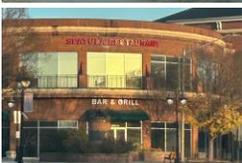


News to know for the area from Ox Road to Mason Neck, Fairfax County Parkway to the Occoquan River.



- **Growth.** The year started with a growth mindset, as new businesses and a local church were coming to Liberty, grants were received to create walkways along Pohick Road and Mason Neck, and U-Haul rated Lorton as the #4 growth city in 2024, based on how the area attracted and retained residents.
- **Gunston Plaza Traffic Study.** After several deadly accidents on Rte 1, a 12-week traffic study was completed in January. Though the study did not result in a new traffic light, it did recommend restricting turns in and out of the Plaza. This recommendation was finally implemented in December.
- **Mount Vernon lost a legend.** Longtime Mount Vernon supervisor Gerry Hyland passed away on January 19th. He had been instrumental in many of the new County facilities in our area and always a friend to our Federation.
- **New Police Commander.** In February we welcomed Major Patrick O'Hara as the new commander for Lorton Police Station. Though he retired from service this December, he was a mainstay of nearly each Federation meeting throughout 2025, and welcomed us for an in person meeting and tour in April.
- **School Boundary Review heats up.** In February, Mount Vernon School Board Rep Mateo Dunne presented an update on the Comprehensive Boundary Review. Rounds of public input and review have the process at Scenario 4, which currently makes only small changes to boundaries within South County.
- **County Budget sparks backlash.** The Federation co-hosted a virtual budget meeting with Supervisor Dan Storck in February. Proposed cuts to local ambulance service would be a persistent discussion until the funding was restored. The final budget did make cuts to local services, and also instituted a Food and Beverage Tax that takes effect on January 1st.
- **Active April in South County:** We were out and about in April starting with our in person meeting at the Lorton Police Station. That was followed by our Spring Adopt A Highway cleanup of Lorton Road, now with the appropriate signage, and the Lorton Spring Fling at South County High School..
- **Honoring a community partner:** We said goodbye to Captain Anthony Stancampiano after several years of service to the area as assistant commander of Lorton Station. Though he was reassigned, he came back one last time as we presented him with a Certificate of Appreciation.
- **Congressman Connolly.** We lost longtime friend and advocate Congressman Gerry Connolly to cancer in May. He had already announced his retirement, but his passing kicked off a series of special elections across Fairfax County.
- **Solar Array breaks ground.** In June, the County broke ground on a solar array on 37 acres of closed landfill. Federation leadership were on hand as the first panels were installed of the eventual 5-megawatt array.
- **Back to School security upgrades.** The Federation was on hand for Supervisor Storck's Back to School event at Lorton Library and made parents aware of the new weapons detectors installed at local high schools. Detectors were added to the middle schools as well as the school year got underway.
- **South County Church finds a home:** The congregation that presently meets at South County High School has signed the lease and begun construction at the Reformatory chapel converting into Liberty Chapel. They hope to open in 2026.
- **Unified Sanitation District.** A Board of Supervisor plan to regulate trash collection service throughout the County met stiff public opposition. The Federation brought up several questions of our own until the Board delayed action indefinitely.
- **New Businesses coming soon.** Sportrock climbing facility is set to open at Liberty Market in the new year. New restaurants such as Spatula at Lorton Station will also join the community. Costco on Boston Blvd is looking to expand, adding a gas station and Tesla is looking to add a service station of their own.
- **President Henley honored:** Outgoing President Wendy Henley is greatly thanked for her service to the community for the past four years as President and VP before that. She was also presented with a certificate by the Board of Supervisors.
- **New Officers take over.** At our annual meeting in December, Keith F. Shovlin was elected President, Nick Firth as Vice President, and James Fenton as Treasurer.
- **What's Next?** Join us in 2026 and find out!

The next SCF meeting is Jan. 13th at 7 pm on Zoom