

The Fairfax County
FEDERATION
of Citizens Associations *Established 1940*

May 2010

THE BULLETIN

Volume 59, Number 9

Federation Membership Meeting



Thursday, May 20, 2010

7:30 p.m.

Packard Center Main Conference Room

4022 Hummer Road, Annandale

Topic: Report from Richmond

Guest Speakers: State Senator George Barker (39th District), and Delegates Mark Keam (35th District), Kaye Kory (38th District), and Jim Scott (53rd District) all plan to attend.

Election of Officers for 2010 - 2011



Remaining 2010 Membership Meeting

June 17, 2010 7:00 p.m.

(please note the earlier start time)

Topic: Annual Federation Picnic and "The State of Fairfax County"

Guest Speaker: The Honorable Sharon Bulova, Chairman, Fairfax County Board of Supervisors



2010 Federation Board Meetings

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

May 27, 2010 June 24, 2010



Federation Seeking Nominations for 2010 - 2011

The Federation is still seeking individuals to serve as officers for the 2010 - 2011 year. The positions to be filled include: President, First Vice President (membership), Second Vice President (appointments), Corresponding and Recording Secretaries, and Treasurer. The Board meets monthly on the fourth Thursday of the month.

If you have been considering running for one of the above Federation Officer positions, or would like more information, including criteria for a position, or the Board of Directors in general, please contact John Jennison, Nominations Committee Chair, at fedpastpres2009@fairfaxfederation.org or 703-591-5586. Officers begin their one-year term on July 1, 2010.

President's Message

I write this after completing my third turn as Master of Ceremonies for the Federation's Citizen of the Year Banquet. We were fortunate to have the Honorable Robert McDonnell, Governor of Virginia, as our featured speaker. Governor McDonnell spoke about volunteerism, pointing out he first became active by serving on his homeowners association's board, and after three years, running for his first elected position as a state delegate. Although those that attended our Banquet, including state legislators, Fairfax County Supervisors, School Board Members, Planning and Transportation Advisory Commissioners, and county and state officials, thought the banquet was successful, as did I, we didn't have the turnout expected.

I thank the Federation members who attended and to those who didn't, I'd ask you to consider that the Banquet is our premier event, the event where we mix and mingle with the leaders and shakers of Fairfax County and the state, where we honor the volunteers that make our county a better place, and where we put the Federation on display. If at all possible we ask for your support, and that you plan on attending next year's event.

Our Citizen of the Year, Clark Tyler, served on the Tyson's Corner Land Use Task Force as a representative of a nearby homeowners association. The task force was composed of land owners, developers, environmental advocates, planning commissioners, and a Federation representative, among others. Clark was appointed chair because he was considered an impartial third party. After five years, the Planning Commission is considering its recommendations on the task force's proposal. The Federation Board is proposing a letter to the Planning Commission on the process and you will see elsewhere in the Bulletin a link to the Board's recommendations for consideration at our May membership meeting.

Our Citation of Merit recipients - Harry Glasgow, Jim Southworth and Drew Tener - are also worthy honorees. Each contributed to an area of their interest, respectively, preservation and protection of the county's rich natural resources, Fairfax County Public Access, and a readers program for elementary school students. We will be posting banquet pictures on our website, thanks to William Byrnes, our photographer over the past few years.

This month's membership meeting will be our annual *Report from Richmond* provided by several local state legislators. They will offer their views on the past general Assembly Session (please note that legislators from both political parties were invited to attend). After their presentations, we will open the floor to questions; if you have a question or comments, be there. And don't forget we'll have our election for officers this month as well.

Last item: our Annual State of the County report by Sharon Bulova is scheduled for our Picnic on June 17th. See you there!

Enjoy,

Jeffrey Parnes, President

FedPres2009@FairfaxFederation.org

Fairfax County Federation of Citizens Associations
Membership Meeting of April 15, 2010

The Packard Center, 4022 Hummer Road, Annandale

DRAFT MINUTES

(for approval at the May 20, 2010 membership meeting)

The April 2010 Meeting of the Membership of the Fairfax County Federation of Citizens Associations was called to order by Second Vice President Kahan Dhillon at 7:40 p.m. in the general meeting room of the Packard Center. The attendance list is attached to file copy.

Program: Report from Federation Appointees and Representatives

The Federation has representation on a number of task forces, boards, and commissions. The program of this meeting was devoted to reports from several of our representatives.

Community Action Advisory Board (CAAB) - Tania Hossain

Community Action Programs (CAPs) are public-private partnerships, locally managed and controlled by volunteer boards of directors, for the purpose of reducing poverty and promoting self-sufficiency of the poor. Three characteristics of CAP are that they are flexible, responsible, and unique in addressing the needs of those who have the least. The Community Action Advisory Board (CAAB) advocates for CAP to local, state and federal elected officials. In addition, the CAAB authorizes the distribution of funds from the Community Services Block Grant (CSBG).

Nationally CAPs serve approximately 9.3 million individuals a year, or about one of every three of the 34.5 million Americans living in poverty. In fiscal year 2002 the Fairfax County CAP served 21,342 individuals. In general, clients are very poor; live in families with children; are working at the time they seek help or have recently been in the workforce; represent the ethnic makeup of the US poverty population; have few tangible assets; and lack education and employable skills.

