



General Membership Meeting Via Zoom
Tuesday, July 9, 2024 at 7 pm

Quick Recap

The South County Federation membership engaged in insightful discussions spanning various topics, including strategies for community enhancements and the introduction of the new CEO of the Workhouse Arts Foundation. Representatives from Fairfax Water Authority shed light on pressing environmental issues, such as the presence of PFAS in drinking water, the urgent need for proper Styrofoam recycling facilities, and the potential impact of the Prince William digital gateway on the Occoquan watershed. Additionally, the membership received updates on ongoing projects and proposed solutions for replacing a dismantled hiking trail.

Summary

Call to Order- President, Ms. Wendy Henley

Ms. Henley called the meeting to order at 7:03 PM and requested that participants mute their microphones when not speaking. She also informed everyone that there would be no meeting in August and that the September meeting would take place in person at the Lorton Police Station Community Room on September 10th at 7:00 PM. The June meeting minutes were distributed prematurely and will not be approved. They will be edited and available for approval at the September meeting.

Treasurer Report- Mr. James Fenton

Due to a schedule conflict, Mr. Fenton submitted the financial report to Ms. Henley before the meeting, and Ms. Henley presented it to the membership.

Truist Money Market	\$5,027.83
Truist Checking	\$1,380.26
Total	\$6,408.09

Mount Vernon District Supervisor Report- Supervisor Dan Storck

Supervisor Storck expressed his sincere gratitude to Nick Rinehart for his dedicated four years of service in the Mount Vernon District (MVD) and extended his best wishes as Nick embarks on a new position in Baltimore.

Supervisor Storck mentioned that the MVD Newsletter was distributed on June 25th. He underscored noteworthy events in the South County region, including the opening of the Bunnyman Brewery at the Workhouse Arts Center. He also highlighted this year's exceptional fireworks display at the Workhouse, which exceeded past shows in size and grandeur. Supervisor Storck also addressed the need for improvements in traffic and parking for future events. Furthermore, Supervisor Storck met with Keith Gordon, the new President of the Workhouse Arts Center, and urged him to engage with the SCF and other regional leaders. Additionally, Supv Storck reported on a history of large unauthorized parties occurring on July 4th at Newington Heights Park. However, this year, his office was prepared and, with the assistance of the Park Authority and Police Department, managed to prevent it.



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Supervisor Storck reported that his social media team has been highlighting local tourism spots with Tourism Tuesday. His office has teamed up with Visit Fairfax to launch Potomac Banks, an initiative aimed at raising awareness about the diverse tourism attractions and outdoor activities in southern Fairfax County. He reminded the membership to download the free Potomac Bank Savings Pass when visiting any of the Potomac Bank locations, as it provides access to exclusive discounts and benefits. He also encouraged the membership to visit [Potomac Banks](https://www.potomacbanks.com), [fairfaxcounty.gov/mountvernon/](https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/mountvernon/) or the [Visit Fairfax](https://www.visitfairfax.com) website for more information.

The Supervisor also informed us that he and MVD School Board Representative Mateo Dunne have been gathering school supplies for a back-to-school event scheduled for August 3rd at the Lorton Community Center. He encouraged everyone to contribute donations by July 21st. Additionally, he mentioned the introduction of a new purple glass recycling bin at the Lorton Community Center and Library. Each person is limited to the disposal of 2 glass jars and bottles, and this recycling bin provides an excellent option for responsible disposal.

Supervisor Storck highlighted the Lorton Community Action Center (LCAC). He shared that there are various ways to show your support for the "Summer of Love for LCAC." An opportunity to contribute is through a food donation on Sunday, July 14th. When making donations for LCAC, individuals can contribute a \$25 Food Lion gift card, cereal (hot or cold), oil, flour, sugar, canned soup, black beans, garbanzo beans, and baby wipes. Additionally, pull-ups in sizes 2T through 6T are needed and would be greatly appreciated, as they are the most commonly used items.

Lastly, Supervisor Storck announced that the data center report has been published, and the Board of Supervisors (BOS) is considering a revision to the zoning ordinance. The Planning Commission conducted hearings on June 5th and reached a decision on June 6th. The Commission voted to recommend the approval of the amendment, with some adjustments to Staff's option one. These changes included an expanded distance requirement for data center cooling equipment from residential properties, as well as a standard of one mile away from metro sites. He informed everyone that the public hearing for this amendment is scheduled for July 16th and encouraged all to share any testimony they may have prior to the hearing. The BOS will vote on the Data Center zoning rules on July 18th.

