

The Fairfax County FEDERATION

of Citizens Associations

Established 1940

September 2008

THE BULLETIN

Volume 58, Number 1

Federation Membership Meeting



Thursday, September 18, 2008

7:30 p.m.

Packard Center Main Conference Room

4022 Hummer Road, Annandale

Guest Speakers:

Elizabeth Murphy

Fairfax Symphony Orchestra

William Lecos, President

Fairfax Chamber of Commerce



2008 - 2009 Membership Meetings

*All meetings begin at 7:30 p.m. in the
Packard Center Main Conference Room
(unless otherwise noted)*

October 16, 2008 **November 20, 2008**

December 18, 2008 **January 15, 2009**

February 19, 2009 **March 26, 2009**

(fourth Thursday)

April 16, 2009 **May 21, 2009**

June 18, 2009

(picnic, beginning at 7:00 p.m.)



Upcoming Federation Board Meetings

Packard Center Main Conference Room

7:30 p.m.

September 25, 2008

October 23, 2008



President's Message

Ah, Autumn is here and it's 93° in the shade. I thought this season was supposed to bring us milder weather. If so, I'm still waiting - I'm sure it will come, as will our first Federation membership meeting of the year on September 18th.

This year we start off with guest speakers from two Fairfax organizations. Our first speaker will be Elizabeth Murphy from the Fairfax Symphony Orchestra, and then Fairfax Chamber of Commerce President, Bill Lecos, will speak to us about our shared goal, making Fairfax county a better place to live. The Federation and the Chamber have worked together on many activities over the years. We look forward to hearing from these two local Fairfax organizations.

The Federation starts this year with the largest membership it has had in several years and a returning capable slate of officers, with Charlie Dane as First Vice President, Esther Ferington as Second Vice President, and Scott Schlegel as Treasurer. Many of our committee chairs have returned as well, but there are still officer and committee vacancies that need filling, including the officer positions of Recording and Corresponding Secretaries. Committees that are in need of a Chair include: Budget, Human Services, Legislation, and Public Safety; a Webmaster is also needed. The last position is becoming more important, as the Federation is increasingly relying on our website for information dissemination.

If you yourself, or someone you know, would like to volunteer by serving in any of these positions, please give me a call at 703-424-2956 or send me a note at fedpres2008@fairfaxfederation.org.

One last item, the Federation has reclaimed its old web domain so now you can reach us at either FairfaxFederation.org or FCFCA.org. As of this time our email addresses only work when the domain name is fully spelled out as FairfaxFederation.org. See you at this month's meeting.

Enjoy,

Jeffrey Parnes, President

FedPres2008@FairfaxFederation.org

703-424-2956

**FAIRFAX COUNTY FEDERATION OF CITIZENS ASSOCIATIONS
2008 - 2009 BOARD OF DIRECTORS and RELATED POSITIONS (09/01/08)**

www.fairfaxfederation.org

Officers

President	Jeffrey Parnes	FedPres2008@fairfaxfederation.org
First Vice President	Charles Dane	Fed1stVP2008@fairfaxfederation.org
Second Vice President	Esther Ferington	Fed2ndVP2008@fairfaxfederation.org
Treasurer	Scott Schlegel	FedTreas2008@fairfaxfederation.org
Recording Secretary	vacant	FedRecSec2008@fairfaxfederation.org
Corresponding Secretary	vacant	FedCorSec2008@fairfaxfederation.org
Past President	John Jennison	FedPastPres2008@fairfaxfederation.org

Committee Chairs

Education	Charles Dane	FedEducationChr2008@fairfaxfederation.org
Environment	Flint Webb	FedEnvironment2008@fairfaxfederation.org
Human Services	vacant	FedHumServcsChr2008@fairfaxfederation.org
Land Use	Jim Colby	FedLandUseChr2008@fairfaxfederation.org
Legislation	vacant	FedLegislationChr2008@fairfaxfederation.org
Public Safety	vacant	FedPublicSafetyChr2008@fairfaxfederation.org
Resolutions	Bill Hanks	FedResolutionsChr2008@fairfaxfederation.org
Transportation	Roger Hoskin	FedTransportationChr2008@fairfaxfederation.org

District Representatives

Braddock	Art Wells	FedBraddockRep2008@fairfaxfederation.org
Lee	Don Hinman	FedLeeRep2008@fairfaxfederation.org
Mason	Roger Hoskin	FedMasonRep2008@fairfaxfederation.org
Mount Vernon	Jim Davis	FedMtVernonRep2008@fairfaxfederation.org
Providence	vacant	FedProvidenceRep2008@fairfaxfederation.org
Springfield	Mike Thompson	FedSpringfieldRep2008@fairfaxfederation.org
Sully	Jeffrey Parnes	FedSullyRep2008@fairfaxfederation.org

Related Positions

Bulletin	Carol Hawn	FedBulletinEditor2008@fairfaxfederation.org
Website	Jeffrey Parnes	FedWebmaster2008@fairfaxfederation.org

Federation Newsletter Available Online

In an effort to save time, funds, and become more 'green', and after two years of planning and discussion, *The Bulletin*, the Federation newsletter, is now being distributed online for reading or printing at your convenience.

