



Fairfax Voter

Can Fairfax County Keep Its Cool?

Are you familiar with all the letters in the alphabet soup that you see in articles on climate change, global warming, and “Cool Counties?” Keeping up with them and knowing their meaning is a real challenge. In January, units will discuss topics, beginning with the global what each of us as individuals can do crises. No, it’s not dry reading—



discuss an information study on these climate situation and finishing with to help address the current and coming you won’t be able to put it down!

“Recent warming coincides with rapid growth of human-made greenhouse gases. The observed rapid warming gives urgency to discussions about how to slow greenhouse gas emissions.” Dr. James E. Hansen, top NASA climate scientist

Calendar

January

- 01 New Year’s Day
- 02 SCHOOL/LWVFA Office REOPEN
- 02 February Bulletin Deadline
- 04 NCA Board Meeting
- 05 Briefing/Environment (local)–upper conference room.
- 05 NoVA G.A. Delegation Public Hearing
- 8-10,14 Unit meetings – Environment (local)
- 09 GEN. ASSEMBLY CONVENES
- 16 Board Meeting/February UC Letter
- 16 WRT begins in Richmond
- 21 Martin Luther King Day Celebration-Reston//School Closed
- 25 & 28 School closed

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The Acting President's Message

Happy New Year!

Going down to Richmond is always an exciting event for me. It was especially so on December 5th when I attended the Women's Legislative Roundtable's (WRT) pre-session meeting held at our historic Capitol.

Olga Hernandez, LWVVA President, and Anne Sterling, LWVVA Lobbyist, put together a dazzling group of speakers on numerous topics high on the state League's legislative agenda. Three speakers enjoyed by the "policy wonks" among us were Richard Brown and Melanie West from the Virginia Department of Planning and Budget (P&B) and David Solamini, the Executive Director of the Virginia Redistricting Coalition.

Mr. Brown, the Director of P&B, explained the sources of Virginia's funds and how they are spent. He also indicated some of the ripple effects caused by the current housing slow-down and talked about their potential consequences on the up-coming budget. Ms. West spoke about the Virginia Regulatory Town Hall which allows everyone to participate *electronically* in regulation development. Mr. Solamini discussed redistricting and the platform that his organization is developing which coincides rather nicely with the recently expanded LWVVA redistricting positions.

Nancy Rodriguez, the new Secretary of the State Board of Elections (SBE) made a brief appearance to introduce herself and made it quite clear that her job is to implement current law regarding a paper trail in the electoral process.

Social and environmental issues were well covered. Kathy Glazer, from the Governor's Pre-Kindergarten initiative spoke on plans to expand the current program. Ben Greenberg, from the Virginia Organizing Project, an organization promoting social justice issues, discussed plans to work for a minimum wage and subsidies for low-income childcare, as well as to work against predatory lending practices by payday lenders. Andrew Goddard, a Virginia Tech parent whose son was shot (fortunately not killed), spoke on various aspects of gun control regulation. Environmental needs and pro-choice matters were also well covered.

In the afternoon, Senator Mary Margaret Whipple from Arlington and Andrew King, the political editor of the *Richmond Times-Dispatch*, discussed the upcoming 2008 General Assembly session from their respective viewpoints.

You can make your voice heard when the General Assembly is in session. See Jane Hilder's Action column for information about how the State League is making lobbying/advocacy easy for us to accomplish. To review the LWVVA's positions, go to www.lwvfa.org. I hope that website will also provide the names and "urls" of the many groups with whom the LWVVA is aligned in promoting our legislative priorities. We will endeavor to get that information to you.

Mary Grace

Welcome to Our Newest Local Members!

Leslie Vandivere, Membership Chair

Raji Brahmam (McL)

Valli Golden (CHD).

Did you remember to tell a friend about the League? Most League members joined because a League Member asked them to join or brought them to a meeting? Why not invite someone to your next unit meeting?

LWVFA Fairfax Voter 2008

This newsletter is published 10 times from September to June each year by:

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Subscriptions to the *Fairfax Voter* are available to non Fairfax League members for \$15 per annum. Send your check to the above address and request a subscription.

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

YOU ARE INVITED TO LWVFA'S 2008 GENERAL MEETING!

The 2008 LWVFA General Meeting is on Saturday, February 9, 2008 at the International Country Club in Chantilly, same as last year. The luncheon meeting is open to everyone – public, press and League members and their guests. The speaker portion is free; cost of the luncheon is \$27.00 (see menu and reservation form below). There will be an informative and timely discussion on the need for, and benefits of, pre-kindergarten education for ALL children, including the Governor's legislative initiatives on the subject. Please join us!

2008 LWVFA General Meeting & Luncheon Reservation Form

Cut-off bottom of this form and send with your check by February 2, 2008

Saturday, February 9, 2008

At The International Country Club

13200 Lee Jackson Highway (Route 50), Chantilly

Registration begins at 10:00 a.m.

10:30 a.m. ~ Speaker

**Topic: Why Should We Care About Early Childhood Education
And How Can We Pay For It?**

Speaker:

Vera Steiner Blore, Executive Director
Fairfax Futures' Schools Readiness Network

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**Luncheon at 12:15 p.m.**

Menu: Cream of Mushroom Soup, Chicken Francaise with Rice, Vegetable medley, Assorted rolls and butter; Chocolate dessert ( chef's choice); Hot & Cold beverages.

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Directions to I.C.C. From I-66 West:

Take exit 57 - Route 50 Dulles Airport. At the 7th traffic light on Route 50, turn right into the parking lot of the Country Club.

Cut-off and send in this reservation form with your check.

