



THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS ®
OF THE FAIRFAX AREA

BULLETIN

Founded in 1925

Meeting Continuously Since 1948

February 2006

4026 Hummer Road, Suite # 214 Annandale, Virginia 22003

Volume 58 Issue 6

Happy Valentine's Day



Happy League Birthday

February 14, 1920

Public Libraries - Part II Consensus

We had an overview of local Library system's operations in June 2005. Now we take a second look and have consensus questions to address, in order to change, add or alter our current position.

Join us at this month's unit meetings and take part in the process.

Calendar

February - Black History Month

- 02 Ground Hog Day/FCPS Budget Testimony
- 06 Board Agenda Deadline
- 08 League Day in Richmond

8, 09, 13, 14 Unit Meetings - Library Consensus

- 14 Valentine's Day (League Founded)
- 15 Board Meeting/Mar. UC Letter Deadline
- 15 Susan B. Anthony Day
- 20 Presidents Day (Schools Closed)
- 20 Annual Meeting Kit Due
- 28 April Bulletin Deadline

March - Women's History Month

- 04 Briefing

8,9,13,14 Units - Politics of Fear

- 13 Board Agenda Deadline
- 14 Purim
- 15 Board Meeting FX Co. Budget Presentation
- 17 St Patrick's Day
- 23 Board Meeting/ Apr. UC Letter Deadline

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PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Happy Valentine's Day and Happy Birthday League of Women Voters! A day before Susan B. Anthony's birthday (February 15th), the League was founded – what serendipity!

This month you will participate in consensus at your unit meetings – a uniquely League process. Of course, there is always a written process – make sure that your discussion leader explains the consensus process so that you can fully participate.

The topic is "Libraries - Part II." Remember last June, Part I (the introduction) was published and discussed at the June meetings. The study committee took your feedback and crafted Part II with questions to be answered – your responses to the consensus questions will determine whether the LWVFA position on public libraries will be altered or amended. Part II also includes information on the Prince William County Public Library (PWCPL) and compares some of its processes to the FCPL (Fairfax County Public Library). I hope that the Prince William Area Unit folks participate fully in this consensus process at their unit meetings – it is a great experience for having your informed opinions heard and registered.

Also occurring this month is League Day in Richmond. On February 8, League members from around the state will converge at the capital to attend the LWVVA Women's Roundtable and League Day briefing to prepare them to meet and talk to their individual Delegates and Senators about League action items. The 2006 General Assembly Session will be in full swing and I'm sure many issues will be in the headlines. If you would like to be a part of this exciting "adventure," call or email the LWVFA office (see box in the next column).

And coming in March will be the informational study on "Politics of Fear." I'm looking forward to it.

Hope to see you in Richmond and at the unit meetings in February!

Sherry

P.S. You will be receiving a copy of LWVFA's 2006 *Facts for Voters* by postal mail this year. At press time, the date was unavailable, but watch your mailbox for your copy. Additional copies can be obtained by calling the LWVFA office.

Marking Black History Month

Rosa Parks (1913-2005) is known as the "mother of the civil rights movement." Backed by the NAACP, in 1955 she refused to give up her seat on a bus to a white man and sparked a 382-day boycott of the Montgomery, Alabama city bus system. In 1956, the U.S. Supreme Court upheld a U.S. District Court decision ending segregation on the city's buses. This effort gave impetus to a concerted movement which led to landmark Civil Rights Acts a few years later. Parks and her husband, however, paid a price. Both lost their jobs and economics forced them to relocate to Detroit. In 1964, Parks was hired to work in the office of U.S. Rep. John Conyers. We join the nation in honoring the memory of this dedicated, steadfast woman.

Sources:

Cose, Ellis. "A Legend's Soul is Rested." *Newsweek*, 11/07/05.
Dell'Amore, Christine. "There Comes A Time." *Smithsonian*, Dec. 2005.
Smith, Jessie Carney, ed, *Notable Black American Women*. Gale Research, Detroit. 1992

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Board Notes

Lavinia Voss

At the December 21, 2005 board meeting the following appointments were made: **Bill Thomas** to chair the LWVFA 2006 Budget Committee; **Alice Bagwell** as off-board Public Relations Assistant.

The board reluctantly accepted **Margo Sterling's** and **Tracy Van-Duston Schwartz's** resignations. Treasurer **Therese Martin** explained how the new Public Relations process will work with everyone trying to do a little piece of it since we are unable to fill this particular slot with one person. The nominating committee gave a brief preliminary report.

Membership Director **Leslie Vandivere** gave an update on membership. **Mary Field**, Unit Coordinator, gave a brief report on the status of the units. The board approved the new nonpartisan policy as well as a change to the Money section of Policies & Procedures as proposed by the Treasurer.

Voters Service Director **Carol Hawn** gave an update on the printing schedule, etc. on the 2006 *Facts for Voters*. The Facts this year will be mailed to all members separately rather than enclosed in the *Bulletin* as in other years. Program Director **Rona Ackerman** confirmed that U.S. Representative Frank R. Wolf (R) of the 10th District will be the speaker for the General Meeting; the topic will be gangs. Program Director **Susan Dill** then reported on the Program Planning unit meetings in December. See page 8 for more details.