CAAB's mission is to make a positive difference in the lives of low-income families and individuals: to help meet their basic needs, to eliminate barriers to self-sufficiency, and to provide economic and social opportunities. The CAAB advises the Board of Supervisors of the needs, concerns, and aspirations of low-income persons and recommends policy that promotes meaningful change.

The CAAB goals are to review and develop new policies as they relate to low-income residents and to oversee the disposition of CSBG funds to include researching and assessing community needs; facilitating public hearings for low-income families and individuals; allocating funds; and approving programs and contracts with community organizations serving low-income persons; and communicating with the Board of Supervisors and other County officials, other agencies and civic groups, the low-income community, and citizens of Fairfax County in support of our Board and its mission.

The CAAB is a tri-part board consisting of 30 members:

- 1/3 appointed by the County Board of Supervisors (10 members);
- 1/3 selected to represent the low-income communities (9 members) or appointed by the County Head Start program (1 member) to represent low-income persons; and
- 1/3 selected from organizations named by the Board of Supervisors to represent the private sector, e.g., business,

civic, labor, and service organizations (10 members).

The CAAB will be authorizing the distribution of CSBG funds to the public-private partners it selected at its March meeting. The organizations were selected based on descriptors of service provided; the names of the organizations were not provided to the Board in order to promote a fair selection process.

Fairfax County Citizen Corps - Tania Hossain

The purpose of the Fairfax County Citizen Corps is to harness the power of every individual through education, training, and volunteer service to make communities safe, stronger, and better prepared to respond to the threats of terrorism, crime, public health issues, and disasters of all kinds. We build on community strengths and develop action plans to involve the whole community, including local businesses.

Working directly with the Fairfax County Office of Emergency Management (OEM) and the Fairfax County [Fire and Rescue](#), [Police](#) and [Health](#) departments, the [Fairfax County Citizen Corps Council](#) brings together first responders and other community organizations crucial to emergency preparedness and the development of volunteer opportunities and training to meet community needs. In addition, the Council serves as an official Fairfax County advisory body to promote federal and state volunteer initiatives, enhance services, facilitate the exchange of information and training, and support partnerships.

The Core Programs of the Citizen Corps are the Volunteer in Police Service; Neighborhood Watch; Medical Reserve; Corps; Fire Corps; and the Community Emergency Response Team (CERT).

Fairfax County School Board's (FCSB) Human Relations Advisory Committee (HRAC) - Charles Dane

FCSB HRAC is composed of a representative appointed by each of the FCSB's twelve members, representatives from each of the three associations of principals, one representative from the Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS) support staff council, and one from another FCSB advisory committee, plus a
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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.

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representative from each of the two teacher unions, and 12 other civic associations, including 6 ethnic groups (also Federation, Council of PTAs, Chamber of Commerce, Human Rights Commission, League of Women Voters), and up to six members appointed by the Office of Equity and Compliance depending upon the annual charge. That's a total of 35 members. Charlie has represented the Federation on this committee for over six years; for the past two years, as one of the two co-chairs.

In addition to the FCSB's advisory committee, each school is required by 1986 regulations to have a school-based human relations committee.

The FCSB gives each of its advisory committees an annual charge – for the last two years the board has accepted HRAC's recommendation for the annual charge.

Last year HRAC's charge was to "Review successes and concerns at selected school-based human relations committees (HRCs), and to identify how to improve the distribution of what works at successful schools." The committee addressed the charge by dividing into three teams, each of whom visited 5 to 6 schools to talk with the school-based human relations committee, and a fourth team was established to look at the communication program throughout FCPS. Results of the visits showed that (1) the school climate at all schools visited was good, but human relations programs and activities at some schools were clearly better than others, (2) schools were addressing human relations issues through a variety of committees, and (3) those schools that had the required specifically designated human relations committees were composed almost entirely of school personnel. Several of the school committees requested HRAC direction on the expectations of the school-based human relations committees. Obviously, over time and to deal with changing circumstances, school principals had been allowed to deal with many issues including human relations in their own way.

The communication team found a myriad of communication methods, most from the top down which are working well, and noted that bilingual parent liaisons performed an essential role in dealing with the changing ethnic makeup of FCPS and human relations concerns. However, there were few formal mechanisms for horizontal communications, and no mechanisms for the flow of ideas up.

After the advisory committees provide a written report, they appear before the board at a working session to verbally summarize the important points and answer questions. The FCPS staff then prepares a response that is sent through the FCPS leadership team and Superintendent to the board, which returns the response to the staff and committee. Staff to HRAC is provided by the Office of Equity and Compliance (OEC) under the Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources.

Because the advisory committee has been dissatisfied with some of the previous staff responses which often say the school is already addressing the recommendations or will consider them, AND because this year the committee was especially dissatisfied with the response, the issue was pursued with the FCSB chair and amazingly learned that the FCSB essentially receives and files the staff response rather than approving it. This was not only news to the committee, but to the OEC staff who also had been assuming that their response had been approved.

So, the committee pushed back, first visiting with the FCSB chair, and then with her concurrence arranging to meet with the Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources – with the understanding that if we could not collectively revise the staff

response, the committee would return to the school board with any remaining differences. Fortunately, we were able to modify the staff response, and we jointly transmitted a letter to the FCSB chair detailing the changes to the staff response.

