

# The Fairfax County FEDERATION

of Citizens Associations

Established 1940

April 2006

**THE BULLETIN**

Volume 55 Number 8

## Federation Membership Meeting



**Thursday, April 27, 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 Speakers:***

***The Honorable Dick Saslaw  
State Senator, 35th District***

***The Honorable David Albo  
Delegate, 42nd District***

***Topic: "Report from Richmond"***



## Upcoming Membership Meetings

**May 18, 2006      June 15, 2006**

**7:30 p.m.**

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



## Remaining Federation Board Meetings

**May 25                      June 22**

**7:30 p.m.**

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



## *President's Message*

Our **April 27 membership meeting** will feature "A Report From Richmond" by two distinguished legislators, **State Senator Dick Saslaw** and **Delegate David Albo**. **Please note this meeting will be the fourth Thursday of the month.** This should be an informative session and provide membership with an overview on this session's bills on transportation initiatives, the on-going state budget discussions, and the constitutional amendment ballot initiative.

Our **March 23 membership meeting** featured **Fairfax County Executive Tony Griffin** with discussions of **Fairfax County's FY2007 advertised budget**. Mr. Griffin gave a 45 minute budget review and then fielded questions ranging from county employee salaries and benefits to assessment procedures, and the future affordability of the No Child Left Behind partially funded federal mandate.

Following the budget review, membership considered the two resolutions published in last month's Federation **Bulletin**, one on the County Advertised Budget and one on the Zoning Ordinance Amendments. After lengthy discussion and consideration, both resolutions were approved by the membership.

On April 5, I testified before the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors and presented the Federation budget resolution. Once again, the Federation owes thanks to Sally Ormsby and Carol Hawn for helping with the nuts and bolts of the budget resolution package. The ZOA resolution has been forwarded to the Planning Commission for its review. I want to thank **Steve DeBianco** for his work on the ZOA resolution on behalf of the Federation.

On **May 18**, our **membership meeting** will feature Fairfax County BOS **Chairman Gerry Connolly** who will give a "State of the County." Please note, we are considering an **outdoor picnic** for the **June 15 membership meeting** and will have a decision in the next **Bulletin**, and on the Federation website, [www.fairfaxfederation.org](http://www.fairfaxfederation.org). The next **board meeting** is scheduled for **April 20**.

*John Jennison, President*

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

**Fairfax County Federation of Citizens Associations**  
**Membership Meeting of March 23, 2006**

**DRAFT MINUTES**

(for approval at the April 27, 2006 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 began by thanking Sally Ormsby and Carol Hawn for a fantastic and successful Citizen of the Year banquet. He introduced Fairfax County Executive Tony Griffin.

**Program**

Tony Griffin noted that the county budget, as advertised, does not initiate or expand many programs. There are about 156 new positions, of which two-thirds are for public safety. All but nine of the new positions are either for public safety or in support of new facilities. The remaining nine are workload-related.

The budget builds on seven vision elements and six priorities adopted by the Board of Supervisors two years ago. Education is the highest priority. The other five priorities include public safety and gang prevention; affordable housing (846 affordable units were preserved this year, and 600 are estimated for next year, meaning the goal of preserving 1000 units during the Supervisors' current term will likely be exceeded), the environment (he noted the tax "penny" in stormwater management), transportation (another bond referendum is possible in 2007), and revenue diversification.

On the issue of revenue, the budget recommends a 7-cent reduction in the tax rate, but the Supervisors are likely to reduce the rate by another 2 or 3 cents. The cost of eliminating the decal fee is equivalent to about one penny on the tax rate, or \$20.9 million. He has heard some pushback on eliminating the decal because the sticker is needed for other purposes; it is no longer needed, however, to enforce the personal property tax on vehicles.

The school system's proposed budget currently represents an 8.8 percent increase in the transfer amount. The guideline from the county was 6 percent, which would fund the first two "tiers" listed in the school system budget. An additional \$40 million would be needed for full funding of the remaining two tiers. The Board of Supervisors will probably not go significantly beyond 6 percent and will not approve an additional \$40 million. The expenditures required for the No Child Left Behind law are in the third tier. The Board would also like to see more of the money in the school budget going toward teachers' salaries.

The third quarter review of the county budget provided some additional funds. Tony Griffin has recommended some of this money be used to fully fund the rainy day fund (the revenue stabilization fund). The county has 2 percent of its budget in a managed reserved fund and 2 percent in the rainy day fund; he wishes to get the latter to 3 percent, which would be full funding. The county's AAA bond rating is in part based on the fact that these funds exist, and the Katrina disaster has again demonstrated the importance of adequate financial reserves for local governments.

He responded to questions on the amount of money in the budget for pedestrian and bike trail improvements, as recommended by the pedestrian safety task force; the allocation of the third-quarter overage beyond the rainy day fund and the timing of that allocation; the merit pay increase for non-public-safety employees; the pay for performance system; penalties for agencies that exceed the budgeted salary increases under pay for performance (they must fund the excess themselves); the way that assessments are established; the recommended increase in the supervisors' salaries (after the next election); the cost of No Child Left Behind; a second tax "penny" for affordable housing; and why the budget includes costs for the Medical Reserve Corps and similar federally supported programs.

