

The Fairfax County
FEDERATION
of Citizens Associations *Established 1940*

February 2010

THE BULLETIN

Volume 59, Number 6

Federation Membership Meeting



Thursday, February 18, 2010

7:30 p.m.

Packard Center Main Conference Room
4022 Hummer Road, Annandale

Topic: Update on Tyson's Land Use Task Force

Guest Speaker: Clark Tyler, Task Force Chair



William G. Bouie, Chairman
Fairfax County Park Authority

will also speak regarding the Fairfax County Park Authority



2010 Membership Meetings

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

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"



2010 Federation Board Meetings

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

March 18, 2010 April 22, 2010

May 27, 2010 June 24, 2010



Citizen of the Year Nominations Deadline Extended

It is not too late to submit nominations for the Fairfax County Federation of Citizens Associations' Citizen of the Year Award. The nomination deadline has been extended to February 28, 2010. For a nomination form, or more information, please visit the Federation website at www.fairfaxfederation.org.

President's Message

It's rare to be around when a record is broken, and rarer still when the record involves each and every one of us. Of course I mean the record amount of snowfall that the DC environs received this month. I've lost track of the number of hours I've spent in front of my house repeatedly shoveling my front walk and driveway, or the times I've stopped on the side of the road and lent a hand as a car was pushed or rocked out of an awkward situation. It's also the time of the year our Fairfax County Supervisors send out their annual announcements that the county isn't responsible for clearing snow off the roads; folks with complaints or concerns should contact the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT). They also usually provide a handy list of telephone numbers of area State Delegates and Senators.

This, however, may not be the case in the future. Fairfax County is planning to conduct what they've entitled the "Improving Roadway Service Delivery" study. The study might very well recommend that Fairfax County negotiate with the state to take over VDOT's responsibility for Fairfax County roads. Although the study is being accomplished by the county's Department of Transportation with the assistance of several consultants and the oversight of the county's Transportation Advisory Commission (TAC) (with two of our board members serving as TAC representatives), any recommendations will be reviewed by county stakeholders, including representative citizen associations, before any decision is reached. The Federation will take an active part in the study review and solicit our members' feedback. So the days of our Supervisor's deflecting the snow calls to state offices may well be limited in duration.

This month, our membership meeting will feature two speakers: the first, the Chairman of the Fairfax County Park Authority Board, asked for time to speak to our membership. This is a rarity – we usually are the ones to invite speakers, so it will be interesting to hear what Chairman William G. Bouie has to say. Our next and scheduled speaker is Tyson's Task Force Chair, Clark Tyler. The Tyson's Land Use Task Force was charged with updating that area's land use plan within existing boundaries with the construction of the four new Metrorail stations.

The Federation is still accepting nominations for 2009 Citizen of the Year (COY). The nomination form is located on our website and can either be emailed or sent via mail to the COY chair. Just follow the links on our home page.

As for me, my wife is after me to exercise parts of my body other than my upper arms and chest. If Mother Nature is willing, I might venture outside for a walk or a bike ride; after all, it is February in Northern Virginia. On the other hand, the street in front of my house is a sheet of ice. Who should I call about this situation...?

Enjoy,

Jeffrey Parnes, President
FedPres2009@FairfaxFederation.org

Fairfax County Federation of Citizens Associations
Membership Meeting of January 21, 2010

DRAFT MINUTES

(for approval at the February 18, 2010 membership meeting)

The January 2010 Meeting of the Membership of the Fairfax County Federation of Citizens Associations was called to order by President Jeff Parnes at 7:40 p.m. in the general meeting room of the Packard Center. Present were 14 participants and the presenter from the Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS). (Attendance list is attached to file copy.)

Program: FCPS Fiscal Year 2011 Budget
Kristen Michael, Director, Budget Office, FCPS

Kristen described past efforts to reduce the spending of the FCPS system, such as reorganizing from four areas to eight clusters while centralizing many support functions and reducing staff. She then described options under consideration to address shortfalls in the next several budget years and answered questions. Her presentation slides are to be posted on the Federation's web site (<http://www.fairfaxfederation.org/index.htm>) and are only slightly modified from presentation slides on the FCPS website.

