



THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®
OF THE FAIRFAX AREA

Fairfax Voter

June 2008

(Formerly LWVFA Bulletin)

Volume 60, Issue 10

IT IS TIME TO RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP!

June is the last month in the League year and now is the time to RENEW YOUR LWVFA MEMBERSHIP—we want to see you in September! You may use the form on the back of this *Fairfax Voter* to accompany your \$55 renewal check (and if you would like to add a donation, that would be great, too!). Unit meetings for June differ from the normal schedule as each unit is holding its own ‘end of the year’ function. Check meeting times and places on page 15 to see what is going on. And look for important ‘announcements’ spread throughout this issue for upcoming events and information. The next *Fairfax Voter* – September’s issue — will be out by the end of August. Have a great summer!

Calendar

June

06	NCA Board Meeting
9-12	Units – Do Your Own Thing
13-17	LWVUS Convention/Portland, OR
15	Fathers Day
17	LAST DAY OF SCHOOL
18	Skyline Plaza Condo Election
21	Unit Officers Wrap-up
25	LWVFA Board Meeting
30	Membership Renewals Due

Inside This Issue

Acting President’s Message	2
School Positions Update	3
Criminal Justice Report	4
Everything’s Cool	4
Annual Meeting Deliberates	5
LWVUS Expands Outreach	5
Traveling Library Display	8
Program Plans Need Input	9
Justice Committee Tours Jail	10
In the Spotlight	11
“Suffragists” to Participate	11
AHOME Supports High	
Rise Ordinance	12
Arboretum Features	12
School Start Times	13
VA Grapes & Wine	14
Hostess Page	15



The Acting President's Message

Our 60th anniversary celebration is a happy memory and honoring LWVFA in the community continues. I want to thank the Anniversary Committee members for their work. Janey George chaired the committee with enthusiastic creativity. The handsome panel display of our history was her brainchild and as it makes its way around the regional libraries, I hope you all will see it. Bernice Colvard, our historian, updated *Remember the Times (RTT)* and always kept us honest when flights of fancy overtook reality. Bette Hostrup was the production manager for the beautiful booklet. Sherry Zachry helped with "RTT," arranged for the singing suffragists and our speaker Nancy Tate, created the lovely invitation mailed to you and produced our Annual Meeting/Luncheon program. Bette was the creative force behind the decorations for our luncheon and Viveka Fuenzalida organized all the arrangements with the Greenspring management. Jane Barker helped with press releases and ideas for promoting League on the George Mason University Campus. John Hart was our unofficial photographer at the George Mason Regional Library display kick-off and during our luncheon. Lorraine Hart could be relied on for always saying "I can do that" when we needed refreshments, outreach materials, help setting things up and just about any other task.

When I have to slog through dozens of e-mails, worry about League deadlines, and put out the occasional fire, I think about these folks and smile.

Mary Grace

DID YOU KNOW . . .

. . . that food prices worldwide are escalating because one-third of the US corn crop is being diverted to production of ethanol?

New Members Welcomed Into the League

By Leslie Vandivere, Chair, Membersip

Welcome to new local member Selena Arrants (AB), and new nationally recruited members Arlene Bowes, Deborah Best, and Marion Strack (GSP).

Check your expiration date on the Voter label. For those members who pay dues locally, the dues year ends June 30. Use the form on the back page to send you dues check to the LWVFA office.

Online VOTER Now Faster

Do you want to receive the Fairfax Voter online? If so, contact Leslie Vandivere at lvandivere@cox.net to have your name and email address added to the list of those who are being notified when the latest issue of the Fairfax Voter has been posted to the LWVFA website. We began this process for the May issue and hope to have the June issue posted even earlier.

LWVFA Fairfax Voter 2008

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Please e-mail address corrections to the office
or call 703-658-9150

“What’s in Those Backpacks?” and Other Questions From School Positions Update Meetings

By Therese Martin

This month, the schools positions update committee continues to respond to questions from members at the March unit meetings on the LWVFA schools positions.

First, during the briefing discussion on the appropriate walking distance for school children, members commented on the difficulty of young children walking a mile with **heavy backpacks**. But they wondered “what was in those backpacks” that made them so heavy, especially for K-3 students? We got the following answers from several LWVFA members with elementary school children and one former 3rd grade teacher.

- Any book that might be needed this year, next year, or last year, but not the assignment due the next day
- Lunches, sweaters, half-eaten granola bars, toys
- The notebooks in which assignments are done, homework papers, worksheets, binders with notes and assignments
- Hilarious drawings and notes from friends that must stay in the backpack forever
- Treasures found with friends on the playground that might have significant meaning no matter what they might really be, e.g. acorns
- Tests taken months earlier that needed to be signed by the parent and returned
- Library books, but usually not text books, especially for younger students

The computer has changed things a lot, since assignments and readings are often online. It was reported that teachers often take into account the fact that textbooks can be heavy and some rarely send home textbooks – although sometimes the textbooks are kept at home. On the other hand, parents need to be aware of the size of the backpacks that they buy for their children – and help the children clean them out periodically.

Second, one unit asked about the **fees charged for community use** of schools. Since the material needed to respond to this question is too long for printing in the *Voter*, members are referred to the FCPS web site: <http://www.fcps.edu/Directives/N8420-052407.pdf>. If you don’t have access to a computer and would like this information, contact Therese Martin at 703-471-6364.

