

The Fairfax County FEDERATION of Citizens Associations

Established 1940

May 2007

THE BULLETIN

Volume 56, Number 8

Federation Membership Meeting



Thursday, May 17, 2007 7:30 p.m.

Packard Center Main Conference Room
4022 Hummer Road, Annandale

Topic: "Report from Richmond"

Guest Speakers:

The Honorable Jeannemarie Devolites Davis
34th District, State Senate of Virginia

The Honorable Timothy D. Hugo
40th District, House of Delegates

The Honorable David W. Marsden
41st District, House of Delegates

The Honorable Stephen C. Shannon
35th District, House of Delegates

Election of Federation Officers for 2007 - 2008

Slate of Officers

(as confirmed at press time; please check the Federation website for a complete slate of Officers)

Jeffrey Parnes, President

Esther Ferington, Recording Secretary

Scott Schlegel, Treasurer



June Membership Picnic

Thursday, June 21, 2007 7:30 p.m.

Packard Center Outdoor Shelter

Topic: "The State of Fairfax County"

Guest Speaker:

The Honorable Gerry Connolly, Chairman
Fairfax County Board of Supervisors



Federation Board Meetings

All Board meetings at 7:30 p.m. at the Packard Center.

May 24

June 28

July 26



President's Message

The **NEXT MEMBERSHIP MEETING** is **THURSDAY, May 17**, at **7:30 p.m.** where we will hold a "**Report From Richmond**" with **Delegate Steve Shannon, Delegate David Marsden, Delegate Tim Hugo** and **State Senator Jeannemarie Devolites Davis**. This promises to be an informative session for members to hear of the most recent legislative session, including the transportation package and what may be in store for next year. Bring your questions for these Fairfax County legislators who are giving us an evening of their time just before the campaign season begins.

Also on May 17, the Federation membership will **elect a slate of new executive officers for 2007-2008**. The slate before the membership, as known at press time, is published elsewhere in this newsletter. Finally for membership consideration, we will consider the enclosed **Resolution** entitled, "**Responding to the Virginia Tech Tragedy**." The Federation Board met on April 26 and, after very serious discussion, passed the resolution with much deserved "word-crafting" credit belonging to **Esther Ferington** and **Bill Hanks**.

The **ISSUES FAIRFAX - Fairfax 2030** forum held by the **Fairfax Chamber of Commerce** and **Fairfax County** on April 26 at George Mason was an extremely informative event as some of the best and brightest from the business and university communities and county came together to discuss the future of the county in the year 2030. I was pleased to represent the Federation during the planning of the event and heading up a breakout session on the schools, libraries, parks and community services. The Federation's membership had several participants at the forum and we will take part in the dissemination of the findings in the near future. It was a pleasure working with **Bill Lecos** of the Chamber on this forum of the future.

Our Human Services Committee Co-chairs **Tania Hossain** and **Bettina Lawton** continue to finalize plans for the **Emergency Preparedness Workshop** now scheduled for **June 7th** at the James Lee Community Center (note the change in location from that previously published), beginning at 11:00 a.m. The workshop is co-sponsored by the Federation and following District Supervisors: **Sharon Bulova**, Braddock; **Linda Smyth**, Providence; **Penny Gross**, Mason; and **Elaine McConnell**, Springfield. The workshop agenda is enclosed. We will then wrap up the Federation year on **June 21**, with a **Picnic** and **Chairman Gerry Connolly** presenting his annual "**State of the County**" message and answering questions.

As always, please check our website **www.FairfaxFederation.org** and sign up for email blasts or schedule changes including inclement weather or emergency cancellations. 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

FedPres2006@FairfaxFederation.org 703-591-5586

Fairfax County Federation of Citizens Associations

Membership Meeting of April 19, 2007

DRAFT MINUTES

(for review and approval at the May 17, 2007 membership meeting)

The meeting of FCFCA was held at the Packard Center at 7:30 p.m. (attendance list attached to file copy). President John Jennison reminded the group about the Issues Fairfax forum scheduled for April 26. If anyone else is interested in attending, please let him know. The next membership meeting will be on May 17 and will include officer elections. The program will be a "Report from Richmond." Delegates Shannon and Marsden have accepted and responses are pending from two other legislators. The Emergency Preparedness workshop, with an emphasis on senior citizens, is moving ahead thanks to Tania Hossain, and will be held June 7. The June 21 membership meeting will be a picnic with a "State of the County" report from Chairman Connolly. Board meetings are scheduled for April 25, May 24, and June 28.

