

the monitor

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Growing Membership Tops CFFC's 2019 Goals

By Les Cheek, CFFC President



The CFFC board has embraced a broad range of goals for 2019. Chief among them is growing our membership, especially among residents new to Fauquier and those in the agricultural southern part of the county.

We believe that a majority of Fauquier residents support CFFC's vision to preserve the county's historical character as a

controlled-growth, moderate-tax, rural agricultural jurisdiction. The payoff is clean air, pure water, bright nighttime skies and a population that expands slowly, in contrast to high-growth, high-traffic, high-tax counties such as Loudoun and Prince William.

CFFC's objective, fact-based approach to local commercial and residential development proposals seeks to balance inevitable change with the preferences of those who live here, in the expectation that much of what has well-served earlier arrivals will do so for those to come.

The membership campaign will be built around events that connect CFFC to the environment, historical preservation and protection of Fauquier's equine and agricultural base. At CFFC, we never forget that Fauquier is a rural, agricultural county and not a bedroom for greater Washington.

CFFC's 2019 goals build on the past to assure a better future, starting with attracting more members and including:

- Securing adoption of zoning ordinance amendments applying Fauquier's farm winery regulations to the promotional activities of farm breweries, cideries and distilleries. Given the success of the county's nuanced farm winery rules in balancing the interests of winery owners and their rural neighbors, CFFC believes that those even-handed regulations should be applied to newer but similar enterprises in order to foreclose the inadvertent creation of an easily-avoided and possibly dangerous regulatory void for nascent businesses dealing with alcoholic beverages.
- Support creation of and funding for a full-time zoning inspector/enforcement officer position in the county's Department of Community Development. Many Fauquier residents are unfamiliar with the county's complex zoning ordinance, while others are concerned about the spotty and entirely complaint-driven enforcement of even the most basic rules (e.g., signage, setback requirements).

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Donate to CFFC on Give Local Piedmont

By Amy Trotto, CFFC Vice President

May 7 is Give Local Piedmont day, and CFFC is participating for the first time. Established in 2014 and hosted by the Northern Piedmont Community Foundation, Give Local Piedmont is the community's one-day, online giving event to inspire people to give generously to the nonprofit organizations that are making our communities better. Every dollar donated from midnight to midnight on May 7 will be increased with money generously provided by the PATH Foundation and other sponsors.

To show we are 100 percent committed to working for our community to preserve our resources and protect Fauquier County's future, we are seeking 100 percent participation

in Give Local Piedmont from our volunteer board of directors. CFFC's board consists of 21 members from diverse backgrounds – including farmers, business owners, communications professionals, attorneys, a volunteer firefighter, and former county supervisors, planning commissioners, town council members and county employees. All are passionate about protecting Fauquier's natural beauty and rural, agricultural heritage.

The ultimate goal of Give Local Piedmont is to raise money to support each non-profit's mission – and that goal is very important to us. Funding fuels our initiatives, and we have several new ones planned for 2019, to include a historic resource project in Southern

Fauquier County, a milkweed planting and educational campaign to help restore habitats for the Monarch Butterfly, assistance with the creation of riparian buffers, in addition to our non-stop monitoring and informing the community of emerging development, agricultural and environmental issues.

Funding also validates our mission. Through your participation, we are reminded of the people we serve, of our shared commitment to the preservation and protection of our towns, battlefields, historic villages, cropland, rolling pastures and open spaces. You may participate with a starting donation of \$10.00, so please, save the date and give generously to protect Fauquier's future. 🏡

Often Ignored, Lives Worth Remembering

By Mary M. Root, CFFC Board Member

For too long, American history has been told from the European point of view, without crediting all the people who created our diverse nation. There are untold stories of lives worth remembering, yet neglected in our historical and cultural record. The Fauquier County Architectural Review Board has embarked upon a 2019 research project that intends to magnify lost voices in Fauquier's history, beginning with enslaved craftsmen. Their skills built the earliest homes, churches, mills and factories in our community, and their work was not



“There are stories worth telling and lives worth remembering.”