Third, another question was about the FCPS **policies regarding personal safety** for those walking to school. Basically, FCPS believes that parents are responsible for the safety of their children walking to school. The following information is provided from the FCPS web site:

“Parents Responsibility

- Parents are responsible for selecting their children’s walking routes to and from bus stops, schools, and home.
- Parents are also responsible for providing supervision that is appropriate to the student’s age, the student’s maturity, and conditions on the route.
- FCPS staff does not assess all possible walking routes, supervise those routes, or guarantee the safety of any particular route. Staff provides general safety information to school communities, and responds to requests for specific information and advice when practicable. Staff also assesses routes for unusual hazards when concerns are brought to their attention by walkers, parents, or others.
- Special arrangements or precautions may be needed for younger riders such as kindergarten or FECEP.”

Parents who believe that an unsafe situation exists are asked to address their concerns to the area transportation office. Transportation staff will evaluate concerns about the walking route. If a further evaluation is required, the school system safety officer will be consulted, and if unusual hazards are identified, bus transportation will be provided.

Parents are also counseled that it is impossible for the staff to assess the safety of every possible walking route to a bus stop or a school, and every family will have a different definition of “most direct or reasonable route.” Even more important, what is “safe” varies from child to child. It is very important that you assess your child’s age and maturity before permitting him or her to walk unaccompanied to school or a bus stop. Keep in mind that children younger than age 9 or 10 often do not make good decisions regarding traffic safety, and generally should be accompanied by an adult or responsible older child. Regardless of the child’s age, if the child’s behavior or maturity suggests that he or she will be unsafe without adult or other supervision, or if the parents have any concerns

See **School Positions Update**, Page 4 Col 2

Fairfax Criminal Justice Advisory Board (CJAB): Annual Report for 2007-08

By Therese Martin and Judy Leader

We continue to serve as the LWVFA co-representatives on this citizens' advisory board, which has monthly meeting presentations on various aspects of the justice system in Fairfax County/City. The topics this past year have included: the Court Interpreter Program, Virginia Ignition Interlock Program, mental health and substance abuse housing and services, Fairfax County's Gang Prevention Program, terrorist threat to Fairfax schools, Adult Protective Services, county budget, and Visitation and Exchange Center presentation and tour.

In April, the CJAB presented budget testimony in support of the Protecting Children Against Sexual Offenders (P*CASO) program and Community Services Board funding. The county's Beacon Project, with funding from a federal grant, has begun with several participants after a long start-up process. The project, which is under the auspices of Opportunities, Alternatives, Resources (OAR) and an advisory board, is planned to be a self-sufficient residential, educational and business enterprise comprised of and run by formerly incarcerated individuals. It is based on a proven model that dramatically reduces the likelihood of recidivism. We will provide further reports on the project as information becomes available.

Units Officers' Wrap-up is June 21st

By Janey George

We will have our traditional 'end of the year' gathering of unit leaders on Saturday, June 21 at the Mason District Governmental Center, 6507 Columbia Pike, Annandale. Come tell us [the board] what went well and what did not go so well in your units this past year. We need your feedback; the meeting will start at 9:30 AM and there will be light refreshments.

Coming in September . . .

Varying Viewpoints on using nuclear power as an alternative to fossil fuel.

Everything's Cool!

By Sally Ormsby, Chair,
Environmental Quality Committee

In July 2007, Fairfax County was a founding member of the Cool Counties Initiative that was presented at the annual meeting of the National Association of Counties. Fairfax was one of the 12 founding sponsors representing 17 million people launching this program. This initiative seeks participation by all 3,066 counties in the country, providing a template of actions to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Some examples are preserving green space, improving air quality, reducing congestion through transit and telework, planting trees, encouraging fuel-efficient homes and vehicles, and preventing sprawl development.

Now there are two new "cool kids" on the block. At its meeting on March 31, the Board of Supervisors endorsed the National Capital Region's Cool Capital Challenge program. Begun in early 2007 by volunteers from business, institutions, government agencies, churches, and environmental organization in the Washington region, the program resembles a capital campaign but with contributions of carbon savings instead of cash! Fairfax County is pledging to implement greenhouse gas emission reductions of *more than one million tons of CO₂* per year through a variety of actions. These include purchase of wind energy, increasing the county's tree canopy, telework by county employees, purchase of vehicles using alternative fuels, landfill gas-to-energy program, incinerator waste-to-energy program, recycling, and increased Connector bus service.

The other "cool kid" is the new Cool Neighborhood program. Board of Supervisors Chairman Gerry Connolly recently wrote that Cool Neighborhoods is designed to empower local communities to reduce their greenhouse gas emissions. This will help the county achieve the Cool Counties objectives adopted by the Board of Supervisors. Communities can use a template of numerous suggested actions that communities and individuals can take to reduce their carbon footprint, be more environmentally responsible, and help toward meeting the county's CO₂ emissions reduction goals.

School Positions Update, From Page 3 Col 2

about conditions on the route, parents should provide that supervision on the walking route and/or at the bus stop."

More questions will be answered in the September *Fairfax Voter*.