This year HRAC's charge was to work with OEC to enhance the performance of school-based human relations committees, and continue to explore methods for obtaining feedback from the economically challenged and socially marginalized.

To accomplish the first part of this year's charge, HRAC formed a subcommittee to work with OEC, and relying upon members' experiences from the school visits last year as well as from personal experiences, this subcommittee has (1) recommended the adoption of five standards of good human relations, (2) described preferred composition of school committees dealing with human relations issues, (3) required, in the absence of a HRC, a designated liaison, who is to be the primary human relations contact and a member of whatever committee(s) is assigned to perform the HRC function(s), and (4) require submission of yearly reports presenting their efforts to have a positive impact on human relations in their school. At least, Charlie expects that will be the final recommendations, as these recommendations are contained in the final draft that sent to OEC today, to be approved at the meeting next Wednesday.

To accomplish the second part of the year's charge, HRAC held discussions with a Muslim Imam, a Korean pastor with others from his family outreach group, and a Hindu priest and several members of the Hindu community. The Director of the Center for Digital Media Innovation and Diversity at George Mason University visited with the committee, as did Mason District Supervisor Penny Gross who discussed Kaleidoscope. We had a presentation on Annandale Christian Community Action (ACCA) – one of the non-profits assigned areas that collectively provide food and other support services to the entire county, and heard from FCPS's homeless student coordinator (there are about 1,400 homeless students) and FCPS's director/coordinator of social services.

This second group had a myriad of recommendations which was narrowed to six, based on importance and do-ability in this tight budget situation: (1) create a warm welcoming environment for all families with five specific actions that can be taken, (2) select and train diversity-sensitive staff using existing videos and self certification, (3) provide information/meeting areas for parents in schools, (4) reach communities where they are, (5) enhance computer and cell phone capabilities, especially with loaner computers at libraries and use of volunteers to staff resource areas at schools, and (6) increase visibility of board members and leadership team.

National Capital Region Transportation Planning Board (TPB) Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) - G. Gail Parker

TPB is a federally designated Metropolitan Planning Organization charged with developing a fiscally constrained long range transportation plan and six year transportation improvement program for the region. Members of the TPB include representatives of local governments, state transportation agencies, state and D.C. legislatures, and the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA), which runs the Metro System. The Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) to the Transportation Planning Board (TPB) is a group of 15 people from throughout the Washington metropolitan region who represent diverse viewpoints on long-term transportation policy.

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The mission of the CAC is (1) to promote public involvement in transportation planning for the region and (2) to provide independent, region-oriented citizen advice to the TPB on transportation plans and issues. On May 26, the TPB will conduct a Forum on Regional Transportation Priorities, from noon to 3:30 p.m., at the Hyatt Regency Washington.

Note: The TPB CAC is composed of five members from each of D.C. Maryland, and Virginia. At the TPB CAC, Ms. Parker represents Virginia rather than the Federation. She is also the Federation's Public Safety Chair.

Program: Tysons Corner Land Use

Earlier this year the McLean Citizens Association (MCA) requested to present its view of Tysons Corner Land Use planning at a Federation meeting. We invited them to address this meeting; however due to conflicting commitments they were unable to do so. Fred Costello briefly described the MCA concerns; primary is their belief that the Tysons Corner Land Use Task Force's plan would worsen traffic considerably before offsetting new transportation infrastructure would be built.

Administrative Topics

Approval of Minutes - Ed Wyse

The membership approved the minutes of the February 18 and March 25, 2010, membership meetings.

Treasurer's Report - Scott Schlegel

Scott gave a verbal report and distributed a handout containing the balance sheet, income and expense sheet, transaction list, budget performance, and membership list as of the meeting date. A motion to receive and file the report was made, seconded, and adopted/approved unanimously. Scott noted that, because of the Citizen of Year Banquet, a period of numerous financial transactions has begun.

Officer and Board Vacancies and Appointments - Jeff Parnes

Due to a death and a resignation, respectively, the Federation seeks volunteers to serve as representatives to the Criminal Justice Advisory Board and Engineering Standards Review Committee. Nominations should be sent to President Jeff Parnes or Second Vice President Kahan Dhillon.

Tania Hossain will introduce the newly selected Human Services chair, David Mattoon, at the June meeting.

Nominations for Officer Positions - Jeff Parnes

The Federation is currently seeking individuals to serve as officers for the 2010 - 2011 year. The positions to be filled are President, First Vice President (membership), Second Vice President (appointments), Corresponding and Recording Secretaries, and Treasurer. These positions make up about one-third of the Board, which carries out the bylaws and implementation of the policies and procedures to best achieve the organization's purpose to promote the interests of citizens associations in Fairfax County, and to further the common good and general welfare of the citizens of Fairfax County. Anyone who is interested in running for any of the above Federation Officer positions, or would like more information should contact John Jennison, Nominations Committee Chair, at fedpastpres2009@fairfaxfederation.org. The Federation will hold its election of officers at its May 20, 2010, membership meeting. The newly-elected officers will be installed at the June 18 picnic meeting for a one-year term.