– Michael Guasco, Professor of History, Davidson College

personally compensated; money paid or barter rendered went to their owners. Today their names and individual contributions are often missing in our historical record.

This research is a challenge that involves poring through census records, plantation ledgers, circuit court files, WPA reports, diaries, newspaper reports and more. Fortunately for the ARB, our mentor through this process has been the indefatigable Karen Hughes White, along with directors Angela Hughes Davidson and Norma Logan of the African American Historical Association in The Plains, Virginia.

One life worth remembering is that of Hannibal. We don't know his last name or the date of his birth yet, but his first name is indelibly inscribed in two stone buildings in Southern Fauquier: Chestnut Lawn near Remington, and Grove Baptist Church in Goldvein. Both structures were built of stone,

and both were signed by his hand. We know that Hannibal was a master mason. He was owned first by the Keith family, then by Thomas Skinker, who married Harriet Keith.

Chestnut Lawn was built for Captain James Payne, a War of 1812 veteran, and his wife, Mary Isham Keith Payne. The imposing Federal-style structure is two-and-a-half stories high flanked by two massive chimneys. The walls are of local granite and are three feet, four inches thick at the foundation, tapering to two feet eight inches thick at the top. Mantel and floors are of heart pine and black walnut, cut and shaped onsite. Completed in 1832, Chestnut Lawn's date was carved into a large stone between upper-story windows by Hannibal, where his signature read, simply, “Han 1832.” The enslaved master mason was in charge of a group of artisan slaves who belonged to the Skinker family. Chestnut Lawn survived the

Civil War, although its outbuildings were burned. A cannonball remains embedded in the upper story of the house.

Grove Baptist Church is located in Goldvein, Virginia, across Route 17 from the Goldvein Mining Museum. Its congregation held Sunday worship services in a nearby grove beginning in 1799, hence the name. In 1833 the fieldstone sanctuary with vestibule was erected upon land donated by Thomas Skinker. Thirty years on, the church was used as a Confederate hospital and later, a Union stable. Grove Baptist Church's doorway lintels are each a massive stone, and one of them, over the east door, is inscribed “Hannibal 1833.”

There is a lot more work to be done. The Fauquier County Architectural Review Board will search for more information on Hannibal and his masterpieces, and about other enslaved artisans whose stories should be told and lives remembered. 🏡

Walker Drive Lawsuit Appealed to Virginia Supreme Court

The six citizens who sued the Town Council of Warrenton for rezoning a quiet 31-acre industrial park along Walker Drive to a high impact mixed use development are appealing their case to the Virginia Supreme Court. Their suit, initiated in August 2017, alleged 16 counts embodied in several complaints that were subject to three hearings. One of the first Virginia land use cases in years where citizens were awarded standing, it ended abruptly when retiring Fauquier County Circuit Court Judge Jeffre Parker dismissed all counts.

For more information, visit citizensforfauquier.org

Land Use Challenges for 2019

By Rick Carr, CFFC Board Member and Land Use Committee Chairman

CFFC will focus on a variety of land use topics this year which deserve your attention. Here are some examples:

■ Proposed Chapter 8 – Rural Lands Section of the Comprehensive Plan:

This chapter's purpose is to address land use in rural areas, and to outline County policies and guidelines to protect and preserve farmland, historic sites and unique open spaces. Fauquier County has a long history of such efforts that need to continue. CFFC has provided substantive comments to the staff and Planning Commission for this key chapter affecting 90 percent of the County's land area. The draft chapter update is still under Planning Commission consideration.

■ **Proposed County Route 15/29 Corridor Guidelines:** Since 1999 and subsequent citizen committee updates, the County's adopted New Baltimore Service District Plan has recommended an overlay district to manage development, viewsheds and transportation along this busy corridor. The pending zoning ordinance text amendment affects the highly traveled Route 29/15 from the Prince William County line to its intersection with Rt. 605 (Dumfries Road). Its long-term objectives are to avoid strip commercial development, promote more compact business centers with new building design more compatible with our local architecture, provide access management onto this high volume highway of statewide significance, and protect the viewsheds representing our agricultural heritage and history.

