minimum yard requirements for certain existing structures or uses while still protecting adjacent property owners;

**WHEREAS**, clarifying the methodology used to determine accessory structure height is beneficial and should facilitate compliance with the accessory structure height requirements;

**WHEREAS**, the proposed amendment does not include sufficient criteria to prevent infill development that is incompatible with adjacent properties and the character of neighborhoods,

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Fairfax County Federation of Citizens Associations (the Federation) strongly recommends that the subject ZOA be deferred so that it can be considered along with other planned amendments affecting minimum yard setback and fence height requirements. Until these standards have been determined, it is premature to allow modifications, knowing that the basis for change will probably be changing in a future ZOA.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Federation recommends that the following criteria for relief be included in the proposed amendment:

1. Va. Code § 15-2-2309 should continue to govern the issuance of any relief, whether the County is granting relief as a variance, modification, special permit, or special exception. Relief should be granted only if the following conditions are met:
  - a. That strict application of the ordinance would produce undue hardship;
  - b. That the hardship is not shared generally by other properties in the same zoning district and the same vicinity;
  - c. That approval of a modification will not substantially impact adjacent properties and the character of the neighborhood will not be changed by the granting of the modification; and
  - d. That the condition or situation of the property concerned is not of so general or recurring a nature as to make reasonably practicable the formulation of a general regulation to be adopted as an amendment to the ordinance.
2. Relief should be granted only where there is no reasonable alternative to relief.
3. Relief should be granted only if the resulting total impervious surface coverage would not exceed 25% of the lot area.\*
4. Relief should be granted only if the result would not increase the yield of allowable dwelling units on the subject property.
5. Relief should be limited such that multiple relief applications cannot be used to effectively rezone an area.
6. For residential properties, relief should be granted only after the applicant demonstrates that the relief sought is consistent with any applicable homeowner and/or citizens association covenants.

\* This condition is modeled on the Town of Vienna Zoning Ordinance, Ch 18-15 Lot Coverage: Not more than twenty-five percent (25%) of a lot shall be covered by buildings, accessory buildings, automobile parking, spaces and access, sport courts, tennis courts, patios and terraces. (Amend 8-19-91).

***County Budget Public Hearings April 3 - 5***

For additional information, including all supporting documents, on the Fairfax County Fiscal Year (FY) 2007 Advertised Budget, visit <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dmb>. Public hearings on the budget are scheduled for April 3 - 5, 2006. To sign up to speak at the hearings, please call (703) 324-3151. The Federation resolution on the FY 2007 budget will be the topic of the March 23, 2006 membership meeting, with County Executive Anthony Griffin as the guest speaker. Please join us for an always informative evening. President John Jennison will present the approved Federation resolution to the Board of Supervisors on April 5, 2006.

**(DRAFT MINUTES - continued from page 2)**

and yard setbacks, which could increase teardowns and overbuilds.

- i. Sally Ormsby reported that the General Assembly session has been very active. The day before this meeting was crossover day, the deadline by which bills must cross from one house to the other. There is a new rule allowing subcommittees to kill a bill without action by the full committee, and without a recorded vote. She put forward a resolution opposing the new subcommittee rule. Charles Dane moved to table it until the next legislative program. His motion was approved 14 to 10.
- j. Jeff Parnes reported regarding the Transportation Advisory Commission that the Transportation Plan, part of the county's Comprehensive Plan, has been up for review. An advance copy of community responses was made available to the TAC and is available online or through members' local TAC representative or Supervisor's office.
- k. In reports from District Council representatives, Art Wells reported Braddock is planning workshops and also hopes to improve communications between district councils and homeowner associations. Judy Harbeck reported from Mount Vernon that there is debate about whether to develop the last large parcel along Route One, a 15 acre lot called North Hill across from Beacon Mall, for affordable housing; the alternative is to preserve it as green space. She reported that infill construction has become a particular issue in Hollin Hills, where many existing homes are built on two lots. Jeff Parnes reported the Sully District Council is hoping to merge with the Western Fairfax County Citizens Association (WFCCA). The Council had in the past respected the WFCCA prerogatives by not reviewing land use matters in the WFCCA boundaries (almost half of Sully). If that does not come to pass, the Council will consider overall Sully issues, including those within the WFCCA area.
- l. Sally reported that the Citizen of the Year selections have been made; the banquet is March 19. The invitations will be mailed shortly. The cost is \$60 a person. The invitation flyer will also be on the website.