Fairfax Water Authority Special Presentation- Ms. Susan Miller (Public Affairs Manager), Mr. Gregory Prelewicz (Director of Planning and Water Resources), and Mr. Brian Redder (Lead Program Supervisor)

Ms. Miller introduced herself and the team and shared basic background information about Fairfax Water. Fairfax Water is a non-profit public water utility dedicated to providing drinking water. The billing statement includes charges for both drinking water and wastewater, with wastewater fees determined by Fairfax County. Established in 1957, the utility now serves Fairfax County, as well as the cities of Fairfax and Falls Church. Its goal is to maintain its position as a respected industry leader and oversee the upkeep of the Occoquan Reservoir and other Potomac sources. With a responsibility to serve 2 million people, the utility operates and



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maintains water infrastructure worth \$2 billion, including two of the largest water treatment plants in Virginia. The Griffith Water Treatment Plant on Ox Road is the main water source for the South County, drawing from the Occoquan Reservoir.

Mr. Prelewicz presented a briefing on the levels of PFAS found in our drinking water. PFAS, or Polyfluoroalkyl Substances, are a group of man-made chemicals that have been in use since the 1940s. Their tight molecular structure makes them repel water and oil and reduce friction. Only a small subset of these chemicals has been studied for potential health effects in humans, and their impacts vary widely.

He went on to say that the EPA has determined that long-term exposure to PFAS can lead to reproductive issues, cancer, and reduced immune response. Less than 25% of human exposure to PFAS is through drinking water. Regulating PFAS in drinking water is believed by the EPA to have a meaningful health impact. However, disposing of these chemicals after filtration is challenging, as only certain landfills can handle them.

Since 2021, detectable levels of PFAS have been found in the Occoquan reservoir that slightly exceed safe levels. The EPA's proposed maximum containment level will come into effect in 2029. The Potomac River has PFAS levels below the threshold. Sampling results are available on the Fairfax Water website. The Fairfax Water Authority (FWA) is collaborating with state and regional partners, as well as the Virginia Department of Health and the Department of Environmental Quality, to gather data. They are also exploring treatment alternatives for Occoquan and the need to control sources of PFAS.

Mr. Prelewicz noted that at the Griffith Plant, the FWA focus is on two specific PFAS constituents: perfluorooctane sulfonic acid (PFOS) and perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA), both of which exceed the EPA's limit of four parts per trillion. Sources of PFAS include ACC foam used at local airports, wastewater treatment, the Free State Farms composting facility, a semiconductor plant in Manassas, and former surplus sites.

During her presentation, Ms. Miller discussed the Lead-Free Fairfax Program and the various outreach methods used, including postcards, customer newsletters, and social media. She stated that FWA has diligently complied with the lead and copper rule for over 30 years. With a proactive stance on addressing lead, they have implemented measures such as source water protection efforts and the use of Orthophosphate or phosphoric acid to prevent pipe corrosion. Notably, the water system does not have any lead mains, and Fairfax Water is striving to meet the EPA's revised lead and copper rule by October. As part of this effort, the organization is conducting a comprehensive water service line inventory, though it's important to note that property pipes are the responsibility of the owners. To aid in this endeavor, customers are being asked to report on their service lines using an online form, and instructional videos have been provided for their convenience.

Legislative Updates

Congressman Gerry Connolly- 11th District, US House of Representatives | Ms. Anh Phan, District Director



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Ms. Phan reported that the congressman's office had a successful Independence Day celebration on July 4th. They actively participated in the Fairfax City parade, attended the Fairfax City fireworks display, and took part in the Great Falls 4th of July celebration. She acknowledged that the congressman's active involvement in these community events is greatly advantageous.

Ms. Phan provided insight into Congressman Connolly's demanding schedule for the week. Having secured unanimous re-election as the NATO parliamentarian, Congressman Connolly is scheduled to deliver approximately five to six speeches and has already engaged in discussions with Canadian Prime Minister Trudeau. Additionally, he will be fulfilling his responsibilities as a NATO parliamentarian for the remainder of the week, necessitating a significant commitment of his time and attention.

Ms. Phan mentioned that the entire outreach team is gearing up to participate in the National Night Out. While some National Night Out events may not follow the typical first week of August schedule, their commitment to representing the office remains strong. National Night Out is well-known for promoting community policing and fostering unity within neighborhoods through its annual event. The outreach team's primary objective is actively engaging with the community and cultivating meaningful connections with law enforcement officers, first responders, and elected officials.

Laura Jane Cohen- 15th District, Virginia State Delegate

Delegate Cohen reported that they are scheduled to reconvene on July 18th for a special session focused on the Virginia Military Spouse Survivors and Dependents Education Program. The intended course of action involves revisiting and rectifying overlooked aspects of the program. The proposed amendments aim to revoke the budgetary language that introduced substantial modifications to the program. Moreover, the recommendations from the Governor's task force will be considered.

