

The Fairfax County
FEDERATION
of Citizens Associations *Established 1940*

November 2010

THE BULLETIN

Volume 60, Number 4

Federation Membership Meeting

Thursday, November 18, 2010

7:30 p.m.

Note New (Temporary) Location

Braddock Hall

9002 Burke Lake Road
Burke, VA

Topic: Tysons Corner Bicycle Master Plan

**Presented by Jeffrey Hermann, Fairfax County
Bicycle and Pedestrian Planner and
Charles Strunk, Fairfax County Bicycle Program
Coordinator**



Next Federation Board Meeting

December 2, 2010

(not the usual fourth Thursday due to Thanksgiving Day)

Marco Polo Restaurant, Vienna, VA

7:30 p.m.

**Don't forget to mail your dues to:
THE FEDERATION, 4022 Hummer Road, Annandale, VA
Make checks payable to:
The Federation**

Partnership for a Healthier Fairfax – MAPP

The Partnership for a Healthier Fairfax is a coalition of community members and organizations that are working together to strengthen the public health system and improve community health.

The Partnership is conducting a community-wide strategic planning process called Mobilizing for Action through Planning and Partnerships (MAPP) to identify public health issues in the Fairfax community, and develop goals and strategies to address them.

On behalf of the MAPP, the Federation is requesting that its members consider taking a short survey to help in this effort. Please visit the MAPP website to take the survey and to get involved in this important community initiative. The website is available on the following location at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/hd/mapp/ or by calling 703-246-8856, TTY 703-591-6435.

President's Message

Greetings Friends and Neighbors:

As we start looking forward to our Thanksgiving holiday, the Federation looks forward to some of its other critical work. With our legislative agenda having been voted on by our membership at our October meeting, our Budget Committee is getting ready to do their work in our effort to provide critical community input into the county's budget. We have two excellent programs scheduled for our November and December membership meetings, where we will focus on multi-modal transportation and water quality issues. Our guest speakers will be from the Virginia Railway Express (VRE) in November and the Northern Virginia Soil and Water Conservation District (NVSWCD) in December. We invite you and your community to join us for these two programming events and provide us with some feedback that will be critical in the discussion of these two issues. In addition, the Federation has also been working on the Healthier Fairfax Project and we highly encourage you to take the community survey being offered online at

www.fairfaxcounty.gov/hd/mapp/.

On a membership note: If your community has not had a chance to renew this year's membership, our online membership renewal and new application is available on the following location on our website at www.fairfaxfederation.org/membership1.htm. If you have any questions about membership, please feel free to contact our First Vice President, Kahan Dhillon at

fed1stvp2010@fairfaxfederation.org

or my attention at

fedpres2010@fairfaxfederation.org.

On behalf of the Federation, I wish you and your community a happy and safe Thanksgiving holiday and hope to see you at an event in the near future.

Best Regards,
Tania

New on the Federation Web Site

The Federation's Legislative Program as passed at the October 21, 2010 Membership Meeting:

<http://www.fairfaxfederation.org/resolutions/ResolutionLegislativeProgram2011App101021.pdf>

After Tania Hossain presents the Legislative Program before the Fairfax County legislative delegation (delegates and senators) in January, her testimony will be available at:

<http://www.fairfaxfederation.org/testimony/Testimony2011LegislationProgram110108.pdf>