Reservation Deadline – February 2, 2008 - Cost: \$27.00 per person

Please make checks payable to: **LWVFA** and Mail with reservation form to:
General Meeting, 11020 Burywood Lane, Reston, VA 20194

Name _____ Lunch @\$27 ea. _____

Phone Number & E-mail _____

Guest(s)'Name(s) _____ Lunch @\$27ea. _____

Total \$ enclosed _____

For special dietary needs or questions, call Viveka at 703-404-0498

Action Faction . . .**League Targets Lobbying Efforts**

By Jane Hilder, LWVFA Action Director

Targeting the lobbying efforts of local League members is the goal of a new initiative by the Virginia LWV Board in developing an Action Alert list matching each member to his or her state delegate, state senator, and Congressional representative. This will enable the Action team of Anne Sterling, LWVVA lobbyist, and Lynn Gordon, LWVVA Action Chair, to contact members in specific districts by email or phone as needed when legislation needs support from their representative.

At the lobbyist training following the pre-session Women's Roundtable (WRT) and luncheon in Richmond on December 5th, Anne and Lynn also asked for volunteers for an Advocacy Team. They are looking for League members interested in attending on a regular basis the

2008 General Assembly Session that convenes January 9, 2008, perhaps one day a week, to follow the actions of committees and monitor the outcome of legislation.

Another possibility, for those of us who live farther away, would be to follow a specific committee or legislative bill on the Internet. The afternoon workshop at the pre-session WRT was a lesson in how to use all the features of the Virginia Legislative Information Services website <www.legis.state.va.us>. Diane Seaborn, who runs the Virginia Legislative website, demonstrated how to track bills and find the agenda and meeting schedule for upcoming committee meetings during the session. This information could be used to keep the LWVVA website <www.LWV-VA.org> up to date regarding legislation of interest to League members that is posted on the Action page of the site.

If anyone wants to volunteer for these action initiatives, please contact Lynn Gordon at <action@LWV-VA.org>.

In the Spotlight . . .

**Sally Ormsby,
2007-08 Chair Nominating and EQ Committees**

Chair of LWVFA's Environmental Quality (EQ) Committee and of this month's study, "Can Fairfax County Keep Its Cool?," Sally joined the LWVFA in 1977 and served on its board from 1979 to 1987.

First elected in 1999 as a Director to the Northern Virginia Soil & Water Conservation District (NVSWCD), she was re-elected for the second time in November 2007. Sally was named the 2006 Citizen of the Year by *The Washington Post* and the Fairfax County Federation of Citizens Associations. The Fairfax County Park Authority (FCPA) recently established the Sally B. Ormsby Environmental Stewardship Award, to be presented periodically as the FCPA Board decides, and presented Sally with the first award.

Sally has been a one-woman community activist all of her adult life and to name all of Sally's accomplishments would take more space than we have in this publication. Her League accomplishments include, in addition to chairing the 2008 Nominating Committee and EQ Committee, either chairing or being a member of following League study

Spotlight, cont'd Page 6, Col 1

LWVFA Becomes 60 in 2008 . . .**60 Years Strong & Needed Now More Than Ever!**

The League of Women Voters of the Fairfax Area will be celebrating its 60th Anniversary as a full-fledged League on April 19, 2008; it was granted "official League status" by LWVUS on April 15, 1948, as "The League of Women Voters of Fairfax County." LWVFA began as a "provisional League" (now called a "Members-at-Large Unit") in 1946 and its name was changed again in 1964 after the Town of Fairfax became a City – thus becoming the LWV of the Fairfax "Area" which means that LWVFA can speak to issues in the County and in the City of Fairfax.

Plans are being made for an exciting and fun celebration. The event will be part of the luncheon at the Annual Meeting (60th, of course!) that is being held in the Hunters Crossing Conference Room of Greenspring Village, off Franconia-Springfield Parkway, on Saturday, April 19th at 10 AM. There will be old pictures, special guests, honorees, cake and high 'spirits' of all sorts. You can even play 'dress-up' if you wish and attend as a suffragist from the early 1900s (all women need is a long, black skirt, white blouse and fancy hat; men can wear a straw or black 'bowler' hat).

A 60th Anniversary Committee has been formed, headed by Janey George, including Bernice Colvard, Lorraine Hart,

60th Anniversary, Cont'd Page 7, Col 3

CAN FAIRFAX COUNTY KEEP ITS COOL?

Study Committee: Jackson Harper, Olga Harper, Sarah Mayhew, Mary Nightlinger, and Sally Ormsby (chair)

"Treat the Earth well; it was not given to you by your parents, it was loaned to you by your children. We do not inherit the Earth from our ancestors; we borrow it from our children." Ancient Indian Proverb.

A BRIEF LOOK AT THE GLOBAL SCENE

Global warming is threatening the livability of the Earth. Business-as-usual will result in irreversible destruction of vital ecosystems and possibly more than half of Earth's plant and animal species. If we do nothing, the Arctic is predicted to become free of ice in summer and the Amazon rainforest could revert to grassland this century. Accelerated collapse of the Greenland Ice Cap is expected to increase ocean levels this century, flooding many coastal cities and communities around the world. The power of hurricanes and typhoons is increasing, threatening hundreds of millions of coastal dwellers. Oceans are acidifying due to the uptake of increasing carbon dioxide emissions and are projected to lose virtually all fisheries by mid-century. Tropical coral reefs with their richness of aquatic life will all but disappear. Severe drought has been projected to cover almost a third of the land this century. Climate changes and extreme weather events will reduce agricultural production for a human population expected to increase from six to nine billion by mid-century. If we do nothing, water shortages are expected to impact three billion people and more than 600 million will not have sufficient food.