Seen and Heard Around Fairfax and Beyond-

1. President Zachry gave testimony to the Northern Virginia General Assembly Delegation (for Fairfax County and City) at their public hearing on January 7, 2006 at the Fairfax County Government Center.
2. President Zachry will speak at the Fairfax County Schools' Budget public hearing on Thursday, February 2, 2006

Testimonies and media releases are now being regularly published on the LWVFA website, as is the monthly *Bulletin* - Check it out for yourself at www.lwv-fairfax.org

Unit News

Joann Bagnerise (PWA) recently received a Human Rights Award from the PWC Human Rights Commission for helping organize the annual local Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Youth Oratorical Contest and serving on the steering committee for an annual celebration of the Slave Memorial at Mount Vernon. December 9th was Universal Human Rights Day.

Anne Kanter (McL) has been appointed to the LWVFA Board as Voters Service Director in charge of the 2006 U.S. Senatorial debates. Connie Houston's (VID) father passed away in early December. Ruth Zeul (VIE) suffered a mild stroke and was undergoing rehab at the Mount Vernon INOVA Center. Una White (SPR) had surgery in early January and is expecting to be back on her feet in record time. Susan Dill (CHD) is getting better slowly as is her husband, who was more severely hurt following a car accident, in December where the other driver ran a red light and broadsided them.



In celebration of our 86th a quote from a September 22, 1970, *Denver Post* editorial: *"We see (Leaguers) at city council meetings, at school board meetings, at legislative committee hearings; sometimes speaking to an issue, more often simply observing, finding out at first hand what's going on and why. This is how they have built and how they maintain their reputation as one of the best influences for good government in city, state and nation. They work hard, very hard, at researching the toughest issues of the day. ...unlike any other group of people we can name, they always have the facts to back any stands they take, either through (spokespersons)...or through the excellent booklets and pamphlets they put out on various issues."*

LWV Denver Voter January 2006

Membership Update

Leslie Vandivere 703-222-4173

L.Vandivere@cox.net

Please welcome the following new members: Kathleen Croteau, John Allen, and Claire Gesalmon.

WORD SEARCH 103

Find and circle 17 "League Lingo" words hidden in the grid below. The words can be found up, down, forward and backward through the grid. Enjoy!

M	N	O	I	T	A	N	I	M	O	N
A	N	Y	C	A	C	O	V	D	A	O
R	A	C	O	N	S	E	N	S	U	S
G	I	G	N	I	F	E	I	R	B	N
O	T	R	N	O	I	T	C	A	M	S
R	E	S	O	U	R	C	E	O	W	T
P	M	P	X	A	T	R	E	L	A	I
M	E	D	P	O	S	I	T	I	O	N
E	L	N	O	I	S	S	I	M	P	U
C	O	N	C	U	R	R	E	N	C	E
N	O	I	S	S	U	C	S	I	D	P

Devised by Lavinia Voss

Answers:

Nomination.

Position: **Source:** Kelly, C. Brian with "The Women Who Counted" by Ingrid S. Pyerg. **Best Little Girl in the South** from Virginia. Cum-Nonpartisan House, Nashville, 2006, pp. 379-385.

VIRGINIA HAPPENINGS

Black Women in Virginia

Bernice Colvard, League Historian

Most blacks who arrived in Virginia prior to 1699 were not slaves but indentured servants who could work their way to freedom over a fixed period of time. Many came from the Caribbean where they had been born. Initially, the majority were males, brought here to work the tobacco fields. Gradually, more women were added, and family structures began to emerge.

The precise origins of chattel slavery remain uncertain, but the first slave codes date from 1705. Mass infusions of African blacks caused their population numbers to swell until they became the majority in some parts of the state. Teaching slaves to read and write was outlawed, leaving little information of their day-to-day lives.

We are, however, familiar with the development of the black mammy, a surrogate mother usually greatly loved by her white family. **Bibby Mosby** belonged to the Watson family of antebellum Charlottesville. And **Lizzie Jones** was glowingly recalled by Virginia-born author Ellen Glasgow of Richmond. Mammies made an important place for themselves, and the tradition survived the end of slavery and the Civil War, continuing on in the South for many generations.

Elizabeth Keckley is known as an independent, highly regarded dressmaker and confidant to First Lady Mary Todd Lincoln.

Some names are well known to us. **Jane "Janie" Porter Barnett**, who founded the Virginia Industrial School for Colored Girls in Hanover County. And **Jennie Dean**, who established a vocational school for colored youth in Manassas in 1894.

WE'RE COUNTING ON YOU!

As always, we rely on your generous support of Fairfax League efforts through member contributions, made individually or via your unit finance project. Now is the time to firm up unit project plans. THANK YOU ONE AND ALL!



LWVVA News

The LWVVA's Women's Roundtable (WRT) meeting is every Wednesday through March 8: (The session ends March 11.) 9-10 AM in the 3rd Floor-W conference room of the GA Building in Richmond. Legislators and interested groups stop by these meetings to apprise the attendees of legislation of concern in the state.

League Day in Richmond will be held on **February 8, 2006**. A briefing about legislation of interest to LWVVA will follow the WRT meeting in the same room (see above). If you would like to attend, call or email the LWVFA office to get car pools started.

News from LWVUS

Your voice was heard! Passage of the conference report of the expiring sections of the PATRIOT Act was blocked. Instead, the House and Senate agreed to a one-month extension of the expiring portions of the Patriot Act to allow more time to consider how civil liberties are balanced with homeland security.

Another victory! Thanks in large part to activists like you, the Senate upheld its rules and refused to allow the opening of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge (ANWR) to oil drilling in the Department of Defense Appropriations (DOD) bill.

LWVEF and several other national organizations will sponsor "Sunshine Week 2006: Are We Safer in the Dark?" on March 13, 2006 at the National Press Club in Washington, D.C. It will be carried via satellite feed to participating libraries around the country. At press time, LWVFA was pursuing the possibility of involving the Fairfax County Library (FCPL) in the project.