**Business Meeting**

- a. The minutes for the February 16 membership meeting, which were

published in the most recent Federation newsletter, were approved unanimously as written.

b. Steve DelBianco of the Land Use Committee introduced a proposed resolution on the first Zoning Ordinance Amendments, which address minimum yard requirements, fence heights, etc., with a view to testifying that evening at a public hearing before the Planning Commission. The resolution was moved, seconded, and approved on a 23-0 vote.

c. Sally Ormsby of the Legislative Committee introduced a proposed resolution on the county budget, which was moved and seconded. The membership voted 18 to 7 in favor of retaining the \$25 decals for vehicles in the county, an issue on which the Federation Board was evenly split at its meeting, producing no recommendation to the membership on this point. Charles Dane introduced an amendment to the budget resolution that the county's budget should take into consideration any reduction in budgeted income from the state, given that the state budget still remained unresolved. It was approved on a 25-0 vote. The budget resolution, as amended, was then unanimously approved.

d. Patrick Rea reported that a further membership mailing is planned to twenty nonmember associations in each district.

e. Charles Dane reported that the Education and Youth Committee had had a thorough meeting on the budget and would meet again on any reductions to the FCPS budget that may be needed, given the existing gap between the increase in the County transfer amounts proposed by the School Board and the Board of Supervisors (respectively, as stated by Tony Griffin, 8.8 percent and 6 percent). As in past years when this has occurred, the committee may need to prepare and present testimony on the reductions without further input from the Board or membership, due to the timing of County decisions and the School Board hearing.

f. Walt Sisson reported for the Environment Committee that the Board of Supervisors Environmental Committee meeting was scheduled for the following Monday. The Potomac River Watershed Cleanup is scheduled for April 8. Some proposed bills of concern in the recent General Assembly session included allowing mercury emissions trading, an energy bill to allow offshore drilling, and a rule to regulate surface water withdrawals only after adverse impacts have been demonstrated.

g. Sally Ormsby reported for the Legislation Committee that transportation funding, and thus the entire state budget, remains unresolved by the General Assembly.

h. Judy Harbeck reported from the Mount Vernon Council that the council's County budget position was similar to the Federation's, except that it supports a second penny for affordable housing.

i. Mike Thompson reported on the Springfield District Council's recent meeting with Representative Tom Davis, which included an interesting discussion of some less-publicized immigration issues, including the lack of banking facilities for undocumented immigrants. This creates a situation that can lead to large cash thefts (indirectly supporting the growth of gangs), predatory lending, and other consequences. He noted that a significant proportion of undocumented immigrants remain in that position because of long government delays in processing their paperwork. Following Mike Thompson's report, it was suggested that immigration might be a good topic for a meeting next year.

j. John Jennison reported the Citizen of the Year banquet was very successful, with 172 attendees.

Next Membership Meeting: April 27, 2006, "Report from Richmond" from State Senator Dick Saslaw and Delegate Dave Albo

Next Board Meeting (tentative): April 20, 2006

Meeting adjourned at 10:00 p.m.

## CITIZENS HONORED AT ANNUAL BANQUET

On March 19, 2006, over 170 people gathered at the Fairview Park Marriott Hotel for the 56th Annual Awards Banquet, sponsored by the Fairfax County Federation of Citizens Associations and *The Washington Post*. The guest speaker for the evening was The Honorable Gerald E. Connolly, Chairman of the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors. Below are the program biographies of this year's award recipients.

### 2005 CITIZEN OF THE YEAR - *Marlene Blum*

One of the numerous letters sent in support of Marlene Blum's nomination as Citizen of the Year said it best, "she should be called Citizen of the Decade". For thirty years, Marlene has tirelessly dedicated her time, energy and extensive talent to Fairfax County, primarily in the areas of education and health and human services, with special attention given to our most vulnerable residents.

Marlene's volunteerism began on behalf of children, ensuring the Fairfax County Public Schools had the support and programs necessary to make it a world-class system. In 1993, she chaired the School Health Task Force, resulting in a significant countywide increase in school-based public health nurses.

In the health and human services arena, Marlene has passionately advocated for quality health care for all residents in Fairfax County and the Northern Virginia region. She has been a guiding citizen voice shaping our county's current human services delivery system. In 1985, she was appointed to the Health Care Advisory Board, and has chaired the Board since 1988. Marlene was instrumental in the development of the Community Health Care Network, a model for the provision of medical care for uninsured residents, as well as the HIV/AIDS Case Management Program. She was a founder of the Access to Health Care Consortium, providing a regional forum for health care providers on issues such as Medicaid coverage expansion. She was a founder of the Fairfax County Alliance for Human Services, was its Chair from 1993-97, and still serves on its Board. She also chaired the Committee on Medically Fragile Homeless persons. Marlene has combined a fierce dedication for health care access with an understanding of the needs of the uninsured and an effective ability to accomplish goals.

