# THE RAPPAHANNOCK ROLL CALL

A publication of the Rappahannock Area Lodge #15, Fraternal Order of Police, Inc.



#### FEATURED ARTICLES

Scholarships Pages 13-14

State Conference Pages 9-21

Cops and Kids Pages 47-48

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ANDREW P. GROSSNICKLE CPA, CFE

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A Member of Robinson, Farmer, Cox Associates, Andrew Grossnickle received his Bachelor of Science in Business Administration (Accounting) from Bridgewater College and his Masters in Accounting (Forensic Accounting) from Florida Atlantic University. Andrew has assisted and managed the audits of counties, cities, towns, school divisions, numerous public authorities, other governmental bodies and a wide variety of non-profit organizations. He has also performed special audits of various federal grant projects as well as other agreed upon procedures engagements. Andrew also has extensive experience in the preparation of federal and state returns for a variety of clients including corporations, partnerships, individuals, trusts, and non-profits. In 2014 Andrew received the Virginia Society of CPA's Top 5 Under 35 Award. In 2017 Andrew was named "Top Ten of the Next Gen" by NextGen which recognizes business leaders in the Fredericksburg region under 40.

Andrew's areas of expertise are: Governmental and Nonprofit Auditing Individual, Partnership, and Corporate Taxation and Forensic Accounting.

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#### LETTER FROM PRESIDENT DAVID THEISEN RAPPAHANNOCK AREA LODGE #15 FRATERNAL ORDER OF POLICE, INC.

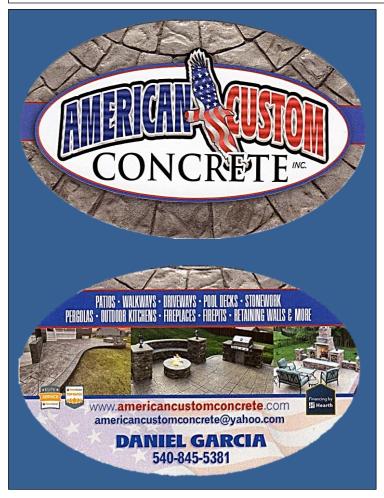


Brothers, Sisters, and Contributors,

Welcome to our 3<sup>rd</sup> annual edition of The Rappahannock Roll Call. We expect it to be better than ever thanks to all of you.

During the past year, we have supported several organizations to include, but not limited to: Boy Scouts Troop 179 (sponsor), Cub Scouts Pack 325 (sponsor), Boy Scout Luminaria Project, Return to Home (lost pet return), National Child Safety Council (on behalf of the Fredericksburg Sheriff's Office), Thurman Brisben Center (short-term homeless shelter), Loisann's Hope House (long-term homeless shelter), Empower House (Domestic Violence Shelter), Law Enforcement United, Stafford County Sheriff's Office, AFSP (Greater Fredericksburg mental health) and others. These establishments render aid to the law enforcement community either directly or indirectly. We also helped 8 members of the lodge who have children and grandchildren continuing their education by providing scholarship funds directly to their respective schools with scholarships for 9 of these children and grandchildren. This has been very popular. This would not be possible without the generous donations from our community and our members.

The biggest event we hold each year is the FOP #15 Cops and Kids Project. The donations allow us to take kids shopping with a law enforcement officer. This creates an opportunity for underprivileged kids to see our officers working in our community in a different light. Many have walked away with a new idea of who a Police Officer or Deputy Sheriff really are. The Auxiliary lodge works hand and hand with the lodge to support our mission and also theirs. They put in a lot of time behind the scenes working in the community and helping the lodge accomplish the many programs that we do. The Auxiliary's programs include Craft/Vendor events with the proceeds going to a deserving organization, the Chinese Auction during our annual Crab Feast in October, and Brides on a Budget among others. Their motto is: Never Let Them Walk Alone and they certainly ensure that we don't. I thank them for their dedication and the hard work they do for the lodge.





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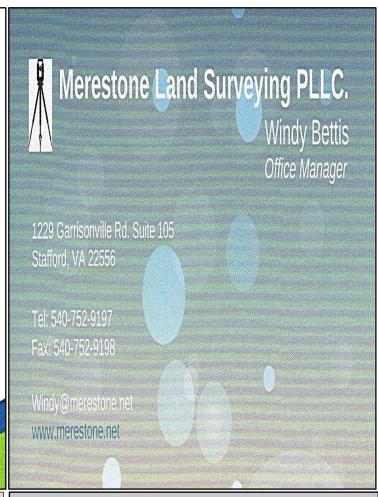
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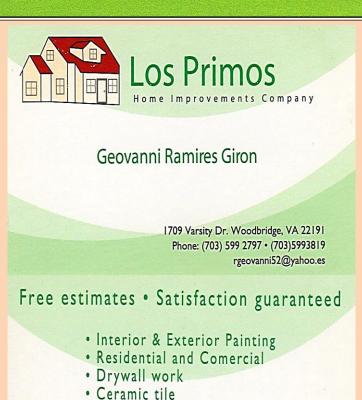
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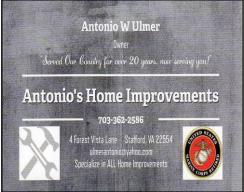


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#### 2022 Percy C. Poates, Jr. Annual Awards and Memorial Ceremony