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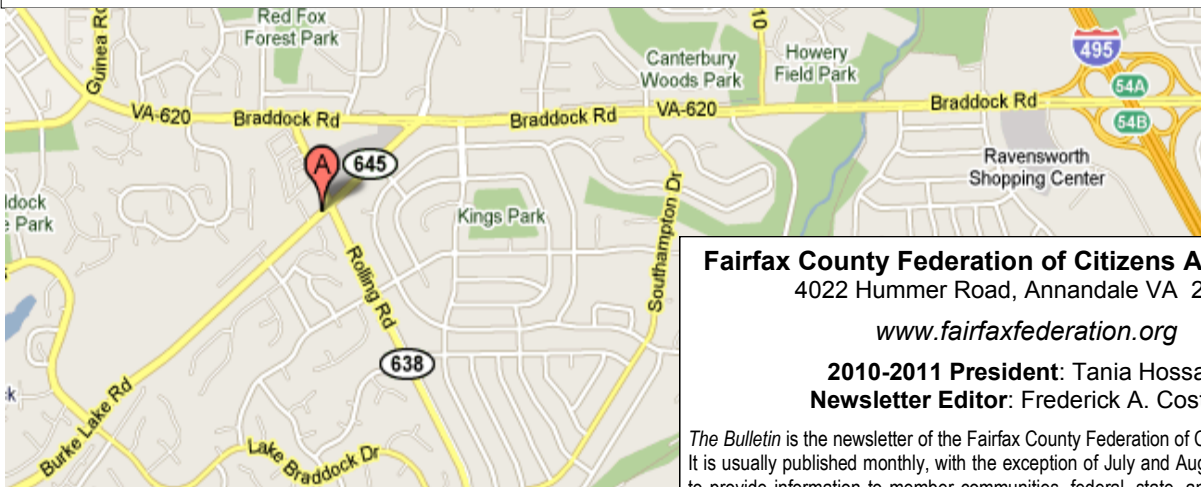
Directions to Braddock Hall

Take I-495 (Capital Beltway) to Braddock Road (Route 620 - Exit 54);
go west 1.5 miles toward Burke.

Turn left at traffic signal onto Burke Lake Road.

Go 0.3 miles, immediately after crossing Rolling Road, turn right into the entrance to parking lot

After entering the building, turn left into the meeting room



Fairfax County Federation of Citizens Associations

4022 Hummer Road, Annandale VA 22003

www.fairfaxfederation.org

2010-2011 President: Tania Hossain
Newsletter Editor: Frederick A. Costello

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 Fred Costello with newsletter name and email address changes, comments, or suggestions at FedBulletinEditor2010@fairfaxfederation.org or 703-620-4942.

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, for more information, you can call 703-620-4942.

Visit us at
www.FairfaxFederation.org

FCFCA Program Calendar 2010-2011						
Month	Membership Meetings			Board Meetings		Newsletter Deadline
	Date	Program		Date	Program	
2010						
Sep	16	Back to School Issues by Schools Superintendent Dr. Dale, @ Braddock Hall		23	Legislative Program @ Braddock Hall	1-Oct
Oct	21	Legislative Program @ Braddock Hall		28	@ South County Center, Alexandria	1-Nov
Nov	18	Transportation @ Braddock Hall			No meeting	22-Nov
Dec	16	Environment @ Sully District Office		2 ^a	@ Marco Polo Restaurant, Vienna, VA	20-Dec
2011						
Jan	20	FC Public School Budget @ Braddock Hall		27		24-Jan
Feb	17	Land Use Planning		24		21-Feb
Mar	17 ^b	County Budget		24 ^b		21-Mar
Apr	14 ^c	HOA Governance		28		18-Apr
May	19	Report from Richmond; Election of Federation Officers		26		23-May
Jun	16	Picnic, State of Fairfax by Sharon Bulova, Board of Supervisors Chair; Installation of Officers		23		20-Jun

- a. Dec 2 Board Meeting has been set to avoid scheduling conflicts during the Christmas holiday week. It serves as the December and November meetings combined.
- b. Dates of the March meetings will be interchanged if necessary to enable members to vote on final Federation budget recommendations.
- c. April 14 membership meeting is the second Thursday in April due to FCPS spring break the third week.

Do you want to have an impact?