Bill Hanks noted that four supervisors have citizen budget committees and he opined that the county transfer to FCPS may be reduced by 3-10% based on a recommendation from the Braddock District citizens budget committee and the magnitude of increases in previous years. Several other members stated that this was not their understanding of current supervisor and public comments.

Administrative Topics

Minutes - The membership approved the minutes of the December 17, 2009, membership meeting.

Treasurer's Report - Participants received a handout containing the balance sheet, income and expense sheet, transaction list, budget performance, and membership list as of the meeting date. The report is available at <http://www.fcfa.org/minutes-agenda/TreasurersReport100121.pdf>. The important relationship of membership and budget was stressed. President Parnes will approach district representatives about recruiting more associations to join. Participants received the report for file.

Board Vacancies and Appointments - Jeff Parnes

Human Services - Need Chair

Bulletin Editor - Carol Hawn is stepping down after the June 2010 Bulletin. Anyone interested in serving as Editor, please Jeff (FedPres2009@fairfaxfederation.org).

Fourth Quarter 2010 Meeting Locations - Jeff Parnes

The Federation is exploring new locations to hold its meetings and store its files when the Packard Center is not available. The January 2010 issue of The League of Women Voters of the Fairfax Area *Fairfax VOTER* reports

that the Packard Center might be renovated during the fourth quarter of 2010 rather than being closed permanently. Any member who knows of a suitable location should contact our Second Vice President, Kahan Dhillon, at fed2ndvp2009@fairfaxfederation.org.

Old Business

Board of Supervisors (BOS) Chairmen's' Photos - Last Wednesday, January 13th, just prior to Chairman Bulova's New Year's fest, the County dedicated the chairmen's portrait gallery in the alcove in front of the conference rooms, with Past President John Jennison, the driving force behind the portraits and current President, Jeff Parnes, the current president, speaking on the occasion. The county's announcement of the occasion is at <http://www.fcfa.org/PictureGallery/20100113ChairmanGallery>. The Federation expresses its thanks to John Jennison for leading this project.

Greater Washington 2050 - Jeff Parnes

The Council of Governments (COG) Board of Directors approved the signature product of the Greater Washington 2050 Coalition, *Region Forward – COG's Comprehensive Guide for Regional Planning and Measuring Progress in the 21st Century* on January 13, 2010.

Fairfax County Board Chairman Bulova was the chief spokesperson for this almost two-year effort in her presentation to the COG Board. There was lively and positive discussion on the report, including proposed local government action on the voluntary regional compact that is the immediate next step.

The report and compact will be sent to elected officials from COG's 21 local governments requesting that each jurisdiction endorse or take other appropriate action to

(see **DRAFT MINUTES** - continued on page 3)

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.

(*DRAFT MINUTES - continued from page 2*)

support *Region Forward* and the compact. COG is targeting March to complete the local endorsement process and will follow up shortly to seek counsel on strategies to secure endorsement from area local governments.

COG will also send the report and compact to key state and federal officials, requesting similar support, as well as to many leading regional organizations and stakeholders.

COG will shortly "open" its website to invite a wide-range of organizations, stakeholders, and individuals to voice their support for *Region Forward*. COG anticipates a further round of outreach to engage stakeholders and build awareness and support for *Region Forward*.

Printed copies will be available shortly. In the meantime, the final report is available on the website, www.greaterwashington2050.org.

Legislative Presentation - Jeff Parnes

Jeff was the third speaker at the public hearing on 10 Jan 2010.

The video of Jeff Parnes' presentation to Fairfax County's General Assembly delegation of the Federation 2010 Legislative Program (January 9, 2010) may be viewed at <http://www.fairfaxfederation.org/testimony/Testimony2010LegislationProgram100109.mov>.

A copy of the written testimony to Fairfax County's General Assembly delegation presenting the Federation 2010 Legislative Program (January 9, 2010) may be viewed at <http://www.fairfaxfederation.org/testimony/Testimony2010LegislationProgram100109.pdf>.