On May 19, 2022, we held our annual Awards and Memorial Ceremony. The program began at 6:30 p.m. with cocktails and social hour. Following cocktails, dinner provided by the Auxiliary with Mission Barbecue serving our members and guests. After dinner, the Memorial Service and Awards Ceremony began with President Theisen calling all assembled to order. Our guest speaker was Chief Brian Layton, Fredericksburg Police Department. He praised the FOP for all the work that we do for our members and member agencies, and he also thanked all of our law enforcement brothers and sisters for what they do each day. The ceremony then moved on to the Memorial Service. With everyone standing, the name of each member of our local law enforcement community who had died in the line of duty was read aloud. Followed by the reading of the names of the deceased members of the lodge. Each jurisdiction that was present read the names of their fallen. This



Fredericksburg Chief of Police Brian Layton

included: Fredericksburg Police Department, Spotsylvania Sheriff's Office, Rappahannock Regional Jail, King George Sheriff's Office, Virginia State Police, Caroline County Sheriff's Office, Rappahannock Area Lodge #15 Fraternal Order of Police and Federal Officers to include the FBI, DEA, IRS, and NCIS.

The Auxiliary of the Rappahannock Area Lodge #15 Fraternal Order of Police carried a white carnation for every member of the lodge who had passed away and placed the carnation in a wreath. One special person, Joyce Samuels, participates in the ceremony every year and carries the carnation for her husband (Richard Samuels Spotsylvania Sheriff's Department) who had died in the line of duty.

Following the Memorial Service, the Awards ceremony began. Each agency is asked to submit the name of a law enforcement officer who has gone above and beyond the call of duty to be recognized in front of their peers. This year the following law enforcement officers were recognized: Virginia State Police Trooper Marco Grooms, Fredericksburg Police Department Officer Gregory Baugher, Stafford Sheriff's Office Deputy C. T. Richardson, Spotsylvania Sheriff's Office David Cabrera, and the Rappahannock Regional Jail Officer Mark Redman.



Trooper Marco Grooms Virginia State Police



Officer Mark Redman Rappahannock Regional Jail



Deputy C. T. Richardson Stafford Sheriff's Office



Deputy David Cabrera Spotsylvania Sheriff's Office

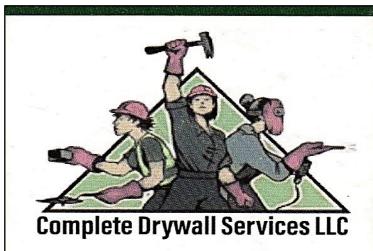


Gregory Baugher Fredericksburg Police Dept.



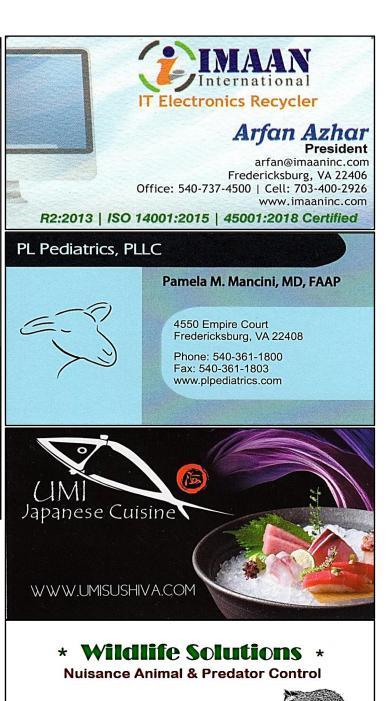
Neil Hornung Member of the Year

This year the Rappahannock Area Lodge #15 Fraternal Order of Police honored Brother Neil Hornung as the Member of the Year. Brother Hornung had been the Director of the Lodge for over 20 years. He performed the job most admirably and we salute you Neil.









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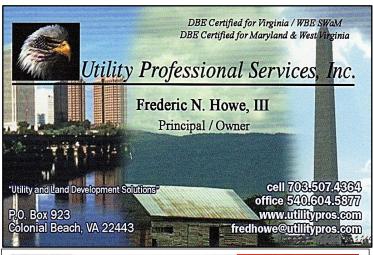


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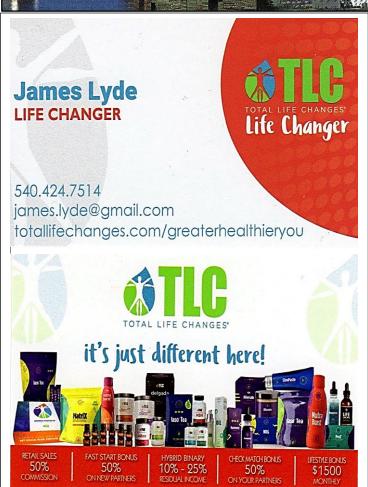
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Leach-Harrell Scholarship Recipients

The Lodge is pleased to announce the winners of the 2022-2023 Leach-Harrell Scholarship.



Braley Lachner Accepted by Brother Brian Wheeler Rochester Institute of Technology



Ryan Hornung Son of Brother Neil and Mrs. Hornung Virginia Tech



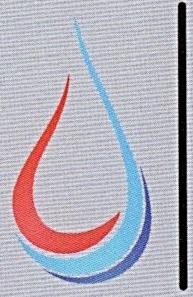
Angela Nguyen Daughter of Brother Peter and Mrs. Nguyen Florida State University



Conner Gulasky
Grandson of Brother Carl VanDoren
Accompanied by Mr. and Mrs. Bosworth
(Stepfather and Mother)
Christopher Newport University







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Dr. Catherine B. Smith
EdD, LPC-S
Practice Owner/Director of
Clinical Operations/
Psychotherapist/Supervisor

Intuitive Counseling And Hypnotherapy Services Was Founded On August 2019 In Fredericksburg, VA By Dr. Catherine B Smith. Dr. Smith is a Licensed Professional Counselor (LPC) and a board certified Supervisor in the state of Virginia. She is certified as a National Certified Counselor (NCC), a Board Certified Clinical Hypnotherapist (NBCCH) as well as a Certified Practitioner of Neuro-Linguistic Programming (NLP). She earned her doctorate from Argosy University in Counselor Education and Supervision. Dr. Smith's research focus includes military/veterans, trauma/PTSD, anxiety as well as existential related concerns. Dr. Smith has presented nationally and regionally on topics such as managing anxiety, mindfulness, hypnotherapy and NLP. Dr. Smith is a Marine Corps veteran and an advocate for mental health wellness for veterans as well as for first responders. Dr. Smith is also serving as contributing faculty in the Clinical Mental Health Counseling program with Walden University.