President Jennison reported that he testified to the Board of Supervisors on the Federation's position on the budget and CIP on April 10 and the testimony was well received. The Federation Board will be developing a resolution on the Virginia Tech tragedy. With some exceptions, Fairfax County school events have been canceled in the afternoon and evening of April 20, the statewide day of mourning.

Scott Schlegel presented the Treasurers Report, which was received and filed. The minutes for the March membership meeting were approved unanimously. President Jennison introduced Arnie Quirion, the president and CEO of the Fairfax County Convention and Visitors Corporation, known as Visit Fairfax.

Program

Mr. Quirion explained that a 2004 state law provided for a local hotel tax. In addition to sales tax, a hotel visitor pays a 4 percent hotel tax, half of which goes to the state and half to the locality. Under the law, a quarter of the local portion is designated for tourism development. This is the source of funding for Visit Fairfax. Visit Fairfax operates based on a memorandum of understanding with Fairfax County, but it is not a part of the county government. It is a private 501c6 corporation. It has a 26-member board that includes 10 members appointed by the Board of Supervisors. Its goal is to distinguish Fairfax County as a premier tourist destination, which includes letting local residents know of local offerings.

Tourism in the northern Virginia region accounts for \$1.8 billion a year, including travel for both business and recreation. Mr. Quirion described tourism earnings as "clean bottom-line money." Whereas residents require office buildings, homes, schools, police and fire services, and a health-care infrastructure, tourists either do not require these resources or make minimal use of them. Also, while residents use the roads during peak hours, tourists try to avoid heavy traffic and generally use roads at other times.

From July 1, 2004, to May 31, 2006, the local portion of the hotel tax amounted to \$16 million, of which \$12 million went to the county's general fund and \$4 million went to Visit Fairfax. Visit Fairfax generated \$5.5 million in group business referrals, \$2.1 million in direct referrals to stakeholders, \$2.8 million in leveraged brand recognition (which Mr. Quirion explained is not money in hand, but is an audited figure), and the website www.fxva.com. Visit Fairfax is the second East

Coast tourism organization to offer eMap virtual tours, which include multiple panoramic views of major attractions.

The brand for Visit Fairfax is "FXVA," with the tagline "FX marks the spot." Advertising for the FXVA brand has included the exterior of a Fairfax Connector bus on the Dulles corridor for four months and similar exterior decoration of the corporation's utility van, which also has the license plate LUV FXVA. An FXVA-branded Segway was ridden around Tysons Corner Center every weekend as well. One major promotion involved burying an FX35 Infiniti as part of a "treasure hunt" to draw attention to the tourism treasures of Fairfax County (this also coincided with the recent *Pirates of the Caribbean* movie). Ten finalists, five from elsewhere and five from this area, gathered at the Gristmill Park in the Mount Vernon district and competed to stand over the car using instructions and GPS equipment. The shipping container holding the car was unearthed, and the winner drove off in the car. The event attracted coverage from Russian, Chinese, and Fox television throughout the morning. An even more successful promotion was "Tis the Season," which included hotel, shopping, and air travel packages and was heavily marketed on radio. Visit Fairfax joined the celebration of the George Mason basketball team with a Patriot Pride bus and a video. Visit Fairfax operates at 15 fairs and festivals each year. It has won major industry awards for the FXVA brand launch and for the buried car promotion.

This summer, coinciding with the Jamestown 2007 celebration, Visit Fairfax will be launching several "Magical History Tours" of local attractions, to include "The 18th Century to Outer Space," "The African American Heritage Trail," "Crossroads of Conflict [Civil War sites]," "The Best of Fairfax," and "Only in the Capital Region." Each tour will be available on the website in 1, 2, and 5 day versions. These are not escorted tours but itineraries with supplementary information and referrals to hotels and other providers.

