

The Fairfax County FEDERATION

of Citizens Associations *Established 1940*

September 2007

THE BULLETIN

Volume 57, Number 1

General Membership Meeting



Thursday, September 20, 2007

7:30 p.m.

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

*September is
National Emergency Preparedness Month*

*Our kick-off meeting will focus on what
we can do to be prepared in the event of an
emergency.*



2007 - 2008 Membership Meetings

October 18, 2007 7:30 p.m.

Community-Based Energy Conservation Programs

November 15, 2007 7:30 p.m.

Adoption of Federation 2008 Legislative Program

December 13, 2007 7:30 p.m.

(Please note this is the second Thursday of the month.)

January 17, 2008 February 21, 2008

March 27, 2008 April 17, 2008

May 15, 2008 June 19, 2008



Federation Board Meetings

Board meetings are held at the Packard Center,
beginning at 7:30 p.m.

September 27, 2007 October 25, 2007

November 29, 2007 December 20, 2007

January 24, 2008 March 6, 2008

April 24, 2008 May 22, 2008

June 26, 2008



President's Message

Today, I spent the morning moving old Federation files, and I do mean moving - literally pushing file cabinets from one side of the room to the other. As I rearranged them, I looked in the drawers - carbon copies of letters written in the 1960's, dittoed and mimeographed documents - relics of another time, how business was accomplished in the past. The Federation has a long and proud history - I found framed plaques from the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors and General Assembly congratulating our organization on the occasion of its fiftieth anniversary in 1990.

Our Federation is now 67 years-old, and changing with the times. We no longer file large folders of budget documents - now it's just a slim CD. Our current files are electronic, and a year's worth of correspondence no longer takes up two file drawers, just some space on a hard drive, which should be properly off-loaded to a DVD for safekeeping, but what guarantees will we have that today's storage media will be readable in the future - how many of us can read those 5 1/4 inch floppies of the 1980's?

Even how we distribute the Bulletin is changing. In a few months, we will discontinue mailing the hard copy document and just send an email with a link to where it is posted (unless you let us know you cannot use this technology). The posted version will have embedded links so you'll be able to follow the articles to their web locations, and still print it out if you wish. We hope to conserve both paper and funds by doing this. The Bulletin you receive is posted on our website even before you receive the hard copy version - it's always at <http://www.fairfaxfederation.org/bulletin/FCFCAbulletincurrent.pdf>. Past copies are also available in the same directory. To ensure you'll receive our email notices of the posting of new Bulletins, be sure to add your name and email address to our Federation mail list at <http://www.fairfaxfederation.org/membership1.htm>.

Our membership form has also moved to the third millennium. You can complete the form online and simply click to send it in following with your check (that part we haven't updated yet). With this form, there'll no longer be questions about spelling or the email address that handwritten copies seem to generate.

We have an exciting year planned. I look forward to meeting you and discussing our common interests. See you at the September meeting!

Jeff Parnes, President
FedPres2007@FairfaxFederation.org

Federation Matters

Membership Renewals Due

It is again time to renew your community's membership in the Fairfax County Federation of Citizens Associations for the coming year.

If your community needs to renew for 2007 - 2008, you can print a membership application/renewal form from the Federation website, www.fairfaxfederation.org. For a paper copy of the application, or if you have any questions or need additional information on your community's membership in the Federation, please contact Charlie Dane, Acting Membership Chair, at cdane@cox.net or at 703-323-7847.

Charlie Dane and Esther Ferington will be chairing the effort to increase the Federation's membership. They would welcome any member who would like to join them in this undertaking. If interested, please contact Charlie.

We look forward to your participation in the collective voice of the Federation this year!

Newsletter Available Online

As mentioned by Federation President Jeff Parnes in his column, *The Bulletin*, the Federation newsletter, is available online for reading or printing at your convenience. Over the next few months, the Federation will be phasing out most mailings of the newsletter in an effort to become more environmentally conscious and save funds. To receive notification when the latest newsletter is posted, go to www.fairfaxfederation.org. Not only will you receive *The Bulletin* days earlier than you would through the mail, you will also receive email alerts if Federation meetings are cancelled. The Federation will not use your email address for other purposes. If you prefer to have *The Bulletin* mailed, please contact Carol Hawn, *Bulletin* Editor, at 703-266-6872. We will honor the request of our member communities' representatives and alternates that wish a mailed copy.