LWVFA Celebrates Milestone in 2008

60 Years Strong - Now Needed More Than Ever!



Time-Line display highlighting key milestones over the 60-year history of the LWVFA (See Page 8)

Annual Meeting Deliberates Budget, Program Issues

By Mary Grace Lintz, Program Co-director

LWVFA's 60th Annual Meeting was held at the Hunters Crossing Conference Center Room at Greenspring. The budget created some interesting discussion. Treasurer Therese Martin's 3rd quarter report showed that income was low, but Therese indicated that we take in a good deal of income during our 4th quarter. Currently, the LWVFA Education fund is in good shape. Bill Thomas, chair of the Budget Committee, presented the proposed FY2008-09 budgets for both the Ed fund and General Fund. Bill pointed out that only \$11.00 of an individual's \$55.00 in dues remains with LWVFA. The balance goes to the LWV-VA, NCA and LWVUS as per member payments. Sufficient funding for *Facts for Voters* was discussed but both budgets were passed as proposed.

Program adoption for 2008-10 became lively when Baba Freeman moved to consider a study of Fairfax County/City Proffer System from the non-recommended local program list. Members agreed to consider the item and

LWVUS Expands Its Outreach to Voters

By Lois Page, Program Co-director

LWVUS Executive Director Nancy Tate took the opportunity given to her as speaker at LWVFA's 60th Anniversary Celebration to present an overview of League's ever expanding and increasingly sophisticated assistance to voters throughout the country.

In the area of **Voter Education**, Ms. Tate was especially enthusiastic about the web site—www.Vote411.org—which includes, among other things, all the laws about voting in each state. Voters can even discover their polling place through the website. LWVUS has also published *Choosing the President 2008* which is available on www.lwv.org. One of their key voter education strategies is partnerships, such as the Newspapers in Education project or with radio and Cable TV.

In the area of **Candidates and Issues**, Ms. Tate pointed out that all local and state League Voters Guides will appear on the Vote411 site, as well as all League-sponsored debates.

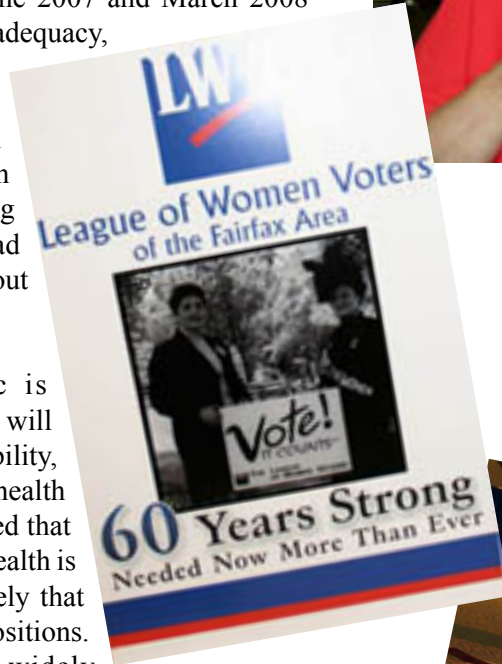
See **Annual Meeting**, Page 6-7

See **Nancy Tate**, Page 9, Col 1

Annual Meeting, Page 5

when it came to program adoption questions arose about who would work on a Proffer Committee and if the study would lead to consensus. Most felt that this item would add an interesting variety to local program and the proffer study won approval. Members approved the local recommended items: re-adopted of all Positions in *Here We Stand*; including reworked schools positions derived from concurrences at the June 2007 and March 2008 unit meetings; a study of the adequacy, availability and coordination of mental health resources in the Fairfax Area and an update of the LWVFA Human Resources positions regarding services to the elderly. Read on for further information about each topic

The mental health topic is described as an “update” and will look at the adequacy, availability, and coordination of mental health resources locally. It was noted that the state position on mental health is quite thorough so it is unlikely that we will need to redo any positions. This was by far the most widely recommended local program topic at the December program planning units. Although several members indicated a willingness to work on this topic, no one has yet been named chair. Several sources indicate the County has good resource material on mental health. The committee may have a fairly uncomplicated job surveying resources. Persons interested in the work of this committee should e-mail Lois Page at loismpage@cox.net.



Captions

Page 6, Col 1- Poster; Bott-Ellen Gale(L) and Shirley Olson (R) honored as 50-year members; Col 2 Top; Acting President Mary Grace Lintz; Second Marilyn Hedges, 49-year member of LWVFA; Third-Helen Cullinan and Marnie Perlik;Page 7 Top- Sally Ormsby (left) and members of the SPF Unit-Barbara Nunes, Carol MacLean, Una White, Pat Brady, Mary Elizabeth Gordon (in front); Second-Lois Page, Co-Program Director; Third-Shelia Musselman; Bottom-The Four Presidents Sherry Zachry, Lintz,Liz Brooke and Vivian Watts. (Photos courtesy of John Hart and Charlie Zachry)



An update of LWVFA's Human Resources position on services for the elderly was also adopted as a program item for the next two years. This issue was the second most selected item during program planning. Again, members indicated interest in working on the project during the meetings but a chair has not been named. Again, contact Lois Page, Program Chair.

As stated above, one of the non-recommended local program items also proved popular: a study of the system of proffers as it is practiced in Fairfax County. Proffers are the commitments builders make to the County in exchange for approval of their various building projects. An example would be agreeing to widen the road and/or provide turn lanes on the roadway that passes their project. An attempt was made to change the system state-wide during the 2008 legislative session but it was defeated. This study is underway with a list of projects lined up. Baba Freeman and Marcia McDevitt signed on to co-chair. Contact Marcia at memcdevitt@aol.com or Baba at freeman@ecoisp.com



The bylaws were amended as proposed. When it came time for elections, no nominations from the floor were made to fill the open slots for Program and Voter Service Outreach, but Anne Thomas volunteered to serve as Chair of next year's Nominating Committee. This offer was gratefully accepted and the slate was elected.

