

The Fairfax County

FEDERATION

of Citizens Associations

Established 1940

June 2006

THE BULLETIN

Volume 55 Number 10

Federation Membership Picnic



Thursday, June 15, 2006

7:00 p.m.

**Packard Center Outdoor Pavilion
(behind the Packard Center - see page four for
directions to the adjacent parking lot)
4022 Hummer Road, Annandale**

**The Federation will provide food and drinks. If
you plan to attend, please rsvp to Carol Hawn at
(703) 266-6872 or cahawn@att.net.**

**In case of inclement weather, the picnic will be
in the Packard Center Main Conference Room.**

Guest Speakers:

*The Honorable Gerald E. Connolly
Chairman, Fairfax County Board of Supervisors
"The State of the County"*

*Merrily Pierce, Chair
Federation Public Safety Committee
"How to Organize a Neighborhood Night Out"*

*Jeff Nolan, Federation Representative
Advisory Committee for Students with Disabilities*

Election of Officers for 2006 - 2007



Upcoming Membership Meeting

Please note the Federation membership
does *not* meet in July and August.

The next membership meeting will be
**Thursday, September 21, 2006
7:30 p.m.**

Enjoy your summer!



President's Message

Fairfax County took another deep, sorrowful and reflective pause on May 17 as we heard the tragic news of the loss of **Master Police Officer Michael Garbarino**, the second member of **Fairfax County's Finest** to die in the line of duty as result of the May tragedy at the Sully District Police Station. In recognition of the loss, and to afford members an opportunity to attend the candlelight vigil, I canceled The Federation's May 18 membership meeting. Donations can be made to **The Garbarino Family Trust Fund** c/o Fairfax County Federal Credit Union, 4201 Members Way, Fairfax, VA 22030. Messages of condolence may be sent to the following link: <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/police>. The Federation mourns the senseless loss of life and hopes that adequate mental health services can be afforded to all in need.

Thus our **June 15 Membership Meeting and Picnic** will feature the **"Ask the Chairman"** program featuring **Gerry Connolly, Chairman of the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors**. This will be a very informative session and provide membership with an opportunity to raise questions on the budget, county services and the status of the priorities, such as affordable housing and increased parkland, set by the Board of Supervisors. In addition, we will have a **"How to Organize a Neighborhood National Night Out"** presentation by **Merrily Pierce**, our Public Safety Committee Chair. Also, **Jeff Nolan**, our **Representative on the Advisory Committee for Students with Disabilities**, is organizing a review about these Fairfax County Public Schools student services. The Federation will hold the elections for the 2006-07 Officers as well. So come join us for a great program and picnic that will be held right outside the Packard Center (or inside if we have inclement weather). Please see the left side of this page on how to let us know whether you can attend so we have a head count on how much food to provide!

The **May 25 Board Meeting** featured guest speaker, **Patty Nicoson** of the **Dulles Corridor Rail Association**, who reviewed the status of the Metrorail extension to Dulles Airport. The Board also approved a second resolution on **Zoning Ordinance Amendments**, presented by our Land Use Committee; it will be voted on at the June meeting. The resolution is enclosed for review.

Although the Federation membership will take a break from meetings in July and August, the Board will continue to meet. The next **Board Meeting** is tentatively scheduled for **June 22**, but please check the website and sign up for email blasts by **Jeff Parnes** our **Webmaster Extraordinaire** for schedule changes.

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. See you at our June picnic!

John Jennison, President

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

Regional Dialogues to Help End Homelessness

By Stacey Denny, Federation Representative to the
Planning Committee to End Homelessness
shdenny@cox.net

Four regional dialogues are being held throughout the county as a follow-up to the Community Summit to End Homelessness, held at Freddie Mac headquarters in McLean on April 7, 2006. The Summit was attended by officials from the county, charities, religious groups and businesses. Last fall, the county Board of Supervisors endorsed an initiative to end homelessness in Fairfax County within 10 years (<http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/news/2005/05282.htm>).

Although a Planning Committee to End Homelessness (PCEH), made up of county residents and representatives from local non-profits, businesses and faith communities, has been in place since last summer, last month's Summit marked the beginning of the effort to educate and inform the public, as well as to invite participation from the community at large, whether as citizens, businesses or organizations.