Visit Fairfax includes some attractions outside of Fairfax County in its promotions because visitors who come to the county may wish to see those as well. To visitors, Fairfax County is geographically "right in the middle" of the region's attractions, which include Annapolis, Skyline Drive, the Baltimore Inner Harbor, Gettysburg, Charlestown, and Fredericksburg, as well as more local destinations. Because it is in the middle of many attractions, Fairfax County is the logical place to stay. To publicize this "in the middle of things" selling point, which has tested strongly in market research, Visit Fairfax has adopted a live dog, FX the tourhound, as a mascot. In addition to his public appearances, FX is shown as "always in the middle of things" in advertisements featuring various destinations. Visit Fairfax has also distributed several thousand small toy figures of FX the tourhound, some of which were provided at the meeting.

Mr. Quirion answered questions on tour bus operations, coordinating with Metrorail, and how to get more travelers at Dulles to go to the Udvar-Hazy museum. President Jennison then introduced Esther Ferington and Sally Ormsby to conclude the program. Esther Ferington is the Federation representative to the county's citizen planning committee for Virginia 2007, the 400th anniversary celebration of the Jamestown settlement, and Sally Ormsby is the chair of that committee.

Esther Ferington explained that the county group is one of many local committees encouraged and officially recognized throughout the
(see Draft Minutes - continued on page 3)

(Draft Minutes - continued from page 2)

commonwealth as part of the Jamestown 2007 / Virginia 2007 celebration; there are also active committees within the county for Vienna, McLean-Great Falls, Herndon, Gum Springs, Occoquan, and other areas. The county committee includes representatives from the schools, parks, and libraries, county historical and civic groups, different ethnic communities, the faith community, and others. It has suggested, reviewed, and approved ten public service announcements (PSAs) on local history and tourist attractions, spanning the period from 1607 to today. Three PSAs were shown. The PSAs are available on the Fairfax county website, are airing regularly on Channel 16, and are also displayed at events such as Celebrate Fairfax. She also reported on a major event coming to our region: a recreation of the voyage of Captain John Smith that will launch from Jamestown and will include stops along the Potomac in Alexandria, Washington, and Great Falls. This will involve a replica of a small vessel known as a shallop, suitable for coastal and river travel, and is in addition to voyages by recreations of the three ships that brought the settlers to Jamestown from England.

Sally Ormsby described the committee's "legacy project," an anthology of original articles on the last 400 years of Fairfax County history, none of which have been previously published. The articles have already been submitted and reviewed by a committee of experts. About thirty will be published. The committee hopes to publish the book just before Celebrate Fairfax, which will be on June 8, 9, and 10 this year. She also presented another major Jamestown 2007 initiative, the "America's Anniversary Garden" project. This is a joint effort involving Jamestown 2007, Virginia Cooperative Extension, and the Virginia Tech College of Agriculture and Life Sciences to encourage planting red, white, and blue gardens to commemorate America's 400th anniversary in 2007 and includes a related contest. Details are available at www.ext.vt.edu/americasgarden. She also provided information on creating red, white, and blue gardens using plants native to Virginia. As an example of the numerous 2007 projects occurring throughout the county, she also played a selection of music written for the anniversary by Randy Cabell.

Business Meeting

- a. Carol Hawn reported the Nominating Committee is at work. The newsletter deadline is April 27.
- b. Roger Hoskins reported for the Transportation Committee that preliminary Transportation Advisory Committee recommendations on the Base Realignment and Closure Committee (BRAC) changes at Fort Belvoir have been sent to the Board of Supervisors.
- c. Charles Dane reported for the Education and Youth Committee that the proposed No Child Left Behind (NCLB) resolution postponed from last month is now moot. The county has agreed to test students for whom English is a second language as required by the federal government, but will stop the test once students become uncomfortable with the difficulty level. This probably means that more schools will fail the NCLB requirements and the county will ultimately be required to offer students from those schools the opportunity to move to other schools within the system. The Board of Supervisors will set the transfer amount to the schools on April 23 and there will be a hearing on the school budget on May 15 and 16, for which the committee will develop testimony it will circulate to the Federation Board in advance. A

May 24 hearing is scheduled on the remaining surplus school properties.