If we have your email address, you will now receive notification when the latest newsletter is posted on our website at <http://www.fairfaxfederation.org/bulletin/FCFCAbulletincurrent.pdf>. Past copies are also available in the same directory.

The only other reason you would receive any notice from the Federation is if a Federation meeting is cancelled; we will not use your email address for other purposes.

If you have designated, on your membership renewal form, receiving a printed copy of *The Bulletin*, we will continue to honor your request. If you have any questions, or would like to change the method by which you receive *The Bulletin*, please contact Carol Hawn, *Bulletin* Editor, at 703-266-6872.

This is the last issue being mailed to most member delegates, alternates, or former member representatives. After this issue, you will need to contact the Federation in order to receive *The Bulletin* via email at www.fairfaxfederation.org.

September is Emergency Preparedness Month

Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/emergency/prepare to plan ahead and be ready for any emergency.

Fairfax County Federation of Citizens Associations

4022 Hummer Road, Annandale VA 22003

www.fairfaxfederation.org

2008-2009 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@verizon.net with newsletter 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.

**Fairfax County Federation of Citizens Associations
Membership Picnic of June 19, 2008**

DRAFT MINUTES

(for approval at the September 18, 2008 membership meeting)

The June 19 membership meeting of FCFCA was held outdoors at the Hidden Oaks Pavilion behind the Packard Center at 7:00 p.m. and picnic food was provided. President Jeff Parnes reminded those present that the next Federation membership meeting will be September 18. There will be no Federation Board meeting in June; the next Board meeting will be July 24. He presented the new slate of officers elected at the May membership meeting: Jeff Parnes, President; Charles Dane, First Vice President; Esther Ferington, Second Vice President, and Scott Schlegel, Treasurer. The positions of Recording Secretary and Corresponding Secretary are open. He asked that anyone interested in learning more about these positions contact him via the Federation website. Jeff Parnes then introduced the speaker for the evening, Gerald Connolly, Chairman of the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors, to speak on the "State of the County."

Program

Chairman Connolly reported that the state of the county in many ways reflects the state of the U.S. economy, with the price of oil and food rising and the effects of the mortgage crisis being felt locally. He said that while the United States is close to the technical definition of recession, Fairfax County and Northern Virginia are not. Job creation continues, though slowly. The county has the highest median household income in the nation, about \$100,000. Federal contracting, especially in information technology, contributes substantially to Fairfax County's economy. The average home in the county has declined 3.8 percent in value and a similar decline is projected next year. Last year there were 74 foreclosures; this year there were 1400 as of January, almost a 20-fold increase. Some neighboring counties have been even harder hit.

Due to the decline in real estate values, the average homeowner will pay less in real estate property taxes, although the tax rate has been increased 3 cents. The economic downturn has also affected revenues in other ways. For example, Federal Reserve reductions in the interest rate reduce the county's income on short-term investments by about \$28 million for every .5 percent reduction. The change in revenue means that county spending will have to be reduced in absolute terms, only the second time in 14 years that this has happened.

The county continues to have a low crime rate and high performing schools and to maintain infrastructure. Recently the General Assembly granted localities the ability to tax commercial real estate at a different rate than residential real estate. The differential between the two rates could have been as much as 25 cents, but the Board of Supervisors set the increase at 11 cents. This increase will go exclusively toward transportation.

In response to the housing crisis, part of the affordable housing fund will be used to address foreclosures, by acquiring some foreclosed properties in distressed neighborhoods where there have been clusters of foreclosures. The county strike force has also had great success, Chairman Connolly said, in attacking illegal overcrowding and boarding houses, even putting some offenders in jail. In some cases, there has been a willful conspiracy to create and operate such boarding houses by a handful of property owners and investors.