Delegate Cohen also stated that the anticipated updates regarding the comprehensive plan for I-95 are on the horizon. The recent expansion of the HOT lane has prompted discussions regarding the possibility of bidirectional usage, potentially eliminating the need for specific time restrictions on southbound travel. This prospective improvement holds the promise of addressing congestion issues. While the long-term plan is still evolving, additional information on the potential bidirectional lanes will be shared in the future.

Scott Surovell- 34th District, Virginia State Senator | Mr. Carter Hutchinson, Chief of Staff

Mr. Hutchinson stated that, based on the evening's previous updates particularly concerning PFAS, he felt it was important to mention that Senator Surovell has successfully secured a directive and funding in the state budget that was passed in May. This directive mandates the state Department of Health to carry out an assessment and publish a report in December. The report will outline the anticipated expenses for both municipalities and the state to adhere to the new EPA regulations regarding PFAS and lead. This analysis is anticipated to offer valuable insights for funding these requirements in localities such as Fairfax County.



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Kathy Tran- 18th District, Virginia State Delegate | Mr. Ben Hermerding, Chief of Staff

Mr. Hermerding addressed some of Delegate Tran and staff's initiatives to enhance water quality in the Occoquan and the Chesapeake Bay. In this year's budget, we have allocated \$20 million towards achieving favorable outcomes for the Chesapeake Bay watershed, with a specific focus on mitigating pollution from large farms upstream. Furthermore, the budget includes comprehensive funding of \$231 million for the Virginia agricultural cost-sharing program, which encompasses crucial measures such as the implementation of cattle fences to prevent manure from contaminating water sources. Additionally, a substantial sum of \$40 million has been earmarked for the enhancement of water and wastewater treatment facilities. These initiatives are pivotal in our collective efforts to ameliorate water quality for the benefit of all stakeholders involved.

Mr. Hermerding reported that Delegate Tran is hosting a veterans town hall on September 12th at 6:30 PM. The event will be held at the Springfield American Legion Post 176. The purpose of the town hall is to support and give back to veterans by connecting them with the resources they need. Various people from the Commissioner of the Department of Veterans Services and down will be present to ensure veterans are connected to the necessary resources.

Committee Reports

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

Mr. Firth reported that there was no land use meeting, and he proceeded to address the workhouse Independence Day celebration. The fireworks event at the Workhouse on June 30th was great. However, he noticed that the intersection of Workhouse Road and Route 123 was in bad shape. During the event, it was challenging for thousands of attendees, especially those with strollers and carts, to navigate through the rocks at that intersection. Mr. Firth believes it is important for Vulcan to address the road issue before the next event.

Mr. Shovlin announced that the Bunnyman Brewery is now partially open at the Workhouse. Additionally, two more food establishments will open at Liberty Market within the next month or two: the Yaffa Grill Mediterranean Restaurant and the Hangry Joe's Hot Chicken Restaurant. He also shared that construction has started on the Five Below store at the Lorton Marketplace shopping center, with Planet Fitness being built next to it. Planet Fitness is currently offering special membership sign-ups.

Mr. Shovlin mentioned that the land use committee had previously reviewed Costco's plan to build a gas station near its current location on Boston Boulevard. The building next to the planned site has already been demolished, and they are now clearing the property to prepare it for construction.

Finally, Mr. Keith Shovlin noted that the SCF will be hosting the next Adopt-a-Highway cleanup on Lorton Road on Saturday, September 21st. The cleanup had to be scheduled for a later date because our sign will be installed on Lorton Road to indicate that we have adopted it. It would be wonderful to see as many people as possible join us for the cleanup, as it will make for a great photo opportunity once the sign is in place.



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

Mr. Clark reported that in June he reached out to Jennifer Josiah from the Land Development Service to inquire about the status of the Site Plan approval for Overlook Ridge Park. Regrettably, this inquiry has led to yet another delay in the park's opening, now rescheduled for June 30th, 2026. This represents a delay of over 2 years from the initially projected opening date. Mr. Clark maintains a firm conviction that had the staff demonstrated diligent efforts over the past two years or more, the current situation could have been averted. Furthermore, he has communicated this apprehension to Mr. Linwood Gorham. Mr. Clark also shared that on July 29th, 2014, the Board of Supervisors voted to deny ESI's SEA. This decision meant that all the provisions of SEA-1, including the operation of Overlook Ridge Park, were to be implemented. It's hard to believe it's been a decade since then.

Mr. Rumberger introduced Ms. Evelyn Grieve from the Friends of Fairfax County Animal Shelter to share a message for an upcoming event.

