

# The Fairfax County FEDERATION

of Citizens Associations

Established 1940

May 2006

**THE BULLETIN**

Volume 55 Number 9

## Federation Membership Meeting



**Thursday, May 18, 2006**

**7:30 p.m.**

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

*Guest Speaker:*

*The Honorable Gerald E. Connolly*

*Chairman, Fairfax County  
Board of Supervisors*

*Topic: "The State of the County"*

*Election of Officers for 2006 - 2007*



## Upcoming Membership Meeting

**June 15, 2006**

**7:30 p.m.**

**Packard Center Outdoor Area  
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*

It is with great sadness and sorrow that we learned of the death of **Detective Vicky Arnel, one of Fairfax County's Finest**, in the line of duty. Our thoughts and prayers are with the Arnel family and the other families of police officers, our heroes, who courageously go into harm's way to defend the safety of county residents. She leaves behind her husband, also a Fairfax County Police Detective, and two children. Donations may be made to the **Arnel Family Trust Fund** c/o Fairfax County Federal Credit Union, 4201 Members Way, Fairfax, VA 22030. Messages of condolences may be sent to the following link: <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/police>.

Our **May 18 membership meeting** will feature a combined "State of the County" and "Ask the Chairman" program featuring **Gerry Connolly**, Chairman of the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors. This should be an informative session and provide our membership with an opportunity to ask questions on the budget, county services and the status of the priorities, such as affordable housing and increased parkland, set by the Chairman when he took office.

The **April 27 membership meeting** featured "A Report From Richmond" by two distinguished legislators, **State Senators Jay O'Brien** and **Dick Saslaw**. This was an extremely informative program as the senators frankly discussed bills considered during the General Assembly session, including transportation initiatives, the state budget and the constitutional amendment ballot initiative. Senator O'Brien, who graciously filled in for Senator Jeannemarie Devolites Davis, reviewed his sponsored bills including regulations of adoption, smoking bans, sex offender registries and car towing. Senator Saslaw, a business owner, explained the current market pricing of gasoline in county, state, regional and national terms with interesting statistics and predictions of the future of the oil industry and its impact on gasoline and transportation. Please review the membership minutes of the fascinating discussion as noted by **Esther Ferington**, our Secretary.

For the **June 15 membership meeting**, we are planning an **Outdoor Potluck Picnic** at the Packard Center. **Merrily Pierce**, our Public Safety Committee Chair, is helping with a presentation on "How to Organize a Neighborhood National Night Out", and **Jeff Nolan**, our Representative on the **Advisory Committee for Students with Disabilities**, is developing a presentation about these Fairfax County Public School student services.

The next **Board meeting** is on **May 25**; we will have a special guest speaker, **Patty Nicolson, of the Dulles Rail Corridor Association**. As always, if you would like to become more involved with or have questions about The Federation, please feel free to contact me or any other board member.

*John Jennison, President*

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

## Items of Interest for Member Associations

### **Trust Fund Established for Family of Slain Officer**

As noted by President John Jennison in his column on *page one*, a trust fund has been established for the family of Fairfax County Police Department Detective Vicky Armel, who was killed outside the Sully District Police Station on May 8, 2006. Contributions can be sent to:

**The Armel Family Trust Fund**  
c/o Fairfax County Federal Credit Union  
4201 Members Way  
Fairfax VA 22030.

The Federation joins with all residents of Fairfax County in sending condolences to the Armel family, and our entire Fairfax County Police Department on their loss.

### **Sully Woodlands Regional Master Plan Update**

The Fairfax County Park Authority (FCPA) held a public hearing on May 3, 2006 on the proposed Sully Woodlands Regional Master Plan. This plan addresses approximately 4,400 acres of parkland in western Fairfax County, including almost 2,150 acres of recently acquired park property in addition to 2,250 acres of existing parkland. The plan proposes management guidelines, land use recommendations, and potential next steps in the planning process.

The draft plan is available for review at the FCPA, 12055 Government Center Parkway, Suite 421, Fairfax, or online at: [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/sullywoodlandsplanning.htm](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/sullywoodlandsplanning.htm).

Written comments should be directed to Angie Allen, Project Manager, Fairfax County Park Authority, 12055 Government Center Parkway, Suite 421, Fairfax, VA 22035. Email comments should be sent to: [parkmail@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:parkmail@fairfaxcounty.gov). The public comment period is open until the close of business on June 2, 2006.

While classified as a regional master plan, a number of activities are proposed that would have significance for all residents of Fairfax County.

### **Public Schools Administration Begins Move**

Beginning this past March, the Fairfax County Public School (FCPS) Administration began their move into the new administration facilities. The new address is:

8115 Gatehouse Road  
Falls Church VA 22042

Please note that all administration and School Board Representative telephone numbers will be changing as the move continues. To access the new telephone directory as changes occur, visit [www.fcps.edu](http://www.fcps.edu) or call (571) 423-1000.