The meeting closed with direction to the board. Members urged that we continue publishing 25K copies of *Facts For Voters* and recommended a review of *Facts For Voters* distribution procedures to assure that all copies are properly disseminated in a timely fashion. It was strongly recommended using our September or October Program slot for **Voting 101**, a review on voting procedures, etc. for all members. This is a vital topic because the public looks to Leaguers for voting information, especially in a presidential election year.

Final note: the 60th Anniversary Celebration that followed was fun and entertaining. If you were there, you know that; if not, you missed a good party!



60th Birthday Celebration**LWVFA Debuts Traveling Library Display**

Members of the LWVFA gathered on April 16, 2008 at the George Mason Regional Library (of the Fairfax County Public Library system –FCPL) to unveil a display of the history of the League in Fairfax City and County. Joining the Leaguers were several area politicians, who have used League studies to assist them in making legislative decisions at the county and state level. Those present included: George Barker, State Senator (39th Dist.), Vivian Watts, State Delegate (39th Dist.), David Bulova, State Delegate (37th Dist.), James Scott, State Delegate (53rd Dist.), Penny Gross, County Supervisor (Mason Dist.), and Leslie Byrne, former Congresswoman and State Senator.

Plans are to move two displays around to all eight regional libraries and the Oakton Library for one month each. This effort is designed to make citizens more aware of the activities of the League and promote the new motto “60 Years Strong - Needed Now More than Ever.” A 60-year time line highlighting key events, posters, and memorabilia are featured in the display.

Special thanks go to Sam Clay, FCPL Executive Director and his staff and to Janey George and her 60th Anniversary Committee for their efforts in making this all possible (see Acting President’s Message on Page 2). Display locations and dates are available from Janey at janeyg16@verizon.net.

**Captions**

Col 1 Top-(L-R) Sam Clay, Vivian Watts, and Penny Gross; Bott-Sally Ormsby, George Barker, and Jim Scott; Col 2 Top-Display; Middle-Janey George; Bott-Mary Grace Lintz, Bernice Colvard, Steve Rabin, and Vivian Watts. (Photos courtesy of John Hart.)

Nancy Tate, From Page 5

Statements from presidential candidates will be gathered and fed back to local Leagues. They are continuing the partnership with "Smack Down Your Vote" to attract 18-30 year old voters.

General Outreach includes a widely distributed flier entitled VOTE, public service announcements, a pamphlet prepared in conjunction with an association of independent broadcasters and work with the Overseas Vote Foundation.



Nancy Tate, LWVWUS Executive Director

LWVUS also provides direct **Help to Local Leagues** with advice on how to engage new citizens, such as being present at citizenship ceremonies, and providing advice regarding Voters Guides. The goal on all League levels is to help all citizens answer the three most asked questions: Am I registered? What's on the Ballot? Where is My Polling Place?

Nancy urged local Leagues to reach out to the community, to election officials, poll workers, and schools, as many have been doing. She suggested making known to government teachers the book *Choosing the President 2008*. She added, "Then ask them to join!"

Our national organization is expanding its partnerships with a number of organizations such as the YWCA, the Junior League, and community health centers. She urged local Leagues to do this as well.

More information on the voter education opportunities provided by LWVUS (and LWVFA) will appear in several issues of the *Fairfax Voter* in the fall.

LWVFA Program Plans Need Creative Input

By Lois Page, Program Co-director

Input is being sought from LWVFA members as to how to handle creatively the challenge being faced by the lack of a second program director for the next program year. Lois Page, current-co-director, has a half time job and is not able to oversee, much less write, all of the nine programs for unit discussion that occur in the course of the year. At least three of the monthly programs are covered in other ways (general meeting, program planning, annual meeting) but six programs are a lot for one person to oversee. A program co-director would be the best option, and Lois agrees to cover all of the Board meetings for the position but needs someone to coordinate with the committees, consult regarding writing the study, and organize the briefings for the unit meetings.

Another option would be for programs to be acquired in some other way. Suggestions as to sources of good program material would be most welcome. E-mail Lois at loismpage@cox.net.

A third option might be for each presenting committee [of the program topic] to take on the role of program co-director just for the month that they are covering. The committee would be responsible for writing the study, creating discussion questions, presiding at the briefing, compiling responses and writing an article for the follow-up *Voter*. Some of the committees have already done this in the past and it is most appreciated.

Please give us your feedback on this. Unit discussions are very important to the vitality of our league and to our members and we do not want to reduce the number. Study committees and their current status:

1. Environmental Quality—long standing committee that will produce material for discussion on oil & liquid fuels. To take part, call Sally Ormsby, 703 273-2048
2. Justice—active committee, in place for a number of years, engaged in many activities such as jail tours, mock trial education initiative. Some members also working with the study of civil rights of felons. To join, call Judy Leader, 703 524 0991
3. Study of the Restoration of the Civil Rights of Felons—State study begun last year that will lead to consensus this fall. Needs additional local members

See **Program Input**, Page 14, Col 2

Justice Committee Tours Fairfax County Jail

By Judy Leader, Chair, Justice Committee

On February 29, 2008 approximately 16 League members and spouses or friends took part in a tour of the Fairfax County Adult Detention Center (Jail) in the Public Safety Complex in the City of Fairfax. Sheriff Stan Barry, as well as several other jail officials, briefed us and answered questions before the tour of the facilities.