Currently, Fairfax County's homelessness is estimated at more than 2,000 people. The PCEH has been working since last summer on a plan to eradicate this problem. The plan is due to the Board for approval by the end of the summer. The regional dialogues to be held in the coming weeks are for representatives from citizens' association, businesses, and other interested organizations. There will be speakers as well as breakout sessions at each scheduled dialogue to encourage full participation from attendees. Attendees will be asked to provide input and creative ideas during these sessions to help shape the plan. For more information, visit: www.fairfaxcounty.gov/homeless.

The schedule for the remaining Regional Dialogues is listed below. If you are interested in attending, please RSVP to the phone numbers provided for each location, as a light dinner will be served.

Community Regional Dialogues

6:00 p.m. – 9:30 p.m.

Monday, June 12, 2006

First Christian Church of Falls Church
6165 Leesburg Pike
Falls Church, VA 22044

RSVP to 703-533-5701

Wednesday, June 14, 2006

Pender United Methodist Church
12401 Alderwoods Drive
Fairfax, VA 22033

RSVP to 703-324-5285

Trust Funds Established for Families of Slain Officers

Trust funds have been established for the families of Fairfax County Police Department Detective Vicky Armel and Master Police Officer Michael Garbarino, victims of the May 8, 2006 shooting outside the Sully District Police Station. Contributions can be sent to:

The Armel Family Trust Fund
or
The Garbarino 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 and Garbarino families, and our entire Fairfax County Police Department on their loss.

Federation Resolution on Fairfax County Zoning Ordinance Amendments Regarding Reduction in Minimum Required Yards and Lot Widths; Pop-ups/Carport Enclosures; and Maximum Fence Height

(for membership approval at the June 15, 2006 meeting)

Background

Current law allows property owners to seek variances to minimum lot width, yard setbacks, and maximum fence height, subject to review by the Board of Zoning Appeals (BZA). In 2004, the Supreme Court of Virginia re-affirmed 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 (Board) subsequently determined the 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 asked Staff for a series of Zoning Ordinance Amendments (ZOAs), and Staff has published this schedule:

Process changes related to fence and yard setbacks in conjunction with other development applications, plus a change to the method for measuring the height of accessory structures. These changes were adopted May 1, 2006.

Fifty percent reduction in minimum required yards. Staff conducted a public information meeting on this on March 20, 2006; Planning Commission hearing June 1; Board public hearing on July 10, 2006.

Changes related to carport enclosures and to minimum required yards for pop-up additions to existing structures. Hearings in September and October, 2006.

Increase in maximum fence/wall height. Hearings in September and October, 2006.

Reduce minimum lot width. Hearings in September and October, 2006.

Allow emergency basement access to extend into minimum required yards. Hearings in October and November, 2006.

Resolution

WHEREAS, County Staff has proposed an amendment to the Zoning Ordinance that will establish a special permit to allow up to a 50% reduction in minimum yard requirements ("Setbacks") for principal or accessory uses; and

WHEREAS, the proposed amendment includes additional standards that will restrict use of this special permit, such standards are not sufficient to prevent infill development that is detrimental to adjacent properties and to the character of neighborhoods.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Fairfax County Federation of Citizens Associations strongly recommends that the subject ZOA be deferred until the following standards for relief are included:

- Relief should be granted only where there is *no reasonable alternative* for location of the proposed addition.
- Relief should be granted only if the resulting total impervious surface coverage would not exceed 25% of the lot area.
- Relief should be granted only if the result would increase the yield of allowable dwelling units on the subject property.
- Relief should be limited such that multiple relief applications cannot be used to effectively re-zone an area.
- 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.

Education Committee End-of-Year Report

This was an especially active school year for the Education Committee as the Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS) initiated and completed several projects of interest to the Committee. The Committee:

