



hours from 6 am to 6 pm. It will have the volume of a normal station given that there are several other specialty units, including wildlife, animal patrol and search and rescue that will be working out of it. The station will also have a blue phone station outside that can be accessed 24/7 after-hours, with a line that goes directly to dispatch.

Ms. Henley asked how many of the nearly 50 recruits from the most recent class would be joining Lorton. Mr. Morvillo noted that field training, required after graduation, will be distributed amongst all the districts (now nine with the addition of Lorton), so none would immediately come to Lorton. Patrol officers for the station will be a mix of experienced and new officers. The training officers are assigned by the academy, and once the station opened it will get some of the training. It won't likely affect the community because they are reassigned to a district once they graduate field stations. The Captain and Lieutenant are taking any district observations/questions/ideas etc. by email.

Mr. Keill asked Lieutenant Smuck, also present, about the most recent string of commercial robberies in Lorton. Mr. Smuck confirmed recent robberies at the Lorton Community Center and a larceny at the 7-11. A person of interest has been identified for the 7-11 crimes and he expects both 7-11 cases to be closed soon. The Community Center robbery was a sneaker robbery involving juveniles (15 yr olds). The Dollar Tree also experienced a robbery with display of a firearm and a person has been identified and the case will be closed out soon. The juveniles and suspect of the 7-11 cases are local to the area.

E. Special Guest – Principal Justin Simmons, South County Middle School

Ms. Henley introduced Mr. Simmons as the recently appointed Principal at South County Middle School, formerly Administrator at Bryant AIM/ALC. Mr. Simmons greeted the membership, sharing that he grew up in North Carolina and resides now in Virginia with his wife and 3-year-old son. Mr. Simmons began at South County on July 12 and he has had a great few months of education and transition within the school as other positions – like assistant principal and director of student services – also recently turned. Mr. Simmons begins his new role with a focus on a sense of belonging for students & staff, academics (Tier 1 Instruction and enrichment programs), and partnering with the community. The first community event will be a trunk-or-treat on October 28 at 4 pm, transitioning into a haunted house from 6-8 pm.

F. Recap of Candidate Forum, September 20

Mr. Shovlin thanked the 20 candidates that came out and spoke and Mr. Rumberger for serving as Master of Ceremonies, and staff of the Community Center for hosting and helping us get setup including making sure the Zoom virtual option worked. There was an issue with the audio, and Mr. Shovlin is determining if the audio can be salvaged to release a recording.

Mr. Firth noted one of the candidates failed to follow the rules against personal attacks, making statements critical of Supervisor Storck. We apologize for this statement being aired and Mr. Shovlin personally apologizes for not reviewing it beforehand and not stopping it once he began his attacks.

III. **SUPERVISORS REPORT:**

G. Supervisor Pat Herrity

Springfield Supervisor Pat Herrity greeted the membership and offered several updates:

1. \$600M in transportation projects moving forward in Springfield District, including Fairfax County Parkway widening, Pope's Head Rd interchange, Lee Chapel Rd – which included a large, bipartisan effort to get short-term solutions for safety immediately implemented following a tragic accident earlier this year

2. \$15M was put towards deferred Park Maintenance and the Supervisor noted he put \$150,000 of his discretionary money into maintenance of Burke Lake Park
3. Approval of 2 additional pickleball courts at the Rolling Valley site
4. Panhandling Town Hall held with 1,800 in attendance, highlighting citizens' concerns over the issue. The Supervisor noted the Board has been reticent to adopt solutions that have worked in Loudon County, but the Supervisor is putting additional attention on trying to push forward a solution
5. Reminder that Supervisor releases the Herrity Report newsletter every month. Sign up by sending an email to [Springfield@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:Springfield@fairfaxcounty.gov)

There was a question from Mr. Firth about adoption of a sign program to help combat panhandling. Mr. Herrity noted his frustration given that prior Board's were supportive and this one is note yet on board. He encourages everyone to keep momentum on action by emailing their Supervisor and sharing their thoughts.

Mr. Herrity noted the Committee is supposed to report-out on the status of Lake Accotink. The Supervisor has provided feedback, including chasing federal funding for dredging.