The tour was an eye-opening experience for those of us who had never before set foot inside a working jail. It began with the Magistrate's Office, proceeded to the intake and booking functions, and continued into the residential part of the facility. We learned about the importance of proper classification of prisoners and some of the ways that they use discipline and privileges to improve behavior and attitude. We also gained a greater appreciation for the budget and human resources required to provide proper medical and social/psychological care of the inmates, as well as for the inmate work and educational programs.

Sheriff Barry, elected in 1999, has now served for more than 8 years. He is responsible for managing the jail, providing security in the courthouse, and serving civil law process. The Sheriff and his deputies have both civil and concurrent criminal jurisdiction in the county of Fairfax, city of Fairfax, and the towns of Vienna and Herndon. The

Support Services Division of the Sheriff's Office runs the Alternative Incarceration Program, which offers community work and treatment for eligible offenders. Inmates may also be directed to participate in the Intensive Addiction and Treatment Program, if appropriate. There are numerous educational programs available for inmates, such as health education, an adult education program leading to a GED in both English and Spanish, and an Alternative School Program. Other popular programs include: a Good News Jail and Prison Ministry, and Opportunities, Alternatives and Resources (OAR). OAR offers programs in such subjects as: anger management, financial planning, and basic computer skills.

Inmates may spend up to one year at the jail, although the average stay is two-three months. The current population is about 1300. Approximately 80-90 per cent of the inmates have drug or alcohol abuse programs. Ten to 15 per cent have been designated as seriously mentally ill.

There are currently about 260 officers who work for the jail. The entry-level salary for a Deputy Sheriff is \$42,700. Their basic salary is about 10 per cent lower than county police, although they have the same training as the police, plus correctional training. Because of the many vacancies, many deputies must work overtime. The annual cost for each inmate is approximately \$23,000 per year.

We are especially appreciative of the efforts of First Lieutenant Jason Travis for making the arrangements for the briefing and tour and Second Lieutenant Dennis Holmes for actually leading the tour.

LWV-VA Fall Workshops Are Set For August in Richmond

The 2008 Fall Workshops for local Leagues hosted by the LWV of Virginia will be on Saturday, August 23, 2008 in Richmond. This is a change in month and place from previous years' workshops. The program includes a workshop on the Felons' Rights study, a voters service workshop and others. The event will begin around 9AM – place to be announced later. Please mark your calendars and plan to attend this informative meeting.

Fairfax to be Site of 2009 LWV-VA Convention!

LWVFA has invited the LWV of Virginia to hold its 2009 Convention in Fairfax County and they accepted. The proposed date will be the first weekend in May (Saturday & Sunday until noon). We will be forming a committee to work on arrangements such as finding a hotel, and will need many volunteers to work as timekeepers, doorkeepers, registrars, etc. If you would like to be a part of an exciting and fun weekend while learning more about how League works, please join us. Contact Sherry Zachry at 703.730.8118 or szachry@verizon.net for more information.

In The Spotlight . . .



Baba Freeman,
2nd Vice President

At the April 19th Annual Meeting, Baba Freeman was re-elected for her fifth term as a Director on the LWVFA Board since serving as Co-President in 2000-2001. At the same

Annual Meeting, she spearheaded the effort to get a study on the proffer system in Fairfax County moved from a non-recommended program item to an adopted study. When Baba sets her mind to accomplish something, she moves mountains!

Baba and her family moved to Reston in 1967 and immediately joined the League and, within two months of joining was appointed to the board. During that time, she has served as Co-president, 1st & 2nd Vice-Presidents -administration, and as

Bulletin editor. Baba is a member of the Reston Evening unit and has been unit chair, action and voters service for the unit. She has also served on several LWVFA committees including land use, transportation, child abuse, privatization and human resources. She is the current Hunter Mill District representative on the Fairfax County Human Services Council, and past board member of Reston Interfaith and Reston Citizens Association.

Baba has a BA degree from Bennington College in Vermont and worked for years for the Navy where she developed an indexing system for filing research and development papers and reports. She now resides in a house overlooking Lake Anne. Her main hobby is volunteering and even coached a boys high school soccer team for a number of years. She has three grown kids and five grandchildren

According to Baba, being involved in the League of Women Voters is in her blood. She says: "There might be a genetic trait for League: her father's mother was a member of a women's suffrage group in Idaho before WWI; and for nurture as well as nature, her mother was president of LWVFA around 1949."

"Suffragists" To Participate in the Occoquan River Festival

By Janey George & Mary Grace Lintz

The Northern Virginia Regional Park Authority (NVRPA), the Town of Occoquan, Belmont Bay and several other organizations are planning the first annual Occoquan River Festival to be held in communities along the Occoquan River all day on **Sunday, July 27, 2008**. In the Occoquan Regional Park on Route 123 in Lorton, there is a brick plaza near the old Brick Kiln. NVRPA would like to dedicate this plaza to the women who were imprisoned in both DC and at the Occoquan Workhouse in 1917. LWVFA has been invited to be a part of the festivities and to dedicate the plaza. By July 27th, the area will be enhanced with seating and story boards that recount the history of women's suffrage in America, and of the area's specific role in that story.