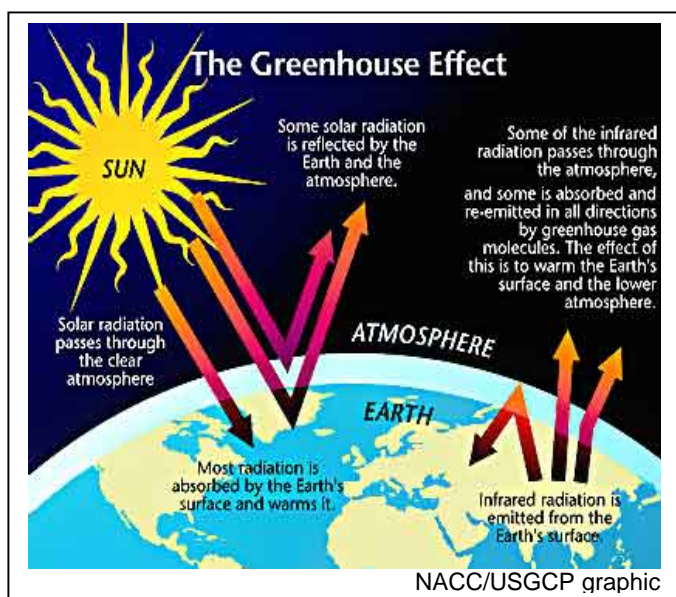
Greenhouse gases (GHGs) are those that cause heat to be trapped in the atmosphere. The diagram below visually illustrates the GHG effect. GHGs include carbon dioxide, methane, nitrous oxides, and fluorinated gases. Immediate action is required to reduce emissions of these gases to avert reaching tipping points leading to uncontrollable warming. The Fourth Assessment Report by the International Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) states that adaptation and mitigation measures can diminish the risks associated with climate change. Dr. James Hansen, noted NASA climatologist, says that "business-as-usual, if it continues for even another decade, will be disastrous for the planet."

Complicating efforts to curb greenhouse emissions is a

coming oil crunch, projected by the International Energy Agency (IEA) and the National Petroleum Council (NPC) to occur between 2010 and 2015. Diminishing oil supplies and growing international demand will drive up prices and perhaps lead to gasoline rationing. This event could greatly affect our local economy and suburban residents, changing transportation and commuting modes and altering lifestyles.

Preparations for the oil crunch will generally aid in curbing global warming provided that liquid fuels are not produced using highly polluting source material or inefficient fossil fuel processes, such as oil from coal, tar sands, or oil shale. Canada, for example, produces one million barrels of synthetic crude a day from tar sands. The extraction process using natural gas requires more BTUs than it produces and leaves a barren landscape.

Participating in an epic adventure to reorder our lives and to develop pollution-free sustainable communities that are necessary to save the planet and humanity is indeed a challenge. With humanity at risk and climate catastrophe looming, most scientists and citizens feel we must take immediate action to counter these threats.



FEDERAL ACTIONS—and INACTION

In 1992, as international awareness of climate change grew, the United Nations convened an Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee to address the subject. That group drafted a treaty known as the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee for a UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) that was ratified by the United States in October of 1992. The UNFCCC provided a mechanism for governments to share information on GHG emissions and policies, develop strategies to reduce emissions and adapt to the impacts of climate change, but did not require binding reductions in GHG emissions. In 1997, the United States declined to adopt the Kyoto Protocol that obligated signatory parties with the highest GHG emissions to specific reductions, stating among other reasons that developing countries like China and India should be equally bound to reduce their emissions and that a mandated reduction would be detrimental to the US economy.

Although it declined to adopt the Kyoto Protocol, the United States government established a climate policy with three components that mirror those of the UNFCCC: slow the growth of GHG emissions; strengthen science, technology and relevant institutions; and enhance international cooperation. To implement this climate policy, the Federal government is using voluntary and incentive-based programs instead of regulations to reduce emissions and to promote climate science and technology. For example, the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA's) Office of Transportation and Air Quality forms partnerships with private companies to encourage voluntary use of cleaner diesel fuel, more fuel-efficient transportation systems for their employees, clean school buses, etc.

Federal control of air pollution to date has largely been under the provisions of the Clean Air Act, which authorizes EPA to set national standards for acceptable concentrations of pollutants considered harmful to public health and the environment and established a national system for monitoring air quality. The EPA monitors GHGs as part of the United States' reporting obligations under the UNFCCC. EPA requires submission of regular reports to Congress on global warming. However, until losing a recent court ruling, the EPA had held that GHGs were not pollutants. Therefore, the government agency which would be expected to be the major player in addressing GHGs has promulgated no regulations. Now that it has been established that the

EPA is legally required to apply air pollution regulations to these gases, it must begin to act. As public awareness of and concern about climate change have increased, Congress has begun to consider bills that would provide for mandatory reductions of GHGs. During the current 110th Congress, about 70 bills addressing climate change have been proposed. The bills generally provide for an emissions "cap and trade" market-based system to reduce GHGs, with varying timetables and levels of GHGs, long-term carbon storage, and research and development of climate-friendly technology. The "cap and trade" system is used to control pollution by providing economic incentives for achieving reductions in pollutant emissions. It is too early to tell which of these bills might pass, but at least Congress is now willing to address the issue for the first time in years.

VIRGINIA TAKES THE INITIATIVE

A few months after Governor Kaine took office in January of 2006, he announced a program to preserve 400,000 acres of open space during his four-year term. Trees and other vegetation consume CO₂ as they make chlorophyll. As of May 31, 2007, approximately 155,000 acres had been conserved. On June 18, 2007, Governor Kaine announced 15 grants totaling \$6.2 million awarded by the Virginia Land Conservation Foundation (VLCF) that would help add 11,540 acres to be conserved.

The Virginia Energy Plan of 2007 charts a path that will provide for "reliable energy supplies at reasonable rates and increase the use of conservation and efficiency measures." The 2006 General Assembly enacted legislation (§67-101 and §67-102 of the *Code of Virginia*) setting energy policy statements and objectives and directing development of a ten-year state energy plan, which is to be updated every five years. During development, the Plan was the subject of five public hearings and was reviewed by state agencies, the State Corporation Commission staff, the Virginia Center for Coal and Energy Research, and the Center for Innovative Technology.