#### H. Supervisor Dan Storck

Land Use Aide Nick Rinehart greeted the membership in Supervisor Storck's absence, and delivered an update as follows:

1. Tour de Mount Vernon will be held October 21 and 300 riders have registered as of today. This year's ride will include the northern portion of the Mount Vernon District, beginning and ended at George Washington's Mount Vernon. Both a 24-mile short ride and 40-mile-long ride are available to riders of all levels.
2. One Year Anniversary/Lorton Community Center Fall Festival October 14 from 10 am – 2 pm
3. Steamology Stem Fest at South County High School October 14 11:30 am – 3 pm. Enjoy free activities related to STEM, including robotics coding, experiments and more for students in Kindergarten through 8<sup>th</sup> grade.
4. Brynmor Enrolling, Opening on October 14. Located in buildings P1 and P3 at Liberty Lorton.
5. The Supervisor will limit his normal Saturday citizen hours at the Community Center on the 14<sup>th</sup> to 9 am -3 pm in Lorton by appointment only. Appointment can be made by emailing
6. Advocacy for a new sidewalk/path on Newington Road to Telegraph Rd has been heard by the Supervisors office, who reached out to residents recently and is working to push funding that will help with portions of, or the entire, path.
7. W13 and W15 will be finished by mid-to-late October. Bunnyman Brewery is targeting an opening early next year.
8. LCAC is in need of key items. Donations can be dropped off during pantry hours:  
<https://lortonaction.org/donate-food/>

#### I. Mount Vernon District School Board – Karen Corbett-Sanders

Ms. Henley presented updates emailed by Ms. Corbett-Sanders.

The South County homecoming was a great success, and the year is starting off strong, with South County middle school applying this week for RAMP certifications, the highest ranking for counseling departments and five Mount Vernon Schools recognized by the State for continuous improvement.

A 5-yr action plan for continuous improvement of the Equitable Access to Literacy (EAL) plan was included in the September Board meeting. The presentation outlined the 22-23 Phonics Gains by Student Group, which reflected increases in percentage of predictably long-standing and persistent achievement gaps that were narrowed through foundational skill instruction in primary grades and intervention in the upper grades last year. See the [presentation materials](#) here.

The annual college fair will be held at the Eagle Bank Arena at George Mason on Sunday from 4 – 7 pm.

J. Fairfax County Park Authority- Linwood Gorham

Mr. Gorham reported that the [PROSA report](#) was approved by the Board, spurring various studies including having an FCPA park within 10 walking minutes from every resident in the County. Mr. Gorham is disappointed in the progress of the bathrooms for the Central Green and followed up, noting that the contractor is waiting on materials and that completion is still anticipated within the contracted time. Mr. Gorham didn't know the exact date, but assumes it's Spring 2024.

**IV. LEGISLATIVE UPDATES:**

K. Virginia State Senator Scott Surovell

Legislative Aide Fatimah Dandashi introduced herself to the membership and provided her contact [fdandashi@senate.Virginia.gov](mailto:fdandashi@senate.Virginia.gov).

L. State Delegate Kathy Tran

Mr. Hermerding presented the following updates:

1. Delegate Tran is working to determine options for State Government to be involved in aiding efforts (funding or otherwise) for the Newington Station Rd. project.
2. A southern portion of Ox Road is being studied after reports of unsafe driving. Final study should be available next month.
3. Gunston Elementary School traffic line mitigants are being studied, including the potential of no parking signs.
4. Contact information: (703) 539-2066 and [delktran@house.virginia.gov](mailto:delktran@house.virginia.gov)
5. Newsletter sign-up: [https://secure.ngpvan.com/OP4ARiDiL0iLxE0\\_xtDRfg2](https://secure.ngpvan.com/OP4ARiDiL0iLxE0_xtDRfg2)

**V. COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

A. Transportation- Peter Weyland, Co-Chair; Dale Rumberger, Co-Chair

Mr. Rumberger presented items below:

1. \$100M was released for a widening of 3 lanes of rail traffic and rebuilding of Alexandria Station and Bridge area. More will be known about CSX funding specifically in December.
2. The State finished paving and restriping of Lorton Rd.
3. A complaint was submitted through the police department on gravel spilling at various locations.
4. The path from Gunston down to Pohick Bay Park has been funded through the Board of Supervisors. The other half, completing it through Mason Neck Proper has not been funded but they are looking at local, state and federal funding.