The clinicians at Intuitive Counseling and Hypnotherapy services are committed in providing quality and empathic mental health care. We are open to discussing each client's needs regarding their preferences. Self-pay appointments (no insurance involvement) are available as well as appointments utilizing your insurance benefits.

We offer individual counseling to children, adolescents and adults with a variety of mental health concerns. Our clinicians offer and are trained in trauma informed treatment/therapy, hypnotherapy, EMI<sup>TM</sup> (Eye Movement Integration), and competent to treat anxiety, obsessive compulsive disorder (OCD), depression, autism spectrum, as well as life's transitional concerns.

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#### 2022 VIRGINIA STATE FOP CONFERENCE

The 2022 Virginia State FOP Conference, 9-13 August 2022, was hosted by Commodore Lodge #3, Norfolk, Virginia. The Executive Board and Directors met on Tuesday, 9 August 2022. On Wednesday, August 10, a memorial service was held in memory to the members of the Virginia Law Enforcement Community that had been killed in the line of duty. The FOP also recognized those brothers and sisters we have lost over the past years. Of special note, the conference was dedicated to the memory of Brother Harry Twiford, who passed away this year from terminal brain cancer. He was one of many first responders who were at ground zero after the attacks on September 11, 2001.

At the start of the business meeting, the Norfolk City Police Chief and the Norfolk Sheriff welcomed the attendees to the City of Norfolk. National President Pat Yoes, along with National Secretary



Associate President Marcie Blum, State President John Ohrnberger and Auxiliary President Gail Stiles participate in the Memorial Service

attendees. President Yoes addressed the attendees about the need to engage the political leadership at the local, state and national levels. He recently conducted a podcast interview with Representative Abigail Spanberger, (D-VA-7) and her support in sponsoring legislation to eliminate the windfall elimination provision within the Social Security Fairness Act. In the House of Representatives 218 votes are needed in order to pass the bill which would go on to the Senate for a vote. President Yoes is hopeful that there is support in Congress to get this bill passed. He also noted that it is important to change the narrative on law enforcement in the country. He discussed the physical and mental aspects of being in law enforcement today. It is difficult and the reason why there are a large number of police officers leaving the profession is due to the lack of support from the public as well as elected leaders. We need to recognize that the physical and psychological toll on the law enforcement profession results in an increase in the number of suicides by police officers.



National President Patrick Yoes addressing the conference attendees

President Yoes addressed the delegates on the efforts to get certain bills passed in the U.S. Congress. He addressed the need to change the narrative on law enforcement in this country. The Physical and mental health aspect of being in law enforcement have been overwhelming these past two years. He noted the need to recognize PTSD as not just limited to the military community, but it is very real for first responders such as police officers, firefighters and EMT's. He pointed out the increase in suicides within the law enforcement community. He commented on another bill pending before Congress which would enhance the hiring and training of law enforcement. But as President Yoes said, everything in Congress has a political agenda attached to it. The reality is the constant struggle between the extreme liberal left, moderate democrats, and conservatives in Congress. President Yoes noted that he is pushing for repeal of the Government Pension Offset (GPO) and Windfall

Elimination Provision (WEP) which penalize people who have dedicated their lives to public service, including many teachers, firefighters and police officers by taking away benefits they, or their spouses, have earned and which would impact 48,000 in Virginia alone. Unfortunately, the bill was not allowed to go to a floor vote prior to Congress taking its Summer recess. FOP focused on getting the "super majority" needed to get the bill before the Congress.

Tommy Stiles, the Virginia National Trustee, addressed the delegates noting that this will be his last year serving on the board. He noted that the law enforcement community has turned the corner over the last two years. But it starts with members doing their part to promote the law enforcement community and our legislative agenda.

National Secretary Jimmy Holderfield addressed the delegates noting that national membership is over 394,000. Within Virginia, we have 5,786 active members and 47 registered lodges. Virginia is one of the most active states within the FOP. He noted that as a reminder, the next National FOP Conference will be held in Las Vegas, Nevada, August 14-17, 2023 at the MGM Grand Hotel and conference center. The next National Conference in 2025 is scheduled for Miami, Florida. National 2<sup>nd</sup> VP Steve Weiler briefed the delegates on the National Health care plan for FOP members. He likened it to the military's Tricare medical program. He continues to work on this initiative. It's not a reality yet.

I discussed with the outgoing President John Ohrnberger and the incoming President Brad Carruthers on our continuing work with the Virginia Northern Coalition. This affiliation is needed now more than ever to get our voices heard in the halls of the Virginia General Assembly as well as the U.S. Congress.

The New State President Brad Carruthers addressed the conference delegates and provided his vision for the future of the Virginia FOP. We need to increase recruitment among younger active-duty officers. He noted that is a primary responsibility to ensure fiduciary responsibility. President Carruthers stated, "Things must change in order for the State FOP to get better." One of the measures he will undertake is to forgo the salary afforded the state President.