The Federation is only as strong as its voice, and the Federation's many committees make up its collective voice. If you are interested in serving one any of the ten committees that make up the backbone of the Federation please contact the committee chairs using the following email addresses:

Budget: Carey Campbell and Charles Hall FedBudgetChr2010@fairfaxfederation.org
 Citizen Association Services: Don Hinman FedAssociationServicesChr2010@fairfaxfederation.org
 Education: Leonard Bumbaca, Ed Saperstein and Tim Thompson FedEducationChr2010@fairfaxfederation.org
 Environment: Roger Diedrich and Flint Webb FedEnvironmentChr2010@fairfaxfederation.org
 Human Services: No chair FedHumanServicesChr2010@fairfaxfederation.org
 Land Use: Fred Costello FedLandUseChr2010@fairfaxfederation.org
 Legislation: Frank Anderson FedLegislationChr2010@fairfaxfederation.org
 Public Safety: Gail Parker FedPublicSafetyChr2010@fairfaxfederation.org
 Resolutions: Bill Hanks [FedResolutionsChr2010 @ fairfaxfederation.org](mailto:FedResolutionsChr2010@fairfaxfederation.org)
 Transportation: Carey Campbell and Jeff Parnes FedTransportationChr2010@fairfaxfederation.org

The committees conduct the bulk of their business by email, and formulate positions and suggest actions for consideration by the membership at large. They also provide inputs to the Federation's legislation and budget presentations. Here's a chance to make a mark in an area of your interest. Join us in making our County a better place to live!

Membership Meeting Minutes

Meeting held at: Braddock Hall, 9002 Burke Lake Road, Burke, VA on Thursday, October 21, 2010, 7:30 p.m.

Draft submitted for approval at Nov 18, 2010 meeting

Second Vice President Don Hinman presided and Corresponding Secretary Esther Ferington took these minutes. Attendance list is attached to the file copy.

PROGRAM

There was no guest speaker, because the primary purpose of the membership meeting was presentation, review, and approval of the Federation legislative program, which had been previously distributed online.

ADMINISTRATIVE TOPICS

Minutes: Prior to turning to the legislative program, Second Vice President Hinman reported that the draft membership minutes for the previous meeting would be considered for approval at the next membership meeting in November, rather than at this meeting.

Charles Dane noted that a previous set of minutes had recorded that a joint budget meeting between the county and the school board was to be October 23; in fact, the meeting is October 26.

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer Scott Schegel distributed and discussed the Treasurer's Report. By a unanimous vote, the report was received and filed.

Human Services - Needs Chair

Newsletter: Don Hinman noted, with Newsletter Editor Fred Costello's concurrence, that the deadline for materials for the next issue of the Bulletin is November 1.

NEW BUSINESS

Fairfax County Police: With the prior permission of the chair, Second Vice President Don Hinman, and of Federation President Tania Hossain, whom he had contacted before the meeting, Gabe Goldberg, representative of the Walnut Hill Association, reported on a fundraising project based on his experience as a citizen who attended the 10-week (one evening a week) Fairfax County Citizen Police Academy, billed as a glimpse behind the badge, which he described and strongly recommends. Past participants and related volunteers are raising money for a Police Department canteen, which is a mobile unit that responds to major incident scenes to supply food and rest areas for police who may be onsite for many hours or multiple days, through sales of a 2011 entertainment discount book.

Board and Committee Reports

Budget: Carey Campbell, Charles Hall: No report.

Citizen Association Services: Don Hinman: No report.

Education Committee: Charles Dane reported that the Fairfax County Public Schools held an "education summit" on the previous Saturday, which had a big turnout. The keynote speaker, Ken Keys, emphasized the four Cs, critical thought, creativity, collaboration, and communication. FCPS already has these areas covered in its school governance documents, expressed slightly differently, and the school board may adjust the wording. He also reported that the Fairfax County PTA Council will meet on October 28 to look at the VRS retirement fund and how to make it solvent, since it is not now.

