

The Fairfax County FEDERATION

of Citizens Associations *Established 1940*

September 2009

THE BULLETIN

Volume 59, Number 1

Federation Membership Meeting

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Thursday, September 17, 2009

7:30 p.m.

Packard Center Main Conference Room
4022 Hummer Road, Annandale

Topic: Metro

Guest Speakers:

James Hamre, Acting Director of Bus Planning
Tom Harrington, Director of Long-Range Planning
Ann Murtha, Manager of Safety Improvement Programs and Initiatives

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2009 - 2010 Membership Meetings

Meetings begin at 7:30 p.m. (unless noted)

As of now, the Federation will hold its monthly membership meetings in the Packard Center Main Conference Room; this could change on a three-month notice.

October 15, 2009

Adoption of Federation 2010 Legislative Program

November 19, 2009

Tyson's Corner Update

December 17, 2009

Storm Water in Fairfax County

January 21, 2010

Fairfax County Public Schools Fiscal Year 2011 Budget

February 18, 2010

Open at this time - contact Jeff Parnes with recommendations

March 25, 2010 (fourth Thursday)

Fairfax County Fiscal Year 2011 Budget

April 15, 2010

Reports from Federation Appointees and Representatives

May 20, 2010

Report from Richmond

June 17, 2010 (picnic, beginning at 7:00 p.m.)

"The State of Fairfax County"

Please note that, while the dates listed above are firm; topics are subject to change, but should be accurate in that month's Bulletin.

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President's Message

It's September and the Federation is once again swinging into action. We have a full slate of officers for the first time in many a year, and only one committee chair vacancy so we should be ready to handle most anything that comes before us.

At our June picnic, we heard Board of Supervisors Chairman Sharon Bulova present her first "State of Fairfax" speech with a promise to come back as many times as invited. We told her the invitations would always be forthcoming. The next week, our new Federation Board met to organize itself for the year, and passed a resolution in support of Congressman Connolly's H.R. 1635, the Northern Virginia Metrorail Extension Act of 2009. We sent a letter to our state and local elected and appointed officials, expressing the Federation Board's support of the legislation.

As you may recall, last year we switched from mailing *The Bulletin* to sending it by email, and moved the submission deadline closer to the meeting date so we could be more timely in its contents. We found, however, that sending it so close to the meeting date was self-defeating in that it didn't give our members the advance notice of the meeting that they may have needed. This year, we've moved the deadline back a week so that we should be able to send it earlier, and you'll receive earlier announcements of our meetings.

As you read this newsletter and see the many areas in which the Federation is involved, I encourage you to become involved if you see a topic that interests you. Look over the many committees that the Federation sponsors - if one interests you, please contact the appropriate committee chair and express your interest. There are so many activities at the county, state and federal level, we can always use a helping hand to ensure we represent the best interests of all our citizens. We are specifically looking for a Public Safety Chair, a Environment co-chair and someone who would consider taking over one of the most important tasks of the Federation - the editor of *The Bulletin*. If you're interested in any of these three positions, please send me an email so we can discuss your interests.

See you at our meeting on the 17th!

Enjoy,

Jeffrey Parnes, President
FedPres2009@FairfaxFederation.org
703-424-2956

2009 - 2010 Federation Board Meetings

Packard Center Main Conference Room
7:30 p.m.

September 24, 2009 October 22, 2009 December 3, 2009

January 29, 2010 March 4, 2010 April 22, 2010

May 27, 2010 June 24, 2010

FAIRFAX COUNTY FEDERATION OF CITIZENS ASSOCIATIONS 2009 - 2010 BOARD OF DIRECTORS and RELATED POSITIONS (09/01/09)

www.fairfaxfederation.org

Officers

President	Jeffrey M. Parnes	FedPres2009@fairfaxfederation.org
First Vice President	Tania Hossain	Fed1stVP2009@fairfaxfederation.org
Second Vice President	Kahan Dhillon	Fed2ndVP2009@fairfaxfederation.org
Treasurer	Scott Schlegel	FedTreas2009@fairfaxfederation.org
Recording Secretaries	Patty Parker / Ed Wyse	FedRecSec2009@fairfaxfederation.org
Corresponding Secretary	Esther Ferington	FedCorSec2009@fairfaxfederation.org
Past President	John Jennison	FedPastPres2009@fairfaxfederation.org