The plaza will be named "Turning Point Plaza" because incarcerating the suffragists in 1917 was considered to be the "turning point" in the national movement for women's voting rights. As we go to press, LWVFA plans to have a table, or tables, under a tent near Turning Point Plaza for an all-day outreach event. We are also organizing the dedication ceremony which will start at 10:00AM to take advantage of the cooler morning temperature. The plans have not been finalized as yet, but as part of the dedication

ceremony, we hope to have the "Singing Suffragists" and an LWVFA speaker to give an historical perspective of the 1917 events. Several people, including a young girl, will cut the ribbon.



Suffragists Provide Historical Reminder.

Lemonade and ginger snaps will be served. We will sell a newly revised *Remember the Ladies* and have our history panel exhibit and League handouts. Historical re-enactors [i.e., "suffragists"] will be supplied by NVRPA to further illustrate the story during the day. So mark **July 27** on your calendar as an LWVFA all-day event, plan to spend some time with us, enjoy the Occoquan River Festival and bring many friends along. It promises to be a fun day and a great opportunity for the League.

AHOME Supports Hi-Rise Ordinance, Housing First Initiative

By Janey George

AHOME's focus for the past year has been mainly in supporting the adoption of ordinance changes implementing the Fairfax County Hi-Rise recommendations of having 12% of each new high-rise be affordable housing. This could be accomplished by allowing the builders one extra unit for each affordable housing unit. AHOME will be promoting the Fairfax County Hi-Rise Task Force recommendations to other Northern Virginia jurisdictions.

AHOME also supported the Draft Implementation Plan for Ending Homelessness in Ten Years presented to the Board of Supervisors by the Human Service Committee Housing Committee. Housing First is the approach the Plan recommends as it costs less than institutional settings, services can be provided more effectively, people respond better in a more dignified environment, and community costs of health care and law enforcement are decreased.

The Fairfax County Housing Advisory Committee Report copies were given to the AHOME board members. The Report indicated that the One Penny Fund has led to the preservations of 2,207 affordable units. Many of the approximately 6,600 residents of these units would likely have ended up on the waiting lists of Fairfax County's housing programs. But Fairfax County lost more than 9,300 affordable rental units to condominium conversions, redevelopment, rent increases and the repositioning of rental properties in the market. Without the One Penny Fund that loss would have been closer to 11,500 units.

The United Way of the National Capital Area (UWNCA) informed the AHOME board of its new program, The Affordable Housing Initiative. Affordable housing is considered to be one of the greatest needs of this area. UWNCA's goal for this year is to raise \$5M. They have already awarded 44 housing grants totaling over \$780,000.

Did You Know . . .

. . . that using one less paper napkin a day at snack bars and fast food places would keep more than a billion pounds of napkins from the landfill each year?

. . . that if everyone said "no" to ATM receipts, this would save a roll of paper more than two billion feet long and reduce one of the top sources of litter?

Virginia Happenings . . .

White Arboretum Features Research Facility, Nature Plant Trail

By Bernice Colvard, League Historian

Plant lovers and day-trippers have a treat in store in beautiful Clarke County, located in the northern corner of the Shenandoah Valley between Middleburg and Winchester (take Route 50 west). The Orland E. White Arboretum was officially designated as the State Arboretum in 1986. Part of the University of Virginia's 700 acre research center, Blandy Experimental Farm, it has the largest collection of woody plants in the mid-Atlantic. Blandy was a bequest to UVA in 1927 by Graham Blandy, a NY stockbroker. Plant biologist Orland E. White, the first director, started the extensive plant collection. Visitors may buy plants, picnic in shaded areas, bird watch, and learn about conservation 365 days a year at no charge.

The research village draws undergraduates from all over the country for their first big chance to conduct their own research with a mentor. Innovative programs for public education and outreach rely largely on volunteers. Special events include a spring Garden Fair and October ArborFest, holiday workshops, and a variety of popular programs, such as heirloom plants and cooking with herbs. Highlights include a bridal trail, driving tour, and, of course, nature trails. The extensive **VA Native Plant Trail** exhibits species present before Europeans arrived.

Notable among the natives is "the gentle and unassuming deep-blue spiderwort, *Tradescantia virginiana*" that blooms in late spring. Brought from America by a friend, this hardy perennial bears the name of pioneering 17th c. botanist **John Tradescant the Elder**, chosen by England's King Charles I as keeper of His Majesty's Gardens at Oatlands. The botanist collected extensively in Europe but never crossed the Atlantic. His son **John** made three trips and took back many varieties, including VA maple, tulip poplar, yucca, and goldenrod. The family's home at Lambeth, across the Thames from Westminster, became very well known. John the Younger gained membership in a London guild, the Worshipful Company of Gardeners, and, following his father's death, became gardener to the king. *Tradescantia virginiana* continues to grace our gardens.

Sources:

Brown, Paula Steers, "Our State Arboretum." *Virginia Living*, June 2006, 88.

Olmert, Michael. "The Tradescants. Father & Son." *Colonial Williamsburg*, Autumn, 2006, 84.

School Board Considers Recommendation for Later High School Start Times

By Virginia Fitz Shea

Fairfax high schools should change their start times from 7:20 a.m. to 8:35—8:55 a.m., according to the Transportation Task Force report issued March 10, 2008. A minority report issued the same day had questioned the proposals. The Fairfax County School Board had created a charter for the Task Force July 21, 2007, asking for assessments of changes in bell schedules as well as the services provided by the school bus system.