- d. Bill Hanks noted that the Committee of 100 will hear from Superintendent Jack Dale on May 8 and encouraged all present to consider attending.
- e. Tania Hossain reported for the Human Services Committee that the brown bag lunch for emergency preparedness, directed toward seniors, will be held at the Little River Glen Senior Center from 11 am to 1 pm on June 7. [The meeting has since been relocated.] This schedule allows for travel time from other parts of the county by some attendees. The content will likely include a hands-on workshop related to preparing home emergency kits from 11 to noon, followed by a presentation from noon to 1 pm.
- f. Jeff Parnes reported that the membership letter will go out this month.
- g. Flint Webb reported that he testified as an individual at the BRAC draft EIS (environmental impact statement) hearing and also entered the Federation's resolution on BRAC into the record. His testimony focused on issues of "general conformity," which is a part of the Clean Air Act which can stop an action that does not conform to the act. The Virginia Department of Environmental Quality will be submitting comments on the draft BRAC EIS for Fort Belvoir, as will the Metropolitan Washington Air Quality Committee's Technical Advisory Committee, on which Flint Webb also serves. He reported that a major theme of the hearing was the need for substantial funding for transportation and transit improvements. He also reported that there will be public hearings on April 24 and 26 on the proposed 8-hour ozone state implementation plan.
- h. Jeff Parnes reported that the website includes directions to the brown-bag lunch at Little River Glen Senior Center. He is in the process of updating the section on current resolutions, and asked committee chairs to forward any resolutions approved in the last year and a half to him in their final approved form. Due to some technical adjustments, the website is also now appearing much more frequently in Google and other search-engine results online. He would like to post District Council newsletters on the website. Art Wells, as the Braddock District representative, gave approval to post the Braddock District Council's newsletters on the Federation website.
- i. Art Wells reported for the Braddock District Council on a presentation by several state legislators, primarily on transportation, and on a write-up in the BDC newsletter regarding the safety workshop.
- j. Roger Hoskins reported for the Mason District Council that the council has been using e-mail alerts on legislative issues in Richmond. They are holding quarterly meetings but may meet over the summer to catch up due to weather delays this winter. The council also held its annual Citizen of the Year ceremony.
- k. Carol Hawn reported that Jane Hilder is the second vice president for the Lee District Council and should be the Lee District representative to the Federation as part of that role.
- l. Jeff Parnes reported from the Sully District that the March

(see **Draft Minutes** - continued on page 4)

(Draft Minutes - continued from page 3)

meeting included a report from local state legislators. The next meeting, on April 25, will be on transportation impacts and issues in Sully and will include speakers from VDOT and from the county.

m. Bill Hanks, the Federation representative to AHOME (Affordable Housing Opportunity Means Everyone), encouraged attendance at the April 23 hearing of the Board of Supervisors Housing Committee, which will include the report on affordable housing issues related to high-rise development. Jeff Parnes noted there is a link to AHOME on the Federation website.

n. President Jennison said that he will serve as the Federation representative to the Revitalization Committee being established by the county executive's office.

Next Membership Meeting: May 17, elections and "Report from Richmond."

Next Board Meeting: April 26, 2007.

Meeting adjourned at 9:30 p.m.

Fairfax County Federation of Citizens Associations

Proposed Resolution

Responding to the Virginia Tech Tragedy

(for review and adoption at the May 17, 2007 membership meeting)

WHEREAS, 32 people were killed at Virginia Tech on April 16, 2007, by a student who then committed suicide, resulting in a total of 33 deaths;

WHEREAS, 29 others were wounded or injured at the same time, some requiring extended hospitalization;

WHEREAS, the entire Virginia Tech community and the residents of the Commonwealth of Virginia have been deeply saddened and permanently affected by this tragedy, which was also mourned across the United States and throughout the world;

WHEREAS, five of the deceased victims and the killer were from Fairfax County; Fairfax County residents had personal relationships with many of the victims, their family members, and their friends; and many Fairfax County residents have longstanding ties to Virginia Tech which they hope to continue through future generations;

