

Fairfax County Federation of Citizens Associations  
Membership Meeting of September 20, 2007  
MINUTES

The meeting of FCFCA was held at the Packard Center at 7:30 p.m. (Attendance list is attached to file copy.) President Jeff Parnes introduced Andrew S. Levy, Chairman of the Fairfax County Citizens Corps Council, from Fairfax County Office of Emergency Management.

Program —

Mr. Levy noted that September is National Preparedness Month, which was recognized by the Fairfax Board of Supervisors at their September 10, 2007, meeting. He reviewed the need for family emergency supply kits. The guidelines are to include supplies for three days for each family member, so the supplies should be multiplied by the number of family members. It's a good idea, however, to plan for longer than three days, as (for example) a "wave" of pandemic flu might last two weeks or more. Standard items include water, food, first aid supplies, clothing and bedding (for emergencies requiring evacuation), battery-powered radio, tools, and emergency supplies, and special items for medical conditions, such as prescription medications. Families should also think about what their pets may need and about office supply kits in case emergencies hit while family members are at work.

Families should develop, share, and practice communications and evacuation plans, considering factors such as special medical needs, pets, neighbors, students at school, work, spouse out of town, family out of town that will be worried, and business travel. He urged residents to sign up now at [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/cean](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/cean) to receive alerts via the CEAN (Community Emergency Alert Network) through e-mail or through text messages to cell phone, text pager, satellite phone, or wireless PDA. In an emergency, CEAN will be a major communications channel. You can choose what type of alerts to get.

Emergency preparedness is important for individuals because bystanders and victims are often the first to provide assistance or perform rescues. The Citizens Corps Council includes CERT (Community Emergency Response Teams), Fire Corps, Neighborhood Watch (USAonWatch.com), VIPS (Volunteers in Public Service), and the Medical Reserve Corps. Affiliates to the Council include many other groups such as the Red Cross, United Way, and the Federation. The Fairfax Council is one of 50 local councils in Virginia representing areas that house 75 percent of the state's population. Nationally, such councils cover areas housing 76 percent of the US population.

CERT includes a 28-hour course with group training at the West Ox fire and rescue facility. The Medical Reserve Corps, coordinated by the Health Department, provides organized volunteer assistance and will be especially helpful in case of emergency mass distribution of medications; volunteers do not need a medical background. The VIPS program includes services aiding the police. The new Fire Corps program will provide volunteer administrative support to firefighters. Residents can also volunteer to be victims at large-scale exercises. Resources related to emergency preparedness are available at [redcross.org](http://redcross.org), [fema.gov](http://fema.gov), [fairfaxcountycitizens.org](http://fairfaxcountycitizens.org), [fairfaxcounty.gov/emergency](http://fairfaxcounty.gov/emergency), [dhs.gov](http://dhs.gov), [noaa.gov](http://noaa.gov), and [ready.gov](http://ready.gov). Mr. Levy would like to see links to these sites on every neighborhood association website or directory.

In answer to a question, Mr. Levy reported that about 500 residents have received CERT training; he would like to see a total of 2000. There are 3000 members of the Medical Reserve Corps, which has a goal of about 12,000. There are about 500 Neighborhood Watch communities. He answered questions about reports that Fairfax County has chosen not to publicly share its emergency plans; outreach in multiple languages; and evacuation of the seriously disabled (whether to evacuate separately with special services, or evacuate with their families, a choice that is handled differently by different jurisdictions).

Business Meeting —

- a. President Jeff Parnes reviewed the calendar of speakers and presentations for the year.

Fairfax Federation Membership Meeting of September 20, 2007  
MINUTES

- b. The draft minutes for the June 21 membership meeting were reviewed, corrected, and unanimously approved as amended.
- c. The monthly Treasurer's Report was presented by Scott Schlegel and received for the file.
- d. President Jeff Parnes reported that Charles Dane has agreed to serve as First Vice President. Esther Ferington will serve as Second Vice President. This means the position of Recording Secretary is now vacant, as is the position of Corresponding Secretary, and he encouraged members to volunteer for this roles. Esther Ferington will serve as Recording Secretary until that vacancy is filled.
- e. A resolution in support of the 2007 transportation bond referendum was moved and seconded. After discussion, the resolution passed by a vote of 13 to 6 with 3 abstaining.
- f. A resolution in support of the 2007 public schools bond referendum was moved and seconded. After discussion, the resolution passed by a vote of 24 to 0 with 3 abstaining.
- g. A resolution in support of the Dulles corridor Metrorail project was moved and seconded. After discussion, the resolution passed by a vote of 19 to 3 with 5 abstaining.
- h. Art Wells gave an update on the local effects of BRAC (Base Realignment and Closure Committee). There is currently money in the federal transportation bill to include improvements to Fort Belvoir. The new plan is to reduce the number of new positions at Fort Belvoir by putting in offices at the old GSA facility in Springfield. Despite comments in Congress, there has been no real movement to keep Walter Reed open, so those jobs will still be moving, some to this area.
- i. Carol Hawn reported that the newsletter deadline is September 29. She and Jeff Parnes explained that, in the future, The Bulletin will be primarily distributed electronically. Members are urged to sign up for electronic distribution as described in the President's Message in the September Bulletin.
- j. Charles Dane, Chair of the Education and Youth Committee, reported that the task force on transportation described in the September Bulletin has begun meeting. The November meeting of the Education and Youth Committee will include someone from the FCPS finance section to discuss how FCPS may deal with the projected \$120 million budget shortfall.
- k. Flint Webb reported for the Environment Committee on several issues, including energy conservation, location of transmission lines, global warming and the "cool counties" initiative, the latest developments on emissions from the Mirant power plant, a new SIP (state implementation plan) due from the Metropolitan Washington Air Quality Committee this January, and a strawman proposal for green building practices.
- l. Charles Dane reported that about 80 letters were sent to associations that belonged to the Federation last year or in recent years, encouraging them to renew their membership (others have already done so). He thanked Jeff Parnes, Scott Schlegel, Carol Hawn, and Esther Ferington for their help.
- m. Jeff Parnes noted that associations can now join the Federation or renew their membership at the Federation website ([www.fairfaxfederation.org](http://www.fairfaxfederation.org)), although the dues check must still be mailed in.
- n. District council reports began with a report from Art Wells on Braddock District, where a meeting was held last week to follow the well-attended June 20 Town Hall meeting on revitalization. Jeff Parnes noted that in Sully District, next Wednesday will be candidates' night, with 10 of the 15 candidates appearing at the Sully government facility in Chantilly. It was also noted that the Mason District has just redone its logo, which can be put on the Federation website to replace the old one.

Fairfax Federation Membership Meeting of September 20, 2007  
MINUTES

o. John Jennison, the Federation representative on the Tysons Corner Land Use Task Force, reported that almost all 36 task force members attended the most recent meeting; another is scheduled for next week. He would be happy to pose any questions to the task force that Federation members may have.

Next Membership Meeting: October 18, 2007, Community-Based Energy Conservation

Next Board Meeting: September 27, 2007

Meeting adjourned at 9:30 p.m.