Old Business

Citizen of the Year Banquet - Chair, John Jennison; reporting tonight, Jeff Parnes

Invitations to the May 2 banquet have been mailed to 180 people, including members of the Board of Supervisors, School Board, and Tysons Corner Land Use Task Force; incumbent politicians, friends identified by this year's recipients, and prior recipients (although we are struggling to find addresses for some prior honorees). The membership is urged to share the online invitation on the Federation's website with anyone they believe may be interested in attending. Charlie Dane had additional printed invitations on hand for any member to take home from this meeting to distribute.

The Citizen of the Year Award Cup has been beautifully refurbished and engraved at a most reasonable price by Eric Margry, whose studio is at the Torpedo Factory (www.familycrestring.com). We thank him for the excellent restoration.

With the event rapidly approaching, we seek volunteers to help with preparations, such as making place names and planning seating arrangements; contact John Jennison. Final preparations will be the main topic of the Federation's April 22 board meeting.

We are delighted that Governor McDonnell will be the keynote speaker and believe this will be the first time a sitting governor has participated in a Fairfax Citizen of the Year ceremony.

New Business

Inova Fairfax Hospital - Robert Lazaro, Community Affairs Executive

Mr. Lazaro introduced himself and offered to give a presentation on the Inova Fairfax Hospital at a future Federation meeting.

The Barbara Varon Volunteer Award - Jeff Parnes

Jeff distributed the relevant brochure and announced that nominations are open for the Barbara Varon Volunteer Award, to be awarded by the Board of Supervisors to a county resident volunteer who demonstrates appreciation for diversity, patriotism, a positive effect on the community, and encourages others to do the same. For information, visit <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/oepp/varonaward.htm>.

Countywide Parking Policy - Brenda Seidman

Ms. Seidman announced her intent to study parking policy across the county to include a comparison with similar jurisdictions elsewhere. She believes the current parking policies were made in a piecemeal fashion and that a comprehensive policy could be better devised. She will coordinate with the Land Use Committee.

Board & Committee Reports

Association Services - Don Hinman

Don thanked those who have provided him with examples of civic association governing documents. He has shared these with people who are trying to set up new civic associations and they report the documents have been helpful.

In response to a question, Don clarified that the General Assembly has decided to continue the practice of "managed" homeowner associations (HOA) not being allowed to charge for disclosure packets until property settlement but has this session

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amended the law to allow "self-managed" HOA to charge when a packet is delivered.

Budget

Charles Dane reported receiving positive feedback on the Federation's budget resolution from Edson Tennyson, an At Large Member of the Fairfax County Transportation Advisory Commission, and Jane Strauss, Member (and Budget Chair) of the Fairfax County School Board.

Land Use - Fred Costello

Fred presented a brief summary of the work of the Federation to the Fox Mill Estates Homeowners Association so the attendees would see how the Federation works for the homeowners. Fred emphasized that the residential parking issues and traffic associated with Reston redevelopment should be of special interest to Fox Mill Estates.

The Land Use Committee will be using the reports by Brenda Seidman, who will help the committee by being our expert on parking in residential areas.

On Saturday, the Reston Task Force will have its third "listening session" to hear what the Reston residents want to do with the planned METRO station at Reston Parkway. Such sessions have already been held for the stations at Wiehle and at Herndon/Monroe. The Task Force has chosen education and culture for the theme of the Wiehle station and nature for Herndon/Monroe. There will be one more meeting on the Reston Town Center station. On Friday, a subgroup will meet to devise a process for integrating all we have learned and putting it into the Comprehensive Plan. To date, all of the creative work is being done by citizen groups that are not part of the Task Force. Fred has been participating in one of these citizen groups.

As in Tysons, traffic limits Reston development, with the politicians and planners saying that everyone must walk, ride bicycles, or use a yet-to-be-devised pervasive public transit system that has no funding plan. Fred considers the hoped-for mode shares unrealistic.

Also as in Tysons, all proposed Reston development near the stations consists of office space, with almost no residential space. As yet, nobody knows how the office workers will get to work.

Fred has been participating heavily in Tysons planning, especially with regard to Walter Alcorn's proposal to limit the planning horizon to 20 years, with only rough plans for years 21 to 50.

Legislation - Tania Hossain

Tania is updating the legislative agenda with the actions taken by the General Assembly and will be updating the Federation prior to the May membership meeting.

Public Safety - G. Gail Parker

Gail will prepare a resolution for Federation consideration regarding double stacking/double tracking in the D.C. area.

Website - Jeff Parnes

Three people described an inability to access the Federation's web site. Jeff advised them to adjust their anti-virus software settings. If this does not solve the problem, they should call him.

District Council Reports

Braddock - Art Wells

The Braddock District Council's April 13th meeting featured Supervisors Cook's discussion of recent Board of Supervisors

actions and Fairfax County Government activities and a panel of General Assembly members from the area: three delegates and three senators. The panel discussed the issues taken up during the recently completed session, budget and transportation being the two main topics.

The issue of the Virginia Department of Transportation's responsibility for mowing the medians of major thoroughfares continues to be a major subject of BDC concern. A plan of action is under development.

The Wakefield Chapel Transportation Safety Community will hold its next meeting on April 29, 7:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. at the Wakefield Forest Elementary School on Iva Lane.