On transportation, which he noted is one of the items on the Board of Supervisors' 6-point agenda, Chairman Connolly recapped the recent lack of action by the General Assembly on a new transportation plan. He stated that it has been 22 years since the General Assembly made a significant investment in transportation, and that northern Virginia cannot afford disinvestment in this priority. By 2014, the state will run out of federal highway dollars. Already the six-year plans being developed are shedding long-planned projects affecting, for example, I-64, I-81, and public transit. Due to the high cost of gas, meanwhile, Metro has experienced large increases in ridership, recently marking its 9th highest ridership in its history, almost equaling the volume for the Reagan funeral, but on an ordinary commuting day.

Reviewing the rest of the Board's 6-point agenda, he noted that in terms of gang prevention, gang membership and activity has been cut by 50 percent. There are now after-school programs at all middle schools. A partnership with Cox Communications has established five Boys and Girls Clubs. There is also a tattoo removal program. On affordable housing, 2200 units have been preserved, exceeding the goal of preserving 1000 in four years. On education, about 70 percent of elementary schools, including all at-risk elementary schools, now have an early childhood learning unit, a pre-K initiative that offers better training for daycare operators and more structured learning. On the environment, the county continues to follow its 20-year comprehensive plan and is winning awards and leading the region on environmental issues. Initiatives include tree preservation, completing and adding bicycle and pedestrian trails, outfitting all county buses to carry bicycles, and an emphasis on transit oriented development. The Park Authority has a goal of setting aside 10 percent of the county landmass as parklands; it is now at 9.6 percent with 1100 acres to go. The Cool Counties program created in partnership with the Sierra Club, King County (Seattle) and other counties, seeks a nationwide impact by sharing a template of specific actions that other counties can follow to reduce carbon emissions as well. On fiscal matters, the county maintains its triple AAA bond rating, has been named the best-managed county in the U.S., and has won many national awards, including being named the #1 digital county.

Chairman Connolly then answered questions on additional carbon-reduction initiatives at the neighborhood and school level (Cool Neighborhoods and Cool Schools), on tree preservation and its role in sequestering carbon, on the role of citizens associations in promoting these programs, on community eligibility for the county's community enhancement program, on ambulance fees, on use of police vehicles, on managing change in the county workforce as a large percentage of workers become eligible for retirement, and on capacity and planning for this fall's election.

Business Meeting

As is customary for the Federation's spring picnic meeting, there was no additional business, the principal business of the meeting having been briefly conducted when the group was first called to order.

Next Membership Meeting: September 18. Presentation by Bill Lecos, President of the Fairfax County Chamber of Commerce.

Next Board Meeting: July 24.

Meeting adjourned at dusk.

Fairfax County FY 2010 Budget Community Dialogue Sessions

Fairfax County is projecting a budget deficit of more than \$400 million for the 2010 fiscal year that begins July 1, 2009. This must be addressed through a combination of spending reductions and other strategies. The County's challenge is to develop a budget with an appropriate level of services that are both sustainable and acceptable to the community. County residents are asked for their input.

Fairfax County Government and Fairfax County Public Schools invite you to attend one of the 20 community dialogue sessions scheduled to gather comments which will be used as a key factor to help guide the development of criteria for making budget decisions.

Each community dialogue will consist of presentations by county and school budget staff followed by facilitated small group discussions. Please note that **registration is required** to attend a dialogue session.

Following are the dates, times, and locations of the community dialogues.

Saturday, September 20, 9:30 a.m. - noon

Chantilly Regional Library
Sherwood Regional Library
George Mason Regional Library
Reston Regional Library

Tuesday, October 14, 7:00 p.m. - 9:30 p.m.

Fairfax County Government Center

Thursday, October 16, 7:00 p.m. - 9:30 p.m.

South County Government Center

Tuesday, October 21, 7:00 p.m. - 9:30 p.m.

Oakton High School
South County Secondary
Marshall High School
Herndon High School

Saturday, October 25, 9:30 a.m. - noon

Centreville Regional Library
City of Fairfax Regional Library
Tysons-Pimmit Regional Library
Pohick Regional Library

Wednesday, October 29, 7:00 p.m. - 9:30 p.m.

McLean Community Center

Thursday, November 13, 9:30 a.m. - noon

Oakton Library
Woodrow Wilson Library
John Marshall Library
Burke Centre Library
Mason Governmental Center (7:00 p.m. - 9:30 p.m.)

To register to attend a dialogue or for more information, including addresses of the above locations, please call 703-324-2391 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/budget.

If you are unable to attend one of the above community dialogue sessions but wish to comment or have suggestions, you can leave them on the Budget Hotline at 703-324-9400 or complete the Budget Feedback Form online at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/budget. Reasonable ADA accommodations will be provided at each of the sessions, upon request.