Fall for Fairfax

Saturday, September 29, 2007

10:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Free Admission

Enjoy the best that fall has to offer at the 15th annual Fall for Fairfax Festival, Saturday, September 29, 2007 from 10:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. at the Fairfax County Government Center, 12000 Government Center Parkway, Fairfax.

Parking is plentiful at the Government Center, and a free shuttle bus will travel between the Vienna Metro and the festival site; buses will leave the Vienna station hourly beginning at 9:30 a.m.

Fall for Fairfax is produced by Celebrate Fairfax, Inc. To volunteer or for more information, call 703-324-5457.

Volunteer Training Workshop

Monday, September 24, 2007

8:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

Centreville Baptist Church
15100 Lee Highway, Centreville

The Central Fairfax Forum is hosting a volunteer training workshop on Monday, September 24, 2007, beginning at 8:30 a.m. at Centreville Baptist Church. The workshop will focus on identifying and recruiting volunteers. To register or for more information, contact Paulette Whiteside at paulette.whiteside@fairfaxcounty.gov or 703-324-5285.

The Virginia Public Access Project

On the November 6, 2007 election ballot are all members of the General Assembly, three constitutional offices (Clerk of Court, Commonwealth's Attorney, and Sheriff), the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors, the Fairfax County School Board, and the Northern Virginia Soil and Water Conservation District Directors. The Virginia Public Access Project (VPAP) is a nonpartisan nonprofit that enhances disclosure and tracks campaign contributions for state and local candidates. Since Virginia is one of a handful of states that does not limit corporate or personal campaign contributions, VPAP works to ensure campaign contributions are accounted for in an easy to use and understand matter.

On its website, VPAP has a mapping technology that allows visitors to pinpoint campaign donations at the zip code level, and now includes campaign disclosure forms for some local elections. For additional information, visit www.vpap.org or call 804-353-4300.

Fairfax County Federation of Citizens Associations

4022 Hummer Road, Annandale VA 22003

www.fairfaxfederation.org

2007-2008 President: Jeffrey M. Parnes

Newsletter Editor: Carol A. 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 will not be rescheduled, although speakers may be asked to attend an upcoming meeting. We will make every attempt to post the cancellation on www.fairfaxfederation.org or you can call 703-266-6872 for more information.

The Green Page

Opportunities to learn about, and volunteer to help, our environment

Global Warming, Energy & Conservation

A Lecture by Kurt Zwally, Global Warming Solutions, National Wildlife Federation

**Tuesday, September 25, 2007 7:00 p.m.
Alexandria Lyceum, 201 South Washington Street
Alexandria**

Climate change is perhaps the single greatest dilemma that humans have ever faced. Tackling the problem will require changes in our behavior at every level. Come learn about how energy use and conservation relate to climate change, and how individuals and communities can make a difference. This lecture is co-sponsored by 11 organizations.

For more information and reservations, call 703-528-5406, or visit potomac@nvrpa.org, reservations required.

Help Forge the "Conservation Frontier"

Join with others from Northern Virginia and the District of Columbia for "A Community Conservation Conversation"

**Sunday, September 30, 2007 2:00 p.m.
Arlington Central Library, 1015 N. Quincy Street
Arlington (near the Virginia Square Metro stop)**

Conservation has transcended the "freeze in the dark" connotations of the 1970s and is becoming a vibrant and foundational part of our everyday lives! To further this exciting trend, join the "Community Conservation Conversation", featuring discussion among panel members and the audience. The key to a better and less consumptive society and economy is opening up the floodgates of conversation on this very important topic. A number of area conservation initiatives will be highlighted.

Panel members include: Paul Ferguson, Chair, Arlington County Board; Monique Tilford, The Center for a New American Dream; Joan Kelsch, an Arlington County Environmental Planner; Drew Langsam, Turner Construction Company; Emily Curley, Alliance to Save Energy; and Martin Ogle, Northern Virginia Regional Park Authority. Congressman Jim Moran is also an invited panelist.

For more information, or to see the list of sponsoring organizations, visit www.nvrpa.org or call 703-528-5406.