Committee Chairs

Citizen Association Services	Don Hinman	FedAssnServicesChr2009@fairfaxfederation.org
Budget	Carey Campbell / Charlie Hall	FedBudgetChr2009@fairfaxfederation.org
Education	Charles Dane	FedEducationChr2009@fairfaxfederation.org
Environment	Flint Webb	FedEnvironmentChr2009@fairfaxfederation.org
Human Services	vacant	
Land Use	Fred Costello	FedLandUseChr2009@fairfaxfederation.org
Legislation	Tania Hossain	FedLegislationChr2009@fairfaxfederation.org
Public Safety	Gail Parker	FedPublicSafetyChr2009@fairfaxfederation.org
Resolutions	Bill Hanks	FedResolutionsChr2009@fairfaxfederation.org
Transportation	Carey Campbell / Roger Hoskin	FedTransportationChr2009@fairfaxfederation.org

District Representatives

Braddock	Art Wells	FedBraddockRep2009@fairfaxfederation.org
Lee	Don Hinman	FedLeeRep2009@fairfaxfederation.org
Mason	Roger Hoskin	FedMasonRep2009@fairfaxfederation.org
Mount Vernon	Karen Pohorylo	FedMtVernonRep2009@fairfaxfederation.org
Providence	Charlie Hall	FedProvidenceRep2009@fairfaxfederation.org
Springfield	Mike Thompson	FedSpringfieldRep2009@fairfaxfederation.org
Sully	Jeffrey Parnes	FedSullyRep2009@fairfaxfederation.org

Related Positions

Citizen of the Year Chair	John Jennison	FedCOY2009@fairfaxfederation.org
Bulletin	Carol Hawn	FedBulletinEditor2009@fairfaxfederation.org
Website	Jeffrey Parnes	FedWebmaster2009@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 2009 - 2010 or if your community would like to become a member of the Federation, you can complete a membership application/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 will 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, contact Tania Hossain, First Vice President and Membership Chair, at Fed1stVP2009@fairfaxfederation.org or 703-489-5999.

We look forward to your participation in the Federation this year. The more members we have, the stronger our collective voice, and the more effective we can be on issues impacting the residents of Fairfax County.

Fairfax County Federation of Citizens Associations

4022 Hummer Road, Annandale VA 22003

www.fairfaxfederation.org

2009-2010 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. 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 Meeting of June 18, 2009

DRAFT MINUTES

(for approval at the September 17, 2009 membership meeting)

The June 18 membership meeting of FCFCA was the annual Federation picnic meeting. It was held at 7:00 p.m. at the Annandale Community Park pavilion, which is on the same property as the Packard Center. (Attendance list is attached to file copy.) Following the picnic, the previously published minutes for the May membership meeting, as amended, were unanimously approved, as was the proposed 2009-10 Federation budget. President Jeff Parnes then introduced Sharon Bulova, Chair of the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors, who spoke on the State of the County. He noted that Delegate Vivian Watts, who represents the district that includes the park, was also in attendance.

Program

Chairman Bulova supplied a handout with her presentation. She also mentioned that her office provides a monthly e-newsletter, the Bulova Byline, similar to one that she produced as Braddock Supervisor, at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/chairman.

She discussed the budgetary impact of the economic downturn on Fairfax County, including a drop in housing values, which affects the county's property tax revenues and thus its budget, and a significant increase in foreclosures. Foreclosures, she said, also erode nearby house values. From a county budget standpoint, there was an 8 percent decrease in projected revenue from the year before. If the budget were kept at the same levels, there would have been a shortfall of \$650 million, so cuts had to be made. It will take a couple of years for the county to get back on its fiscal feet.

She noted that she is completing the remainder of former Chairman Gerry Connolly's four-year term following his election to Congress and a subsequent special election, so she has three years in her current term.