Gremlin Strikes the January Bulletin

Information on how to obtain a book dropped off page 6:

CEDAW: Rights that Benefit the Entire Community. To receive your **free** copy. Contact Sarah Albert at 202-347-3168 or legislation@gfwc.org

NCA NEWS

NCA is planning a **Homeland Security Forum**, entitled "Balancing Homeland Security and Civil Liberties," on March 25, 2006 from 10:30 a.m. - to 12:30 p.m. in Room 443 of the MLK Library in D.C., directly across the street from the Gallery Place Metro stop. Contact Andrea Gruhl at andreagruhl@aol.com for more information.

One of the two NCA study committees has started meeting – an Update of the Airport Position. The Air Quality Study co chaired by Lillian White of Alexandria LWV will begin meeting later in the year. To get involved in either committee, contact Naomi Glass, 202-686-0124 or naomisol@juno.com

A Social Security Meeting will be held on February 25, 2005 at 9:30 am at the Ellen Colidge Burke Branch Library, 4701 Seminary Road, Alexandria.

The **NCA Annual Meeting** will be held May 13, 2006. It will be a breakfast meeting at the Arlington Hilton Hotel & Towers (Ballston Metro Stop). More details will follow as they become available.

LWVLC will conduct the election for the South Riding Homeowners Association in May 2006.

OBSERVER TRAINING

February 11, 2006

LWVFA members who would like to monitor governmental bodies and commissions are invited to a training session in Prince William County. In the Potomac Room, at the PWC McCoart Government Building on Prince William Parkway on Saturday, February 11, 2006 at 10.30 am. Jane Hilder, Action Director, will lead the group. If you are interested in taking part, call or email the LWVFA office and you will be contacted with more details.

What in the world would I sing for if I had it all?

Dave Matthews

PUBLIC LIBRARIES - PART II

Consensus Questions

1. Should FCPL monitor the selection of digital resources in the same way that it now monitors the selection of other materials in the library collection?
2. What authority should ultimately be responsible for all policies governing the library system? The FCPL Board of Trustees has responsibility for governing the FCPL system. Should any other entity, such as the Board of Supervisors or the State Legislature have authority to set library policies? If so, specify the entity and to what extent that entity should have the authority to set library policies
3. League Principles state that "whatever the issue, the League believes that efficient and economical government requires...adequate financing..." When applied to the FCPL, should "adequately financing" of libraries require funding levels that would enable it to meet the needs of the area's growing population and changing demographics? If yes, how should this principle be added to funding the Library:
 - materials;
 - services;
 - schedules, such as full service hours;
 - facilities;
 - other?

LWVFA Current Library Position

Support of measures to maintain a broad library collection.

The League of Women Voters of the Fairfax Area strongly believes: The selection policies and procedures of the Fairfax County Public Libraries (FCPL) should ensure that its collection contains a wide variety of books and other materials representing a diversity of views to serve the educational, informational and recreational needs of the residents of Fairfax County/City.

The League of Women Voters of the Fairfax Area believes

- The residents of Fairfax County/City should have the opportunity to question FCPL selections through formal processes that ensure fair and equitable resolution.

LWVFA supports:

- Selection and challenge policies and procedures that are clearly defined and communicated to the public which the system serves.
- Procedures that include the active and regular participation of a group of professional librarians working together in making selection decisions in each materials category. (84)

The League and Your Email Address

As a member of the League of Women Voters, you are automatically a member at the national, state and local levels. Your contact information is included in a LWVUS database that can be accessed and maintained by your state and local League membership directors. Because the League at all levels is relying more and more on email for communication, we want to make sure that, if you use email, your current address is in the database.

The League never sells or trades the email addresses of its members, so you can be confident that this information will not be shared. Further, LWVFA office practice is to shred all documents with member information. If you do not want to receive email communication from the League, please advise the LWVFA office so that your record can be properly annotated.

Another reason to be sure your database information is up to date is that your email address is your personal identifier to access the member-only section of the LWVUS Web site. The new LWVUS Web site is nearly complete. In addition to a brand new design, the site has a content management system that makes it much more user-friendly and easier to find the information you want.

To log on the members-only section at www.lwvus.org.: Note the familiar face at the top of the page! Click on "For Members." If your email address is in the LWVUS database, you can start the log-in process by entering your email address. If your email address is not in the database, then you can log in using your member number. Your member number is on the mailing label of your National Voter Magazine just above your name.

Please contact Membership Director Leslie Vandivere (703-222-4173 or lvandivere@cox.net) if you have any questions, want your membership number, or need to update your email address.

PUBLIC LIBRARIES - PART II

Chair Martha Ray, Committee Members Judith Anderson and Louise Meade

INTRODUCTION

In June 2005, LWVFA centered on the “Fairfax County Library (FCPL) Update – Part I.” It provided an overview of the FCPL system with a focus on the selection of books for purchase and the effects of the Patriot Act on libraries. It covered the changing dynamics within the library system, including demographic and budgetary issues, and identified three strategies that FCPL had developed to deal with them. These strategies were to maximize the use of technology; develop new forms of non-public money; and maximize the use of volunteers to augment staff that would not be replaced. The rest of the study contained information on FCPL’s organization, the budget process, the impact of the Patriot Act, and collection policies. Feedback from these meetings showed that the discussions were lively and prompted a wide variety of follow-up questions.

The League asked additional information on electronic resources and filtering; updates on the implications of the Patriot Act; and clarification on how the library was financed, especially the roles that the state, county, federal, Friends groups and the Foundation play. These topics are addressed in Part II. LWVFA now has a unit in Prince William County; information about the Prince William Public Library System (PWPLS) is included.