2007 International Coastal Cleanup

September and October

The 2007 International Coastal Cleanup is here, and many small neighborhood park and stream cleanups are being planned throughout Fairfax County. The Northern Virginia

Soil and Water Conservation District (NVSWCD) is looking for volunteers to help pick up trash at these cleanups, but is especially looking for people to establish their own neighborhood cleanups. Establishing your own cleanup is a great opportunity for individuals and groups of any size to ensure that the streams and parks you care about stay clean and healthy. Cleanups will be held through October. Visit www.longwood.edu/CLEANVA/iccsitesva07.htm to see a list of Fairfax County cleanup sites in need of volunteers. For information about establishing your own cleanup, contact Joanna Cornell (jcornell@gmu.edu or 703-324-1425) or Dan Schwartz (703-324-1422 or at dan.schwartz@fairfaxcounty.gov) at the NVSWCD.

"Turning a New Leaf"

Conservation Landscaping Conference

**Friday, November 9, 2007 8:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.
Northern Virginia Community College
Annandale Campus**

Troubled by all the development in your community? Want to know how to protect water quality and conserve wildlife habitat where you live? Then mark your calendar for the second annual "Turning a New Leaf" conference, hosted by the Chesapeake Conservation Landscaping Council. The one-day regional conference features tracks on conservation landscapes, green development, and creative stormwater management. Topics include eco-friendly lawns, native alternatives to traditional plantings, backyard forests, rain gardens, techniques for stream restoration, and public-private partnerships for green development. Showcased will be an "eco-marketplace." Registration is underway. The agenda, speakers, further details, and registration information are available at: chesapeakelandscape.org.

"Cool Counties" Concert and Poetry Slam

**Saturday, October 6, 2007 Noon until 3:00 p.m.
Mason District Park Amphitheater, Columbia Pike
Annandale**

The Fairfax County Board of Supervisors is sponsoring this free event to highlight the county's initiative to go green and fight global warming. Citizens can learn what the county is doing toward this effort at this family-friendly concert and poetry reading. Information will be available on how you can help combat global warming at the local, state, and federal levels, as well as in your own backyard, as well as information on "Cool Counties" and local efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Fairfax students will read their environmentally-inspired poetry and local bands will perform.

The poetry contest is open to all elementary, middle, and high school students attending a Fairfax County school. The deadline to enter is October 1, 2007. For an application form, or for more information, contact Zach Fields at William.Fields@fairfaxcounty.gov.

**Fairfax County Federation of Citizens Associations
Membership Meeting of June 21, 2007
DRAFT MINUTES**

(for approval at the September 20, 2007 membership meeting)

The meeting of FCFCA was held outdoors at the Hidden Oaks Pavilion behind the Packard Center at 7:30 p.m. and picnic food was provided.

Following the picnic, the minutes for the May 17 membership meeting were moved, seconded, and unanimously approved. President John Jennison thanked all those who had provided food for the picnic. He also complimented Tania Hossein for her work in organizing the Federation's recent emergency preparedness meeting for seniors. The cost of the event, except for the lunch, was paid for by five of the supervisors, including Chairman Connolly. A total of 130 seniors attended and response to the event was very positive.

He introduced Art Wells, who reported on a Braddock District Council program on June 20 on making neighborhoods vital, attractive, and safe. The program, which included an introduction by Chairman Gerald Connolly, was recorded and will be re-broadcast on Channel 16. (Charles Dane provided the broadcast dates of June 24 and 29 at 8:00 p.m.) President Jennison then introduced the main speaker of the evening, Chairman Gerald Connolly, who gave a "state of the county" presentation.

Program

Chairman Connolly said that in the last four years, the Board of Supervisors has put forward 27 initiatives, from art to early childhood learning to bicycle and pedestrian issues. The heart of its efforts has been a six-point agenda that was adopted unanimously on a bipartisan basis by the supervisors at the beginning of the term, and these are the six points he addressed.

The first is gang prevention and intervention. At the start of this term, only three middle schools had after-school programs. Now all 26 do. Among other efforts, a thousand students are participating in a program for at-risk youth this summer. Four years ago, a survey of at-risk youth in Fairfax County middle schools and high schools indicated that 5.6 percent were involved with gangs. This year, the figure was 2.8 percent. Beyond the issue of gang prevention, he also noted that the county now has the lowest crime rate of any major jurisdiction in the United States, hitting a 32-year low last year.