She reported that all the financial tools are in place to complete the Rail to Dulles project. The county is paying for its portion of the project using special tax districts for local businesses, the state is paying for its portion through revenues from the Dulles Toll Road, and the federal share of \$900 million has finally been okayed. She said that the Metro line will be crucial to the transformation of Tysons, which she called a poster child for the approach encouraged by the Greater Washington 2050 initiative. She noted that the Federation, under President Jeff Parnes, was the first organization, last year, to host a briefing on Greater Washington 2050.

In Tysons, this approach calls for transforming a business district into a community with a much greater residential component. The idea is to make the new Tysons transit-oriented and walkable. The transformation as Metrorail extends through Tysons will not be instant, she said, and the plan will evolve. It should take place, she said, over 20, 30, and even 50 years. It will take time. The four stations in Tysons are part of Phase I of Dulles Rail; the extension to the airport, including Reston and Herndon, will be Phase II. The line will transform the corridor served by the Dulles rail. She encouraged those who are interested to go to the county website for a wealth of information on Dulles rail and Tysons Corner planning.

She noted that she was originally elected to the Board of

Supervisors on a slow growth platform in 1987, but following a recession, Tom Davis was elected Chair on a growth platform and many county leaders, including her, took a new look at the policy choices. Now, she says, her focus is on how to grow. Other examples besides Tysons include the Springfield Mall, where plans called for mixed-use redevelopment; the Mosaic at Merrifield, which is a smart growth concept; and economic development associated with the BRAC-related workforce increases at Fort Belvoir and the Engineering Proving Grounds.

She also discussed the HOT lanes now under construction on the Beltway as a unique state public-private partnership that will add new capacity on state right of ways that will be paid back by tolls. She is concerned about the extensive tree removal that has occurred so far. The project will produce two new lanes in each direction, which will be accessible to single-driver cars that pay a toll but will also allow free use by carpools, motorcycles, and buses.

She then turned to possible expansion of Virginia Railway Express (VRE), a service she described as "my baby." She was in at the beginning, she said, on the idea of putting a commuter train service on existing freight rail tracks in the region, through the advocacy group Friends of the VRE. The project was challenging to get started because it was complicated by issues such as insurance and indemnifying the freight railroads. On its debut, the service was well-received but then had early problems with on-time performance. These were subsequently resolved through scheduling agreements with Norfolk Southern and CFS railroads. VRE is now the second fastest growing commuter service in the United States. It is exploring the possibility of extending service to Haymarket, Gainesville, and Spotsylvania.

Finally, she discussed the recent process of creating the FY2010 county budget, which was adopted unanimously by the Board of Supervisors on April 27. To close the \$650 shortfall, the Board sought to bring the community together through a series of community dialogues throughout the county, both to educate citizens about the issues and to seek help from citizens in determining priorities. The priorities that emerged were, first of all, education, then public safety, and then human services, which she described as making sure the county is there for those who need us most. The community dialogues were very helpful, she said, for creating the advertised budget and for the Board of Supervisors. There were then town meetings and briefings through the county on the advertised budget. The result was that by the time of the public hearings before the Board, rather than being angry and frustrated, people were helpful, suggesting different approaches, items we could do without, reorganizational ideas, and things they were willing to pay more for, etc.

Although she is now the Chairman of the Board of Supervisors, Chairman Bulova noted she retained her position as Budget Chair. She said she is very proud that the Board voted unanimously in favor of the budget, which, she says, hit the highest priorities and closed the \$650 million shortfall. The Board plans a retreat at the end of June to discuss what comes next. She believes the community engagement and dialogues were important and she seeks to continue this new, improved relationship with the community.

Chairman Bulova then took questions on allocation of more resources for the Richmond Highway corridor; how zoning changes will be made to go with transit-oriented development and smart growth; value of and possible future of citizens budget committees for several of the Supervisors at the district level; and

(see DRAFT MINUTES - continued on page 5)

Opportunities to Get Involved in Fairfax County

Community Dialogues on Budget Continue

This fall, Community Dialogues will again be an opportunity to share input which will be a key factor in guiding the development of criteria for the Fairfax County Fiscal Year 2011 Budget. The dialogues are sponsored by Fairfax County government and the Fairfax County Public Schools. Please note **registration is required** to attend a dialogue session. Following are the dates, times, and locations of the community dialogues.