Education Committee Report

Consolidation of FCPS Administrative Facilities

The Fairfax County School Board (FCSB) is considering the purchase and renovation of the former Red Cross building directly behind the Gatehouse Administrative Building. The Federation's Education Committee reviewed available information about the purchase and made a presentation to the Federation Board of Directors. The Board understands that this acquisition will be accomplished with Economic Development Authority funds. Thus, there will be no impact on scheduled school renovation and construction projects and a positive impact on the operating budget as a result of savings from presently leased space and maintenance on facilities presently owned by Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS).

This purchase and renovation will complete the consolidation of FCPS administrative functions envisioned in the original consolidation plan set in motion in 2004 with the purchase and renovation of the present Gatehouse Administrative Building. The Board of Directors appreciates the foresight in retaining three present administrative buildings expected to be needed for future schools. Furthermore, the Board recognizes that the proposed realignment of school facilities will allow the FCPS Facilities and Transportation Department to relocate its facilities to take advantage of travel cost savings. The other buildings involved in the consolidation are either presently leased or are proposed to be transferred to the County.

The Federation Board believes that this represents an opportunity to achieve greater cost savings than could be achieved in the original plan to construct a second administrative building. Such an opportunity may not present itself again, at least not in the near future. Therefore, your Board submitted a letter in support of the proposed purchase. This letter was sent to the FCSB Chair with copies to Fairfax County Board of Supervisors Chair Gerald Connolly, FCPS Superintendent Jack Dale and Assistant Superintendent, Dean Tistadt. The letter can be viewed on the Federation's website under the Education Committee, and any comments can be sent to the Federation President or Education Committee Chair.

- Charles Dane

Education Committee Chair

FedEducationChr2008@fairfaxfederation.org

Federation 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 2008 - 2009, you can complete a membership renewal form online at our website www.fairfaxfederation.org and simply click to send the form (followed by a check; we haven't updated sending renewal dues via email yet). With this form, there'll no longer be questions

about spelling or the email address that handwritten copies tend to generate. You can also print out a membership application/renewal form from the Federation website, www.fairfaxfederation.org and mail it in with your check. 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, First Vice President and Membership Chair, at c-ddane@cox.net or at 703-323-7847.

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

Planning for the Upcoming November 4, 2008 Election

As you are aware, the upcoming November 4, 2008 General and Special Elections ballot will include Electors for President and Vice President, one U.S. Senate seat, all congressional district seats, and a Fairfax County Parks and Park Facilities Referendum. Regarding the latter, later this month all Fairfax County households will be mailed a *2008 Bond Referendum Information for Residents* brochure explaining the bond issue and containing general information on bonds.

The Fairfax County Office of Elections is expecting an unprecedented turn-out for the upcoming election. In the 2004 presidential election, over 73% of registered voters cast a ballot; since then, over 50,000 additional persons have registered to vote. This election will also see the introduction of an AccuVote optical scanner voting system in each precinct in addition to the WINVote touch screen machines that have been used in the county since 2003. In order to avoid potentially long lines, the Office is encouraging voters meeting eligibility criteria to vote by Absentee Ballot. Below is information on Absentee Voting in Fairfax County. Please distribute this information in your community during the next six weeks. If you have any questions, contact the Fairfax County Office of Elections at 703-222-0776 or by visiting www.fairfaxcounty.gov/eb.

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 and 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 a student or the spouse of a student attending a school outside Fairfax County;
- 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 military duty 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 28, 2008. **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.

Fairfax County In-Person Absentee Voting Locations and Schedule

Office of Elections

12000 Government Center Parkway,
Suite 323

Weekdays: Sept. 19 - Oct. 14
(the Office will be closed October 13)

8:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.

Weekdays: October 15 - October 31

8:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m.

Saturdays: October 4, 11, 18, 25, and
November 1

9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

County Satellite Voting Locations

October 15 - November 1

Mondays - Fridays 1:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.
Saturdays 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Franconia Governmental Center
6121 Franconia Road, Alexandria

McLean Governmental Center
1437 Balls Hill Road, McLean

North County Governmental Center
12000 Bowman Towne Drive, Reston

Mason Governmental Center
6507 Columbia Pike, Annandale

Mount Vernon Gov. Center
2511 Parkers Lane, Alexandria

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,
September 18, 2008

7:30 p.m.

The Packard Center
4022 Hummer Road, Annandale
(see directions, below)

Guest Speakers:

Elizabeth Murphy
Fairfax Symphony Orchestra

William Lecos, President
Fairfax County Chamber of Commerce

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**Directions to the
Packard Center**

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; ring the doorbell for entrance.

www.fairfaxfederation.org