Second is affordable housing. The chairman noted the work of Federation Board member Bill Hanks through AHOME (Affordable Housing Opportunities Means Everyone) on this issue. Together with traffic, the lack of affordable housing is one of two key issues that could damage the quality of life here. The first step has been to try to preserve the affordable housing that already exists, which was rapidly being converted from, for example, old apartment complexes to luxury condos. The county organized a summit, followed by a task force, on which Bill Hanks served. The supervisors unanimously adopted all eighteen recommendations of the task force, including a dedicated penny from the tax rate for affordable housing (equivalent to \$22.7 million this year). The money has been put toward a war chest to allow the county to compete with big developers to preserve existing affordable housing. The county's efforts in this area are now winning awards. The goal has been to preserve at least 1000 units during the supervisors' four-year

term; by comparison, in the past fifteen years, the county had built 1000 new affordable units. Currently, 1400 have been preserved, and the program is pursuing a project that would involve 600 more.

The county is opening its fourth, and hopefully last, homeless shelter this summer. A strategy to end homelessness in ten years in the county was adopted following a summit; now the implementation plan needs to be adopted. There is both a humane and a financial value in returning people to productive life. The hypothermia program will involve 25 churches this year; the first year of the program marked the first time in memory that there were no deaths from hypothermia in the county. In addition, the new affordable dwelling unit ordinance will include high-rises. The next objective is to create workforce housing; currently many county police, fire, and teaching staff live outside of the county because of housing costs. The first step will be the construction of a couple of hundred units of workforce housing on the Government Center property.

The third point is education. He noted that this is the critical issue and everything else flows from it. Fairfax County has top schools with one of the lowest dropout rates in the United States and with 94 percent of graduates going on to higher education. Challenges include the requirements of the No Child Left Behind Act and the demographic shift to a more diverse student body; there are a hundred different languages spoken by Fairfax students and the system is 50 percent minority. Newsweek magazine's list of the best high schools in America lists all of the Fairfax County high schools, something no other large school district can match. In addition, some of the majority-minority Fairfax schools did better in the Newsweek ratings than some predominantly white Fairfax schools.

The fourth is the environment. The Board of Supervisors has adopted a 20-year plan of action and vision in six major areas. A penny from the tax rate has been dedicated to stormwater management, including restoring streambeds and repairing buffers. Management plans have been developed for all 32 county watersheds. The county's air-quality mitigation efforts lead the region. Land stewardship is also a priority. The board has set a goal of securing 10 percent of the county as parkland; the Park Authority managed lands are now at 9.4 percent and 1500 acres are still needed to meet that goal. Two major bonds have helped pay for the new parkland.

The "cool counties" initiative is meant to reduce Fairfax County's carbon dioxide footprint and also provide a model for other US counties; it will be presented at the National Conference of Counties this summer. This initiative includes using hybrid and alternative-fuel vehicles in the county fleet, encouraging telework, encouraging use of compact fluorescent lightbulbs (CFLs), and maintaining or increasing the tree canopy, which is now at about 41 percent. If nothing were done, projections show that the county's tree canopy would drop to 37 percent and stabilize there; the goal is to increase it instead to 45 percent, which calls for an additional three million trees. Trees sequester carbon dioxide and can significantly affect carbon dioxide levels.

The fifth subject area is taxation. Property taxes are the only tax the county controls since all others are controlled by the General Assembly in Richmond. The board has been able to ratchet down the real property tax rate without impacting the quality of life in the county. In Richmond, the bipartisan tax agreement under Governor Warner provided an additional \$125 million for the schools. Richmond has also provided an increase in the

(see DRAFT MINUTES - continued on page 5)

(DRAFT MINUTES - continued from page 4)

recording and cigarette taxes and a local option hotel tax. In terms of the property tax, the supervisors have reduced the rate from \$1.23 to 89 cents in four years, a 34-cent drop. On average, homeowners will pay less in taxes this year than they did last year. They also eliminated the car decals and associated decal fees, making Fairfax County the only Virginia jurisdiction to eliminate both the decals and the fees. This year, Fairfax County was also the only northern Virginia jurisdiction that didn't raise taxes or slash services.

The sixth of point is transportation. The goal of the four-year plan was to offer commuters additional choices. This includes expanding rail in the Dulles corridor, which is the most important employment corridor in northern Virginia, expanding Richmond Highway (Route One) corridor transit via the Richmond Express Service (REX) buses, which have increased transit use there by 40 percent, encouraging telework, and working toward adding high-occupancy/toll (HOT) lanes on the Beltway. The county has also dedicated \$100 million to about 80 spot and intersection improvements, of which 50 are complete and 30 are underway; these can be tracked on the county website. The transportation bond this fall will be the second one in this four-year term.