The next George Mason/Braddock District/Fairfax City Forum will be May 5, 7:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. at the Fairfax City Hall.

The Braddock District Community Engagement Initiative's second "Neighborhood College" held its fourth of seven scheduled 2½ hour sessions in Supervisors Cook's offices at the Kings Park Library on April 14. It featured presentations by members of the West Springfield District Police Station, the Department of Family Services, and the Department of Systems Management for Human Services.

Lee - Don Hinman

The Lee District Association of Civic Associations meets on Wednesday, April 28, 7:30 p.m., at the Franconia Government Center: The program will feature the 2010 Virginia Legislative Report from Delegates Scott Surovell, Mark Sickles, and Vivian Watts and Senators George Barker and Toddy Puller.

On Saturday, April 24, at 10:00 a.m. at the Lee District Park, the Park Authority will have a ground breaking for the spray park, fully-accessible tree house, and family recreation area.

The following items have recently been made available at the Lee District web page (<http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/lee/>):

- Lee District citizen budget advisory group report.
- Announcement that the County has purchased the long-vacant Circuit City site on Old Keene Mill Road in central Springfield. The site will become a surface commuter parking lot, and in the long term possibly a parking garage.
- Schedule for Lee Nights free summer concert series, which begins on Wednesday, June 2 and runs through Wednesday, August 25.

Mason

Tania reported that the Mason District Council is in the process of resurrection. Twenty-seven associations were represented the start up meeting.

Sully - Jeff Parnes

The Sully District Council meeting on April 28 will receive a Human Services presentation. The May meeting will be the report from Richmond; at the June meeting Supervisor Frey will present the State of Sully.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 9:20 p.m.

Next Meetings

The next board meeting is scheduled April 22, 2010 at 7:30 p.m.

The next membership meeting is scheduled May 20, 2010, at 7:30 p.m.

Minutes prepared by Ed Wyse, Recording Secretary

**Fairfax County Federation of Citizens Associations
and
Science Applications International Corporation**

**2009 Citizen of the Year
and Citation of Merit Recipients**

As mentioned by President Jeff Parnes in his message (see *page one*), the annual Citizen of the Year Awards banquet was held Sunday, May 2, 2010. Four Fairfax County residents were honored for their outstanding volunteerism. The Federation is proud to recognize these individuals, who have in their own way, improved the quality of life for all of us. Below are their biographies, as printed in the awards program.

**2009 Citizen of the Year
M. L. Clark Tyler**

The advent of four MetroRail stations within Tysons Corner is seen as a vehicle to transform the suburban office center into a vibrant, mixed use urban community and as the means to ensure the area continues to be a major economic contributor to Fairfax County and the Commonwealth of Virginia. To bring this to fruition, the Tysons Land Use Task Force was established in 2005 to update the Comprehensive Plan for this vital area.

A little more than a year after its creation, Clark Tyler was appointed chair of the task force. Under his dedicated leadership, the task force developed an extraordinary consensus on a comprehensive plan to restructure and revitalize Tysons Corner, transforming the sprawling, unwieldy, rapidly growing area of Fairfax County into a livable, walkable, and affordable urban center. Consensus was not an easy feat; the task force was comprised of members representing extremely diverse interests and concerns. Among them were current Tysons Corner residents as well as those from neighboring communities, stakeholders with an interest and investment in the area, including land and business owners and developers, and environmentalists and members representing the arts and bicycle/pedestrian community. Each supervisor appointed a representative, and countywide organizations, such as the Fairfax County Federation and the Chamber of Commerce, were also seated.

The task force experienced a major surge in, and change of, activity under Clark's direction. It engaged in an unprecedented program of public outreach, participating in more than 60 meetings. In addition, Clark attended and spoke at countless additional meetings, making himself available to every individual or group interested in the proposed task force plan. His representation of the task force gained devotion and respect from everyone who has been involved in the plan development and who will be affected by its implementation.

Clark formed six committees to provide detailed recommendations on issues such as affordable housing, transportation, amenities, and plan implementation. He

encouraged the full engagement of all task force members in the review and discussion of data and encouraged them to study successful models of urban planning from across the country, leading by example as he also invested personal time to become knowledgeable on emerging concepts in urban planning. Throughout his chairmanship, he remained dedicated to the promise to create a stellar example of transit oriented development, doing so with patience, humor, and confidence.

The Task Force submitted its vision to the Board of Supervisors in September 2008. Since then, Clark has continued his leadership, guiding the Task Force Draft Review Committee as it works with the Planning Commission and county staff to develop draft plan language.

He continues serving as president of Hallcrest Heights Homeowners Association, a position he has held the past ten years.

Because of his dedicated leadership as chair, his unwavering commitment to the mission of the Tysons Land Use Task Force, and his vision for current and future generations of Tysons Corner residents and visitors, the Federation is honored to recognize Clark Tyler as the 2009 Citizen of the Year.

Citation of Merit Recipients

Harrison A. "Harry" Glasgow

In the hope of making a difference in the environmental stewardship of our county, Harrison A. "Harry" Glasgow has worked tirelessly to cultivate an increased understanding of, and support for, the preservation and protection of Fairfax County's rich natural resources.