### **Community Summit on Homelessness Follow-up**

As a follow-up to the Community Summit on Homelessness held April 7, 2006, four regional summits will be held in late May and early June for residents interested in contributing to Fairfax County's Ten Year Plan to End Homelessness. The regional summits will be from 6:00 p.m. until 9:30 p.m. At press time, the dates had not been finalized. For dates, or additional information, visit: <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/homeless>.

### **Outreach Available on Tax Relief Program**

The Fairfax County Department of Tax Administration (DTA) is offering an outreach program for associations or other citizen

groups. This program strives to educate and explain the County's Tax Relief Program. Through this program, eligible homeowners are granted real estate tax relief on a dwelling and up to one acre of land upon which the dwelling is located, and is granted to individuals who own and occupy their dwelling and are either 65 years of age or permanently and totally disabled. Homeowners may qualify if their gross household income does not exceed \$72,000 and their total net assets (not including the value of the home, furnishings, and up to one acre of land) do not exceed \$340,000. There are degrees of qualification depending upon income levels and assets. For more information on this outreach program, or to schedule a speaker, contact Desiree Baltimore, Manager, Tax Relief Program, DTA, at (703) 324-4226, or via email at [desi.baltimore@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:desi.baltimore@fairfaxcounty.gov).

### **County Transportation Plan Update**

The Planning Commission held its public hearing on the Fairfax County Transportation Plan Update on May 4, 2006, with decision only deferred until Thursday, May 25, 2006. The Plan Amendment revises the Transportation section of the Policy Plan, the Transportation Plan Map, and transportation recommendations in each Area Plan volume to be consistent with the adopted Fairfax County Transportation Plan Map.

To submit comments on the update to the Planning Commission, email them to [plancom@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:plancom@fairfaxcounty.gov). The staff report on the plan update is available at: [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/fcdot/transplanupdate.htm](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/fcdot/transplanupdate.htm).

### **Celebrate Fairfax! Celebrates 25 Years in June**

The Celebrate Fairfax! Festival, also known as the Fairfax Fair, will be held Friday, June 9th through Sunday, June 11th. This is the 25th year of the festival. Hours are:

Friday, June 9:	6:00 p.m. until 10:00 p.m.
Saturday, June 10:	10:00 a.m. until 10:00 p.m.
Sunday, June 11:	10:00 a.m. until 6:00 p.m.

The ExxonMobil Children's Avenue closes at dark Friday and Saturday. The event is held at the Fairfax County Government Center, 12000 Government Center Parkway, Fairfax. For more information, including parking, program, and entrance fees, contact (703) 324-5303 or please visit: [www.celebratefairfax.org](http://www.celebratefairfax.org).

### **400th Anniversary Events Underway**

Settled in 1607, Jamestown, Virginia was the first permanent English settlement in the Americas and is, in essence, our state and nation's birthplace. Four hundred years later, Fairfax County and the Commonwealth of Virginia will be commemorating this anniversary for the next year.

The Fairfax County Virginia 2007 Community Citizen Planning Committee encourages Fairfax County residents to participate in the upcoming celebrations and events. To receive the latest news and information, you can sign up for periodic email updates. To subscribe, visit [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/email/lists](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/email/lists). Look under "General News and Information", and subscribe to "Virginia 2007 - 400th Anniversary Celebration Information." You can also contact the Office of Public Affairs at (703) 324-3187. Esther Ferington is the Federation's Representative on the Planning Committee.

America's 400th Anniversary Celebration launches with the sail of the newly-commissioned replica of the *Godspeed*, one of the three ships that brought the first permanent English settlers to Jamestown. The replica will be docked at the Alexandria waterfront May 27 - June 3, 2006. The ship, sponsored by Jamestown 2007, will visit ports along the eastern seaboard.

**Fairfax County Federation of Citizens Associations**  
**Membership Meeting of April 27, 2006**

**DRAFT MINUTES**

(for approval at the May 18, 2006 meeting)

The meeting of the FCFCA was held at the Packard Center at 7:30 p.m. (Attendance list is attached to file copy.)

President John Jennison introduced the first of two speakers for this "Report from Richmond" meeting, State Senator James "Jay" O'Brien of the 39th Senate District. The second speaker, State Senator Richard "Dick" Saslaw of the 35th Senate District, was introduced later.

**Program**

Senator O'Brien said that any report about the General Assembly session this year divides into two topics: transportation and the budget and "everything else." In the latter category, he outlined his initiatives on adoption law, cable television competition, expansion of the sex offender registry, campaign finance, a local option for restaurant smoking bans, in-state tuition rates for children of military personnel, the community college transfer grant program, and the regulation of car-towing operators. He reported the constitutional amendment on marriage will be on the ballot this fall. The wording of the question that will appear on the ballot (as opposed to the text of the amendment itself) is still being fought over.