PRINCE WILLIAM REGION

Library service for the 420,000 residents of Prince William County and the cities of Manassas and Manassas Park is provided by Prince William Public Library System (PWPLS). Current facilities include two regional libraries, two community libraries, and six neighborhood libraries. Their collections consist of books for adults, teens and children as well as electronic resources, recorded books, and other audio and video formats. Their Potomac Community Library includes a computer learning lab initially funded by the Gates Foundation and offers many basic computer classes for adults and youth. Augmenting its public financing, the PWPLS enjoys private support from Friends of the Library primarily for a diverse range of programs and from a non-profit Foundation

primarily supporting new technology pilot projects.

Like FCPL, Prince William has a written Materials Selection Policy including a process for reconsideration of contested materials. That policy encourages free and open access to materials in a wide variety of formats and with varied points of view. Unlike FCPL, the first appeal for reconsideration of an item is to a rotating committee of the Library Board, with neither the Director nor the Acquisitions Manager casting a vote. The final appeal is to the full Library Board.

The one issue on which FCPL and PWPLS differ is the manner in which Internet access is provided. The Library Board of PWPLS has made the considered decision to filter Internet access on all computers used in that library system. PWPLS began to offer Internet access in May 1998 without filtering while the Library Board directed the staff to fully investigate filtering software that could be applied beyond the County firewall. During that deliberative and investigative phase, about 45 incidents of Internet misbehavior were reported, usually instances of observing images or websites thought inappropriate. The County Attorney further ruled that public use policy must come from the Library Board.

By May 2002, the Library Board had concluded that filtered Internet access was desirable for the Prince William region. Software purchased for use on other County computers can categorize websites as “sex/acts” and Library staff can also categorize such websites to block them from appearing on public computers. Computers with access for children use the added category “sex/personals.” The Board policy also requires staff to promptly review the filtering whenever any patron believes access to a particular site has been blocked in error. The Library Board has reaffirmed its filtering policy as recently as August 2005. A similar number of Internet incidents had been reported in the intervening years, mainly attempts to override the filtering software.

Reflecting on the Fairfax experience reported in Library Study Part I, both citizen Library Boards gave careful consideration of a controversial issue affecting

their respective communities and arrived at different conclusions. Both systems report that patron use of the Internet is highly satisfactory and neither anticipates policy change on Internet filtering. This case illustrates the appropriate decision-making authority of the locally appointed Library Board. The Code of Virginia in 42.1-35 establishes a Library Board's authority for "management and control" of library systems. The General Assembly does require libraries (42.1-36.1) that receive state funding to adopt acceptable Internet use policies and offers filtering as one alternative. That legislation also states "charging Library employees to casually monitor patrons' Internet use" is another alternative. Such legislative attempts to require filtering and to tie such a requirement to loss of state funding would violate the General Assembly's own intent. To date, the Virginia Senate has defeated such bills. No filtering legislation had been prefiled for the 2006 General Assembly at this *Bulletin* deadline.

DIGITAL RESOURCES

Both library systems subscribe to a number of electronic databases that are a collection of newspapers, magazine, journal, and encyclopedia articles that offer current information on a wide range of topics. Access to this information is available free at any library. Additionally, cardholders may access many of the databases remotely through any computer with Internet access.

Some of the digital resources are provided by the state to all public libraries, while other databases are purchased, just as books, tapes, and CD's, from the materials budget. The criteria used to select them is basically the same as other materials, but also considered is their cost effectiveness compared to print resources, whether the information is in print, and the space required to house print material.

The amount of funding budgeted for materials plays a crucial role in deciding what materials and which formats will be purchased each year. In FY 2003, funding for library materials in FCPL was cut by 30%. To address this situation, a Print Reference Review Committee consisting of staff from collection management and branches was established. Their mission was to identify the materials that would best reflect the

needs of each of the branches. They began by looking at each branch, including the amount of space they had. Then they prioritized all materials, including reference titles, based on the usage and the uniqueness of the information each one provided. By doing this they could identify those titles that were deemed most important and those that were rarely used or that contained information that could be found in other resources.

They concluded that circulating fiction and non-fiction books and magazines and periodicals were heavily used and should be highest priority. Many hard copy reference titles are lower priority and are also very expensive, increasing in price from 20-80% for a new edition. Every succeeding year fewer titles could be ordered. Their comparable digital resources increased only 3 to 8% in price in the same time period. As a result, many of the reference titles could be affordable in database format. The changes that the Print Reference Review Committee made received little negative feedback from the general public. The primary challenge for both libraries' staff has been to provide their users with training on how to access the material.

The use of digital resources will continue to increase because many materials are now available only online. For example, Fairfax County no longer makes available printed copies of the updates for their Comprehensive Plan. But all changes are accessible online and in a more timely manner. Another advantage of using materials online is that the library can make these resources available for patrons not only during the library's open hours, but at home during the hours that the library facilities are closed. The key is that patrons must have a computer and Internet access and become computer savvy. Since there are still many citizens who are uncomfortable using the Internet for more than e-mail, the libraries offer training in accessing these databases. And because today's students are well versed in using computers and can use these resources readily, the public can expect to see much more use of online resources in the future. In order to get the greatest benefit from these resources, the public needs to know that they exist and are available at no cost through their public libraries.

Both library systems warn users in their Acceptable Use statements to be wary consumers of the informa-

tion found on the Internet. Although there is endless information to be had, it is not necessarily authoritative or accurate. Libraries put their own credibility and that of reputable publishers behind the electronic resources they offer the public.