Ms. Grieve is the President and CEO of Friends of the Fairfax County Animal Shelter, a nonprofit fundraising group for the shelter. Her organization raises funds to help the shelter's pets. She shared that they have an upcoming golf tournament called Putting for Pets, which will be held at the Bull Run Golf Course on Monday, September 23rd. They have secured several sponsorships for the event, and it promises to be a delightful day of golf followed by dinner with a wonderful group of people. Ms. Grieve extended an invitation to the membership to join in for a round of golf and an opportunity to learn more about the Friends of the Fairfax County Animal Shelter and their fundraising initiatives. She added that if people are interested in business sponsorships or supporting the cause in any way, please do not hesitate to get in touch with her.

Public Safety- Mr. Jonathan Kiell, Chair

Mr. Kiell reported that the Mason Neck Area Fire Station 20 is being replaced due to its outdated and inadequate size. The newer, larger fire station will be constructed on the adjacent square, where work has already begun on some of the utilities. The fire station is situated behind the Pohick Bay Regional Park and the golf course, and an existing trail used primarily by horses and hikers runs through the area where the new fire station will be built. Unfortunately, the construction of the new fire station will render this trail unusable, posing a concern for those who utilize it. Additionally, there is a crosswalk across Gunston Road that facilitates the movement of pedestrians and horseback riders from Meadowood to Pohick Bay. However, there seems to be a lack of effective communication among the involved parties regarding the potential impact of the new fire station on the existing trail and the surrounding area.

Transportation- Mr. Dale Rumberger and Mr. Peter Weyland, Co-Chairs

Mr. Rumberger had three points to bring to the membership's attention. The first was adding Lorton Road and the northbound entrance off Lorton onto I 95 for the gravel cleanup Mr. Firth mentioned. Second, he noticed a new sign restricting parking at the corner of Pohick and Lorton Station Boulevard. Semi-trucks can no longer pull over and park there overnight. He thanked Supervisor Storck's staff for their work on that initiative. Lastly, Mr. Rumberger presented his intent in the fall, to include Route 123, spanning from the Occoquan River to Burke Lake Road,



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in the list of roads where the speed limit will be adjusted from 55 to 45 mph. The basis for this adjustment stems from recent legislative changes by the General Assembly, transferring jurisdiction to the County. This proposal will be formally presented in the fall for a comprehensive review to solicit reconsideration of the speed limit. Furthermore, I would like to emphasize that the Virginia Railway Passengers Association, in collaboration with Senator Surovell and Congressmen Beyer and Connolly, has successfully secured funding for the addition of a third track as part of the Omnibus Transportation Act. This initiative encompasses not only road improvements but also the replacement of the CSX bridge. These advancements are viewed with utmost satisfaction.

Education- Ms. Wendy Henley, Chair

Ms. Henley informed the membership that Governor Youngkin has issued an executive order to establish cell phone-free schools across Virginia. This initiative, known as Executive Order 33, will lead the Virginia Department of Education to develop guidelines for school districts to create their own policies and procedures regarding cell phone usage. The order also includes provisions for allowing parents to contact their children during emergencies and other urgent situations. The Virginia Department of Education plans to release a draft of the guidelines for cell phone-free education by August 15th. Final guidelines will be issued in September following public feedback. School districts will be required to adopt cell phone-free policies by January 1st, 2025.

Meeting adjourned- President Henley shared that the upcoming meeting is scheduled for September 10th. It will mark the first in-person meeting since the onset of the pandemic and will take place at the Lorton District Police Station, at 7:00 p.m. There will be no meeting in August due to the summer recess. She thanked everyone for their participation and support then adjourned the meeting at 9:08 p.m.

Action Items

- Fairfax Water to send follow-up information and presentation slides to the South County Federation.
- Supervisor Stork's office to follow up with Vulcan regarding the cleanup of the intersection at Workhouse Road and Route 123.
- Larry Clark to email his statement regarding Overlook Ridge Park delays to Linwood Gorham for a response.
- Wendy Henley to share Evelyn Grieve's contact information and golf tournament flyer with members.
- Peyton Smith to check if Fairfax Station Road is a VDOT road and provide information to Andy Normand.
- Peyton Smith to follow up on gravel cleanup at the intersection of northbound I-95 and Lorton Road.
- Dale Rumberger to initiate the process in the fall to request speed limit reduction on Route 123 from Occoquan River to Burke Lake Road.
- Keith Shovlin to provide details about the September 21st Adopt-a-Highway cleanup at the September meeting.



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- Wendy Henley and Keith Shovlin to revise and improve the June meeting minutes.
- South County Federation members to invite HOA and condominium association board members to attend future meetings.
- Anh Phan to check on the status of finances transferred for the Lorton Road/Silverbrook Road pork chop project.
- Supervisor Stork's office will work on replacing the traffic camera on Silverbrook Road.
- Virginia Department of Education to publish draft guidance on cell phone-free education by August 15th.