The new State Secretary Ray Clemons addressed the delegates noting that we are all responsible for the FOP and its continuation. He emphasized the need for enhanced networking in order to increase recruitment.



Lodge 15 Delegation left to right: Andrea Hornung-Auxiliary Member, Neil Hornung-Trustee, Frank Webster-Director, Tom Howie-Trustee, Dave Theisen-President and Craig Peters-Trustee

A number of the speakers addressed the need to push the legal defense fund. This an especially attractive feature for those active-duty law enforcement officers. The raising of the per capita fund was discussed and voted on at the 2020 state conference in Fredericksburg. The issue was raised by several delegates at the conference, but the state board reminded those in attendance of the discussion and vote at the last State Conference.

The Chairman for the State Easter Seals Fundraiser addressed the delegates on the state's sole charity. Donations were solicited. Rappahannock Area Lodge #15 pledged a donation of \$250 to the Easter Seals Foundation.

Kevin Carroll, Past President, addressed the delegates on a number of legislative initiatives. One that he had personally sponsored was legislation to reclassify dispatchers so that they have a retirement system which is comparable to other first responders. However, Carroll noted that this legislation did not have support of the Virginia GOP in the General Assembly. Carroll stressed the need to communicate with your delegates and state Senators on legislation which matters to the FOP. Other areas he discussed was "collective bargaining" in the Commonwealth. There is a need for structural pay reform. Carroll had noted that it is difficult to negotiate with the Board of Supervisors for pay compensation absent collective bargaining or arbitration.

There is a need to focus on law enforcement, focus on recruitment and to bring in new blood within the law enforcement profession as well as the FOP. The new executive board is focusing on rebuilding the state FOP website to make it more user friendly. There is a need for a new website. The extensive use of social media is also what is needed to increase awareness and membership within the FOP. The new State President Carruthers commented on the need to rebrand the State FOP. Communications are essential and the need to get the word out to members through a monthly email/newsletter. There is an urgent need for financial accountability not just at the state level but at the local level as well. President Carruthers stated that he will review the current State FOP budget and make adjustments where he needs to in order to achieve fiscal responsibility.

President Carruthers emphasized the need for fiduciary responsibility through cost saving measures to include:

Forfeiting his State FOP salary.

Instead of an in-person State Rally Day may opt for a rally day with the Directors participating virtually.

He addressed the increase in Per Capita and the need to raise it to stay competitive and relevant.

He did note that instead of a large increase every 6-8 years, he will propose small \$1 to \$2 increase to keep up with the Consumer Price Index (CPI)



Past President John Ohrnberger and State FOP Office Manager, Bonnie Stinson

There will be no more co-mingling of funds between the state and the foundation.

(As the Director for Rappahannock Area Lodge, Neil Hornung, addressed the board and the delegates that it was important for the State FOP to continue to hold in person Rally Day in order to meet with the Delegates and State Senators to remain relevant. President Carruthers and Secretary Clements commented that finances would not allow to continue to do business as usual but they acknowledged my point.)



Left to right: Sgt at Arms, President Brad Carruthers, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President, Immediate Past President John Ohrnberger, Chaplain Jackie Thurston and 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President Ray Clemons.

The State Auxiliary President Gale Stiles addressed the delegates on the need for continued support from the Auxiliary as well as the Associate Lodge for the law enforcement community. She asked a question of all delegates on how they got involved in the FOP and why did they get involved in the FOP.

Michelle Twiford, Widow of Harry Twiford, addressed the conference delegates on the need to be prepared should a spouse or loved one die unexpectedly. Although she was aware of her husbands' terminal illness but you are never really prepared for their passing. She discussed the need to be prepared for the death of a loved one. Ensure they have a will, and living will, funeral expenses and desires of the deceased. Ensure you have all of the username and passwords to finances, insurance and other important on-line sites.

The Delegates had the opportunity to hear from a member of the Norfolk Sheriff's Office who was working on his PhD from Old Dominion University on Sociology and Mental Health. He provided some overview on the stresses and key indicators one should be looking for in an individual who needs help or counseling.

The conference was deemed largely a success.

The next State Conference is scheduled to take place in August of 2024 in Richmond, Virginia. Since no other lodges put in bids to host the State Conference, The State FOP will host the next State Conference.



Members of the Auxiliary and State Associate Lodges being sworn in. 2<sup>nd</sup> from the left is Andrea Hornung from Auxiliary Lodge 15



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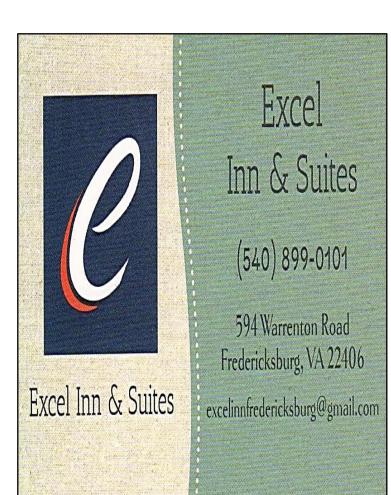
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#### A MESSAGE FROM THE RAPPAHANNOCK AREA LODGE **#15 AUXILIARY PRESIDENT CINDY SUTTON**

In July 2022, Empowerhouse, a domestic violence shelter located in Fredericksburg, experienced a tragic fire caused by lightning. Thanks to the quick action of staff and rapid response teams by First responders, everyone was safely evacuated from the building in the middle of the night. Empowerhouse began requesting help from the community during this challenging time by collecting new supplies to help replenish items lost in the fire.

