

The Fairfax County
FEDERATION
of Citizens Associations *Established 1940*

October 2007

THE BULLETIN

Volume 57, Number 2

General Membership Meeting



Thursday, October 18, 2007

7:30 p.m.

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

**Guest Speaker: Kambiz Agazi,
Director, Fairfax County Environmental Services**

Topic: Fairfax County's "Cool County" Initiative

Fairfax County was instrumental in launching a national "Cool Counties" Initiative. At the NACO meeting in Richmond on July 14-16, 2007, Fairfax County, King County, WA, and Nassau County, NY, along with the Sierra Club, announced the creation of a Cool Counties Climate Stabilization Declaration, a new initiative to combat global warming. As of now, counties representing more than 25 million people have signed the Cool Counties declaration. For more information on the Declaration, *please turn to page three.*



2007 - 2008 Membership Meetings

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



Upcoming Federation Board Meetings

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

October 25, 2007 November 29, 2007
December 20, 2007



President's Message

Last month we appointed Charles Dane and Esther Ferington as the Federation's First (Membership) and Second (Activities) Vice Presidents, respectively. Those positions had been open since our June elections, and Charles and Esther have a long history in support of the Federation, Charles serving previously as Treasurer and Esther as Recording Secretary.

In fact, it's kind of how I started – several years ago, I was asked to serve on the Federation's Nominating Committee, and as we called folks to ask that they consider allowing us to put their name up for nomination to elected office – President, First and Second Vice President, Treasurer, and Recording and Corresponding Secretaries – I realized I could serve as Treasurer. I had been Treasurer of another organization, the budget wasn't that large or complicated, and it was easier for me to volunteer than think of someone who I could call and ask to volunteer, so I did.

I served in that position for some years until just over a year ago when the First Vice President seat became vacant, and I thought it might be a change of pace rather than continuing as Treasurer for a fourth possible year. The only problem was finding someone to fill the Treasurer's slot in my stead. Our current Treasurer, Scott Schlegel, volunteered just a year ago and was re-elected this past June for a full term.

You may wonder where this is headed. The Federation, like many other citizen groups, is staffed purely by volunteers, people who take the time to make our county and, we hope, the state and world, better, safer, and a more equitable place. If you're reading this, you're most likely a volunteer in your local community group, and for that we thank you. I'd like to ask just two of you folks to consider stepping up like I and Scott did and help out the Federation. We need both Recording and Corresponding Secretaries.

Both jobs are important, but neither is complicated. The Recording Secretary takes notes at our membership meetings (the Board appoints a rotating member to take its notes whenever it meets), submits the draft minutes to the board for review, and sends the reviewed copy for inclusion in the next bulletin, which is then approved at the next membership meeting, and posted on our website. The Corresponding Secretary ensures that our approved resolutions and letters are sent to the proper addresses and provided to the webmaster for posting in the proper location. Both positions are also board positions, and as such, can participate in the

(see President's Message - continued on page 2)

Federation Matters

Membership Renewals Due

It is not too late 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 questions or need more information on your community's membership in the Federation, contact Charlie Dane, Membership Chair, at c-ddane@cox.net or 703-323-7847.

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

Newsletter Available Online

The Bulletin, the Federation newsletter, is available online for reading or printing at your convenience. Beginning in January, the Federation will phase out most mailings of the newsletter in order to save funds and become more environmentally conscious. To receive notification when the current newsletter is posted on the website, 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 still prefer to have *The Bulletin* mailed, 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.

(President's Message - continued from page 1)

board meetings on the fourth Thursday of each month.

I ask the certain person who has that special touch in them, the urge to note what speakers have to say either for their own use or for their local organization, to think about expanding that effort and taking notes for the Federation as a whole as our Recording Secretary. And that other certain person, the one who knows that a job isn't done until the paperwork is finished, the person who knows that a record unfiled or unprocessed is a record lost, is the one we're looking for as Corresponding Secretary. We would be so appreciative of both efforts that you'd be met by a room full of smiling faces.

So if down deep you know that one of the folks I've just described is you, and that little birdie in your head is whispering, "I could do it, I should do it, darn I will do it!" please call me at 703-424-2956 or drop me a line at FedPresident2007@FairfaxFederation.org. I look forward to hearing from you, you who know whom I mean.