A member noted the extremely unsafe pedestrian conditions he recently experienced walking Pohick Rd from the South to the North side, echoing concerns heard for several months from other residents. Mr. Rumberger noted that Peyton Smith from Supervisor Storck's staff is personally following up on this matter.

Another member asked about the potential widening that was discussed long ago on Newington Rd. Dale said efforts focused on pedestrian safety led most recent discussions, though he believes that potential widening is still possible if funded.

Mr. Shovlin shared the Board of the VRE is considering expanding service to Saturday. The plan would involve a small number of trips northbound in the morning and returning in the afternoon. This would be an incredible boon to Lorton as the northernmost station on the Fredericksburg line that provides free parking. If agreed to, the change would take effect next July.

M. Public Safety- Jonathan Kiell, Chair

Mr. Kiell reminded members that it is National Fire Prevention week and this Saturday a number of the local fire stations will have an open house. Local Stations 19, 41 and 22 will offer family friendly open house events from 9:30 am – 4:30 pm.

N. Land Use- Nick Firth and Keith Shovlin, Co-Chairs

Mr. Shovlin noted several anticipated openings at Liberty as received from Jack Perkins of Elm Street, including Always Polish'd and Ledo Pizza on Oct. 1st, Petite Smiles, on Oct 16th, Taco Rock on Oct. 23rd, Yafa Grille on Nov. 15, Kokee Tee on Dec. 1, and Hangry Joe's on Jan. 15th. Sushi Queen will be opening at Gunston Plaza in November. Veronica's Bakery and Taqueria opened in late September at Gunston Corner Shoppes and is already getting good reviews on NextDoor.

Mr. Firth noted two new land use proposals since last meeting: just over 30 single family homes development on Ox Rd. just north of Hooes Rd. that SCF asked to reduce unit counts, and a metal recycling facility on Gunston Cove (behind Shell/Sunoco station) that is moving from Merrifield and selected Lorton at the recommendation of County staff.

O. Environmental & Parks- Larry Clark and Dale Rumberger, Co-Chairs

Mr. Clark reached out to Amy Vosper on the Overlook Park Dashboard's stale dates and Ms. Vosper noted that the new opening date for Overlook Park is now March 10, 2026, further delaying the original date of May 2024 yet again.

Mr. Rumberger attended a Zoom on the upcoming recommendation on data centers in Fairfax County following a recent planning commission approval of a data center in the Sully District that will go before the Board this month. There are several concerns including noise, height, and back-up/ generator demand. The Zoom recording will be available on the SCF website once provided. Mr. Rumberger noted concerns that a data center can be built by-right in some industrial zones in the County today, and setback from a residential unit is only 35 ft.

Mr. Shovlin noted Fairfax ReLeaf is now taking orders for its Fall seedling giveaway. They seem to be going fast as there are only two varieties left as of the time of this meeting, Chestnut Oak and Willow Oak. Visit [FairfaxReLeaf.org](https://FairfaxReLeaf.org) to get seedlings to plant in your community.

P. Education- Wendy Henley, Chair

Ms. Henley reminded the membership of a \$435M public school bond on the ballot, which if approved, would be used by FCPS to renovate 7 elementary schools, plan and design renovations for 8 additional elementary schools, complete 3 modular locations and install school vestibules at 25 schools.

**VI. ACTIONS & PENDING ISSUES: No reports.**

Mr. Shovlin noted the upcoming Lorton Road clean-up on October 14, beginning at 8 am. Those volunteers will meet at Laurel Hill Central Green. Bags and vests are limited, but available. Current weather forecast shows possible rain that Mr. Shovlin will monitor. Sign up for the Lorton Road Cleanup <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0945A4AC2DA6F5C25-adoptahighway1>

Dale Rumberger asked for a rain date: Due to the high number of activities on the calendar for the rest of the month, it would need to be delayed until November if necessary.

**VII. NEW BUSINESS:**

Mr. Rumberger continues to assemble the slate of officers for the next cycle (2024-2026). There has been limited interested in the Secretary and Treasurer positions, and Mr. Rumberger encourages anyone interested in being an officer or chair/co-chair of a committee to email [dsrumberger@verizon.net](mailto:dsrumberger@verizon.net) with questions or their intentions.

**NEXT MEETING:** November 14, and December 12.