The 2006 provisions added to the *Code of Virginia* call for Virginia to take a broad range of energy actions, some of which may support climate change initiatives while others may prove to be obstacles. They include:

- Ensure the availability of reliable energy at reasonable costs;

- Establish sufficient energy supply and delivery infrastructure;
- *Use energy resources efficiently and facilitate conservation;*
- Facilitate development of low-cost energy resources, inside and outside Virginia, including development of clean coal resources;
- Facilitate development of less-polluting energy sources and electric generation technologies that do not contribute to GHGs and global warming;
- Foster R&D of alternative energy sources that are competitive at market prices; and
- Increase reliance on Virginia agriculture-based ethanol and biodiesel.

Chapter 3 of the Energy Plan on “Energy Efficiency and Conservation” (see italicized item above) lists “a few of the most important strategies” for accomplishing this program, as follows: Consumer education; Training for service and design professionals; Financial incentives that influence consumers’ decisions; Increasing energy-efficiency building and equipment standards; Utility rates and programs (time-of-use rates, demand response, etc.); Research and development programs; and Transportation improvements and mass transit incentives.

Chapter 5 of the Energy Plan on “Energy and the Environment” contains significant and meaningful sidebar comments. Here are some of them:

- “Decisions on meeting future energy needs should no longer be based only on traditional economic models; they can also incorporate protection of ecosystems, natural resources, and the health and well-being of citizens.
- “Methane is a major source of greenhouse gases. According to the U. S. EPA, methane is more than twenty times more effective at trapping heat in the atmosphere than carbon dioxide over a hundred-year period.
- “On May 22, 2007, Governor Kaine announced that Virginia had joined The Climate Registry. With a membership of more than thirty states and several tribes, The Climate Registry is the nation’s only state-sponsored initiative to standardize methodologies to record and measure greenhouse gas emissions such as carbon dioxide, methane, and nitrous oxides.
- “Virginia adopted the Clean Air Interstate Rule and mercury rules capping emissions of sulfur dioxide, nitrous oxides, and mercury. Any new sources of these pollutants must be offset so there will be no

net increase in the emissions.

- “Transportation is Virginia’s largest energy-consuming sector. Land use and transportation are integrally linked. The typical suburban sprawl . . . increases the demand for new roads and highways. This style of development intensifies automobile use and discourages the use of less polluting alternatives such as public transit, bicycling, or walking.
- “From 1980 to 2000, Virginia’s population grew 33 percent, while vehicle miles traveled grew 90 percent.
- “A January 2007 report prepared by the State Advisory Board on Air Pollution . . . notes that the United States now saves ‘more energy each year from energy efficiency than we get from any single energy source.’ ”

ACTIONS In The US And ABROAD

In Europe, carbon dioxide emissions per capita are about half the 20 tons per year for Americans. The European Union (EU) has proposed to cut GHG emissions at least 20 percent by 2020. A carbon cap-and-trade system introduced in 2005 and under expansion will gradually ratchet up the cost of emitting carbon throughout the EU to promote the transition from fossil fuels to non-carbon energy sources such as wind, solar, biomass, tidal, and wave. They plan to decouple energy distribution from energy production to allow for stronger independent regulatory control. Energy efficiency will be improved by using more fuel-efficient vehicles, higher standards for appliances, strengthened building codes, and more efficient heat and electricity generation, transmission, and distribution.

In August 2006, President Clinton launched the Clinton Foundation’s Climate Initiative (CCI) with the mission of fighting climate change in practical, measurable and significant ways. CCI is working with an association of large cities dedicated to developing and implementing a range of actions that will accelerate GHG emissions reductions. CCI is bringing together Bangkok, Berlin, Chicago, Houston, Johannesburg, Karachi, London, Melbourne, Mexico City, Mumbai, New York, Rome, Sao Paulo, Seoul, Tokyo, and Toronto, four multinational energy service companies and five global banks to reduce energy use in major buildings 20 to 50 percent.

California is the leader in the fight against global warming in the United States. The California Global Warm-

ing Solutions Act of 2006 caps the 2020 GHG target at 1990 levels. A carbon cap-and-trade system, as well as penalties for industries in non-compliance, has been authorized. California already produces more than 10 percent of its electricity from renewable sources and another 15 percent from hydroelectric plants. The current goal is 33 percent renewable energy by 2020. Its New Solar Homes Partnership focuses on residential home construction aided by \$350 million managed by the California Energy Commission.

Renewable energy standards have been legislated by 25 states to set goals for renewable energy production in each state. More than 30 states have set up a GHG Registry to measure, track, verify, and publicly report GHG emissions. The Western Regional Climate Action Initiative, composed of Utah, Arizona, California, New Mexico, Oregon, Washington and the Canadian province of British Columbia, will set up a market-based system to reduce GHG emissions. Maryland, Connecticut, Delaware, Maine, Massachusetts, New Jersey, New Hampshire, New York, Rhode Island, and Vermont comprise the Northeast Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative covering power plant emissions that will be capped at current levels and then reduced 10 percent by 2019.

Oregon intends to halt the growth of GHGs by 2010, reduce emissions to 10 percent below 1990 levels by 2020 and ultimately to 75 percent below 1990 levels by 2050. New Jersey will limit GHG statewide emissions and GHG emissions from electricity generated outside the state for its use to 1990 levels by 2020 and by 80 percent below 2006 levels by 2050.

In 1993, Portland, Oregon, was the first U.S. city to initiate a strategy to curb carbon emissions and has made significant strides toward their goal of 10 percent below the 1990 level. Their success has been due to a 75 percent growth in public transit use since 1990 encouraged by the construction of two major rail lines and the Portland Streetcar. The city also buys renewable energy for more than 10 percent of its electricity, recycles at a rate of 54 percent, has constructed nearly 40 high-performance green buildings, planted over 750,000 trees and shrubs, and insulated over 10,000 multifamily units and 800 houses. Portland's Peak Oil Plan of 2007 will further reduce carbon emissions by reducing oil and natural gas usage by 50 percent over the next 25 years, support land use patterns that reduce transportation needs, promote walkability, provide easy access to services and transportation, and design efficient transportation infrastructure for the movement of freight.