The recent General Assembly transportation package was transformed by Governor Kaine to include a substantial transfer of power, so that the regionwide transportation authority now has the power to tax and can float bonds (up to \$1.5 billion) against that power. The legislation also provides localities with the right to collect impact fees from developers, including by-right development, and it permits a difference of up to 25 cents between the residential real estate tax rate and the commercial real estate tax rate. The package as a whole provides serious new investment in local transportation and transit.

Chairman Connolly answered questions on affordable dwelling units in high-rise projects, the safety and value of Beltway HOT lanes, a tunnel instead of elevated rail for Metrorail through Tysons Corner, other rail projects (such as to Fort Belvoir), and flood prevention in the Huntington neighborhood near Cameron Run, which suffered a serious flood one year ago.

Business Meeting

a. Steve DelBianco reported on a new county staff report on portable storage containers (informally known by the brand name PODS). There will be a hearing July 19 on the issue at the Planning Commission. The Federation passed a resolution in June 2006 on time and space limitations for the containers. The staff report incorporates almost all of the Federation's positions except in regard to compliance with homeowners covenants and to signage; the Federation had recommended greater limits on the size of the signage. The report also notes that PODS must be placed in accordance with existing fire and safety regulations (for example, no placement blocking fire exits). Steve DelBianco will put forward the Federation's position on the subject, including a suggested requirement that applicants should be told that their proposals should conform to any "restrictions or other agreements" that apply to the property.

b. President John Jennison thanked all of the Federation officers with whom he has served as president for the past two terms and thanked the Federation's members. He then handed over the gavel to the new Federation President, Jeff Parnes, who previously served as Federation Treasurer, Webmaster, and, most recently, First Vice President. Jeff

Parnes thanked John Jennison for his service as Federation President.

c. Jeff Parnes announced that the next Board meeting will be in July and the next membership meeting will be in September.

Next Membership Meeting: September 20, 2007

Next Board Meeting: July 26, 2007

Meeting adjourned at 9:30 p.m.

*Esther Ferington,
Federation Recording Secretary*

FCPS Transportation Task Force

The Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS) School Board is seeking community perspectives as input to limits of acceptability of parameters for a re-engineering analysis of school bus routes, including length of time and efficiencies on each route, the reduction of operational risks, minimum service levels, school start times for various grade levels, and the possible change to full-day Monday classes.

The task force consists of up to 70 persons with a paid facilitator. Most of the members will be school and county staff, representing all grade levels and those offices of the county and teacher/worker groups involved with school programs. However, at least 12 members will be from the community, including 3 from the Federation, 2 from SLEEP (Start Later for Excellence in Education Proposal), 2 from after-school small business employers, and 2 from after-school community groups such as Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts. The task force will begin meeting in mid-September and complete their report by January.

The Federation has appointed Jan Auerbach, Judy Harbeck and Mary Anne Lecos to the task force. Ms. Auerbach is a former president of the Safe Community Coalition and has past and present involvement with McLean Community Groups. Ms. Harbeck chairs the largest and most active district council education committee. Ms. Lecos has been involved in almost all levels of education in Fairfax County, and presently is focused on early childhood education. If you wish to provide thoughts on this process, and in particular bus issues that are important to you, please relay your comments to the task force appointees through Charlie Dane, Education Committee Chair, at c-ddane@cox.net.

Request for 2008 Legislative Program Ideas

Sally Ormsby, Legislative Committee Chair, requests suggestions for inclusion in the Federation 2008 Legislative Program. The program will be reviewed by the Board at its October 25, 2007 meeting, and discussed and adopted by the membership at its November 15, 2007 meeting. The program will include priorities, as well as a number of recommendations for our General Assembly delegation during the 2008 session. Please send ideas to Sally Ormsby at sally.ormsby@cox.net or (703) 273-2048.