Hearing about their need, Rappahannock FOP Lodge 15 Auxiliary called on the general membership to collect supplies. The Auxiliary and Lodge members gathered approximately \$300 worth of new supplies for Empowerhouse. Members donated diapers, laundry detergent, feminine hygiene products, tissues, toilet paper, and paper towels.

Throughout 2022, an auxiliary lodge member had lovingly hand-crocheted scarves and blankets for donation.

With so many amazing and unique hand-crocheted scarves and blankets, we donated multiple bags to the Loisann's Hope House, a long-term homeless shelter. Micah Ministries Hospitality Center of Fredericksburg was also the recipient of additional supplies collected from the Lodge and its Auxiliary members; i.e., feminine supplies, clothing, and bedding.

Each fall, around Veterans Day, we have a Vendor and Craft Fair. The proceeds are donated to Wounded Warrior Project. We donate more than \$500 each year. It is such a blessing to be able to give back to our community!







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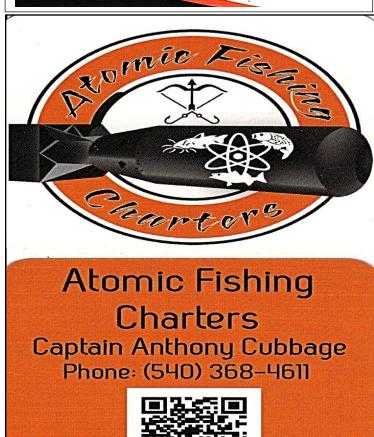
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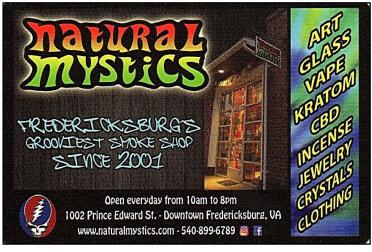


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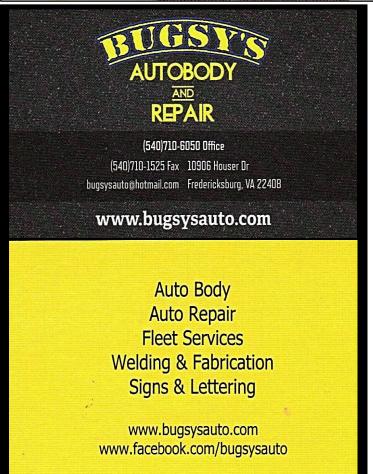
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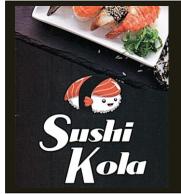
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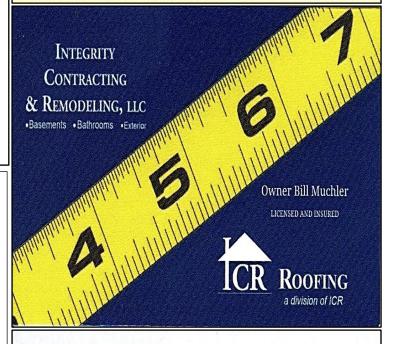
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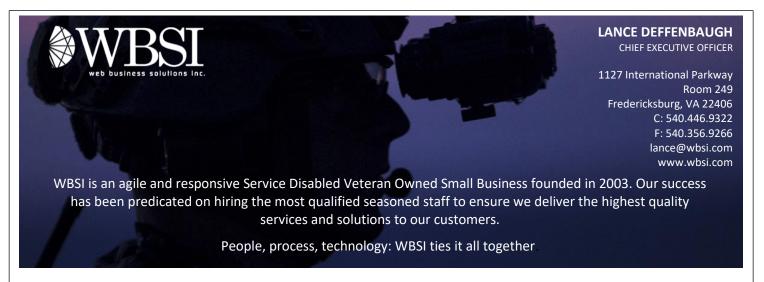
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# **2022**RAPPAHANNOCK AREA LODGE #15



On October 1, 2022, Rappahannock Area Lodge #15 hosted its annual crab feast and Chinese auction. The event is open to the public and provides an opportunity for members to gather with family and friends and enjoy some delicious crabs. One of the highlights to this event is the "Chinese Auction". The term "Chinese Auction" originated to mean something that is mysterious and intriguing. The Chinese auction is a type of silent auction. For a silent auction, bidders walk around a room, where there are items out on tables. This is where the members of our lodge, other lodges, local law enforcement, and families came together for fellowship to enjoy a feast like no other. We had over 60 member, family member and guests at our event and we served 18 bushels of crabs along with hamburgers, hot dogs, baked beans, macaroni and cheese, with cakes and brownies for dessert.







We all enjoyed a great meal and the lodge Auxiliary was the host of the Chinese Auction to raise money for the Wounded Worrier Project. Raffle tickets were sold to those individuals interested in items on multiple tables meticulously placed with a corresponding number and cup. The auction consisted of 100 plus donated items by our members and local area businesses. One of the lifetime auxiliary members crocheted two beautiful handmade Afghan blankets. Also, the following businesses donated a number of items to include; <u>Ten 8 Solutions</u> donated tactical backpacks, t-shirts, hats, and thin blue line items; <u>David's Machine Shop</u> donated some beautiful plasma cut design works of art; <u>Virginia Star Quilter</u> donated one beautiful handmade quilt; other businesses, including <u>Mission Barbeque</u> with a basket of barbeque items, <u>Meadows Farms Nursery</u> with gift cards, <u>Chick-fil-A</u> with gift cards and stuffed plush cow toys, <u>Five Guys</u> with gift cards; this is to name a few of the fantastic donated items.