PATRIOT ACT

As noted in Library Study I, the Patriot Act has not impacted either library system to date. Policies already in place prohibit giving out any information on patrons or their use of library materials. The Virginia Freedom of Information Act exempts all public library patron and borrowing records. Ordinarily subpoenas received are referred to the Library Director, who consults with the County Attorney as to how to respond. Only items currently checked out are recorded in both FCPL and PWPLS systems.

Section 215 of the Patriot Act allows the FBI to obtain library, bookstore, and other business records. Many communities around the nation have objected particularly to these provisions, as has the American Library Association. The sunset provisions of the Patriot Act were due to expire at the end of 2005. Both the House and the Senate passed reauthorization bills before adjourning for their summer recess. The bills were sent to a conference committee for reconciliation.

The Washington Post revealed on November 6 that provisions in the Patriot Act have enabled the FBI to issue, with no judicial approval, national security letters demanding private information about ordinary Americans not suspected of a crime. There has been much wider use of such letters for domestic surveillance: more than 30,000 a year have been issued. National Security Letters were created in the 1970s for espionage and terrorism investigations and originated as narrow exceptions in consumer privacy law. Issued by FBI field supervisors, national security letters do not need the imprimatur of a prosecutor, grand jury or judge. They receive no review after the fact by the Justice Department or Congress. The FBI no longer destroys data collected through such sweeps, even if it is irrelevant to the investigation at hand. The power to issue National Security Letters (NSL) was not included in the sunset clause of the Patriot Act and therefore received scant attention from Members of

Congress and the public. Since the Post published this information, a great deal of attention and concern is now being shown regarding all the Patriot Act provisions that affect private citizen's rights.

The conference report issued on December 8 by the House-Senate negotiating committee originally called for a 7-year sunset, but a compromise changed that provision to 4 years after a bi-partisan group of Senators strongly objected to the 7-year sunset provision. The Act would have amended Section 215 to require that investigators demonstrate to a judge that the records are relevant to a terror investigation, *The Washington Post* reported Dec. 9. The agreement would also have given recipients of National Security Letters the right to challenge them in court and delete a provision making disclosure of the receipt of NSLs punishable by a year in prison, according to American Library Association News.

As Congress prepared to adjourn for their recess in December 2005, the issue was still unresolved. Therefore, the Senate passed a 6-month extension of the Patriot Act. On December 22, the House of Representatives approved a one-month extension. Congress will again take up this issue at the start of the 2006 session.

LIBRARY FUNDING

The primary source of financial support for both library systems is from local taxes. Other sources of support are funds from the State of Virginia and contributions from the Library Foundation and from Friends of the Library. Part I of this Library Study elaborated on the local budgeting process for FCPL.

STATE CONTRIBUTION TO LIBRARIES

Under Virginia's current library aid distribution formula, public libraries receive 30 cents per capita for populations up to 600,000 and 10 cents for each additional resident. Another aspect of the funding formula recognizes how serving large areas impacts rural jurisdictions and awards an amount per square mile. Formerly rural Prince William region still benefits from that authorization for its 360 square miles served. Fairfax County is the only jurisdiction in Virginia with more than 600,000 people, a benchmark

it achieved in 1983. Since that time, Fairfax has received only one-third the credit for its still growing population.

The formula for State Aid to Libraries has not been fully funded for years. Over the past five years, state aid to Fairfax County's library system has suffered from repeated state budget reductions. In fiscal year 2000, the amount received was \$649,362 and by FY05 the amount had been cut to \$541,821. The Virginia Library Association (VLA) wants "full funding" before supporting legislation to change the formula. VLA does not oppose Fairfax County seeking money outside the formula.

Legislation introduced in 2004 by Delegate Mark Sickles (D-Franconia), former chair of Fairfax County's Library Board, to get the State Aid population cap removed was not adopted by the legislature. However, Governor Warner responded by including the shortfall of \$89,000 in his budget amendments for 2004-2005. In addition, \$180,000 for FCPL is included in Governor Warner's proposed two-year budget released in late December 2005.

Funds received by both library systems from the State are earmarked to purchase materials. The materials' budgets have suffered from numerous budget cuts in the past several years, while the population and use of the libraries has increased. Therefore, any increase in the amount of money received from the State is an important benefit to the Library system.

SUPPORT FROM FCPL FOUNDATION AND FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY

Both public library systems receive private support from their respective Library Foundations and Friends of the Library organizations. For purposes of illustrating this support we are reporting on the Fairfax example.

The Fairfax County Public Library Foundation, Inc. is a private non-profit 501(c)3 corporation committed to providing supplementary support to the Fairfax County Public Library. The Foundation reinforces the need for continued and increased public support for the Library and serves as a catalyst for attracting private funding from individuals, businesses, organizations,

and foundations to enhance Library services for the community. Funds raised by the Foundation and contributed to the Library are used to support program needs as identified by the Library Board.

Direct support to FCPL by the Library Foundation in FY2005 was \$376,654.97. This includes Motherread/Fatherread; West Side Stories; Exxon Mobil Summer Intern; INOVA gift; NextBook grant; all donations for branches, scholarships, Bond Referenda information, and gifts from Friends of the Libraries. The Foundation raised \$199,000 in FY 2005 to support FCPL in FY 2006.

The Foundation has worked to establish endowment funds that will address the Library's most critical needs. The investment balances as of 10/31/05 were \$1,949,539. This includes the New Century Library Fund, \$747,018.69; Children's Reading Program (established by George Mason Friends \$500,000 pledge), \$340,428.09; and the Macleod Fund, \$62,092.99. The interest on the NCLF and Children's Reading Program are used to grow the funds. The interest on the Macleod fund is used by the library to purchase non-print materials.