For twenty years, he has worked on behalf of Huntley Meadow; he is past president and current board member of the Friends of Huntley Meadows Park, a nonprofit organization dedicated to protecting and restoring Fairfax County's premier wetland wildlife sanctuary, as well as several other friends groups. He is founder and chairman of the Federation of Friends Groups of Nature Centers and Resource Management Division parks. Harry seldom passes on an opportunity to walk in a park; every Monday morning, rain or shine, he leads a birding expedition at Huntley Meadows for those wanting to explore the environment around them.

Harry holds the conviction that we must protect our natural world and devotes his time to those agencies whose mission aligns to this end, including the Park Authority Board, serving as an at-large member and current Vice Chair, and as an Associate Director of the Northern Virginia Soil and Water Conservation District. He established the Fairfax Chapter of the Virginia Master Naturalists, serves on the Fairfax League of Conservation Voters Executive Committee, chairs the Fairfax County Tree Commission, and is a member of the Fairfax County

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Chesapeake Bay Preservation Ordinance Exception Review Committee. He is master of ceremonies for the "Green Breakfast" group, served on the boards of two homeowners associations and the Lee District Land Use and Transportation Committee. He is also a Master Gardener.

Harry Glasgow has demonstrated a sustained commitment to the protection and enhancement of Fairfax County's natural resources. His outstanding leadership exemplifies community service; for his dedication, we honor him with a Citation of Merit.

James B. "Jim" Southworth

James B. "Jim" Southworth is an authority on the Internet and access technologies. In 1997, the Fairfax Public Access (FPA) Board of Directors was looking for an innovative technologist to guide them in merging video with the Internet; his name was mentioned most often during the search. His expertise is extraordinarily matched with his ability to connect the community to pertinent issues through the meaningful use of media. Under his strong leadership and the introduction of innovative methods in remote broadcasting and efficient studio technology, FPA grew as he incorporated some of the most respected politically aware technologists in service of the first amendment.

Jim is a citizen activist who understands the importance of the electronic soapbox to a modern democracy. Whether in politics or television, community service or computers, Jim is ready to lend a hand without pay. He takes great pride in his county and its diverse communities and has a "can do" attitude to address complex issues through collaborative activities and programming outreach efforts. Jim is fully engaged with, and through, county and community groups that provide education and governance services for thousands around Fairfax County, including the county's school and library systems and the League of Women Voters, among others. He has served on the boards of numerous community and civic associations.

Through his visionary leadership at FPA, Jim has mentored countless youth and introduced them to the world of broadcasting and its many opportunities. He gives volunteers the opportunity to expand their skills and master whatever they are interested in learning. Through his management style, he knows how to motivate others to perform to a high degree of excellence.

Jim is dedicated to sharing his technological expertise with all residents of Fairfax County; the Federation is proud to recognize his efforts with a Citation of Merit.

Andrew Tener

Alarmed by national statistics showing declining high school and college graduation rates among boys, Andrew "Drew" Tener decided to do something. He spent the summer of 2007 designing an innovative curriculum aimed

at engaging young boys in structured reading activities, obtained a grant, met with library officials, and recruited ten volunteers from area high schools - and the result is the Easy Readers program, launched at the Oakton Library in 2007.

Easy Readers is a hands-on, reading reinforcement program for first- and second-grade boys struggling to learn to read. It matches 20 boys with male high school volunteers for a six-week, free-of-charge program lasting 45 minutes. The hands-on activities appeal to the interests, energies, and developmental skills of six- and seven-year old boys.

Participants tackle projects requiring reading instructions, deciphering rhymes and clues, and answering questions to make "Dirt Cake", build Lego models, construct costumes for story and comic book characters, and hunt for treasure around library grounds. Now in its third year, Easy Readers has sparked an interest in reading for over 70 boys from six elementary schools and trained over two dozen high school volunteers. Parental feedback notes marked improvement in their sons' reading skills and overwhelming support for the program.

Drew obtained a copyright on the Easy Readers curriculum, available at no charge. He graduated from Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology last June, where he was honored with the School Board's Character Award.

Despite his youth, Drew Tener already embodies a true spirit of citizen volunteerism. For his dedication in leading efforts to change the lives of young boys just beginning their academic careers, and also instilling an ethics of citizenship in young men like himself who continue the Easy Readers program, the Federation is honored to recognize Drew with a Citation of Merit.

Fairfax County Federation of Citizens Associations

Draft Letter Regarding Tysons Corner Planning

(for discussion and approval at the May 20, 2010 meeting)

Dear Members of Fairfax County Planning Commission and Board of Supervisors:

Fairfax County has undertaken the admirable job of planning for the future Tysons Corner as a sustainable, livable and walkable urban center. With four Metro stops opening in the near future, the county wants to transform Tysons Corner into a transit-oriented redevelopment that will continue to be the economic engine of Fairfax County. The county has not taken the job lightly, and deserves praise for the open and transparent process with outstanding citizen outreach, input and discussion.