Enjoy,

Jeff Parnes, President

FedPres2007@FairfaxFederation.org

(703) 424-2956

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, 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.

happy halloween!

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*

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.

Town Meeting

Particle Pollution and Climate Change: Integrated Strategies

Thursday, November 1, 2007 5:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.
777 North Capitol Street, 3rd Floor Board Room
Washington, DC

The Metropolitan Washington Air Quality Committee (MWAQC) and the Air Quality Public Advisory Committee (AQPAC) will host a Town Meeting about particle pollution

and climate change in the region. Attendees will discuss strategies to reduce the causes of air pollution and climate change. At this meeting, you can learn about health effects from particle pollution and climate change; ask questions; and suggest ideas for making the air healthier for everyone. Anyone, including residents, commuters, and parents of asthmatic children, interested in cleaner air, is invited to attend. If you have questions, please send an e-mail to Kambiz.Agazi@fairfaxcounty.com, or contact Wyetha Lipford at 202-962-3200.

Virginia's Tourism is Going Green!

Tourism makes a huge contribution to Virginia's economy. However, it can also be a very wasteful industry that generates tons of waste and consumes vast amounts of natural resources. Virginia Green is the Commonwealth's new campaign to promote environmentally-friendly practices in all sectors of Virginia's tourism industry. Virginia Green is a voluntary program that provides recognition for facilities that commit to use practical measures and technologies that reduce environmental impacts. For information, visit: www.deq.virginia.gov/p2/virginiagreenn.

Cool Counties Declaration

As mentioned on page one, Fairfax County was instrumental in launching a national "Cool Counties" Initiative earlier this year. The Climate Stabilization, or "Cool Counties" Declaration, has already been signed by jurisdictions representing more than 25 million residents throughout the country. Elements of the declaration include:

- Create inventory of county emissions and implement policies and programs to achieve reductions;
- Counties work closely with regional and state governments and others to reduce regional GHG emissions by 80% by 2050; and
- Counties will urge Congress and the Administration to enact a multi-sector program of market-based limits and incentives to reduce GHG emissions by 80% by 2050 and enact legislation to increase CAFE standard to 35 mpg within ten years for cars and light trucks.

The "Cool Counties" Policies Template includes the following solution areas: Energy efficiency, renewable energy, fleets/vehicles/equipment, transportation, land use, education and outreach, and water conservation. For more information, please attend our meeting on October 18, 2007 at 7:30 p.m. at the Packard Center.

Election Day is Tuesday, November 6th

The General and Special Elections will be conducted on Tuesday, November 6, 2007. Polls will be open from 6:00 a.m. until 7:00 p.m. Vote at your regular polling place. This year, the Senate of Virginia, House of Delegates, Constitutional Offices, Northern Virginia Soil and Water Conservation Directors, Fairfax County Board of Supervisors, and School Board are all contested, as well as transportation and school bond referendums. Please remember to vote!

**Fairfax County Federation of Citizens Associations
Membership Meeting of September 20, 2007
DRAFT MINUTES**

(for approval at the October 18, 2007 membership meeting)

The meeting of FCFCA was held at the Packard Center at 7:30 p.m. (Attendance list is attached to file copy.) President Jeff Parnes introduced Andrew S. Levy, Chairman of the Fairfax County Citizens Corps Council, from Fairfax County Office of Emergency Management.

Program

Mr. Levy noted that September is National Preparedness Month, which was recognized by the Fairfax Board of Supervisors at their September 10, 2007, meeting. He reviewed the need for family emergency supply kits. The guidelines are to include supplies for three days for each family member, so the supplies should be multiplied by the number of family members. It's a good idea, however, to plan for longer than three days, as (for example) a "wave" of pandemic flu might last two weeks or more. Standard items include water, food, first aid supplies, clothing and bedding (for emergencies requiring evacuation), battery-powered radio, tools, and emergency supplies, and special items for medical conditions, such as prescription medications. Families should also think about what their pets may need and about office supply kits in case emergencies hit while family members are at work.

Families should develop, share, and practice communications and evacuation plans, considering factors such as special medical needs, pets, neighbors, students at school, work, spouse out of town, family out of town that will be worried, and business travel. He urged residents to sign up now at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/cean to receive alerts via the CEAN (Community Emergency Alert Network) through e-mail or through text messages to cell phone, text pager, satellite phone, or wireless PDA. In an emergency, CEAN will be a major communications channel. You can choose what type of alerts to get.