In FY 2005, 21 Friends of the Library groups contributed \$165,056.25 to the Library Foundation. The individual Friends groups identified projects on which this money would be spent. For the most part, it was used to meet needs in their individual libraries. In some cases, the Friends group chose to make a contribution to the Library Scholarship Fund or to programs benefitting the system as a whole. (The Scholarship Fund provides financial aid to staff and volunteers who are pursuing a Masters in Library Science or continuing education related to their work.) Most of the money contributed by Friends Groups is raised from book sales. Sometimes a gift is made to the group to for a special purpose, such as a memorial.

ADEQUATE FACILITIES

The two library systems both face shortages in the library space needed to house their collections and the services that their growing populations enjoy. All the currently provided services require space – for study tables and chairs, for public access to computers, for

story programs, for community meetings, and for the books. Whatever future services may evolve will doubtless bring their own space requirements. Additionally, the community growth puts other pressures on existing facilities. Road congestion can mean long drives, and neighborhood facilities in out-of-the-way sites may be less efficient than sites in highly traveled, highly visible centers of commerce. As critical as it is to have library collections that are diverse, it is essential to have well-planned facilities placed throughout the Fairfax and Prince William regions to offer convenient locations and hours with well-trained staff to assist in fully utilizing the resources.

Library facilities are described in each county's Comprehensive Plan and Capital Improvement Programs. Objective targets exist for size of building sites required, for the size of buildings, for the size of populations to be served, and for the estimated service area that can be reached in a reasonable driving time. This planning process can be slow to recognize the service inadequacies of existing facilities in both the highly congested areas of Fairfax and in the rapidly developing areas of Prince William. In Fairfax, 40 year-old facilities need upgrading and over-used facilities need relief by the "in-fill" of added libraries. The successful bond referendum of 2004 will finance two new Fairfax libraries and renovate several others. Already the next Fairfax library bond referendum is scheduled for 2010.

It has been twelve years in Prince William since the last bond referendum for library construction. Though a bond referendum may be scheduled for Fall 2006, it is only to provide for two new sites for community libraries in Gainesville and Montclair areas where the growth standards have long been surpassed. Currently Prince William planning standards do not project when the next libraries will be required and when the next bond referendum is to be expected.

In conclusion, please refer to the following page of Comparative Statistics of Libraries in the Washington, D.C. and Virginia region.

Sources:

Interview 11/1/05 with Prince William Public Library System Director Dick Murphy

Interview 11/16/05 with PWPLS Director Dick Murphy and FCPL Director Sam Clay

Interview 11/07/05 with FCPL Director of Collection Management and Acquisitions Julie Pringle and Frances Moffett and Paula Grundset, members of the collection staff

Consults with: Martina Murphy, Development Assistant, FCPL Foundation; Jane Goodwin, FCPL Deputy Director; Lois Kilpatrick, FCPL Public Information Manager FCPL Policy J. Policy regarding Privacy of Patrons' Research and Reading Materials, 11/13/02

Fairfax County Comprehensive Plan, 2003 Edition, Policy Plan for Public Facilities, Libraries, pages 10-14 Acceptable Use of the Internet - <[www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/internet/Online Databases](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/internet/Online%20Databases)>, FCPL publication, September 2005

Gelman, Barton. "FBI Secret Scrutiny." *The Washington Post*; November 6, 2005.

Eggen, Dan. "Rising Support Cited for Limits on Patriot Act." *The Washington Post*. November 10, 2005.

Weisman, Jonathan. "Congress Arrives at a Deal on Patriot Act." *The Washington Post*. November 17, 2005.

Babington, Charles. "Renewal Lawmakers at Impasse on Patriot Act." *The Washington Post*. November 19, 2005.

Eggen, Dan & Babington, Charles. "Mixed Messages from Hill on Patriot Act Talks." *The Washington Post*. December 8, 2005.

Babington, Charles. & Eggen, Dan. "GOP Accepts Deal on Patriot Act." *The Washington Post*. December 9, 2005.

Babington, Charles. "House Votes to Revise, Extend, Patriot Act, Angers Senators." *The Washington Post*. December 15, 2005.

American Library Association Website: <www.ala.org>
Prince William County 2003 Comprehensive Plan/Library page 1-8

Prince William County FY2005-2010 Capital Improvement Program/General Government/Library page 142-145

PWPLS documents: Library Internet and Computer Use Policy, August 2005

Filtration Resolution approved by the (Prince William) Library Board of Trustees, May 23, 2002

Materials Selection Policy of the Prince William Public Library System, revised June 2005

PWPLS website: <www.pwcgov.org/library>

Comparative Statistics
Libraries of the Washington, D.C. Area & Virginia
FY 2004 – 2005 Public Library Data Service¹

Jurisdiction	Financial			
	Total Operating Expenditures	Expend. per capita	Materials Expenditures	Expend. per capita
Alexandria	\$ 6,016,757	\$44.57	\$ 684,656	\$5.07
Arlington	11,280,855	57.97	1,253,414	6.44
Dist. of Columbia	27,922,147	49.56	2,543,057	4.51
Fairfax	26,739,568	25.62	4,522,369	4.33
Loudoun	8,535,819	41.48	1,568,424	7.62
Montgomery	30,477,071	32.74	4,747,452	5.10
Prince George's	21,754,607	25.94	3,841,671	4.58
Prince William	14,143,808	39.24	1,863,894	5.17
Norfolk, Va.	5,681,215	23.50	976,385	4.04
Virginia Beach	16,218,968	37.86	1,941,004	4.53