The county enlisted the labor of a 36-member countywide task force comprised of interests from land owners, citizens, neighboring residents, bicyclists, affordable

(see Tysons Corner Letter - continued on page 8)

(Tysons Corner Letter - continued from page 7)

housing, parks, higher education and the arts, among other interests, as well as planning commissioners and county planning staff. After five years of study, and with the support of world-renowned planning consultants, utilizing George Mason University growth studies and VDOT traffic analyses along with all other relevant and subject utility, infrastructure and county projections, the Tysons Land Use Task Force created an ambitious alternative vision that challenges the by-right development and bargains for a long ranging future of transforming Tysons Corner into the transit-oriented urban center.

To realize the vision, the Task Force undertook a changed approach to suburban planning. Instead of identifying and starting with a numerical cap on development, the Task Force organically grew the new Tysons Corner model based on elements that were identified by consensus as necessary for the transformation. The changes include development intensity in close proximity to the four Metro stops, a grid of streets, a dedicated "right-of-way" circulator system to supplement Metro, "green streets," bicycle paths and walkways, and most importantly a change to dramatically increase the residential component of Tysons Corner. All of the changes were designed to address the long-term future of all of Tysons Corner, up to 40-80 years, and to try to successfully plan for it, without endangering the present underlying economic vitality of Tysons Corner. The Federation notes that some of the recommended changes to standards, such as 20% affordable housing and LEEDS-certified, efficient buildings, were refreshingly groundbreaking.

With such a tremendous amount of diverse interests and analysis, every party and every analysis could not be expected to agree. However, the common understanding was "to do nothing" or to under-plan, would condemn the area to "more of what is there" including increased traffic and transportation problems and the loss of the once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to make the transformation. The Federation continues to strongly support the urban transformation of Tysons, to a transit oriented development with full utilization of the new Metro line and a proposed grid of streets as part of its foundation.

The County Planning Commission has undertaken a review of the Task Force plan that brings a high level of scrutiny to the economic and population growth within the context of transportation and other infrastructure limitations. In a March 17, 2010 statement, Planning Commissioner Walter Alcorn proposed a "Form Based Planning" tool with an overall development cap, without maximum Floor Area Ratios (FAR), that could only be raised after the transportation plan and transportation financing plans were developed and approved. Mr. Alcorn noted the expectation to achieve a financing plan for 84 million square feet in the next 20 years, and once that planning is approved, then another triggered replanning process with a respective funded transportation plan would be required for additional future density. The Alcorn

proposal was designed to help attain some resolution of the phasing and financing issues with due attention to transportation.

The Federation supports a strong, open review of Commissioner Alcorn's proposal. Focusing on planning in this first increment of 20 years has many advantages, most notably greater flexibility to plan appropriately as the amount and location of new transportation capacity for Tysons become clear over time. It also enables the county to use such tools as special exceptions and development entitlements, now and in the future, to foster growth that is in the county's long-term interests.

At the same time, the Federation wants county leaders to ensure that key elements of the long-term redevelopment are not lost because of a shortened planning horizon. Despite the challenges of uncertainty, the gains and achievements of long range planning for the following decades of re-development should be equally recognized and sought. Therefore the Federation emphasizes that the focus for the next 20 years of redevelopment should have due attention to concentration on the ¼ quarter mile concentric circles of the four Metro stations, with equal attention to the creation of the grid of streets and right-of-way circulator system for all of Tysons Corner to enable the orderly growth and transformation of Tysons Corner to a transit-oriented development.

The Federation understands that it is easier with a higher level of certainty to plan for 20 rather than 80 years in the future. The Federation also acknowledges that as the future unfolds with development absorption and higher populations, more planning tools, such as form based planning, will be available for easier and more certain planning. However, nothing about the transformation of Tysons Corner has been easy, and ease and absolute certainty should not be a limiting rule, lest Tysons Corner falls back to by-right development and its certain gridlock. Unfortunately, as the Task Force has stated, time is not on the county or planning commission's side, as the Metro stops come closer to opening, the adjacent landowner interests may find the by-right development more profitable to capture in the short run, regardless of the county's desire to harness the long-term benefits and economy of the transformed Tysons Corner.

The Federation takes this opportunity to urge the planning commission to plan with all deliberate speed and due diligence and not to lose out on future enhancements because of present short term gains. Planning in a more detailed way for the coming 20 years, while voicing a clear long-term commitment to, and general vision for, the overall development of Tysons over the next 40 to 80 years, is in the best interest of the residents of Falls Church, McLean, Vienna and the encompassing districts of Providence and Dranesville, as well as the entire county and region as the future Tysons Corner will be intertwined in each of the areas. Only by planning for the immediate

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and long-term future may individuals predict what is in their best economic interests and the best interests of the communities.

The Federation continues to support the county's open, transparent and public planning of the transformation of Tysons Corner by the planning commission during its consideration of focusing on the first 20-year increment of redevelopment in detail with an ongoing more general planning of the entire Tysons Corner area. To move Tysons Corner transformation forward responsibly on its path to a transit-oriented development, everyone and every interest should be able to answer, "What is in it for me?"