Tuesday, September 29: 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

- McLean Community Center
1234 Ingleside Avenue, McLean

Wednesday, September 30: 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

- West Springfield High School Cafeteria
6100 Rolling Road, Springfield

Wednesday, October 14: 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

- Marshall High School Cafeteria
7731 Leesburg Pike, Falls Church
- South County Secondary School Cafeteria
8501 Silverbrook Road, Lorton

Saturday, October 24: 10:00 a.m. to noon

- Centreville Regional Library
14200 St. Germain Drive, Centreville
- Reston Regional Library
11925 Bowman Towne Drive, Reston
- John Marshall Community Library
6209 Rose Hill Drive, Alexandria

Thursday, October 29: 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

- South Lakes High School Cafeteria
11400 South Lakes Drive, Reston
- Woodson High School Cafeteria
9525 Main Street, Fairfax

Saturday, November 14: 10:00 a.m. to noon

- Kings Park Community Library
9000 Burke Lake Road, Burke
- Sherwood Regional Library
2501 Sherwood Hall Lane, Alexandria
- George Mason Regional Library
7001 Little River Turnpike, Annandale

To register to attend a session or for additional information, call 703-324-2391 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/budget.

If you are unable to attend one of the above 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 the session, upon request.

September is National Preparedness Month

Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/news/2009/national-preparedness-month.htm to plan ahead and be prepared for any emergency.

“What You Can Expect this Flu Season.”

The Fairfax County Health Department is sponsoring a number of Town Hall Meetings to present the latest on the H1N1 and seasonal flu. This is a great opportunity for residents in your community to have their questions answered by the Fairfax County Health Director. All meetings begin at 7:00 p.m. Below are the dates and locations of the remaining meetings:

Wednesday, September 16th

Kings Park Library
9002 Burke Lake Road, Burke

Friday, September 18th

Mount Vernon Governmental Center
2511 Parkers Lane, Alexandria

Tuesday, September 22nd

North County Governmental Center
12000 Bowman Towne Drive, Reston

Friday, September 25th

Mason District Governmental Center
6507 Columbia Pike, Annandale

Monday, September 28th

Sully District Governmental Center
4900 Stonecroft Boulevard, Chantilly

Tuesday, September 29th

Franconia Governmental Center
6121 Franconia Road, Alexandria

Special accommodations will be provided upon request by calling 703-246-2411, TTY 711. If you have questions, or for additional information, visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/hd.

The Census will be Here April 1st

Although April 1, 2010 seems quite far away, it is not too early to begin planning for the 2010 Census, a critical biennial event for our nation. Throughout these months leading up to that date, *the Bulletin* will highlight the purpose of the census, its importance for Fairfax County, and the benefits of ensuring a complete count as measured by each household mailing back their census form. The Federation is asking all member communities to share in disseminating information on the upcoming census, by including materials in your community newsletter or on your website. If you would like information, please contact Carol Hawn at cahawn@verizon.net or call 703-266-6872.

What is the Census?

Article 1, Section 2, of the U.S. Constitution mandates a headcount of everyone residing in the United States. The first Census was conducted in 1790 and has been carried out every 10 years since then.

The 2010 Census will be mailed to all households in March, consisting of a short-form with 10 questions that should take 10 minutes to complete. The census will count all residents living in the United States, and will ask for name, sex, age, date of birth, race, ethnicity, relationship, and housing tenure. The next issue of *the Bulletin* will discuss the importance of the Census.

United States[®]
Census
2010

Federation Items of Interest

(DRAFT MINUTES - continued from page 3)

reinstatement of a countywide citizens budget committee, as had existed in the 1990s. Federation President Jeff Parnes noted that the Federation and its budget committee would be pleased to assist in re-creating such a committee, if that were to happen.

Next Membership Meeting: September 17, 2009.

Next Board Meeting: June 25, 2009.

Meeting adjourned at dusk.