Environment Committee: Chair Flint Webb reported he had attended a meeting of an advisory board related to the Chesapeake Bay regarding the upcoming TMDL (total maximum daily load) levels related to all streams feeding into the Chesapeake Bay, standards which are expected to be very contentious. The website for the TMDL is <http://www.epa.gov/chesapeakebaytmdl/> and comments can be made through November 8. Several aspects concern homeowners, especially those with septic systems. Others will relate to regulations. He asked at the meeting whether the advisory board had anyone representing homeowners and was told only that many members of the board are themselves homeowners. He wonders whether there is a potential role for the Federation in participating on this board. Roger Dietrich noted that the county is now completing its final watershed plan, having done all the others. He said this is essentially a wish list of projects that could be used for a given watershed, but there are funding issues.

Human Services: Position vacant.

Land Use Committee: Chair Fred Costello reported that the recent Vision subcommittee meeting for the Reston planning task force revealed considerable disagreement on its purpose.

Legislation: See below under OTHER NEW BUSINESS

Membership: Kahan Dhillon: No report.

Public Safety: Gail Parker: No report

Resolutions: Bill Hanks: No report

Transportation: Carey Campbell and Jeff Parnes: No report

Federation Web Site: Following the vote on the Legislative Program, Webmaster Jeff Parnes noted that the picture gallery on the Federation website has been updated. He has provided the names of those faces he can identify and would appreciate information from anyone who can identify additional faces, to create more complete captions.

District Council Reports

Braddock District: Art Wells reported from Braddock District on the October 12 meeting, which was a briefing by the Woodson Parking Lot Coalition; there is a proposal to build a parking lot for up to 51 buses at the corner of Pickett and 236, which is meeting with opposition. The Braddock District Council is also moving its meeting night from the second Tuesday to the second Wednesday of the month. Supervisor Cook is scheduling another follow-up meeting on the Woodson Parking Lot. The Braddock, Mason, and Fairfax City working group met again to explore issues of common interest. He also reported on the major renovation of University Mall. Charles Dane added that the Braddock budget committee will meet on November 3.

Lee District: Don Hinman reported that the next Lee District Council meeting, on October 27, will be on HOA and civic association how-to information.

Mason District: Keith Taggart: No report

Mount Vernon District: Karen Pohorylo: No report.

Providence District: Charles Hall: No Report

Springfield District: Mike Thompson: No report

Sully District: Jeff Parnes: No report.

OTHER NEW BUSINESS

Legislation Program: Don Hinman then turned the chair over to the Chair of the Legislative Committee, Frank Anderson, who

Minutes (continued)

presided over the ensuing discussion of the proposed legislative program. Jeff Parnes moved approval of the program and was seconded by Bill Hanks.

As in prior years, all friendly amendments and wording or word-smithing changes to the legislative program will be incorporated in the revised legislative program and are not recorded here. No unfriendly amendments were put forward and thus no votes were held on amendments to the program.

In addition to those named above and other attendees, Leonard Bumbaca represented the Education Committee in the discussion as one of the committee's three co-chairs and put forward verbal amendments with a particular emphasis on the education portions of the program.

The program, as amended, was approved on a vote of 18 in favor and 3 against, with no abstentions.

NEXT MEETINGS

Next Membership Meeting: Nov 18, 2010. Braddock Hall.

Next Board Meeting: Oct 28, 2010. South County Center.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 10:45 p.m..

*Minutes written and published by
Esther Ferington, Corresponding Secretary*

Redistricting Virginia

The Redistricting Subcommittee of the Virginia House Committee on Privileges and Elections seeks public comment on the redistricting process, criteria to be considered in preparing redistricting plans, and potential district changes to legislative and congressional districts. The remaining public hearings will be held according to the following schedule:

Mon, Dec 6 at 7pm University Hall, University
of Mary Washington (Stafford Campus)
Fri, Dec 17 at 10 am 9th Floor Appropriations
Room, General Assembly Building
(time approximate, after Governor's
remarks to the money committees)