Jurisdiction	Resources		Usage			
	Holdings	Hldg/cap	Circulation	Visits	Reference	Programs
Alexandria	562,318	4.1	1,032,147	893,427	580,650	40,176
Arlington	545,776	2.8	2,580,361	1,552,183	84,604	53,509
Dist. of Columbia	2,623,320	4.7	1,083,379	1,958,441	1,127,879	222,930
Fairfax	2,747,313	2.6	11,425,007	5,283,497	912,418	168,137
Loudoun	472,344	2.3	3,140,679	1,440,276	194,068	105,960
Montgomery	2,897,042	3.1	11,406,518	6,972,090	646,016	135,800
Prince George's	2,248,189	2.7	3,868,999	2,441,995	859,824	93,817
Prince William	859,615	2.4	3,009,036	1,531,309	528,820	98,567
Norfolk, VA	789,379	3.3	939,946	822,850	695,214	67,515
Virginia Beach	1,003,784	2.3	2,757,539	1,538,178	324,012	36,504

¹Public Library Data Service (PLDS) Statistical Report 2005. Public Library Association, Chicago IL. Note that there is a one-year lag between the data that libraries voluntarily supply and the report date.



Transportation

Barbara Nunes 703-451-7238

In the spring of 2005, the **Northern Virginia Transportation Authority** (NVTa) conducted a transportation survey. They asked 1,263 participants by phone to identify commuting patterns, means of travel and transportation corridors, priority items in those areas, and most importantly whether they would be willing to fund improvements through sales, income or gas taxes.

Two-thirds of the respondents agreed public transportation should be a regional priority. Only ¼ felt road improvements should be the priority. Surprisingly, 85% of those responding declared they were willing to pay something to expand public transportation and reduce crowding on metro and Virginia Rail Express (VRE). To avoid getting stuck in traffic, 70% said they would pay to use the new HOT lanes. Area residents find increase in the sales tax more acceptable than a gas tax to fund transportation improvements.

The **Transportation Planning Board** (TPB) which is part of Council of Governments and is made up of DC, parts of Maryland and Virginia, looked at the region and in February 2004 released the Time to Act report. It showed that with our aging infrastructure, operation and maintenance will demand most of the revenue projected in the region. The stated revenue shows only what can be reasonably available; the total needs are estimated at double the anticipated revenue.

The needs of WMATA were particularly critical. They needed \$2.2 billion more for vital expenses. Without a dedicated tax for revenue, WMATA must constantly request funds for present and future needs. The Blue Ribbon Panel report released in January 2005 recommended a sales tax of 0.5 percent.

The recent Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) proposal was examined. Although the regional transportation and land use impacts appear relatively small, individual counties and cities will be affected. Fairfax County would receive 14,500 new jobs by 2010 and 21,400 by 2020. Most would be located at Fort Belvoir. Forecasted public transit use would be reduced by approximately 1.7 percent in 2010. Fort Belvoir would attract nearly 34,400 more driving trips per day, a 57 percent increase.

As trains become more crowded people may switch to driving. Stay tuned; this problem is not going away.



The Birds Around Us

Whether flying across the continent or just a few miles, birds must negotiate a variety of dangerous structures. Towers

erected for cell phones and pagers, the lines that bring us power, wind turbines, and the windows on homes and offices all create obstacles for birds in flight.

Biologists estimate that the combined death toll from aerial collisions may exceed 700 million birds each year, affecting all types of birds. Birds with large wingspans like hawks, eagles, cranes and swans are less maneuverable and thus are more vulnerable to collisions with power lines.

More than 140,000 towers are in the United States and as many as 5,000 new towers are erected each year. The ones that are most hazardous are more than 200 feet high, illuminated at night with red lights, supported by guy wires, or located in migration corridors.

Birds that migrate at night are drawn to tower lights, especially in poor weather. They become disoriented and circle until they eventually strike guy wires, the tower or even one another. They are less likely to be harmed by shorter structures that require no lighting or guy wires, or have lights that are green or white and are located away from migration corridors.

The creative placement of new towers includes using existing buildings. Tall buildings and signs that remain lit all night are as deadly as lighted towers. The greatest hazard is plate glass, with windows in homes and office buildings killing as many as one billion birds each year.

Glass is invisible to birds and if they see the reflection of trees, bushes, the sky or natural habitats, they may fly directly into it. Studies indicate that one out of every two strikes is fatal. If not killed outright, birds stunned after striking glass often fall prey to predatory birds, mammals, and house pets. Even birds that survive an initial impact often die later from their injuries.

Source: Reshetiloff, Kathryn. *Bay Journal*, May 2005.

The reward to a thing well done is to have done it.

Ralph Waldo Emerson

Program Planning Report December 2005

Susan Dill

Recommendations for LWVUS: 5 units approved a study on Redistricting/Appportionment.
4 units approved a study on Immigration.
There was no real consensus for any other recommendation.

Suggestion: At LWVUS level, Lobbying Action should be extended to include the Executive Branch of the Government.

Recommendations for LWVFA: 10 units approved an informational program on Immigration. (Knowing this is a National Issue).

8 units want updates on Environmental Issues;
Air or Water at the top of the list.

Action priorities were not clear from the data received, every position had at least one unit recommending action on that position.

Six units recommended a year long informational study on a single issue such as immigration, with monthly meetings devoted to different aspects of the same topic.