Next Membership Meeting: March 23, 2006, County Executive Tony Griffin on FY 2007 county budget

Next Board Meeting: February 23, 2006

Meeting adjourned at 10:00 p.m.

**Lawn and Garden Tips to Protect our Watersheds**

The Federation's Environment Committee offers these lawn and garden tips to help protect local streams, rivers, and the Chesapeake Bay from excess runoff and pollution.

- Fertilize your lawn and garden in the fall, not in the spring (when heavy rains are likely to wash it away). Fertilize according to soil test results. Contact the extension office agent for instructions.
- Apply pesticides according to instructions on the label.
- Collect litter and animal waste before they wash into storm drains.
- Recycle grass clippings and leaves by mulching or composting.
- Direct roof runoff onto a grassed area or into a rain barrel for reuse and recycling. Roof drains should not connect to a sanitary or storm sewer system. Watch for soil erosion around your home. Seed, install sod or plant ground cover to protect the site, using plants and grasses native to your area. This will also create habitat for birds and other wildlife. Minimize turf grass areas to save on watering. Create a rain garden!
- Design plantings to minimize erosion and maximize infiltration. Group plants according to watering needs.
- Use mulch wherever possible to keep moisture from leaving the soil and to minimize weed growth.

**Fairfax County Information Technology Policy Advisory Committee (ITPAC) Meeting Summary Report**

March 2, 2006

It was announced that Marlene Blum, wife of ITPAC Chairman Edward Blum, had been selected as the Fairfax County Citizen of the Year.

County Budget: Susan Datta and Debra Dunbar of the Department of Management and Budget presented a briefing on the FY 2007 Advertised Budget. This was the same briefing given to the Board of Supervisors on February 27, 2006. The presentation as well as the Advertised Budget can be found at [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dmb](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dmb) and is also on compact disc. While a summary of the presentation will not be attempted, some items are worthy of note. FY 2007 is the sixth year of double digit assessment increases for homeowners: about 21%. The tax rate proposal includes a 7% reduction in assessed value but homeowners will still pay an average increase of \$544. The inventory of unsold homes is up 500% in the past 12 months ending in January, with 57 days on the market for 2006 (versus 31 days for 2005). Median prices rose just 7.6% compared to 36% in the same period. The major source of county revenue (60%) comes from real estate taxes (~\$1,978 million) and school expenditures account for about 52% (~\$1,660 million) of county disbursements.

IT Projects and Expenditures: The rest of the meeting concerned funding of the county IT projects. Wanda Gibson, Director of the Department of Information Technology (DIT) and David Barte, DIT, introduced the budget for DIT projects and initiatives for FY 2007. IT funding is ~\$16.8 million to include new and on-going projects, specifically a modernization of the county voice network, installation and operation of broadband wireless in county facilities, electronic records management in the Juvenile Domestic Relations Court, Police records management update, and Public Service Radio ("rebanding" effort). The ITPAC report for 2006 is being developed and scheduled for submission to the Board by March 31, 2006. It is envisioned the Federation review and inputs coordinated by the Federation representative with the Federation officers.

Finally, a new committee requiring Federation membership was announced. It is the Land Use Information Accessibility Advisory Group, chartered February 9, 2006, to improve the public access of land use information through technology. Mr. Walter Alcorn, Planning Commission, has been appointed chairman. No initial meeting has been set. The term of the board is eight months. The Federation will need to nominate a person to fill this position.

The next meeting is scheduled for March 30, 2006.

Respectfully submitted,

*Vic Mukai*

Federation Representative to the ITPAC

- Do not include ornamental features like waterfalls and cascading pools in your landscaping design unless they recycle water.
- Use porous surfaces such as flagstone, gravel, stone and interlocking pavers rather than concrete and asphalt.
- Be active! Join a civic or environmental group and participate in stream cleanup activities, such as Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation's Adopt-a-Stream.
- Spread the word!

Visit the Federation website, [www.fairfaxfederation.org](http://www.fairfaxfederation.org) for internet sites offering more tips on protecting our watersheds.

Fairfax County  
**FEDERATION**  
of Citizens Associations

4022 Hummer Road  
Annandale, VA 22003

*Federation Membership  
Meeting*

Thursday,  
March 23, 2006  
7:30 p.m.

*Packard Center  
4022 Hummer Road  
Annandale*

Guest Speaker:

*Anthony Griffin,  
Fairfax County Executive*

*Topic: The Fairfax County  
Advertised Fiscal Year 2007  
Budget Plan*

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**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.

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