The majority report executive summary concluded: “We believe the bell schedule we propose, when combined with the service parameter changes we recommend achieves these beneficial later start times for the adolescents in Fairfax County in a way that is acceptable to the community.”

“Currently, the earliest school starts at 7:20 a.m. (most HS) and the last school starts at 9:25 a.m. (Fort Belvoir ES),” the report stated. The Task Force also proposed a number of changes to the services provided by the FCPS Transportation Department to improve service and reduce system costs as well.

The following excerpt from the report explains that although most elementary schools start earliest (Tier 1), some start in the other tiers. Please note that: the table does not reflect these variations.

The proposed bell schedule continues the current three-tier system. It begins with Elementary Schools (ES), follows with HS and ends with MS. To balance the tiers there are ES in each tier (ES would be split roughly 55%, 25% and 20% between tiers for balance today). Transportation should put as many ES as possible in tiers 1 and 2, while keeping HS in tier 2. The proposed bell schedule to provide later start times for adolescents is:

<u>Tier</u>	<u>School</u>	<u>Start Times</u>	<u>End Times</u>
1	Elementary	7:50-8:10	2:30-2:50
2	High	8:35-8:55	3:25-3:45
3	Middle	9:20-9:40	4:10-4:30

Note that these start/end time windows are approximate and not rigid times.

The minority report of the Task Force stated, “It is important to note that the Minority did not disagree with the Majority about the proven benefits of sleep, the documented circadian phase delay of the adolescent sleep cycle, or the potential benefits of starting high schools later in the morning to allow adolescents an increased opportunity for sleep.”

“Unfortunately, changes recommended in the Majority Report cannot be made without significant impact on FCPS students, employees, educational programs and services, student transportation services, families, and the surrounding community at large,” the Minority report stated.

At the March 25 meeting of the Business and Community Advisory Council, Dick Reed, who chaired the Task Force, explained that their recommendations would be cost neutral. Dean Tisdadt, Chief Operating Officer, Facilities and Transportation Services said he thought the recommendations would cost extra money.

At work sessions held April 14, the members Fairfax County School Board faced a dilemma as they discussed the next steps in considering these issues. After quickly eliminating the possibility of tabling the whole subject, they considered two options: (1) seek community input first, or (2) ask the staff to propose specific bell schedules for all schools with cost information and then seek community input?

At a previous School Board retreat, the board had tentatively decided to hold six simultaneous community meetings in early June. At the April 14 work session, several board members stated that they were willing to wait several months for the staff to come up with a detailed plan and cost information. Kathy Smith, who represents Sully District, said, “Just to set the community up with general terms doesn’t help me make a decision.”

Other board members expressed impatience with further delay. Brad Center of Lee District said: “We need to bring to the community what the Task Force recommended.”

The board was split and no consensus emerged before a brief recess. When Mr. Center reconvened the meeting, he said that during the break he had received a helpful suggestion from Barbara Hunter, the assistant superintendent for communications and community outreach. “We can engage folks in a study circle kind of format, starting in May, going into June, July, and August,” he proposed.

See **Late Start Times**, Page 14, Col 1

Late Start Times, From Page 13

Study circles are used to provide focused detail. There could be groups for elementary schools, high schools, middle schools, and minority parents. "Having these groups meet over time would allow us to have some insight into some of these issues that would allow us to have insight for fall when we go out with budget information," Mr. Center said.

The school board reached a consensus to have the study circles and the staff work simultaneously on parallel tracks to study the issue. Work sessions scheduled May 12, 2008, will feature further discussion of the study circles as well as the parameters recommended by the Task Force.

**LWVFA Concurrence Statement on
"Later Start Times for FCPS Schools"
(Adopted April 2007)**

The League of Women Voters of the Fairfax Area believes that it is desirable to delay the start time for instruction at all high schools and middle schools in order to provide the best opportunity for student learning and to promote adolescent health and safety. The League of Women Voters of the Fairfax Area recommends that Fairfax County Public Schools fully explore the feasibility of adopting later start times for middle and high schools.

Program Input, From Page 14, Col 2

to complete local interviews and help prepare study materials and determine consensus questions. Needs more members: call Lorraine Hart, 703 759-3651
4. Elections 101—new committee forming to produce material for two units likely to be held in the fall including material everyone should know about the U.S. election process. Desperate need! Call Lois Page at 603 690 0908. Most work done by e-mail.
5. Proffers—new committee beginning a 2 year study. To join call Marcia McDevitt at 703 437 7020, or Baba Freeman at 703 437 1901.
6. Mental Health Update—a look at the adequacy, availability, and coordination of mental health resources locally. Possibly will be able to gather material for unit meetings next spring. To participate, call Lois page at 703 690 0908.
7. Services for the Aging Update—new committee that may be helping to plan for a speaker on the subject for a General Meeting this program year as the starting point. Length of study to be decided by the committee. If interested, call Lois Page at 703 690 0908.

(If you are interested in any of these, you may also simply tell your unit chair who will pass the information on.)

Ideas For Earth Friendly Living . . .