The Climate Protection Plan in Austin, Texas, is one of the most ambitious in the country. Austin will power all city facilities with renewable energy by 2012 and make its vehicles carbon-neutral by 2020 (powered by electricity and biofuels). City utilities will provide 30 percent renewable energy by 2020 including 100 megawatts of solar power and achieve carbon neutrality on any new generation units. All single-family homes will be capable of zero-net energy (creating as much energy as the home consumes) and other new construction will be 75 percent more energy efficient by 2015. Key to the Austin and Portland plans are the engagement and collaboration of the public and business in emission reduction efforts through readily accessible information, on-line "footprint" calculators, recognition, and incentives. Population growth in cities has made it difficult for them to reach original GHG emission reduction goals.

FAIRFAX COUNTY INITIATIVES

In early 2004, soon after they took office, the current Board of Supervisors adopted a new Environmental Improvement Program (EIP). Based on the Environmental Agenda ("Environmental Excellence for Fairfax County: A 20-year Vision"), the Program is divided into the following issue areas: growth and land use; air quality and transportation; water quality; solid waste; parks, trails and open space; and environmental stewardship. A 15-member interagency EIP Action Group updates the EIP for each coming fiscal year with recommended budgetary actions to continue implementation of the Program. Some of the recommended actions in each category are:

Growth and Land Use – The County is using more "smart growth" techniques, such as compact, higher density, mixed-use development and Transit-oriented Development (TOD), with a mix of uses so people can live, work and play in walkable communities to lessen vehicle usage and cut GHG emissions. Recent examples of such developments approved by the Board of Supervisors but not yet constructed are MetroWest adjacent to the Vienna Metro station, a Merrifield Town Center and an expansion of Tysons I with TOD on Route 123 close to the planned Metro station.

The County has included in the Policy Plan of the Comprehensive Plan and in the Public Facilities Manual provisions encouraging the use of Low Impact Development to reduce energy usage and protect the envi-

ronment. Finally, whenever possible, the County is building new facilities to meet the silver standards of the national Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) program. The Board approved another Policy Plan amendment in December 2007 to encourage meeting Green Building standards in new construction. The County is using the green building approach on nearly 20 active building development projects, and the Park Authority will use this technology on expansion of one of its recreation centers. Two new fire stations are green buildings.

Fairfax County has a 41 percent tree canopy with a goal of reaching 45 percent by 2020. Fairfax ReLeaf sponsored a program called "2000 Trees in 2000" that was very successful. It has since continued the program with the aim of planting the same number of trees as the year. They have, in fact, surpassed their goal. In January of 2007, the Board approved a Tree Action Plan designed to methodically provide more tree cover.

The anticipated revenue shortfall caused by the fall in real estate values will mean that initiatives requiring increased funding are unlikely to be adopted and implemented until the fiscal situation improves.

Air Quality and Transportation measures are essential to meaningful GHG reduction in Fairfax County and the Washington metro region. The biggest effort, by far, to reduce vehicle emissions is the proposed Dulles Corridor Metrorail to Dulles Airport and beyond.

Fairfax has addressed its own sizable fleet by reducing its size and converting 99 vehicles to hybrid gas and electric. Other measures include reduction of idling, use of diesel filters and more fuel-efficient and cleaner-burning busses. The county has retrofitted 436 school buses with diesel particulate filters that reduce nitrous oxides emissions and indirectly assist in GHG reduction. There is preferred parking for van pools and payments to employees who use public transit. Efforts to increase telework by County employees, now at 20 percent, have shown encouraging results and continue to be promoted.

In 2007, Fairfax County purchased 5 percent of its energy from wind and will expand that source to 10 percent by 2009. This energy source reduces the production of several million pounds of carbon dioxide.

The county encourages ride sharing and telework to reduce vehicle trips. Other measures addressing this goal are company Transportation Demand Management

(TDM) programs and provision of bicycle parking and shower facilities as well as shuttle bus service to and from Metro stations. Some companies provide a Metro check fare card voucher program for users of public transportation.

Planned but not fully funded is a major program to address bus-stop safety. Better access and shelters will encourage bus usage. Public outreach includes forums for fleet users and participation in air quality programs of the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (WASHCOG).

Solid Waste is treated by a waste-to-energy plant in Lorton, operated by Covanta, that incinerates trash. Residents are encouraged to recycle newspaper; office paper; and glass, metal and plastic containers. Businesses must recycle only office paper and cardboard. Recycling of office paper is especially effective in reducing the waste stream and has a high, more stable sale value. The waste-to-energy plant generates electricity, which it sells to Dominion Virginia Electric Power. Landfill gas (LFG) at the I-95 landfill is used at the Noman Cole Wastewater Treatment Plant as fuel for sludge processing, and LFG generated at the I-66 landfill heats county buildings on West Ox Road.

Parks, Trails and Open Space - Fairfax County has a cross-county trail serving walkers and bikers that runs uninterrupted for 40 miles from the southeast to the northwest parts of the county. This facility is well loved and heavily used. The remainder of the County's trail system has frequent gaps in the neighborhood trails and sidewalks intended to provide pedestrian access to shopping, schools, libraries, etc. The Parks and Sidewalks Committee's list of priorities for addressing these gaps is not new, but funding is not sufficient. The Park Authority is doing an analysis of its parkland to identify different types of developed and undeveloped uses. For several years the Park Authority has been short of the funds and staff to properly maintain its resources. The goal for parkland is 10 percent of County acreage; it currently stands at nearly 9.5 percent.