Senator Saslaw spoke to the transportation and budget. Three regional transportation plans, all tied together, have been voted through the Senate—Tidewater, Northern Virginia, and statewide. They rely on a 6 cent per gallon increase in the terminal tax on gasoline. Senator Saslaw listed current gas prices in states with high and low gas taxes to show the prices are not determined by the tax rate. Other proposed sources of funding include an increase in the grantor's tax on real estate transactions and a local option for an increase in sales and transient occupancy taxes. The Senate plan generates \$110 million for Northern Virginia, plus additional money (\$66 million) from the statewide plan, and the House plan generates \$27 million. At this stage, all plans are subject to change. The first two obligations under the Senate plan are the \$50 million annual payment needed to match Congressman Davis's bill providing \$1.5 billion over 10 years in federal funding for Metro (payments are also needed from Maryland and Washington, D.C.) and \$25 million for VRE, which needs more cars. He stated that without additional transportation funding, by the year 2010 the VDOT budget will only support maintenance. In the long term, he believes rail may be the solution. There is a great need for some road projects, such as widening Route 7, but we cannot build our way out. This year he worked on a bill regulating concessions—arrangements through which private companies build and operate HOT lanes or other roads. Often this is in conjunction with nearby retail operations. The bill established which parts of these projects are subject to taxation.

Senator O'Brien explained how this budget impasse differs from the one two years ago. The governors are different, and this governor is in his first year. The economy was much slower two years ago and there was concern about the state's AAA bond rating, which is not under threat now. The underlying issue last time was education, which affects every district and is the single largest employer in many districts. The transportation crisis is really only in Tidewater and Northern Virginia. The short-term solution to the stalemate may be a continuing resolution. Senator Saslaw noted that pressure to resolve this impasse will increase in a few weeks, because school systems that depend on state funding to operate will have to inform teachers of possible layoffs by June 1 (90 days before school starts), unless the funding is assured.

**Business Meeting**

- a. The minutes for the March 23 membership meeting were approved unanimously as written.
- b. The Treasurer's Report was received and is posted on the Federation

website.

c. Carol Hawn reported the next newsletter deadline is May 4.

d. President John Jennison noted that Charles Dane testified on the issue of surplus school properties.

e. Carol Hawn reported on the Council on Homelessness summit on a plan to end homelessness in ten years (to receive federal funding, a community must have a plan to end chronic homelessness in ten years; Fairfax County extends the plan to all homelessness). She encouraged those who are interested to attend the regional meetings that will be held on this topic. Dates and times were not yet available.

f. Steve DelBianco reported that the Planning Commission had voted 8-0 to proceed with the first group of zoning ordinance amendments (ZOAs), despite the Federation's recent resolution. The Board of Supervisors public hearing will be on May 1, and Steve will testify.

g. Sally Ormsby reported that the budget and transportation funding remain undecided in the General Assembly. The session was not fruitful, although more bills were submitted than ever before.

h. Sally Ormsby also noted the Planning Commission hearing on the draft Transportation Plan update in the Policy Plan was scheduled for May 4, a week after release of the proposal. A motion was made and approved for John Jennison and Earl Flanagan to write a letter to the Planning Commission requesting deferral of the hearing because the information was not provided sufficiently in advance.

i. Art Wells reported for Braddock District that recent workshops on association issues were well-attended and the Federation might wish to consider them as a model. In addition, its Area Plan review is ongoing, with 17 task force meetings over one and a half years so far. Judy Harbeck provided copies of an affordable housing plan adopted by the Mount Vernon Council. The plan addresses affordable workforce housing as well as affordable housing for very low income people.

j. Carol Hawn reported that the Nominating Committee would meet soon.

k. President John Jennison noted that the Federation has appointed Jim Katcham to serve as the Federation's representative on the Land Use Accessibility Advisory Group.

**New Business**

a. Bill Hanks reported that 116 affordable dwelling units in Reston have been preserved. Realtors have held an all-day conference on affordable housing, and the Fairfax County Redevelopment and Housing Authority (FCRHA) and the Planning Commission have met on the topic. He has suggested on-site affordable housing for staff in commercial developments in the urban revitalization areas.

b. Esther Ferington reported that the deadline has been changed from June 1 to September 1 for submissions of Fairfax County history articles, on any topic during the last 400 years, for possible inclusion in a book to be published next year by the Fairfax 2007 committee.

c. Carol Hawn noted the county's publication of *Anticipating the Future*, a report on changes in the county over the next several years. It was agreed to request copies for the next membership meeting.

Next Membership Meeting: May 18, 2006, State of the County and "Ask the Chair," with Board of Supervisors Chairman Gerry Connolly

Next Board Meeting: May 25, 2006, with Patty Nicoson, Dulles Corridor Rail Association

Meeting adjourned at 10:00 p.m.

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

Fairfax County  
**FEDERATION**  
of Citizens Associations

4022 Hummer Road  
Annandale, VA 22003

***Federation Membership  
Meeting***

Thursday,  
May 18, 2006  
7:30 p.m.

*Packard Center  
4022 Hummer Road  
Annandale*

***Guest Speaker:***

The Honorable  
Gerald E. Connolly

*Chairman, Fairfax County  
Board of Supervisors*

***Topic: "State of the County"***

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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)***