The Subcommittee Members are The Honorable Mark Lo Cole, Chairman, the Honorable Robert B. Bell, the Honorable Rosalyn R. Dance, the Honorable Algie T. Howell, Jr, the Honorable S. Chris Jones, the Honorable Jackson H. Miller, the Honorable David B. Albo, and the Honorable Johnny S. Joannou. Questions may be directed to Jack Austin, Division of Legislative Services at (804) 786-3591 or: FJAustin@DLS.Virginia.gov
Persons wishing to register in advance to speak at one of the September hearings may do so by contacting Scott Maddrea [SMaddrea@house.virginia.gov], House of Delegate Committee Operations at (804) 698-1540. Persons wishing to be notified of future meetings may also contact Scott Maddrea. More information is available on the Redistricting Virginia website at <http://dls.gis.state.va.us/Ref/NewsReleases/NewsRelease082310.pdf>

Federation Testimony at the Oct 5, 2010, Redistricting Hearing

Greetings Members of the House Redistricting Subcommittee: My name is Tania Hossain and I serve as the President of the Fairfax County Federation of Citizen's Association. In its 70th year, the Federation is the oldest association for the County's Homeowners, Civic and Community organizations. We work together in a non-partisan manner and advocate on issues that impact all Fairfax County residents. To that end, on behalf of the Federation, it is my honor and privilege to inform you that the Federation supports the non-partisan and competitive Iowa Model as Virginia's 2011 redistricting process.

We are well aware that in most states, as in Virginia, the State Legislature draws the congressional and state legislative district lines. And since in its final form, a redistricting plan is a bill, it can have many sources of origination and face many political challenges. Like many bills that have gone through the General Assembly, most of them have entailed some sort of a party political process. The redistricting process in Virginia has undergone its share of the political process as well. We have duly noted that the House and Senate Committees on Privileges and Elections have adopted many elements of the Iowa Model in Resolution No. 1 that was adopted on April 3, 2001. However, the entire process still resides and is driven by the General Assembly and thus subject to partisan politics.

According to the Division of Legislative Services Drawing the Line 2011 report, there have been measures taken to modify the General Assembly's role to establish either an independent redistricting commission by a constitutional amendment or an advisory redistricting commission by a statute or to study the redistricting process. Since 2001 more than 40 constitutional amendments were offered to turn redistricting work over to an independent commission; 30 bills were introduced to create an advisory redistricting commission; and over a dozen resolutions were proposed to study the redistricting process. All attempts have failed, states the report.

If the Iowa Model were to be adopted, the Virginia redistricting process would be under the purview of a nonpartisan commission. The Commission would take into account only the following four factors in determining redistricting eligibility of a district: population, contiguity, compactness, and existing boundaries of governmental units. The population of legislative districts must be equal, districts must form a single unit, districts must not be elongated or in other strange shapes, and to the extent possible districts should not divide cities or counties. Perhaps the most important ramification of the adoption of the Iowa Model would be that it would be prohibitive for the Commission to engage in political gerrymandering because they would not have access to the information necessary to engage in that practice. Just that one very aspect would make the Iowa Model one to emulate and one which would strengthen Virginia's redistricting process by simply taking it out of the political process.

We understand what a difficult task you have ahead of you and we thank you for all your work on making Virginia redistricting a non partisan process. On behalf of the Federation, I wish all of you the best in your deliberation and thank you for this opportunity to share our thoughts.

Sincerely,
Tania Hossain, President
Fairfax County Federation of Citizens Association
(Transcript is available on the following website at
http://dls.gis.state.va.us/100510_public_hearing_transcript.pdf)

Home Hazards

From our Public Safety Chair, Gail Parker

The following information was obtained from *Senior Living Magazine*. Please be diligent about removing hazards around the home. Many Americans are injured in and around their own homes. In 1981 (according to the US Consumer Product Safety Commission) an estimated 622,000 people over age 65 were treated in hospital emergency rooms for injuries associated with products they live with and use everyday.

Safety tips: Keep electrical and phone cords out of the walking paths to avoid tripping over the cord. Remove cords from under furniture or carpeting and replace damaged or frayed cords. Use tape, not nails or staples to keep cords in place. Do not overload extension cords or outlets (standard 18 gauge extension cords can carry only 1250 watts.).

Small rugs and runners should be slip-resistant and replaced when backing becomes less effective.