Marlene chaired the Community Funding Implementation Team that designed the county's Consolidated Community Funding Pool, a nationally recognized, citizen-driven process for responding to community needs through the funding of programs provided by nonprofit organizations. She was the first Chair of, and continues to serve on, the Consolidated Community Funding Advisory Committee that now oversees this funding process. She also participated in the design and restructuring of the county's "Continuum of Care" planning process and serves on the Community Planning Collaborative on Homelessness Council and the Affordable Housing Advisory Committee.

She is active in the Jewish community, serving as a Board Member of the Jewish Community Center of Northern Virginia.

Marlene is the epitome of civic engagement in Fairfax County. Her work has been, and continues to be, of significant consequence and has had a lasting positive impact on her fellow residents, and on the current and future quality of life in Fairfax County. Her extraordinary record of dedicated service is impressive, inspiring, and compelling. The Federation is honored to recognize her as Citizen of the Year.

### CITATION OF MERIT - *Bill and Jane Strauss*

Within days of Hurricane Katrina battering the Gulf Coast Region in 2005, Bill and Jane Strauss gathered a group of Fairfax County residents in their home. Out of that meeting was born Fairfax Families Care, a locally-based relief effort established to enable county residents to assist displaced Katrina victims now relocated to Fairfax County. This nonprofit organization quickly blossomed into

a coalition of citizens associations, the faith community, schools, PTAs, businesses, nonprofit and government agencies, and concerned individuals.

The public-private partnership is now in the second phase of relief efforts by helping many of the over 1,300 Gulf Coast evacuees reestablish their lives in Fairfax County. Fairfax Families Care integrates assistance in three core areas: employment, longer term housing, and educational opportunities. As of mid-November, Fairfax Families Care had raised over \$64,000. None of the money has gone to administration, but has gone directly to evacuee families for rent, security deposits, household goods, and similar immediate needs.

In addition to founding Fairfax Families Care, Bill is also a co-founder, and now National Director, of the Cappies, the high school theater critics and awards program. This now-international program provides a unique collaborative learning experience for high school thespian and journalism students, and encourages and trains student writers, performing artists, and technical crew members. The Cappies enhance, celebrate, and add excitement to high school theater across America and Canada.

Jane served as an appointed member of the Fairfax County School Board from 1991 to 1993. She has been the elected Dranesville District Representative since 1996.

Bill and Jane have given untold hours of dedicated service to the community, especially in the areas of education and the arts. They truly understand that we are enriched by reaching out to others. This latest effort, to assist the victims of Hurricane Katrina by providing a means for Fairfax County residents to offer tangible help, is just a small piece of their continuing devotion to our larger community. The Federation is proud to recognize their ongoing commitment with a Citation of Merit.

### SPECIAL GRATITUDE AWARD - *Carson Lee Fifer, Jr.*

While the issue of preserving affordable housing is now a goal of the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors, over 20 years ago, it was a concern often not addressed by the larger community. It was at that time that Carson Lee Fifer, Jr. co-founded Affordable Housing Opportunities Means Everyone, or AHOME. Lee has served as a Board Member continuously since 1985, including two terms as Co-Chairman.

In the ensuing years, Lee has been an instrumental voice guiding Fairfax County's affordable housing policies and ordinances. In 1989, he was the principal author of the AHOME-sponsored legislation authorizing Fairfax County's adoption of an affordable dwelling unit ordinance mandating, in a manner that would survive judicial review, the construction of affordable dwelling units in future housing projects.

Upon passage of that legislation, the Affordable Dwelling Unit (ADU) Task Force was established. Lee was not only a member of the initial task force from 1989 through 1991, he was the principal author of the provisions of the 1991 Fairfax County ADU Ordinance.

Lee has been a member of each subsequent task force, reestablished periodically to recommend updates to the ADU Ordinance. In both 1996 and in 2002, the ADU Task Force was reconstituted, and each time, Lee was a major contributor to the review and ultimately, the revisions of the ADU Ordinance.

Lee is a Partner at McGuireWoods, LLP. He offered his services as the pro-bono attorney for the Chesterbrook Assisted Living Facility, successfully negotiating the process necessary to permit the construction of the 98-unit senior housing complex in McLean.

He also served on the Affordable Housing Preservation Action Committee in 2004, and is currently a member of the Fairfax County Affordable Housing Advisory Committee.

Today, the preservation of, and increase in, affordable housing stock is a Fairfax County priority due, in great part, to Lee's unwavering dedication. For the past two decades, he has remained committed to ensuring that affordable housing is available for those that wish to live in our county. The Federation is proud to honor Lee Fifer with a Special Gratitude Award.

Fairfax County  
**FEDERATION**  
of Citizens Associations

4022 Hummer Road  
Annandale, VA 22003

*Federation Membership  
Meeting*

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

*Packard Center  
4022 Hummer Road  
Annandale*

Guest Speakers:

The Honorable Dick Saslaw  
*State Senate, 35th District*

The Honorable David Albo  
*Delegate, 42nd District*

*Topic: "Report from Richmond"*

*Contents of this Issue*

<i>President's Message</i>	1
<i>Draft Minutes of March 23, 2006 Membership Meeting</i>	2
<i>Citizens Honored at Annual Banquet</i>	3

**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)***