Environmental Stewardship

In an effort to reduce energy use and thereby reduce GHG emissions, the County has replaced its lights or retrofitted its lighting system in county buildings; has installed Energy Management Control Systems (EMCS) in two buildings; reduced energy consumption by 13.2 percent between FY 2001 and FY 2006; established a countywide tree planting program; participated in the ENERGY STAR® "Change a Light" challenge pro-

gram; is developing a Green Building policy for county capital projects; is promoting stewardship of urban forest resources with a 30-year canopy goal of 45 percent; is undertaking a feasibility study for renewable energy technologies; has a Government Center energy project; and will perform energy audits for county facilities. Finally, the Environmental Coordinator has proposed a new position—an Energy Coordinator, whose salary would be more than supported by the energy cost savings.

“COOL COUNTIES” INITIATIVE

At the National Association of Counties (NACO) meeting in Richmond on July 14-16, 2007, Fairfax County; King County, WA; and Nassau County, NY joined the Sierra Club in announcing the creation of the Cool Counties Climate Stabilization Declaration, a new initiative to combat climate change. There are now at least 17 other counties, representing more than 25 million people, participating in the Cool Counties program. In the absence of Federal government action, U.S. counties will reduce GHG emissions through actions in seven key areas: energy efficiency, renewable energy, greening county vehicle fleets, land use, transportation, water conservation, and educational outreach.

The Cool Counties Declaration asks counties to:

- Create an inventory of their present local emissions of greenhouse gas (GHG) to serve as a baseline for planning and implementing policies to achieve measurable and sustainable reductions.
- Call on local governments to work with their regional and state governments to reduce GHG emissions to 80 percent below current levels by 2050.
- Urge Congress and the Administration to enact market-based limits and incentives to reduce GHG emissions by 80 percent by 2050.

The implementation tool for achieving the stated goals is the Template, prepared by Fairfax County, which is a detailed check list of suggested policies, programs and specific actions that fall under the headings of: Energy Efficiency, Renewable Energy, Fleets/Vehicles/Equipment, Land Use, Transportation, Education and Outreach, and Water Conservation. Counties are free to modify the template to fit their needs and goals.

As the nation's wealthiest county, measured by median family income, Fairfax County has the capability to set a model for the 3066 counties in the United States. As

part of this effort Fairfax County will first inventory the major sources of GHG emissions. If the Austin, Texas, estimate of transportation emissions can serve as a guide, then the Fairfax transportation sector would be the major source of GHGs at about 40 percent. The heating and cooling of buildings is another major GHG contributor. Growth will have to be managed, consumerism moderated, and lifestyle changes encouraged. Major programs in the Cool Counties template that may apply to the Fairfax County program follow:

Energy Efficiency - Promote energy-efficient and non-fossil fuel heating, cooling, and lighting in county buildings, businesses and homes; organize increased recycling; promote green building (LEED) standards and energy-efficient landscaping for county and commercial buildings and homes; promote energy-efficient public and private outdoor lighting; promote home and business energy audits through Fairfax County and area utility companies.

Renewable Energy - Promote distributed renewable power generation at businesses, individual homes, and communities. Solar, biomass, fuel cell, wind, and cogeneration are some of the candidate energy sources in Fairfax County. Promote state action to extend the Net Metering Law to allow for greater private contributions to the power net; promote a statewide Renewable Energy Standard; promote decoupling of commercial power output from profits in order to reward conservation and energy efficiency.

Fleets/Vehicles/Equipment - Promote incentives for the purchase and operation of fuel-efficient vehicles, particularly hybrids and electric cars; promote fewer auto trips and shorter trips; promote and organize computerized ride sharing and community parking and pickup areas.

Land Use - Promote transit-oriented and mixed-use development; support land use planning that reduces transportation demand; promote tree planting and preservation; promote smart growth to limit sprawl; encourage grocery stores to stock local produce to reduce long-distance trucking; protect and save natural areas.

Transportation - Build and promote mass transit systems to prepare for “peak oil” and to lower GHG emissions; design and promote transportation infrastructure for the efficient movement of freight by rail; adapt communities to become more walkable to shopping and services; promote telework and flex-time schedules.

Education and Outreach - Inform homeowners, businesses, and county employees about global warming, the steps necessary to bring GHG emissions under control, and sources of distributed renewable energy generation and non-fossil fuel methods for heating and cooling; inform citizens of products with high GHG impact such as meat and bottled water; establish partnerships with civic groups, churches, homeowner associations, and business and trade associations to participate in the long-term effort of GHG reduction.

Water Conservation – Treatment of water to make it potable consumes energy.

HOW CAN I HELP?

First of all, stay informed. The assessments of global warming and “peak oil” worsened in 2007 and projections will be revealed more fully as the science matures. Go to the most authoritative sources on-line, such as the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) and the International Energy Agency (IEA). Most importantly, identify, campaign for, and elect federal, state, and local officials who will take action. Strong federal leadership is needed to prepare for “peak oil” and bring down GHG emissions in time to avert climate catastrophe. Hold their feet to the fire after they are elected.

Since there are fewer than 10 years to begin substantially reducing GHGs, we must concentrate on high emissions items such as our transportation, the heating and cooling of our homes, and our purchases of consumer items. Prepare for the likelihood of gasoline rationing by planning your transportation needs now. Is public transportation available? Will you need a more fuel-efficient car? Reduce air travel by taking a train or bus when possible. Consider using heat pumps to reduce GHG emissions in heating and cooling your home. Consider installing solar panels on your roof to generate some of your electric power and for lowering your GHG emissions. Reduce purchases of non-essential consumer items. Reduce consumption of meat, which accounts for 18 percent of GHGs. Buy more locally grown food to reduce transportation emissions--and plant a vegetable garden.

Save energy! Turn out the lights when you leave a room; never leave the TV on when no one is watching it; turn off electronic equipment when not in use for several hours. In the winter, wear a sweater or sweatshirt and lower the thermostat setting to 68 degrees; in

the summer, turn up the thermostat and use fans; use programmable thermostats to cut energy use during the night. Run dishwashers and washing machines only when there is a full load.