Fairfax County Federation of Citizens Associations

Proposed Resolutions

(for discussion and action at the September 20, 2007 meeting)

2007 TRANSPORTATION BOND REFERENDUM

WHEREAS, the November 2007 ballot will include a Fairfax County transportation bond referendum in the amount of \$110 million, which amount, if approved by the voters, will be used for a variety of transportation projects, including:

- \$16 million for transit improvements, including rehabilitation of the Fairfax Connector bus facility, two new bus transit centers and expansion of a park-and-ride facility;
- \$7.75 million for spot improvement projects, including turn lane additions/extensions and an on-road bicycle lane at seven locations;
- \$7.75 million for bus stop improvements, including shelters, benches and access sidewalks;
- \$15 million for construction of pedestrian connections to transit and activity centers;
- \$55 million for road widenings to increase capacity and safety, including pedestrian and trail improvements; and
- \$8.5 million for transportation infrastructure improvements associated with the Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) relocation of thousands of employees to Fort Belvoir and the Engineering Proving Grounds; and

WHEREAS, mobility for vehicles, pedestrians and bikers has deteriorated considerably over the past few decades with state funding for new highway projects being reduced to nearly zero, putting additional pressure on Fairfax County to fund its own projects to a greater degree;

WHEREAS, the 2007 General Assembly authorized the Northern Virginia Transportation Authority to raise approximately \$300 million annually through imposition of new fees, which will be used for transportation improvements in the Northern Virginia region;

WHEREAS, the annual funding needed to implement the 2030 Transportation Plan far exceeds the funding currently provided and projected from all local, regional, state and federal sources; and

WHEREAS, as the County population grows, the demand for transportation facilities and services grow, necessitating considerable investment in this infrastructure; now

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Fairfax County Federation of Citizens Associations (the Federation) encourages Fairfax County voters to support the transportation bond referendum, which will be on the ballot on November 6, 2007.

The Dulles Corridor Metrorail Project

WHEREAS, the Fairfax County Federation of Citizens Associations (the Federation), the County's umbrella organization for homeowner, civic, and community organizations, has a long record of support for transit in Fairfax County, and

WHEREAS, the Federation took positions on early alignments and station locations in the early 1970's and supported the completion of the 106-mile regional Metrorail system, and

WHEREAS, the Federation has consistently supported an extension of Metrorail to Washington Dulles International Airport as an important component of the County's, Northern Virginia's, and the Washington Metropolitan Region's multi-modal transportation network, and

WHEREAS, the Federation continued its commitment to Rail to Dulles by participating in every step of the selection of the current preferred alternative during the last seven years, joining with other organizations in supporting the County, and passing resolutions and testifying at public hearings, and

WHEREAS, the Federation has remained consistent in its support of the Dulles Corridor Metrorail Project, despite negative press reports about increasing costs and the recent "tunnel" debate, because of the rail line's importance to the transportation network, and

WHEREAS, the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors has recently shown its commitment with approval of the \$400 million Local Funding Agreement (LFA) in June, 2007, and

WHEREAS, the Dulles Corridor Metrorail Project depends on the Federal Transit Administration's (FTA) approval of a Full Funding Grant Agreement (FGA), now under considerations, and

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Federation joins the Board of Supervisors and other organizations in the County in urging the FTA to move the vital Dulles Corridor Metrorail Project to that next important step by approving the FGA so that the project may proceed in a timely manner.

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that copies of this Resolution be sent not only to FTA Administrator James Simpson and U.S. Secretary of Transportation Mary Peters, but to the Northern Virginia Congressional Delegation as well.

2007 Public Schools' Bond Referendum

Background

Each year the Fairfax County Public School Board (FCPS) School Board updates and adopts a five-year Capital Improvement Program (CIP). The Board did so for fiscal year (FY) 2008-2012 on January 25, 2007. As Fairfax County has become "built-out" and student enrollments have stabilized, the need for new schools has lessened, but as previously built schools have aged and technology increases (both information technology and energy efficiency), the need for renovations has increased. This shift is reflected in the proposed FCPS Bond request to be voted upon on November 6, 2007.

The School Board has requested, and the Board of Supervisors has approved, placement of a public schools bond referendum in the amount of \$365.2M on this fall's ballot. In order to maintain Fairfax County's excellent bond rating, the County has capped

*(see **DRAFT BOND RESOLUTION** - continued on page 7)*

(Continued from page 6)

annual capital improvement spending for school at \$155M per year, and issues all County bonds judiciously. As explained in the resolution, \$50M of this total spending will not count against the cap.

This year, the School Board request is consistent with the CIP, and these funds will be used for the construction of a new elementary school, renovation of existing schools, and major infrastructure improvements. Fairfax County pays the bonded indebtedness separately from its transfer of operating funds to FCPS.