Emergency preparedness is important for individuals because bystanders and victims are often the first to provide assistance or perform rescues. The Citizens Corps Council includes CERT (Community Emergency Response Teams), Fire Corps, Neighborhood Watch (USAonWatch.com), VIPS (Volunteers in Public Service), and the Medical Reserve Corps. Affiliates to the Council include many other groups such as the Red Cross, United Way, and the Federation. The Fairfax Council is one of 50 local councils in Virginia representing areas that house 75 percent of the state's population. Nationally, such councils cover areas housing 76 percent of the US population.

CERT includes a 28-hour course with group training at the West Ox fire and rescue facility. The Medical Reserve Corps, coordinated by the Health Department, provides organized volunteer assistance and will be especially helpful in case of emergency mass distribution of medications; volunteers do not need a medical background. The VIPS program includes services aiding the police. The new Fire Corps program will provide volunteer administrative support to firefighters. Residents can also volunteer to be victims at large-scale exercises. Resources related to emergency preparedness are available at redcross.org, fema.gov, fairfaxcountycitizens.org, fairfaxcounty.gov/emergency, dhs.gov, noaa.gov, and ready.gov.

Mr. Levy would like to see links to these sites on every neighborhood association website or directory.

In answer to a question, Mr. Levy reported that about 500 residents have received CERT training; he would like to see a total of 2000. There are 3000 members of the Medical Reserve Corps, which has a goal of about 12,000. There are about 500 Neighborhood Watch communities. He answered questions about reports that Fairfax County has chosen not to publicly share its emergency plans; outreach in multiple languages; and evacuation of the seriously disabled (whether to evacuate separately with special services, or evacuate with their families, a choice that is handled differently by different jurisdictions).

Business Meeting

- a. President Jeff Parnes reviewed the calendar of speakers and presentations for the year.
- b. The draft minutes for the June 21 membership meeting were reviewed, corrected, and unanimously approved as amended.
- c. The monthly Treasurer's Report was presented by Scott Schlegel and received for the file.
- d. President Jeff Parnes reported that Charles Dane has agreed to serve as First Vice President. Esther Ferington will serve as Second Vice President. This means the position of Recording Secretary is now vacant, as is the position of Corresponding Secretary, and he encouraged members to volunteer for this roles. Esther Ferington will serve as Recording Secretary until that vacancy is filled.
- e. A resolution in support of the 2007 transportation bond referendum was moved and seconded. After discussion, the resolution passed by a vote of 13 to 6 with 3 abstaining.
- f. A resolution in support of the 2007 public schools bond referendum was moved and seconded. After discussion, the resolution passed by a vote of 24 to 0 with 3 abstaining.
- g. A resolution in support of the Dulles corridor Metrorail project was moved and seconded. After discussion, the resolution passed by a vote of 19 to 3 with 5 abstaining.
- h. Art Wells gave an update on the local effects of BRAC (Base Realignment and Closure Committee). There is currently money in the federal transportation bill to include improvements to Fort Belvoir. The new plan is to reduce the number of new positions at Fort Belvoir by putting in offices at the old GSA facility in Springfield. Despite comments in Congress, there has been no real movement to keep Walter Reed open, so those jobs will still be moving, some to this area.
- i. Carol Hawn reported that the newsletter deadline is September 29. She and Jeff Parnes explained that in the future, The Bulletin will be primarily distributed electronically. Members are urged to sign up for electronic distribution as described in the President's Message in the September Bulletin.
- j. Charles Dane, Chair of the Education and Youth Committee, reported that the task force on transportation described in the September Bulletin has begun meeting. The November meeting of the Education and Youth Committee will include someone from the FCPS finance section to discuss how FCPS may deal with the projected \$120 million budget shortfall.