Replace your incandescent light bulbs with compact florescent lamps (CFLs). They use 70-75 percent less electricity and last 15 times longer, but EPA recommends against their use where they are lit only briefly (closets, stairways) because of loss of efficiency and likelihood of premature burnout. Vehicle emissions are a major source of GHG emissions in Fairfax County, so we can have a significant effect on the problem by combining trips, ridesharing, using public transit, avoiding high speeds, learning to approach a stop light or sign by decelerating slowly, keeping tire pressure at the proper level, and following tune-up recommendations. When it is time to buy a car, consider a hybrid or a high-mileage vehicle. Telework when possible and substitute e-mail for meetings.

Our homes and office buildings are a big source of wasted fuel and of GHG emissions. Very few have adequate insulation in roofs and walls. Single-pane windows waste great amounts of heat and cool air. Caulking and weather stripping should be checked regularly. An attic fan and a roof vent make a noticeable difference during summer months. Investments in upgrades will pay for themselves in a few years.

The siting of a house on the land is important. If windows face south or west, a roof overhang will shade the windows in the summer, when the sun is high in the sky, and let in solar heat in winter when the sun is lower on the horizon. Deciduous trees have a similar effect, shading in summer and letting solar heat reach the house when leaves have fallen. The more plants and the less heat-absorbing surfaces that we have on our property the better, but large lawns are not helpful as lawnmowers are notorious GHG emitters. Consider replacing grass with native plants and ground cover.

New ENERGY STAR® appliances consume significantly less power than older versions. Consider whether your furnace, air conditioner, washing machine, dryer, refrigerator, dishwasher or water heater should be replaced. When you calculate the long-term savings on utility bills, the purchase can be a wise financial move as well as a way to help mitigate calamitous impacts on the earth’s ecosystem.

Green buildings should be the goal for all new construction. As far as financially practicable, convert your

house to a green building using solar hot water heating and solar panels for part of your electricity; save water by mulching gardens to retain water better and use rain barrels to supply water for outside uses. It takes power to treat water to drinking quality.

"We, the human species, are confronting a planetary emergency. . . . But there is hopeful news as well: we have the ability to solve this crisis and avoid the worst – though not all – of its consequences, if we act boldly, decisively and quickly."
Former Vice President Al Gore, Nobel Peace Lecture, Dec. 10, 2007

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Supervised Visitation Center – A Reality

By Barbara Nuñez, Domestic Violence Chair

A few months ago, I mentioned in this publication that Fairfax County was pursuing a Supervised Visitation And Exchange center for the Fairfax County Juvenile Court. The need is great—we just read in the newspapers about another family – mother, father, and three children killed when the exchange for visitation took place.

I am happy to report that the new center is up and running in the basement of the Juvenile & Domestic Relations court building. The court refers families to this center in order to

provide a safe, friendly environment for visitation.

A “shower” for the Center, held on November 27th, brought donations of books, toys, games, computers, and furniture; but there is still a need for more. Sponsored by the Friends of the Court, it is a 501C3 agency, therefore, all contributions are tax-deductible.

Lori Wynore-Kirkland has been hired as staff to run the center. Lori is bilingual, speaking both English and Spanish in addition to being a former schoolteacher. At present, limitations for families are due to lack of volunteers. The center is looking for volunteers to assist with the program. Any one interested in helping out or making donations can contact Lori at 703-642-2378. Also contact Lori if you would be interested in visiting the center.

LWV-NCA Tour of the Library of Congress

Thursday, February 14, 2008

11:00 a.m. – 1:45 p.m.

11:00-11:45 a.m. – Tour A: General tour of Library of Congress complex. Meet docent at information desk on ground floor of LC’s original Jefferson Building on 1st Street opposite US Capitol. Come early to enter library’s main entrance on ground floor and go through Security.

12:00 a.m.–12:45 p.m. -- Lunch (“Dutch treat”). Reserved group seating in Staff Cafeteria on 6th floor of LC’s new Madison Building.

1:00-1:45 p.m. – Tour B: LC’s Congressional Research Service (CRS). Meet docent at 2nd floor entrance to CRS in Madison Building.

Attendees: Any League member of the local Leagues participating in the Inter-League Organization (ILO) called the League of Women Voters of the National Capital Area (LWVNCA) may RSVP for this FREE event. Each tour will have a maximum of 20 persons. If we have more RSVPs—up to 40 persons—we will split into two groups and be given extra docents. One group will do Tour A then Tour B while simultaneously the second group will do Tour B followed by Tour A. If more than 40 members RSVP, there will be a waiting list.

RSVP to Andrea Gruhl by email: andregruhl@aol.com. Use email message header: *RSVP for NCA Tour of LC*. Write your name, email address, phone number and name of local League. Deadline for RSVP: Tuesday, February 12, 2008 at 12 Noon.

Questions? Call Andrea, 301-596-5460

Virginia Happenings . . .**A Distant & Not-So Distant Past**

By Bernice Colvard, League Historian

Until very recently it had been generally accepted that the first humans to inhabit the Commonwealth were the Clovis people of the Paleo Period about 12,000 years ago. This changed during the last decade when archaeologist **Joe McAvoy**, working at **Cactus Hill** on the Nottoway about 45 miles south of Richmond, established the presence of the First Virginians to about 18,000 years ago. Quoting Robert Taft Kiser from his article, "arrowhead [sic]101," following is his description of the Commonwealth at that time.

"Virginia resembled Canada 18,000 years ago, with tundra and evergreens, while Canada lay buried under ice sheets 2 miles thick... the Chesapeake Bay existed as a valley about 2 miles wide and 165 feet below the modern surface..."

"...the James ran in a deep valley, but as the glaciers retreated the air grew warmer, trees like oak and beech joined the evergreens, and the ocean began creeping in. It flooded up the rivers, creating the Chesapeake Bay and Hampton Roads [5,000 to 6,000 years ago]. ...life began changing. Warmer temperatures increased the available food, and extra food led to population growth...[and finally permanent settlements. At which point dogs became essential to the creation of modern civilization as trusty sentinels.]