"Since reducing vehicle miles driven is touted as one of the keys to reducing CO₂, pick a day when you absolutely will not drive. Walk, bike, carpool or use public transportation

Correction/Follow-up**VIRGINIA GRAPES & WINE**

By: Bernice Colvard, League Historian

This is a follow-up and correction to our article in the May *Fairfax Voter* on the subject of the wine industry in the Commonwealth.

According to The *Washington Post* ("Small Va. Vintners See Hope Amid Marketing Drought," 4-18-08, B1), 1980 Virginia General Assembly legislation exempted small Virginia-based wineries from a law requiring that all wine be sold through a licensed wholesaler. This was important to what was seen as the state's new agricultural economy. Out-of-state wineries sued, claiming this exemption infringed on interstate commerce. A federal judge ruled in 2005 that the exemption was unconstitutional.

Virginia Winery Distribution was created by the General Assembly in 2007 to address the revenue losses affecting small, local wineries (a large percentage of Virginia's present 130 wineries). Start-up funding was provided by the state. It will permit owners to market and distribute much as they did before the court ruling. The process is complicated and novel and could lead to future legal challenges.

that day. If it is a workday telecommute. Get into a habit by trying this once a month then try for once a week. Try it! It's good for the environment and good for you as well.

Do You have other ideas? Pass them one and we'll include them in future issues of the *Voter*.

June Unit Meetings are “Do Your Own Thing”

There is a different format for meetings this June, as each unit plans its own event; meetings below are listed in DATE order; please note units that are not meeting on their regularly scheduled 2nd week of the month (June 9 – 12, 2008). Members and visitors may attend any meeting convenient for them. As of May 10, 2008, locations and events were correct; use phone numbers to verify information and advise of your intent to attend.

Some events may need reservations, please check with contact listed.

Wednesday, May 28:

8:15 AM, Fairfax Station Unit
is joining The Tour of Capitol Square in Richmond
 Contact : Lois Page for more info
 703-690-0908 or loismpage@cox.net
 (No meeting in June)

Monday, June 2:

7:00 PM, Reston Day & Evening Units
*Report from your Legislators,
 Sen. Janet Howell and Del. Ken Plum*
 Room C, Reston Community Center
 at Lake Anne
 Contact Therese Martin
 703-471-6364 or
 tbmartin4@verizon.net

Monday, June 9:

1:30 PM Greenspring (GSP)
 No further information available at press time
 Hunters Crossing Classroom
 Spring Village Drive, Springfield
 Contact: Jane 703-569-0079

Tuesday, June 10:

12:30 PM, McLean (MCL)
 No further information available at press time
 McLean Community Center, Rm#2
 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean
 Contact: Judy 703-524-0991

7:45 PM, Vienna Evening (VE)
*Meeting with members of Vienna Planning
 & Zoning Committee*
 409 Beulah Road, Vienna
 Contact Annette Masnick
 703-218-9715

Wednesday, June 11:

9:15 AM, Fairfax City Day (FXD)
*Tour of Fairfax City Regional Library
 with luncheon afterwards*
 Contact: Jeanne for details:
 703-591-4580
 or jpagee@verizon.net

11AM, Mt. Vernon Day & Evening Units
 Luncheon with legislators at Pema's on Route 1
 Contact Gail Richmond at
 703-360-6561
 or drichmondmd@pol.net

12:00 Noon, Chantilly Herndon (CHD)
Luncheon – place TBD
 Contact Susan for details:
 703-391-0666
 or SADILL@cox.net

Dinner Unit (DU)
 Not meeting

Next Unit Meetings:

September 8-12, 2008

Your Board Wishes You and Yours a Healthy and Happy Summer!



The League of Women Voters of the Fairfax Area (LWVFA)
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703-658-9150. Web address: www.lwv-fairfax.org

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June, 2008

Mary Grace Lintz, Acting President
Ron Page, Composer
Sherry Zachry, Editor/Coordinator

The League of Women Voters is a nonpartisan political organization that encourages the public to play an informed and active role in government. At the local, state, regional and national levels, the League works to influence public policy through education and advocacy. Any citizen of voting age, male or female, may become a member.

LWVFA MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

(Dues year ends thru June 30th.)

Membership Category: Individual \$55 ____; Household (2 persons–1 Bulletin) \$75 ____; Advocate Member \$100 ____;
Student \$27.50 ____ (Coll. Attending _____)

Membership is: New ____; Renewal ____; Reinstate ____; Subsidy Requested ____

We value membership. A subsidy fund is available, check block above and include whatever you can afford.

Dues are not tax deductible. Tax-deductible donations must be written on a separate check payable to **LWVFA Ed. Fund.**

Please Print Clearly!

Name _____ **Unit** _____

Address _____

City _____ **State** _____ **Zip + 4** _____

Phone (H) _____ **(W)** _____ **E-Mail** _____

Please mail your check and completed application to: LWVFA 4026 Hummer Rd. Suite 214, Annandale, VA 22003-2403

Thank you for checking off your interests:

<input type="checkbox"/> County Govt	<input type="checkbox"/> Voting Procedures	<input type="checkbox"/> Health Care	<input type="checkbox"/> Schools
<input type="checkbox"/> Fiscal	<input type="checkbox"/> Environmental Quality	<input type="checkbox"/> Human Services	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Write in Below)
<input type="checkbox"/> Public Libraries	<input type="checkbox"/> Land Use Planning	<input type="checkbox"/> Judicial Systems	
<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	<input type="checkbox"/> Water	<input type="checkbox"/> Juvenile Problems	