Post emergency numbers near the telephone or save them on your cell phone. Be sure at least one phone is accessible in the event an accident leaves you unable to stand.

Be sure smoke detectors are on every floor and that the detectors are working properly.

An electrician should check wiring if any outlets or switches are warm or hot to the touch. Unplug cords and do not use the switches until the electrician has checked. Wiring should not be exposed. Use bulbs wattage recommended for the appliance. Use 3-pronged plugs in 3-hole outlets.

If heaters are used, make sure the room is adequately ventilated and that the heater is placed away from flammable materials such as curtains, rugs or piles of paper. Have an emergency exit plan in case of a fire complete with a meeting place outside your home. Practice the plan from time to time to make sure everyone is capable of a quick and safe escape.

In the kitchen, keep flammable items away from the range. Wear short-sleeves or close fitting sleeves while cooking. Turn pan handles to the back of the range and use ventilation fans while cooking. Keep appliance cords away from sink and range areas. Good lighting can help prevent burns and cuts. Consider purchasing a good step stool rather than using a chair. A step stool should have a handrail to hold onto while standing on the top step and should be stable. Discard step stools with broken parts.

Keep exits and passageways clear of objects and well lit. Use non-skid mats in the bathroom tub, shower and on the bathroom floor. Keep electrical appliances away from the sink and tub. Install sturdy grab bars to help you get into and out of the tub or shower. Make sure the water heater does not heat water above 120 degrees can prevent burns and lower energy bill. Keep medications in the container they came in and away from the reach of children. Discard when out of date.

Do not smoke in bed. Do not sleep with heating pad turned on. Make sure the telephone and the light switch is close to the bed in case of an emergency.

Make sure lighting is good in basements, garages, workshops. Use only fuses that are the correct size for the circuit. Store flammable liquids away from fires, properly labeled and in non-glass safety containers.

Home Hazards (continued)

Make sure handrails on stairways, steps and decks are sturdy, in good condition and well lit. Replace frayed or worn treads and replace worn carpeting. If paint is used outside, use a rough texture or abrasive strips to prevent slips. Make sure steps are even and of the same size and height. Use light colored paint to help see the steps better at night. Add extra lighting. Remove all objects from the stairway.

News Items

Citizen of the Year

The Federation is accepting nominations for the Fairfax County Citizen of the Year (COY) award, which honors those citizens whose voluntary contributions of time and talent have resulted in major accomplishments that have enhanced the quality of life for citizens of Fairfax. The criteria and nomination form is at <http://www.fairfaxfederation.org/COY/COYApplication.html>.

Fairfax County Budget

How the budget is developed is described in the video: "Juggling in a Struggling Economy: The FY 2012 Budget Process" which can be found at

<http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dmb/>.

A Do-It-Yourself Budget Toolkit is available at

<http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dmb/fy2012/diy/>

Reston East Park and Ride

The Fairfax County Department of Transportation (FCDOT) recommends Fairfax Connector passengers and other commuters utilize three Reston area park and ride lots starting November 28, 2010 to mitigate the loss of up to 200 spaces from the partial closure of the Reston East Park and Ride. Reston East is the location of the future parking garage for the Wiehle Avenue Metrorail station.

Metropolitan Traffic

Robert Puentes of the Brookings Institute says that travel time is not the sole indicator of difficult commutes. By failing to account for travel distance, it misses a key component of metropolitan traffic: land use and development patterns. See: http://www.brookings.edu/opinions/2010/1004_traffic_puentes.aspx

Puentes shows that other modes of transit grow in popularity, even as gas prices drop, suggesting a need for dramatic shifts in the way we fund transportation, build our communities and address greenhouse gas emissions.

http://www.brookings.edu/reports/2008/1216_transportation_tomer_puentes.aspx

Randall O'Toole of the Cato Institute argues that public transit has a small impact on congestion while costing 10 to 100 times the cost of roads. <http://www.cato.org/pubs/pas/pa-287.html>