As the auction concluded, this was when our Secretary, Larry Carmon, came out and up to the front of the crowd of spectators eating their crabs in a complete full pirate costume with his awe-inspiring acting skills to pick one raffle ticket for one winner of each item in the Chinese Auction. Before the auction commenced, many members and family said they always look

forward to our Crab Feast and Chinese auction event every year and look forward to purchasing those raffle tickets to support our Auxiliary.

During the Crab Feast, Yesli Vega, Republican candidate for Virginia's 7<sup>th</sup> Congressional District stopped by. She is a Prince William County Deputy Sheriff and a member of the Prince William County Board of Supervisors.

We would like to give a special thanks to everyone, including our Auxiliary, local businesses, lodge members, families, and local law enforcement supporters, for being able to put on an awesome annual event. Without all the support it would not be possible to continue to make this happen.



Trustee Neil Hornung with Yesli Vega



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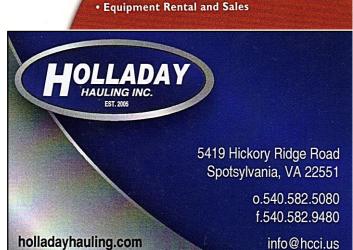


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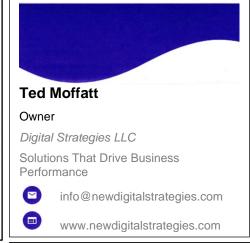
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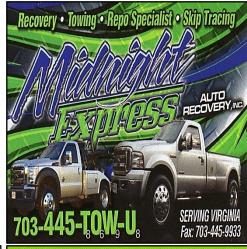
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#### RAPPAHANNOCK LODGE 15 SANTA

Larry Carmon is the current Lodge #15 Secretary, however, his more rewarding role started some years ago in the corporate world, when he was asked if he would be the Santa Claus for his company's Christmas party. Since that time, he has expanded on his part-time endeavor and is now the Lodge's Santa for their annual Christmas party.

During the COVID pandemic, his daughter came up with the idea to provide photo opportunities. For the last three years, he has given families the opportunity to take photos with Santa and his motorcycle and the proceeds go to his favorite charity, The Semper Fi Fund. This fund aids our country's wounded warriors and their families.









This past year, he rode with two of our local law enforcement agencies, Prince William County Police Department and Stafford County Sheriff's Office, providing gifts and Christmas cheer to the children of both counties. He closed out the year at the annual Lodge #15 Christmas party and provided gifts and Christmas cheer to the families in attendance. For 2022, he showcased his "Tactical Santa" outfit, which was a huge hit. He hopes to continue to spread the Christmas spirit for many, many years to come.









#### RAPPAHANNOCK AREA LODGE ANNUAL CHRISTMAS PARTY

On December 15, 2022, Rappahannock Area Lodge #15 hosted its annual Christmas Party. This year's gala was well attended with over 75 members and their children. But where did the tradition of Santa Claus come from? St. Nicholas' feast day on December 6th kept alive the stories of his generosity and kindness. In Germany and Poland, boys dressed as bishops and begged alms for the poor.

December 6th is still the main day for gift-giving in much of Europe. In the Netherlands, candies are thrown in the door, along with chocolates, small gifts, and riddles. Dutch children leave carrots and hay in their shoes for St. Nick's horse, hoping it will be exchanged for gifts. Simple gift-giving on St. Nicholas Day helps to preserve a Christmas Day focus on the Christ Child.

#### St. Nicholas Becomes Santa Claus

In North America, the popular name Santa Claus was taken from the Dutch Sinterklaas, which originated with a contracted form of Sint Nicolaas (Saint Nicholas). The "mall Santa" that we are all familiar with — sporting a red suit with white cuffs and collar, and black leather belt, became the popular image in the United States in the late 19th century and early 20th century because of the "Merry Old Santa Claus" images created by political cartoonist Thomas Nast.

Beginning in 1863, Nast began a series of annual drawings in Harper's Weekly that were inspired by the descriptions found in Washington Irving's work. These drawings established a rotund Santa with a flowing beard, fur garments, and a clay pipe. Nast drew his Santa until 1886, and his work had a major Early depictions of St. Nicholas influence in creating the modern American Santa Claus.



aka Santa Claus

Now we celebrate the spirit of St. Nicholas with the birth of the Christ Child on December 25<sup>th</sup>. It is a tradition celebrated all over the world. The Rappahannock Area Lodge continues its holiday tradition with its annual Christmas Party.

This year we introduced a new feature of "adopting a pet". The Auxiliary led this effort by offering some very adorable stuffed animals which the children in attendance could adopt. They received an adoption certificate along with their new stuffed furry pet.

The Christmas Holiday is very enjoyable time for all of the members of the Rappahannock Area Lodge #15. The members really look forward to this special occasion to spend time with members they haven't seen and to share their "war stories".



Rappahannock Auxiliary Chaplain, Andrea Hornung, signs adoption certificate for one of the children in attendance



Auxiliary President Cindy Sutton and Auxiliary Chaplain Andrea Hornung preparing the Christmas meal



Auxiliary Treasurer Bonnie Estep and Trustee Dustin Sutton serving Christmas Cake to the members



Director Frank Webster and his family enjoying the festivities



Santa and Mrs. Claus (aka Larry Carmon and his wife Sylvia) entertaining the members



Santa Claus reading to the children prior to giving out Christmas presents

'Twas the night before Christmas, when all through the Lodge Not a creature was stirring, not even a mouse; The stockings were hung by the chimney with care, In hopes that St. Nicholas soon would be there; The members and their children were nestled all seated in their chairs; While visions of adult beverages, along with other things danced in their heads; And President Theisen in his 'kerchief, and Trustee Roger Henry in his carpenter belt, Had just settled their brains for a long winter's nap, When out on the gravel parking lot there arose such a clatter, the members sprang from their chairs, or as best as they could, to see what was the matter.