"...Even 3,000 years ago, long-range trade existed [e.g., with Mexico]. Many of our roads... were actually created by animals like bison and mastodon, long before the arrival of humans. The general logic of paths--favor high ground while avoiding water or hills--is universal to animals and modern highway design. As a result, painted warriors from the Great Lakes followed the routes of Interstates 95 and 85 down to test themselves against the Catawbas of the Carolinas, and Interstate 81 was one of the most active routes in prehistoric North America."

The earth remains restless. Changes can be surprising and threatening, as when a 2003 earthquake of 4.5 magnitude caused some damage in the Richmond area. Now, for the first time since the 1980s when the U.S. Geological Survey moved most of its equipment to the West Coast, the Richmond area again has seismic equipment. This is a joint venture in which the City of Richmond purchased the seismograph, the University of Richmond provides a secure, top-secret location on campus, and VA Tech scientists operate it remotely. In Northern Virginia, the U.S. Geological Survey operates its own facility in Reston.

Sources:

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Sally Ormsby, cont'd From Page 4

committees:

Land Use, Transportation, Fiscal, Council Of Government, Recycling, Local Government, Reapportionment and Redistricting; Sources of Revenue; and Women's Issues. And While serving on these committees, Sally has had a major role in composing League studies on all of these subjects, including the 2004 update of Dillon's Rule, which paper has been quoted by state legislators and Fairfax County attorney Michael Long.

Sally's many contributions have been equally divided between the League and her community, including Fairfax County, since she moved to Mantua in 1965. Currently, Sally holds offices in the following organizations, among others: Chair of the Potomac Council; Chair of the Virginia 2007 Fairfax County Community Planning Committee;

Chair of the Fairfax County Citizens Committee on Land Use and Transportation; Community Appearance Alliance of Northern Virginia; Board of Directors of the Fairfax County Federation of Citizens Associations; Mantua Citizens' Association, Inc.; and the Fairfax Committee of 100.

Through the years, Sally has served on various other citizen organizations and chaired the Citizens Reapportionment Advisory Committee in 2001.

Sally is married to Dr. W. Clayton Ormsby (a retired research chemist) and they have two adult children, Alison and Tyler.

Obviously, the League is very fortunate to have Sally as one of our very active and members and we look forward to many more years of her participation!

This Month's Unit Meeting Locations – Topic: Can Fairfax County Keep Its Cool?

Members and visitors may attend any meeting convenient for them. As of December 1, 2007 locations were correct; *please use phone numbers to verify sites and advise of your intent to attend.* Some meetings at restaurants may need reservations

Tuesday, January 8th

12:30 pm McLean (MCL)

McLean Community Center Rm #2
1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean 22101
Contact: Judy, 703-524-0991

7:45 pm Vienna Evening (VE)

9818 Days Farm Drive
Vienna, 22182
Contact: Lorraine 703-759-3615

Wednesday, January 9th

9:30 am Fairfax Station (FXS)

7902 Bracksford Court
Fairfax Station 22039
Contact: Lois 703-690-0908

9:30 am Mt. Vernon Day (MVD)

(formerly Hollin Hills Day)
Mt. Vernon District Gov. Center
2511 Parkers Lane, Alexandria 22306
Contact: Gail, 703-360-6561

12:00 Noon Chantilly/Herndon (CHD)

Sully District Governmental Center
4900 Stonecroft Blvd.
Centreville 20151
Contact: Susan 703-391-0666

6:15 pm Dinner Unit (DU)

Yen Cheng Restaurant
Main Street Center
9992 Main Street, Fairfax 22031
Contact: Tin 703-207-4669

7:30 pm Reston Evening (RE)

Reston Museum
1639 Washington Plaza,
Lake Anne Village Center,
Reston 20190
Contact: Wendy 703-319-4114

Thursday, January 10

9:00 am Reston Day (RD)

1700 Shagbark Circle
Reston 20193
Contact: Margo 703-620-9054

9:15 am Fairfax City Day (FXD)

4929 Gainesborough Drive
Falls Church 22032
Contact: Jeanne 703-591-4580

9:30 am Springfield (SPF)

Packard Center (Lg. Conf. Rm)
4026 Hummer Rd, Annandale 22003
Contact: Nancy 703-256-6570 or
Peg 703-256-9420

7:45 pm Mt. Vernon Eve (MVE)

(formerly Hollin Hills Evening)
Mt Vernon District Gov't. Ctr.
2511 Parkers Lane,
Alexandria 22306
Contact: Susan 703-780-3902

Monday, January 14

1:30 PM Greenspring (GSP)

Hunters Crossing Classroom
Spring Village Drive,
Springfield 22150
Contact: Jane 703-569-0079

LWVFA 60th Anniversary

cont'd From Page 4

Bette Hostrup, Jane Barker, Marilyn Hedges, Mary Grace Lintz and Sherry Zachry. So far, they've planned for lots of publicity around the city and county with newspaper articles, library exhibits, and formal recognition by the BOS. And the *Fairfax Voter* will be carrying a series of articles on our 62 years of existence.

There is always room for more ideas, so if you want in on the planning, contact the LWVFA office by email <lwvfa@ecoisp.com> or telephone or 703-658-9150) or one of the folks listed above. And mark your calendars NOW for a fun party on April 19, 2008!

February's Meeting:

**General Meeting
February 9, 10 AM
at International Country
Club**



The League of Women Voters of the Fairfax Area (LWVFA)
 4026 Hummer Road, Suite #214 Annandale, VA 22003-2403
 703-658-9150. E-mail: lvvfa@ecoisp.com

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Time Sensitive Materials

**The LWVFA Fairfax Voter ©
 January 2008**

**Mary Grace Lintz, Acting President
 Ron Page, Editor**

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	