(see DRAFT MINUTES - continued on page 5)

(DRAFT MINUTES - continued from page 4)

k. Flint Webb reported for the Environment Committee on several issues, including energy conservation, location of transmission lines, global warming and the "cool counties" initiative, the latest developments on emissions from the Mirant power plant, a new SIP (state implementation plan) due from the Metropolitan Washington Air Quality Committee this January, and a strawman proposal for green building practices.

l. Charles Dane reported that about 80 letters were sent to associations that belonged to the Federation last year or in recent years, encouraging them to renew their membership (others have already done so). He thanked Jeff Parnes, Scott Schlegel, Carol Hawn, and Esther Ferington for their help.

m. Jeff Parnes noted that associations can now join the Federation or renew their membership at the Federation website (www.fairfaxfederation.org), although the dues check must still be mailed in.

n. District council reports began with a report from Art Wells on Braddock District, where a meeting was held last week to follow the well-attended June 20 Town Hall meeting on revitalization. Jeff Parnes noted that in Sully District, next Wednesday will be candidates' night, with 10 of the 15 candidates appearing at the Sully government facility in Chantilly. It was also noted that the Mason District has just redone its logo, which can be put on the Federation website to replace the old one.

o. John Jennison, the Federation representative on the Tysons Corner Land Use Task Force, reported that almost all 36 task force members attended the most recent meeting; another is scheduled for next week. He would be happy to pose any questions to the task force that Federation members may have.

Next Membership Meeting: October 18, 2007, Community-Based Energy Conservation

Next Board Meeting: September 27, 2007

Meeting adjourned at 9:30 p.m.

Esther Ferington,

Federation Recording Secretary

Citizen of the Year Nominations

Nominations are now being accepted for the 2007 Fairfax County Federation of Citizens Associations/The Washington Post Citizen of the Year Award. Nomination forms are available for downloading on the Federation website: www.fairfaxfederation.org. If you know an individual whose contributions and accomplishments have benefited the residents of Fairfax County, we invite you to nominate them for this prestigious commendation. The deadline for nominations will be January 16, 2008. If you have questions, or for additional information, please contact John Jennison, Award Selection Committee Chair, at 703-591-5586 or via email at jennisonjohn@aol.com. The annual Awards Banquet will be held in early spring.

Absentee Voting in Fairfax County

Registered voters who meet eligibility criteria may vote by absentee ballot, in person or by mail. You may be eligible if:

- you will be working or commuting for 11 hours or more between 6:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m. on Election Day;
- you will be away from Fairfax County on business, personal business, or vacation;
- you are unable to go to the polls due to illness or disability, or are the primary caretaker of a confined family member;
- you are on active duty in the military outside Fairfax County, or the spouse or dependent residing with a member of the military outside Fairfax County;
- you are an election official; or
- you meet other criteria listed on the Fairfax County website: www.fairfaxcounty.gov/eb/absentee.htm.

Deadlines to Vote Absentee by Mail

The deadline to submit a signed application to vote absentee by mail is Tuesday, October 30, 2007. **The application must be received at the Office of Elections no later than 5:00 p.m.** For more information, or to print out an Absentee Ballot Application, visit: www.fairfaxcounty.gov/eb/absentee.htm or call 703-222-0776.

All mailed absentee ballots *must* be received at the Office of Elections no later than 7:00 p.m. on Election Day in order to be counted.

In-Person Absentee Voting Locations and Schedule

Office of Elections

12000 Government Center Parkway, Suite 323

Weekdays: October 17 - November 2
8:00 a.m. - 7:30 p.m.

Saturdays: October 6, 13, 20, 27, and November 3
9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

County Satellite Voting Locations

October 17 - November 3

Mondays - Fridays 3:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.
Saturdays 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Franconia Governmental Center

6121 Franconia Road, Alexandria

Mason Governmental Center

6507 Columbia Pike, Annandale

McLean Governmental Center

1437 Balls Hill Road, McLean

Mount Vernon Governmental Center

2511 Parkers Lane, Alexandria

North County Governmental Center

12000 Bowman Towne Drive, Reston

Sully District Governmental Center

4900 Stonecroft Boulevard, Chantilly

West Springfield Governmental Center

6140 Rolling Road, Springfield

These voting facilities are handicapped accessible; curbside voting is also available for disabled and senior voters.

For more information on absentee voting in Fairfax County, visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/eb or call 703-222-0776.

Fairfax County
FEDERATION
of Citizens Associations

4022 Hummer Road
Annandale, VA 22003

*Membership
Meeting:*

Thursday,
October 18th

7:30 p.m.

*Come hear about
Fairfax County's
Cool Counties
Initiative!*

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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