Away to the window they flew like a flash, tore open the curtains (wait there are no curtains). The moon on the gravel, gave a luster of midday to

objects below, when what to their wondering eyes did appear, But a Harley-Davidson and plenty of horsepower and a side car. With a little old driver so lively and quick, they knew in a moment it must be St. Nick. More rapid than eagles his coursers they came, and he whistled, and shouted, and called them by name: "Now, David! now, Roger! now Tom and Joe! On, Dustin! on, Craig! on, Frank and Mike! To the top of the porch! to the top of the wall! Now dash away! dash away! dash away all!"

As leaves that before the wild hurricane fly, when they meet with an obstacle, mount to the sky; So up to the housetop the coursers they flew with the Harley full of toys, and St. Nicholas too--And then, in a twinkling, we heard on the gravel parking lot The prancing and pawing of a V2 Four Stroke, Milwaukee – Eight 107, 1746.00 ccm engine. As we drew in our heads, and was turning around, in through the front door, (no way he could have fit down the chimney) St. Nicholas came with a bound. He was dressed all in camouflage fur, from his head to his foot, and his clothes were all tarnished with road salt and brine; A bundle of toys he had flung on his back, and he looked like a Marine who just ordered a platoon. His eyes--how they twinkled! his dimples, how merry! His cheeks were like roses, his nose like a cherry! His droll little mouth was drawn up like a bow, And the beard on his chin was as white as the snow; He had a broad face and a little round belly That shook when he laughed, like a bowl full of jelly. He was chubby and plump, a right jolly old elf, and we laughed when we saw him, despite ourselves; A wink of his eye and a twist of his head he shouted OOORRRAAAHHH or something like that. But soon gave us to know we had nothing to dread; He spoke not a word, (well not really, he talked a lot) but went straight to his work and filled all the drinks; then turned with a jerk, and laying his finger aside of his nose, and giving a nod, out the door; He sprang to his Harley, to his team gave a whistle, and away they all flew like the down of a thundering Milwaukee V2 Four Stroke. But we heard him exclaim, ere he drove out of sight-- "Happy Christmas to all, and to all a good night!"





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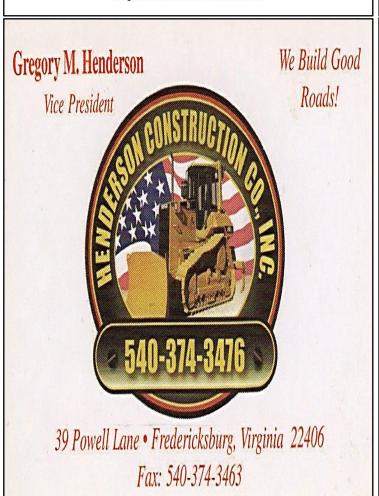


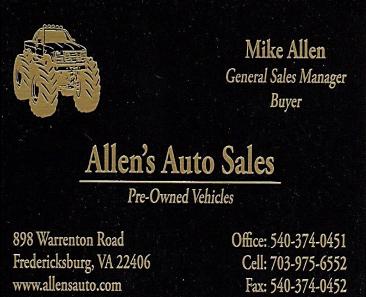


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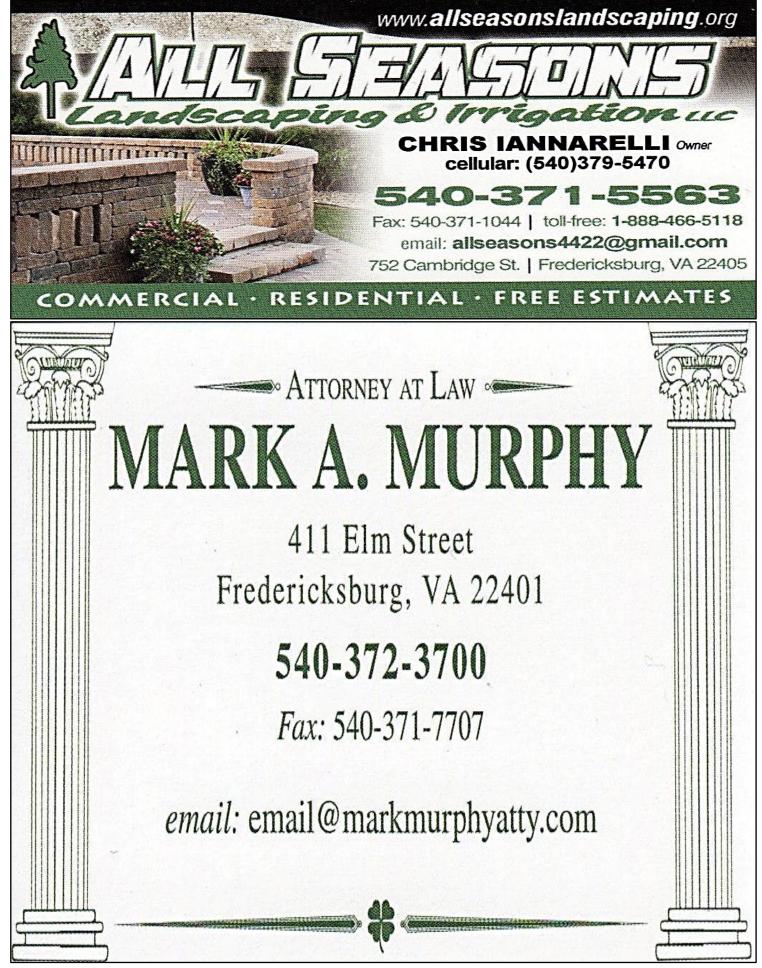
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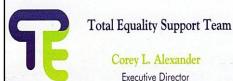
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FOP Lodge #15 held our 31st annual FOP #15 Cops and Kids Project (formerly known as the Richard L. Parsons Memorial Shop with a Cop Project) on December 10, 2022, at 6:00 AM, at the Target store in the Central Park shopping center in Fredericksburg. We hosted 171 children in need nominated by their school counselors in the city and four surrounding counties, the Thurman T. Brisben Center (homeless shelter), and Loisann's Hope House (long term homeless shelter), to go Christmas shopping with a law enforcement officer or other volunteer with a budget of \$125.00 for each child. We raise the funds for this project from a portion of our annual lodge fundraising campaign, donations from our individual members, and from our community through a small direct mail campaign.