WHEREAS, the Fairfax County community has expressed its solidarity with the Virginia Tech community through widely attended vigils, ceremonies, and memorial services;

WHEREAS, reports in the media indicate that the student had been deemed "a danger to himself" prior to his purchase of firearms; that the student appears, based on preliminary information, to have had serious behavioral problems reported in advance by others; and that some questions have arisen regarding institutional responses on April 16, 2007;

WHEREAS, investigations by the university, law enforcement, the Commonwealth of Virginia, and the federal government into these and other circumstances

related to the tragedy are now planned or underway;

WHEREAS, in particular, Governor Timothy Kaine has convened a broad-based, bipartisan panel of experts in education, law enforcement, medicine, and related issues, under the leadership of Colonel W. Gerald Massengill, the retired Virginia State Police superintendent, to establish the facts and to provide conclusions and recommendations based on its findings;

WHEREAS, another tragedy occurred in Fairfax County last spring, in which a Fairfax County resident with a history of serious mental illness shot and killed two Fairfax County police officers, marking the first time that members of the Fairfax County Police Department have died in the line of duty;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Fairfax County Federation of Citizens Associations (the Federation) shares in the profound sorrow of the Virginia Tech community, the Fairfax County community, the Commonwealth of Virginia, and indeed the nation and the world, following the events of April 16, 2007;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Federation expresses its support and pride in Virginia Tech and in the university community's magnificent unity and dignity in the national and worldwide media spotlight in the days following this tragic event;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Federation applauds the formation of a variety of official investigations into the Virginia Tech tragedy with a view to fact-finding and to remedies or changes that may arise from those facts, and looks forward to the timely publication of reports and specific recommendations from each of these efforts, and to the General Assembly's timely consideration of those recommendations;

BE IT RESOLVED, in particular, that the Federation supports the formation of the Massengill Commission because of the broad nature of its mandate and looks forward to timely, specific recommendations from the commission and the General Assembly's timely consideration of those recommendations, in addition to recommendations that may arise from the General Assembly's own investigations and consideration of these events;

BE IT RESOLVED, in light of the apparent similarities between the Centreville police shooting of 2006 and this recent tragedy, that the Federation encourages investigations into the Virginia Tech tragedy to pay particular attention to the adequacy of care for the mentally ill and funding for that care; to the nature of current laws and regulations regarding community and institutional responses to apparent warning signs, while respecting the need to protect the rights of individuals deeply rooted in our traditions as a commonwealth and a nation; and to reconciliation of the differences between federal and state laws or regulations intended to prevent the purchase of firearms by those who have been legally deemed a danger to themselves or to others.

**Emergency Preparedness:
A Focus on Seniors**

**Thursday, June 7, 2007
11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.**

James Lee Community Center
2855 Annandale Road, Falls Church

Center's phone number is 703-534-3387, TTY 711

This program will offer information on shelter in place emergency preparedness with a focus on our senior residents and communities. Part one of the program will be conducted by the National Area Red Cross Chapter and will demonstrate how to put together a shelter in place emergency kit. The second part of the program will host speakers from the Fairfax County Office of Emergency Management and the Health Department, as well as the Fairfax Area Agency on Aging, on staying prepared and focused in the event of an emergency.

This event is sponsored by the Fairfax County Federation of Citizen's Associations, in partnership with the offices of the following members of the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors: Chairman Gerry Connolly, Sharon Bulova (Braddock District), Penny Gross (Mason District), Linda Smyth (Providence District), and Elaine McConnell (Springfield District), the Fairfax County Office of Emergency Management and Health Department, the Fairfax Area Agency on Aging and the National Area Red Cross.

Light lunch will be provided between sessions. For more information, please contact Tania Hossain, Federation Human Services Committee Co-chair, at 703-560-6946.