Proposed Resolution

WHEREAS, a larger percentage of the bond funds will be devoted to renovation because of slowing enrollment increases and aging facilities; and

WHEREAS, the \$365.2M bond referendum, if approved by voters, includes \$65M for new construction, \$160.8M for renovation of existing buildings, \$38.6M to offset cost escalation of projects in previous bond referenda, \$50M for a bus service facility (a cooperative project with Fairfax County that does not count against the \$155M cap), \$18.5M for program support, \$29.75M for infrastructure management projects, and \$2.55M in bond sales costs:

- new construction includes planning at Laurel Hill site and Lacey site, as well as 10 modulars each at Rose Hill, White Oaks, and Braddock Elementary plus another 12 units at locations to be determined, and an elementary addition at Hybla Valley Elementary
- renovation of 6 elementary schools, and additional planning at 2 others
- renovation at Longfellow Middle School and planning at 2 high schools
- program support costs accommodate full-day kindergarten, high schools of the future, Pimmit Alternative High Adult Education, and planning for the West County Adult Education Center

WHEREAS, infrastructure improvements will address technology and security needs at schools not being renovated, modifications for compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, and replacement of roofs, boilers and air conditioning equipment, and asphalt paving;

WHEREAS, all residents of Fairfax County can benefit from new and renovated public school facilities, which are used throughout the year for meetings, classes, and recreation as FCPS works with the County and the Park Authority to ensure that school facilities and athletic fields are available to the public after school hours. Furthermore, many of the meeting places in the County are in FCPS facilities, and use of these facilities is provided at minimum charge to organizations such as homeowners/civic associations.

WHEREAS, approval of the bond referendum will not cause a tax increase because bonded indebtedness is a continuing element of the County's General Fund budget;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Fairfax County Federation of Citizens Associations supports the November 2007 FCPS bond referendum for new and improved school facilities and urges Fairfax County voters to vote "yes." A full list of items to be funded with the bond generated funds are specified on the

www.fcps.edu home page; scroll down to bond referendum, then click on bond referendum facts.

Volunteers Needed for Emergency Preparedness Exercise October 27th

The Fairfax County Health Department, Office of Emergency Preparedness, and Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) are holding a full-scale emergency preparedness exercise on Saturday, October 27, 2007 at the George Mason University Patriot Center, 4500 Patriot Circle, Fairfax, and Oak View Elementary School, from 8:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m.

The exercise is being conducted in cooperation with the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), to evaluate the County's mass dispensing plan for antibiotic medications and will provide an opportunity to learn about the new non-medical dispensing plan, known as the Cities Readiness Initiative (CRI). Lunch, refreshments, and a t-shirt will be provided for all exercise participants.

More than 625 volunteers are needed to assist in the exercise, which is open to both current MRC volunteers as well as the general community. Members of the public are welcome to participate. Volunteers under the age of 16 can attend if their parent or guardian also attends. Volunteers age 16-17 can attend with the written consent of their parent or guardian.

To participate, please register before October 15, 2007. To request a registration form, if you know of others interested in attending the exercise, or for additional information, please contact Amy Tarte at 703-246-8641 or at Amy.Tarte@fairfaxcounty.gov.

Precinct Officers Needed for November 6, 2007 Election

The Fairfax County Office of Elections is looking for election officers to work at polling sites for the Tuesday, November 6, 2007 Election. The greater the shortage of officers, the longer it will take to vote at the polls.

Applicants must be registered to vote in the Commonwealth of Virginia and cannot hold elective office or be the employee of an elected official. Officers must be available to work the entire day on November 6th, beginning at 5:00 a.m., until all tallies have been completed and all voting equipment secured. Half-day work is available for those meeting requirements (go to: www.fairfaxcounty.gov/eb/splitshift_requirements.pdf for more information). All officers are required to attend one two-hour training class prior to the election. Full-day pay ranges from \$100 to \$200, depending on responsibilities.

If you or members of your community would be interested in working in this important capacity on Election Day, would like an election officer application, or need more information, contact the Fairfax County Office of Elections at 703-324-4735 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/eb/.

Fairfax County
FEDERATION
of Citizens Associations

4022 Hummer Road
Annandale, VA 22003

*Membership
Meeting:*

Thursday,
September 20th

7:30 p.m.

*Come help us
kick-off our
new Federation
year!*

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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 Building.

www.fairfaxfederation.org