Recent Resolutions

The resolution on Daytime Noise Limits (17 Dec 09) is available at: <http://www.fairfaxfederation.org/resolutions/ResolutionDaytimeNoiseLimits20091217Approved.pdf>.

The resolution on the Operation of Farm Wineries (17 Dec 09) is available at: <http://www.fairfaxfederation.org/resolutions/ResolutionOperationofFarmWineries20091217Approved.pdf>.

New Business

Education - Charlie Dane

Charlie Dane reported on the impact of a possible change in the Local Composite Index (LCI), namely that the budget submitted by the former Governor delays for one year the implementation of the most recent LCI computation, which indicated that Fairfax County ought to receive a much higher share of state funds than it has in previous years. Therefore delay in implementation means a significant loss of state funding for Fairfax County.

Further, upon checking the Federation website, Charlie noticed that the LCI statement, approved late last year by the Federation as part of the Legislative Package, had apparently not been included in this year's Package. Hence, he proposed the following Proposed Addition to the

2010 Legislative Package, which is based on the earlier approved item modified to oppose the one year delay.

Local Composite Index: Support fair and equitable state funding distribution formulas, including recalculation of the Local Composite Index (LCI) that accurately reflects both local ability to pay and the resource needs of local school divisions, and especially prohibit the one-year delay of the LCI recalculation proposed by the former Governor.

Rationale: A study of the LCI formula should consider all of the impacts and update the Joint Legislative Audit and Review Commission's findings so as to provide a fairer distribution of funds to the State's school districts. While the State is responsible for funding elementary and secondary education, recalculation of the LCI on an annual basis (rather than the use of out-of-date information) would more closely reflect present circumstances in the localities. Furthermore, while the LCI has been recalculated every two years, the former Governor proposed delaying this year's scheduled recalculation. This may result in a loss of about \$60 million for Fairfax County Public Schools, unless the recalculation is made this year as scheduled.

The participants approved the proposed addition to the 2010 Legislative Package. Tania will work with Esther to add this item to the legislative program and transmit to the General Assembly delegates from Fairfax County the Federation's concern about the possible loss of funding from a delay in the recalculation and distribution of LCI funding to FCPS.

Board & Committee Reports

Association Services - Don Hinman

Don Hinman reported that he had recently been appointed to the Virginia Legislative Action Committee (VALAC) of the Community Associations Institute. Don serves as one of three community association volunteers on the Committee. Other members include managers and attorneys that work with community associations. VALAC will be tracking a number of pieces of legislation during the General Assembly session in Richmond and taking positions for or against proposed legislation.

VALAC is supporting a law proposed by Delegate David Bulova stating that self-managed associations may collect fees for resale disclosure packets at the time of delivery rather than requiring the association to wait until settlement of the home sale to receive payment. This legislation would clear up murky language from 2008 legislation. It is consistent with a position in the Federation's Legislative Package, although the Federation's position goes further, asking that all community associations (not just self-managed ones) be able to collect disclosure packet fees at the time of delivery, rather than having payment delayed until settlement.

(DRAFT MINUTES - continued from page 3)

Citizen of the Year

Nominations for the Citizen of the Year are open until January 31, 2010. Information is available at <http://www.fairfaxfederation.org/coy1.htm>.

SAIC enjoyed its sponsorship of the Federation's Annual Awards Dinner in March 2009 and would like to renew its sponsorship in 2010. A communication from SAIC notes:

- Our interest in promoting community service and civic involvement in Fairfax has only grown since the official move of our headquarters to Tyson's Corner in September.
- Please keep SAIC informed as your process for selecting "Citizen of the Year" unfolds and as you set lead sponsorship levels for this year's event.

Bill Hanks reported a conversation with the president of the Fairfax County Professional Fire Fighters & Paramedics about their possible interest in becoming a major sponsor in future years.

Education - Charlie Dane

Charlie noted that Kirsten Michael, who had departed the meeting after her budget presentation, is the undisputed expert on the school board budget.