Build your own Rain Barrel

Rain barrels can be attached to downspouts to collect rain water that can, in turn, be used in the garden or for household chores saving water and money. They also help prevent stormwater runoff erosion. You can make a low-cost rain barrel for your yard at one of the following workshops:

Saturday, June 2, 2007 **9:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.**
Hollin Meadows Elementary School
2310 Nordok Place, Alexandria

Saturday, June 9, 2007 **9:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.**
Frying Pan Farm Park Visitor Center
2739 West Ox Road, Herndon

Monday, June 11, 2007 **7:00 p.m. - 9:30 p.m.**
Sully District Governmental Center
4900 Stonecroft Boulevard, Chantilly

Saturday, June 16, 2007 **9:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.**
Hidden Oaks Nature Center
7701 Royce Street, Annandale

For more information or to register, call 703-324-1423 or visit <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/nsvwcd/rainbarrels.htm>. The cost of the workshop is \$35.00 per barrel for materials and supplies. Registration is required and closes May 30, 2007.

"Transportation Matters"
Providence District Seminar Series

**Tuesday, May 22, 2007
7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.**

George C. Marshall High School
7731 Leesburg Pike, Falls Church

All Fairfax County residents are invited to attend this second of three seminars that will cover the recently enacted Virginia General Assembly Transportation Plan as well as the High Occupancy Toll (HOT) lanes project along the Capital Beltway. The latter significantly impact the way we travel around Northern Virginia. This discussion offers a chance for citizens to ask questions about this new approach to managing traffic.

The Fairfax County Department of Transportation will staff kiosks during the event to provide information on County programs, such as the Residential Traffic Administration Program, bicycling, bus service, and pedestrian walkways. If you have questions, or for more information, contact the office of Providence District Supervisor Linda Smyth at 703-560-6946.

Virginia's 400th Anniversary Events Underway

As you probably know by now, events commemorating the 400th anniversary of the Jamestown landing are now well underway. It is not too late to get involved. The Fairfax County Virginia 2007 Community Citizen Planning Committee encourages residents to participate in 400th Anniversary events. You can receive event schedules and other 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 find information by contacting the Fairfax County Office of Public Affairs at 703-324-3187.

Fairfax County Federation of Citizens Associations

4022 Hummer Road, Annandale VA 22003

www.fairfaxfederation.org

2006-2007 President: John Jennison
Newsletter Editor: Carol Hawn

The Bulletin is the newsletter of the Fairfax County Federation of Citizens Associations. It is usually published monthly, with the exception of July and August. The purpose is to provide information to member communities, federal, state, and local officials, and other interested persons in Fairfax County. Articles reflect the view of their author and may be reprinted with the use of the following citation: *The Bulletin* of the Fairfax County Federation of Citizens Associations.

Please contact Carol Hawn at 703-266-6872 or cahawn@att.net with name and address changes, comments, or suggestions.

Federation Meeting Cancellation Policy

If either Fairfax County Government or Schools are closed after 12:00 noon the day of a Federation membership meeting, or if it is announced that Fairfax County Government or Schools will be closed the day after a scheduled Federation membership meeting due to inclement weather or other emergency, the Federation will not hold that event. This does not pertain to regularly scheduled closures. Membership meetings may not be rescheduled. We will attempt to post the cancellation on www.fairfaxfederation.org or you can call 703-266-6872 for more information.

Fairfax County
FEDERATION
of Citizens Associations

4022 Hummer Road
Annandale, VA 22003

May Membership Meeting



Thursday, March 17, 2007

7:30 p.m.

Packard Center Conference Room
4022 Hummer Road, Annandale

Topic: "Report from Richmond"

Guest Speakers:

Senator Jeannemarie Devolites Davis

Delegate Tim Hugo

Delegate David Marsden

Delegate Stephen Shannon

Election of Federation Officers



Contents of this Issue	
<i>President's Message / Announcement of Upcoming Federation Meetings</i>	1
<i>Draft Minutes of the April 19, 2007 Federation Membership Meeting</i>	2 - 3
<i>Proposed Resolution, "Responding to the Virginia Tech Tragedy"</i>	4
<i>Emergency Preparedness Workshop for Seniors / Transportation Seminar</i>	5

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 on the left.

Keep right to the large parking lot.

Please use the left entrance into the
Packard Center Building.

www.fairfaxfederation.org