■ **Broadband and Telecommunications:** The County needs to bring fiscal and countywide balance to the delivery of broadband service and the strategic location of supporting telecom facilities, while protecting our rural character, historic villages and resources, and scenic vistas.

■ Effective Marketing and Delivery of Fauquier County Farm Products to the Metropolitan Market:

The County is studying this topic carefully, with one action report available in February 2019. The informational nugget here is that the potential for local agricultural produce moved to nearby metropolitan markets is an opportunity that needs to be effectively developed.

■ **Water Resources:** In CFFC's *Planning Horizons* (refer to <https://www.citizensforfaquier.org> on pp. 11-12), we listed objectives important to the groundwater resources key to potable water resources in the County's future for individual homes or public utilities, for example:

- Board of Supervisor and FCWSA sustained and coordinated efforts to develop, protect and manage future public well locations and their areas of recharge for the Service Districts.
- More collaboration within the community, the incorporated towns, the County and FCWSA in the development, coordination and management of future public water supplies.

We now support a follow-up "County Water Summit" to review U.S. Geological Survey progress in the development and protection of groundwater resources for drinking water, and the next steps needed.

■ Proposed Special Exception (SPEX 14 - MA - 003, 004 & 005)

Blackthorne Inn and Restaurant near Upperville: The +/-68 acre resort proposal just west of Upperville on Route 50 is on property zoned Rural Agriculture (RA) and Rural Conservation (RC). The proposed application is currently being revised, since the project raises questions regarding the size of commercial ventures appropriate for our rural locations and historic corridors. No public hearings have been scheduled at this time; stay tuned. 🏡

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■ Lay the groundwork for the creation of Rural Historic Districts (RHD's) in (a) the area along the Rappahannock River north and west of Orlean; (b) Springs Valley; and (c) Goldvein.

Fauquier's enormous geography (660 square miles) includes large swaths of land that look much as they did 150 or more years ago. If George Washington suddenly appeared in Fauquier, he would immediately recognize the area he knew as a young surveyor. The creation of RHD's in these historically sensitive areas will help preserve their enduring rural character.

■ Develop criteria for the creation of a taxpayer-funded, part-time firefighter/paramedic volunteer recruiter and grant application writer position in the county's Department of Fire, Rescue and Emergency Response.

The accelerating decline in the proportion of volunteers among the county's first responders and the growing need for grants to support first-class rural emergency services threaten enormous future increases in taxpayer costs. Beefed up volunteer recruitment and higher grant receipts would greatly reduce this threat.

■ Seek capital sources to finance Fauquier infrastructure for the aggregation of produce, meat and other agricultural products in a regional food port. Fauquier's changing agriculture industry needs facilities to enable farmers to aggregate their output for bulk rate sale to restaurants, grocers and institutions. 🏡



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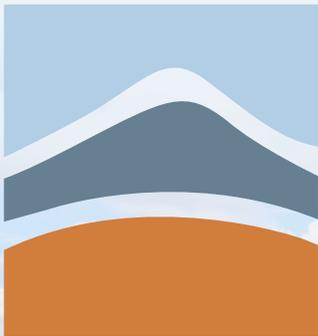
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The CFFC magazine capturing in words and pictures the dramatic first 50 years of the organization is being mailed to every CFFC member. The magazine is the product of a team of board members spending nearly two years of combing through the CFFC archives and editing the manuscript. The goal was to develop pithy and lively articles to engage members and attract new members.

The board believes that a commanding majority of Fauquier County residents value preserving Fauquier’s rural, agricultural character amid cautious development — a formula proven to keep taxes low, water pure and air fresh.



PLEASE JOIN US.

Be a part of the only organization dedicated to preserving the rural, agricultural character of Fauquier County. CFFC tracks every land use rezoning or special exception proposal before the Planning Commission with our exclusive, monthly Land Use Report. CFFC also covers historical preservation, transportation and the environment. Please visit citizensforfauquier.org for a better understanding of how you may become involved.

Citizens for Fauquier County, a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt organization, needs your support to assure that future development is consistent with Fauquier’s rural agricultural tradition. Please visit citizensforfauquier.org and join today.