*submitted by John Jennison, Federation Representative
Tysons Land Use Task Force*

Fairfax County Federation of Citizens Associations

DRAFT RESOLUTION

SUPPORT OF VIRGINIA AVENUE TUNNEL

(for discussion and approval at the May 20, 2010 meeting)

WHEREAS: In the middle of the century, as rail cars widened and got taller, the Virginia Avenue Tunnel was converted to a single track tunnel. Double track runs up to both ends of the tunnel, but then goes down to single track through it. Freight trains must then sit in Virginia and Maryland to make a window to be able to move through the tunnel. Because CSX a 24 hour operation, trains can not be reset like airlines do so if a train doesn't make the window then it sits and waits for the next one, causing other trains to wait behind it. This same CSX track is also used by VRE and Amtrak in Virginia and MARC in Maryland. Today, 80-90 trains (CSX, VRE, and Amtrak) cross over the Long Bridge to enter DC making this one of the busiest tracks on our 23-state system.

WHEREAS: The Virginia Avenue Tunnel in Washington, DC is listed on the Mid-Atlantic Rail Operations Planning Study in 2001 and 2009 as one of the biggest bottlenecks on the east coast that prevents the efficient movement of both passenger and freight rail (although no passenger rail moves through this tunnel).

WHEREAS: The Virginia Avenue Tunnel is also part of a corridor that was a finalist for funding in 2006's USDOT Corridors of the Future Program, which received \$98 million from the TIGER grant for 38 clearance projects in Ohio, Pennsylvania and West Virginia.

WHEREAS: The Virginia Avenue Tunnel is part of a \$842 million project which consists of 61 clearance projects and 6 intermodal terminals throughout six states and the District of Columbia and is an effort to improve an existing rail corridor to be able to more efficiently move intermodal freight by double-stacking.

WHEREAS: The initiative, of which the Virginia Avenue Tunnel is a part, provides over \$10 billion in public benefits - \$22 return for every \$1 of public funds invested.

WHEREAS: This multi-state public-private partnership, of which the Virginia Avenue Tunnel is a part, has gained the support of all six governors along the corridor, three port authorities, three metropolitan planning organizations, and around 150 elected officials, businesses, organizations and environmental groups.

WHEREAS: The Virginia Avenue Tunnel accounts for \$160 million of the total \$842 million project.

WHEREAS: Currently the total project funding is as follows: CSX funding \$495 million (47%), \$181 million from the six states (23%), and \$258 million from the federal government (30%). So far, the project has secured \$682 million, all but \$160 million from the federal government.

WHEREAS: Of the 61 clearance projects, there are 16 tunnel projects and 45 highway/road/pedestrian bridges or cable projects that prevent us from having the necessary clearance to run double stack trains. 7 of the bridge projects are bridges on the USDOT deficient bridge's list. CSX has completed clearance work in North Carolina, work is underway in Ohio and Pennsylvania, and work will soon begin in West Virginia, Maryland and Virginia.

WHEREAS: The Virginia Avenue Tunnel portion of the National Gateway Initiative is the single most expensive of the clearance projects estimated at \$160 million. It is listed on the Mid-Atlantic Rail Operations Planning Study in 2001 and 2009 as one of the biggest bottlenecks on the east coast that prevents the efficient movement of both passenger and freight rail.

WHEREAS: The Virginia Avenue Tunnel in Washington, DC adversely impacts passenger rail service plans since VRE, Amtrak and MARC all have visions of doubling the amount of passengers/trains they move into and through the District. Unfortunately, there are five rail issues that have to be addressed first. Those projects consist of: (1) the VRE triple tracking from Richmond to DC, (2) fixing/rebuilding the Long Bridge to add two more tracks (making this a quad track bridge), (3) the Maryland Avenue extension project (quad tracks this area through DC, decks over the railroad to bring back Maryland Avenue, and builds a new L'Enfant Station), (4) double-track and double-stack the Virginia Avenue Tunnel (adds more efficiency to the lines in VA, DC and MD and aids in preventing blockages from freight trains), and then finally (5) run through service for VRE and MARC at Union Station (adds capacity at Union Station and frees up Metro's red line).

WHEREAS: The Virginia Avenue Tunnel project has the opportunity for tremendous benefits for freight movement and enhancing the competitiveness of Virginia ports. Currently USDOT predicts an 87% growth in freight movement in the US by 2035. The National Gateway Initiative, of which the Virginia Avenue Project is a part, looks to ease some of the freight congestion on numerous highways, including I-95 and I-81 in Virginia.

WHEREAS: The Virginia Avenue Tunnel project is a part of the National Gateway Initiative that offers states highway maintenance savings and shipper's significant logistical savings that can be passed along to their customers. There are also significant specific benefits to accrue to the state of Virginia and to Fairfax County's tourism industry.

WHEREAS: Fairfax County elected officials have votes on the Washington Metropolitan Area Council of Governments' Transportation Planning Board which must approve the Virginia Avenue Tunnel project, and

WHEREAS: Virginia US Senators and Congressional Representatives have an opportunity to influence funding for the Virginia Avenue Tunnel project.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Fairfax County Federation of Citizens' Associations hereby announce support the Virginia Avenue Tunnel project and the National Gateway Initiative and urge Virginia's elected officials at all levels to facilitate the implementation of this project immediately.

Fairfax County
FEDERATION
of Citizens Associations

4022 Hummer Road
Annandale, VA 22003

Membership Meeting

Thursday,
May 20, 2010

7:30 p.m.

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

Topic:

Report from Richmond:

**A Wrap-up of General Assembly
Actions from the 2010 Session**

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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.

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