A discussion ensued on the proposal to close the Pimmit Hills High School, one of three FCPS adult/alternative high schools. The diversity and special needs of the served students was described. Charlie reported that the Education Committee is working with the school department staffs on how the students would be shifted to other schools.

At its January 19 meeting, the Education Committee drafted its testimony. Charlie will testify to the school board on January 27.

Environment - Flint Webb

The Federation nominated Ana Prados for a second term as the Fairfax Federation's stakeholder on the Metropolitan Washington Air Quality Committee (MWAQC) Technical Advisory Committee. Joan Rohlf, the Chief, Air Quality Planning, COG, indicated that Ana's participation on MWAQC's Technical Advisory Committee has been very beneficial. MWAQC will make the official appointments in January.

An article by Ana Prados has been published in the October 2009 issue of the Air and Waste Management Association's *EM Magazine*.

The ozone National Ambient Air Quality Standard (NAAQS) proposed by the EPA is extremely strict. If EPA selects the more stringent proposed standard, no monitor in the country would attain the standard and if they chose the least stringent standard roughly 70% of the monitors would be in non-attainment. The secondary NAAQS goal is to protect welfare, more specifically to protect crop yields, and would cause even greater more non-attainment areas, particularly in farming communities.

Both Flint Webb and Roger Diedrich attended the Virginian Conservation Network lobby day. The focus will be on energy conservation this year. Mark Keam and Chap Peterson want to end the practice of reduced rates for large consumption of energy (electricity and natural gas) and are both carrying legislation to end the practice. Flint made sure that both Mark and Chap had copies of the Federation's Legislative Program.

Land Use - Fred Costello

The Reston Master Plan Special Study Task Force is at the "getting organized" stage.

Fred is working on a rational basis for proffers as they pertain to school construction.

Fred advocates mandating the inclusion of 3D computer models in Area Plans Reviews. These models provide the flexibility to be viewed from any perspective and permit virtual walk-throughs. They could easily generate the drawings that are now the only visualization tool that developers typically provide.

Fred reported a January 20 forum from the Cato Institute on the book *Gridlock: Why We're Stuck in Traffic and What to Do About It*, by Randall O'Toole. The presenters were: Randall O'Toole, Senior Fellow, Cato Institute; Anthony Downs, Senior Fellow, Brookings Institute; and Michael Replogle, Global Policy Director and Founder, Institute for Transportation and Development Policy.

The forum is available for viewing at <http://www.cato.org/event.php?eventid=6666>.

Membership

Bill Hanks noted that the Federation published the names of members in *The Bulletin* during the years 1987 to 2002 and proposed that listings from copies of *Bulletins* (that he had in hand) be used to develop a REINSTATE MEMBERSHIP PROGRAM for approaches to 188+ previous association members that are not current members. The topic was deferred for consideration by the Board of Directors.

Transportation

Major changes are coming to Route 123 and Route 7. Drivers in Tyson's Corner should look for lane shifts and changing traffic patterns along the area's two busiest roads - Route 7 and Route 123 - as construction of the Dulles Corridor Metrorail Project continues. Information is available at <http://www.dullesmetro.com/>.

Website

You are invited to visit the Fairfax Federation Forum, the Federation's own discussion board at <http://fairfaxfederation.org/smf/index.php>. Please follow the link and register. If you have any questions, contact Jeff Parnes (Fedwebmaster2009@fairfaxfederation.org).

District Council Reports

Braddock - Art Wells

(see DRAFT MINUTES - continued on page 5)

(DRAFT MINUTES - continued from page 4)

The main topic of the January 12 District Council meeting was the mowing of highway medians. These activities are scheduled:

- January 23, Neighborhood Leadership Institute
- February 3, Braddock - George Mason Forum, including Fairfax City residents
- February 17, Wakefield Chapel Northern Virginia Community College Forum

Sully - Jeff Parnes

Topics of future District Council meetings are parks on January 27 and school budget on February 24.