RESOLUTION

Metrorail and its Alternatives

(approved by the Federation Board on June 25, 2009)

Background

Congress is considering H.R. 1635, the Northern Virginia Metrorail Extension Act of 2009, which calls for the extension of the Northern Virginia Metrorail.

Resolution

WHEREAS, Fairfax County's quality of life and economic prosperity are seriously impacted by traffic congestion and its attendant air pollution and energy consumption;

WHEREAS, traffic congestion can be reduced by expanding Metrorail in Northern Virginia;

WHEREAS, Interstate 66, Interstate 95, the Dulles Toll Road, the Capital Beltway, and Richmond Highway are highly congested on a daily basis, soon to be exacerbated by BRAC, yet parallel potential mass-transit corridors;

WHEREAS, initial and long-term financing of transportation systems can be economically carried by the beneficiaries in proportion to their benefits;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Fairfax County Federation of Citizens Associations (Federation) supports H.R. 1635, the Northern Virginia Metrorail Extension Act of 2009.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Federation recommends that a comprehensive analysis of multimodal transportation systems and methods that reduce the need for commuting be undertaken to identify the most cost-effective combination of methods and the associated funding.

DRAFT RESOLUTION

Fairfax County Draft Energy Policy

(recommended by the Federation Environment Committee; approved by the Federation Board on August 27, 2009 for discussion and adoption by the Federation membership at its September 17, 2009 meeting)

WHEREAS, Fairfax County Staff has drafted an energy policy statement for approval by the Board of Supervisors, and

WHEREAS, this draft policy contains only passing reference to the Cool Counties Declaration approved by the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors in July 2007, and

WHEREAS, a principle reason for adopting an energy policy would be to reduce carbon emissions, the main greenhouse gas, and

WHEREAS, a local jurisdiction such as Fairfax County has a unique role in reducing emissions through its jurisdiction over policy areas such as air quality, land use planning, transportation (especially non-auto), tree preservation, and waste management.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Fairfax County Federation of Citizens Associations urges the Board of Supervisors to strengthen the draft energy policy by including specific references to the goals of the Cool Counties Initiative, and

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the policy also define the staff role to include the proactive development of energy and carbon emission reduction programs, thereby going beyond the current charge to coordinate among agencies, and

THEREFORE BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that the policy should include measures that extend beyond county government functions such as for businesses and citizens.

DRAFT RESOLUTION

Sally B. Ormsby Park

(adopted by the Federation Board on August 27, 2009 for discussion and adoption by the Federation membership at its September 17, 2009 meeting)

WHEREAS, the Fairfax County Park Authority is considering naming a section of the Accotink Stream Valley in honor of the late Sally B. Ormsby, and

WHEREAS, Sally was a nature lover and Chair of Park Partners which supported funding for Fairfax County Parks, and

WHEREAS, Sally served the Fairfax County Federation of Citizens Associations (Federation) in many ways, including as President.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Federation hereby offers our enthusiastic support of the naming of the Sally B. Ormsby Park.

Committee Report

Land Use Committee

The Land Use Committee is working on three items of Countywide importance: (1) The County is considering assuming the responsibility for settlement ponds, in particular at the request of the Kingstowne development. (2) Some Federation member organizations estimate the development of Tysons Corner may absorb all of the County's infrastructure and bond capacity for the next 50 years that no other development or redevelopment will be possible. (3) According to the South County Federation and a Chronicle Newspapers article, in violation of the policy of transparency, the County held closed meetings to open a new landfill in the Lorton area. Opening a new landfill would violate a 2004 Fairfax County policy. The proceedings of the closed meetings were discovered after a Freedom of Information Act request. For additional information on the latter, you can find the article at www.chroniclenewspapers.com/articles/2009/08/13/news/viewpoint/view01.txt. If you are interested in working on a possible Federation position on any of these items, or would like more information, please contact Fred Costello, Land Use Committee Chair, at FedLandUseChr2009@fairfaxfederation.org.

Fairfax County
FEDERATION
of Citizens Associations

4022 Hummer Road
Annandale, VA 22003

Membership Meeting

Thursday,
September 17, 2009

7:30 p.m.

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

Topic: Metro

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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