Weather & Air Pollution

When and where power plants emit nitrogen oxide can make a huge difference in the health effects of air pollution, a new study finds. Measuring emissions from a power plant in eastern Pennsylvania in July 1995, scientists found that nitrogen oxide produced much more ground-level ozone on warmer days than on cooler ones. On hot days, emissions from a plant upwind of a densely populated area could lead to more than three times as many deaths as in cool weather.

The findings were significant in light of the current administration's plans for a "cap and trade" program for power plant emissions in the eastern United States. The Clean Air Interstate Rule finalized in March aims to cut overall nitrogen oxide emissions from utilities by 61 percent in the next decade, but emissions from individual plants may vary widely.

Utilities lobbyist Scott Segal said an approach that

sought to minimize emissions at particular times would penalize plants that "have to operate 24 hours a day, seven days a week, 365 days a year. A rule like that would hit ratepayers really, really hard," adding that utilities have to produce more electricity in summer to meet air conditioning needs.

Source: Eilperin, Juliet. A7, *The Washington Post*. 4/15/05



No Fishing!

Many anglers in some of the most polluted areas around the Bay consume more fish than is safe to eat and share the catch with their families and others, according to a survey funded by the Bay Program. Although many anglers—especially at Virginia sites where fish consumption advisories were new—said they did not know the fish may pose a health risk, others ate their catch even when they knew advisories were in place.

The findings are based on hundreds of surveys in the Bay's most polluted regions: Baltimore Harbor; the Anacostia River and adjacent areas of the Potomac River, the Elizabeth River and areas of the James River. They found that many people who ate their catch said they did so to reduce food costs. The most popular species for consumption—striped bass, white perch, catfish and blue crabs—species considered to have high levels of contamination.

The D.C. area surveys revealed a noticeable difference in consumption among different ethnic groups: 30 percent of white anglers consumed their catch, compared with 36 percent of African Americans, 43 percent of Hispanics and 64 percent of Asians. Also, the report said, minorities tended to prepare fish in less risk-reducing ways, such as frying, were less likely to remove skin or fat or more likely to consume raw fish.

Those factors mean increased risk exposure for minority anglers and those in their households. Children and pregnant women are at especially high risk from many toxins found in fish, such as mercury.

Source: Blankenship, Karl. *Bay Journal*, May 2005



Unit Meeting Locations - Topic: Libraries Consensus

Members and visitors may attend any meeting convenient for them. At print time the locations were correct, *please use phone numbers to verify sites and advise of your intent to attend.* Some meetings at restaurants need reservations.

Tuesday, February 14

Wednesday, February 8

Thursday, February 9

9:45 am Annandale/Barcroft (AB)

Mason District Govt. Center
6507 Columbia Pike, Annandale
Call Emily 703-436-9684 for info.

12:30 pm McLean (McL)

McLean Community Center,
Committee Room #2
1234 Ingleside Ave. McLean
Call Anne 703-448-6626

7:45 pm Vienna Evening (VE)

9511 Rockport Rd., Vienna
Info. Call Bill or Anne 703-938-7304

Monday, February 13

1:30 pm Greenspring Vill. (GSV)

Hunters Crossing Craft Room
Spring Village Drive, Springfield
Call Jean 703-569-6659 for info.

Barbara Johns was a 16-year-old junior in 1951 when she organized a student strike at the segregated Russa Moton High School in Farmville, VA.

The building, designed for 180 students, had a population of 450. Prince Edward County built a new high school for Negroes.

The Farmville case became one of five cases reviewed by the U.S. Supreme Court in *Brown vs. Board of Education of Topeka*.

Source: Virginia Foundation for the Humanities

9:30 am Fairfax Station (FXS)

7902 Bracksford Ct. Fairfax Station
Call Lois 703-690-0908 for info.

9:30 am Hollin Hills Day (HHD)

Mount Vernon Presbyterian Church
2001 Sherwood Hall Ln, Alexandria
Call Joan 703-765-0799 for info.

9:30 am Vienna Day (VID)

3606 Prince William Drive, Fairfax
Call Judy 703-591-0439 for info

1:00 pm Pr. William Area (PWA)

Bull Run Regional Library
8051 Ashton Avenue, Manassas.
Call Sheila 703-492-4574 for info.

6:15 pm Dinner Unit (DU)

Yen Cheng Restaurant, Main St. Center, 9992 Main Street, Fairfax
Call Pier 703-256-1019 for info.

7:30 pm Pr. William Area (PWA)

Daks Restaurant
13641 Minnieville Road, Dale City
Come at 6:30 pm for dinner.
Call Gladys 703-494-8027 for info.

7:30 pm Reston Evening (RE)

Reston Museum 1639 Washington Plaza, Lake Anne Village Center
Call Therese 703-471-6364 for info.

9:00 am Reston Day (RD)

12106 Stirrup Lane, Reston
Call Shirley 703-860-0512 for info.

9:15 am Fairfax City Day (FXD)

3136 Singleton Circle, Fairfax
Call Jeanne 703-591-4580 for info.

9:30 am Springfield (SPF)

Packard Center (Lg. Conf. Rm.)
4026 Hummer Rd, Annandale
Call Nancy 703-256-6570 or
Peg 703-256-9420 for info.

1:00 pm Chantilly/Herndon (CHD)

Sully District Governmental Center
4900 Stonecroft Blvd.
Call Olga 703-815-1897 for info.

7:45 pm Hollin Hills Eve. (HHE)

Martha Washington Library,
6614 Fort Hunt Road, Alexandria
Call Alice 703-360-7426 for info.

March Unit Meetings

Topic

“Politics of Fear”



Mailing Page