



Hope Porter and Les Cheek are two of the most vocal supporters of protecting the open, rural nature of Fauquier County through the conservation group, Citizens for Fauquier County.

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### 2011 to 2021

As the number of wineries in the county increased, so did residents' concerns about lighting, noise and traffic in rural areas were increasing. In 2011, a CFFC task force was formed to address unclear zoning regulations. After much research and collaboration with the county, the board of supervisors passed a farm winery ordinance in 2013 containing many of CFFC's recommendations.

A CFFC task force produced a 28-page strategy document, "Planning Horizons," to assist newly elected county officials better understand preservation challenges and how to best address them.

Other CFFC task forces were established to study traffic access involving Dumfries Road, Vint Hill Road and Broadview Avenue. The organization also hired an historian to document the history of the U.S. Army's former base at Vint Hill, an important step in the construction of housing in the base's historic barracks.

CFFC established the Kitty Smith Conservation Award in 2015 to honor and remember the force of nature that was Kitty Smith, an activist resident who worked tirelessly to ensure the county retained its rural character. This annual award is given to those who have made major contributions to protecting and preserving the natural, historic and agricultural resources of the county.

CFFC and Kevin Ramundo (who became CFFC's president in 2020), played a leadership role opposing commercial development at the Blackthorne Inn near Upperville and the Barrel Oak Winery near Marshall on land zoned rural-agricultural.

The group embarked on a major effort in 2020 to educate the public about Warrenton's draft comprehensive plan. CFFC believed the plan would lead to a large increase in population without fully understanding the associated costs of expanded roads, sewer and water systems, and other services. Despite considerable public opposition to the plan, the Warrenton Town Council approved the plan in early 2021.

Residents and CFFC officials fear excess development will undermine Warrenton's special small-town character.

CFFC board names Les Cheek president emeritus in 2020. Cheek served in leadership positions at CFFC for 11 years, including five as president until 2020. He currently serves on the group's board of directors.

In 2021, CFFC embarked on new programs, including placing St. James Baptist Church in Bealeton on the National Historic Register and reviving an earlier plan to establish Springs Valley as a Rural Historic District. The church is the oldest African American congregation in Fauquier.

The organization joined Virginia's Adopt-A-Road Program by committing to pick



up litter on King Hill Road and Cemetery Road in the southern part of the county, and is in the midst of completing nominations of Midland Road and Freemans Ford Road as Southern Fauquier Scenic Byways.

CFFC began studying the

effects of utility-scale solar power generation on agricultural land. Officials there recognize that green energy is important, but have concerns over the loss of prime agricultural land.

[citizensforfauquier.org](http://citizensforfauquier.org)



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