- supported the initial consolidation of administrative buildings and indicated tentative support for continued consolidation of the remaining administrative buildings, depending in part on construction costs and benefits from the first consolidation
- testified in support of the FCPS bond resolution
- revised the education-related proposals in the Federation's annual legislative package
- provided input to consultant's review of schedule changes and encouraged continuation of this schedule change/transportation study
- updated Education Committee's webpage on Federation's website and added testimony as presented
- reviewed the Annual Yearly Progress (AYP) of FCPS schools
- arranged for the Deputy Superintendent to speak at the January membership meeting on budget and No Child Left Behind (NCLB)
- provided education-related comments to FCPS programs/funding in testimony to the County's Board of Supervisors (BOS)
- reviewed FCPS grants support
- testified in support of the transfer process for unneeded land to BOS in exchange for a \$30 million increase in FCPS's Construction Improvement Plan (CIP) in each of the next 6 years
- brought to the attention of the FCPS Superintendent and BOS Chair a possible cooperative program for affordable housing
- initiated discussion of student suspension programs and continued to assess teacher salaries
- testified in support of FCPS budget after transfer of County funds, while also raising several concerns
- began to monitor the impact of BRAC.

In addition, Education Committee members served on several school-related committees and advisory groups, including the Human Relations and the Students with Disabilities Advisory Committee to the FCPS School Board, the Superintendent's Citizen Advisory Council, Fairfax Futures (supporting early pre-school education), Safe Community Coalition (the safe and drug-free youth coalition in McLean/Great Falls), and the Fairfax Scholarship Fund. One member served as a consultant for the Office of Overseas Schools in the U.S. State Department. Another member serves on an FCPS advisory committee reviewing potential school schedule changes allowing high school students to begin school at a later hour. This involved an extensive review of bus schedules and has been continued with the support of the Federation. And finally, members held various positions and participation levels in PTAs and PTSAs.

Dr. Charles Dane, Chair

www.fairfaxfederation.org

Land Use Committee End-of-Year Report

Zoning Ordinance Amendments Dominate Agenda

For the last several months, the Federation's Land Use Committee has been zoned-in on a critical question of countywide zoning residential standards. That question is, "Should the County lower zoning standards in order to provide more flexibility in granting variances?"

The answer from the Federation's Board and Membership has been overwhelming opposition to lower residential zoning standards. However, our Board of Supervisors seems determined to create more flexibility than allowed by state law in the wake of a court decision governing variances. Consequently, we have suggested specific standards that should be adopted to constrain the new flexibility, and we will be advocating these standards for a series of Zoning Ordinance Amendments being considered this year.

Steve DeBianco, Chair

Legislative Committee End-of-Year Report

Each year the Federation prepares a Legislative Program that focuses primarily on state legislative issues. The program includes a small number of priority issues taken from the items in the program that reflect the issues the Federation feels are most important to the County and its residents. The Legislative Committee, a committee of the whole, drafted its 2006 Legislative Program in September; it was adopted by the membership in October 2005. The Federation President presented the published program to the Fairfax County legislators at their public hearing on January 7, 2006.

During the 2006 General Assembly, the committee chair followed those bills that related to the Federation's program and communicated our positions to the legislators as appropriate. Unfortunately, most of the Federation's priorities have been on the program for several years because the legislature has not yet enacted them, e.g., equal taxing powers for counties, cities and towns, which has been an important issue for many years.

Sally Ormsby, Chair

Approval of Membership Meeting Minutes

Because the Federation's May 18, 2006 membership meeting was canceled, the minutes of the April 27, 2006 membership meeting will be approved at the Thursday, June 15, 2006 membership meeting. Those minutes were already published in the May 2006 *Bulletin*, and are available on the Federation website: www.fairfaxfederation.org.

Virginia's 400th Anniversary Events Underway

The Fairfax County Virginia 2007 Community Citizen Planning Committee encourages Fairfax County residents to participate in upcoming 400th Anniversary celebrations and events. You can receive news and information via periodic email updates. To subscribe, visit 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 serves as the Federation's Representative on the Citizen Planning Committee.

Fairfax County
FEDERATION
of Citizens Associations

4022 Hummer Road
Annandale, VA 22003

Federation Membership
Picnic and Meeting

Thursday,
June 15, 2006
7:00 p.m.

Packard Center Pavilion Area
(see directions, below)

4022 Hummer Road
Annandale

Join us as we wrap up the
Federation year. Food and
drinks will be provided.

To RSVP, contact Carol Hawn
at (703) 266-6872 or at
cahawn@att.net.

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Directions to the

Packard Center Pavilion, 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.

Take second "left" (after the maintenance facility); park in large lower lot. The pavilion can be
seen from that parking lot. ***Signs will be posted.***

www.fairfaxfederation.org