Closing Announcement

Arts Council of Fairfax County Members' Forum Reception and Annual Meeting

On January 25, 2010, the Arts Council of Fairfax County invites member artists and representatives from member organizations to join us at their Annual Meeting and Reception. This is a special networking opportunity for the Fairfax arts community. Plan to come early for the members' forum and reception. This year's annual meeting will feature keynote speaker Sharon Bulova, Chairman of the Board of Supervisors, as well as performances by member groups. The members' forum begins at 5:30 p.m. followed by a reception at 6:15 p.m. and the annual meeting and performances at 7:00 p.m. The location is the Reston Community Center Hunters Woods, 2310 Colts Neck Road, Reston, VA 20191; telephone: 703-476-4500.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 10:40 p.m.

Next Meetings

The next board meeting is scheduled for January 28, 2009 at 7:30 p.m.

The next membership meeting is scheduled for February 18, 2010, at 7:30 p.m.

Minutes prepared by Ed Wyse, Recording Secretary

Census 2010 Forms to be Mailed in March

The 2010 Census is officially underway; it starts in Fairfax County in mid-March, when forms are mailed to all households. It is imperative that all residents are counted, because over \$400 billion of federal funds are allocated annually based on census numbers. These funds are used for schools, roads, and other important local services. In Fairfax County, it is estimated that over \$359 million was received in fiscal year 2008 alone based solely on census results. The Fairfax County Public Schools received more than \$50 million per year in the past decade because of census numbers.

"Census data determines whether we get our fair share of federal money for our schools, roads and other important local services and programs," said Board of Supervisors Chairman Sharon Bulova. "In these days of tight budgets, it's critical that we get every federal dollar we're entitled to receive. To ensure we do,

Free Income Tax Assistance Available

If you worked in 2009, and earned less than \$49,000, then you may qualify for free income tax preparation. Internal Revenue Service certified volunteers will ensure you receive the maximum tax refund and help determine if you are eligible for the earned income tax credit.

Assistance is available through April 15, 2010. For a complete list of locations throughout Northern Virginia as well as hours of operation, visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dfs/childreneyouth/families/free_income_tax_prep.htm. For assistance, please take the following items with you:

- Photo ID
- Social Security cards and birthdates for the taxpayer, spouse and dependents.
- If married and filing a joint return, both spouses must be present.
- Wage and earnings statements: W-2, W-2G, and all Form 1099's received.
- Unemployment compensation, Form 1099G.
- Interest and dividend statements.
- Day care expenses paid in 2009 and the day care provider's name, address and federal ID number.
- Student loan interest payments.
- Record of tuition or student loan payments, 1098-E.
- A copy of last year's federal and state returns.
- Record of any Sales Tax paid on new vehicles purchased in 2009.
- Record of any Real Estate Taxes paid in 2009.
- Record of any Economic Recovery Payment received from SSA, RRB or Veterans Administration.

For more information on the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance Program, visit the above website or call 703-533-5400.

The County Executive will release the Fairfax County Advertised Fiscal Year 2011 budget on Tuesday, February 23, 2010. It will be available for review at www.fairfaxcounty.gov. The Federation will adopt its annual budget position at its Thursday, March 25, 2010 membership meeting; **please note this will be the fourth Thursday of March.**

everyone must fill out and mail back their census form by April 1. It doesn't matter whether you are a citizen or not — you count."

The census form consists of ten questions, and should take about ten minutes to complete, making it one of the shortest forms in history. All information is safe; by federal law, personal information from census forms cannot be shared with any local, state or federal government agency, including Fairfax County. Census workers take an oath for life to keep this information confidential. There are stiff penalties for U.S. Census Bureau employees who disclose any information, including fines of up to \$250,000, up to five years in prison or both.

The U.S. Constitution requires the census be conducted every ten years to count every person, not just citizens, living in this country. For additional information about the 2010 Census, visit <http://2010.census.gov>.

United States
**Census
2010**

Fairfax County
FEDERATION
of Citizens Associations

4022 Hummer Road
Annandale, VA 22003

Membership Meeting

Thursday,
February 18, 2010

7:30 p.m.

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

Topic:

**Update on Tyson's Land Use
Task Force**

Guest Speaker:

Clark Tyler, Chair
Tyson's Land Use Task Force

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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