Dozens of law enforcement officers from the City of Fredericksburg, the Counties of Caroline, King George, Spotsylvania, and Stafford, the Virginia State Police, and various other local, state, and Federal agencies, both lodge members and non-members, volunteered their time on their day off to come to the store in uniform to assist the children with their Christmas shopping. In addition, we also had student volunteers from the Fredericksburg Academy as well as other volunteers from the public. We even had had a live band from the



**Eager Shoppers** 



Kids and their parents check in and meet their cop

Fredericksburg Christian High School playing Christmas music for the enjoyment of the children, their families, the law enforcement officers, and the store personnel.



Our Cops and Kids Project has been a great success for these 31 years and we have been able to give over 5,162 children in need the joy of experiencing a wonderful Christmas at a total cost of nearly \$600,000.00 over the years. Target has been a very generous partner in this endeavor. Not only do they reconfigure their schedule to suit our needs by opening early for us, but they have given Cops and Kids a very generous contribution for many of these 19 years as well as excellent logistical support



















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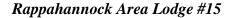
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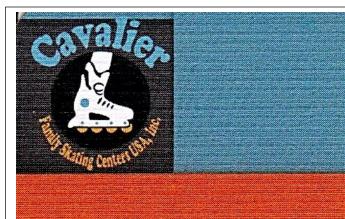
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#### INTERVIEW WITH SHERIFF JON SCOTT FOSTER FREDERICKSBURG SHERIFF'S OFFICE





Sheriff Jon Scott Foster

The 2022-23 Rappahannock Roll Call is highlighting the Fredericksburg Sheriff's Office. The office of the Sheriff is memorialized in Virginia's Constitution where it states "15.2-1609, The voters in every county and city shall elect a sheriff unless otherwise provided by general law or special act. *The sheriff shall exercise all the powers conferred* and perform all the duties imposed upon sheriffs by general law. *He shall enforce the law* or see that it is enforced in the locality from which he is elected; assist in the judicial process as provided by general law; and be charged with the custody, feeding and care of all prisoners confined in the county or city jail. He may perform such other duties, not inconsistent with his office, as may be requested of him by the governing body. The sheriff shall be elected as provided by general law for a term of four years." Fredericksburg has had a police department and sheriff's office for years.

We recently sat down with City of Fredericksburg Sheriff, Jon "Scott" Foster on his mission and vision for the department. Sheriff Foster's law enforcement career began in 1994 he

joined the Sheriff's Office when there were only 7 full time deputies. Back then the duties of the Sheriff's office were pretty routine. Essentially, keeping the city courts safe and providing oversight of the local jail. However, law enforcement, along with the Sheriff's Department, has evolved. Sheriff Foster is a native of Colonial Beach, Virginia. He has been involved in the local area community for a number of years. From leading the Colonial Beach Youth Association to coaching football and baseball. Sheriff Foster graduated from the Rappahannock Regional Justice Academy in 1995. Since that time, he has received extensive training as a K-9 handler, as a Glock armorer, on the Incident Command System (ICS), and leadership development through the Virginia Sheriff's Association.

Sheriff Foster stated that the mission of the Fredericksburg Sheriff's Office is to ensure the men and women are empowered to defend the Constitution of the United States and the Commonwealth of Virginia. Through courtesy, care, trust and commitment, the Fredericksburg Sheriff's office will work diligently to provide the most effective and safe delivery of court and civil process services to the citizens. Sheriff Foster commented that prior to 2020, the city's police and sheriff's department were each performing distinct law enforcement functions. They would interact on occasion but once the pandemic hit and lifestyles as well a public perception changed, it necessitated a paradigm shift in how the Police Department and Sheriff's Office view their respective roles and missions as well as how they operated. Sheriff Foster described 2020 as a seminal year. Due to the political and social changes taking place, the Sheriff's Department needed to modernize and adapt to the changing times. Since taking office Sheriff Foster has implemented the following guiding principles;

*Integrity* – Serve the citizens with the highest moral and ethical standards. Honesty and moral courage will guide the office in their relations with all persons.

*Respect* – Show respect. Treat each other and all people with respect in a consistent manner.

**Professionalism** – Professionals listen compassionately and act with respect, sincerity, and courtesy when interacting with each other and the citizens. The department is firm in their convictions in upholding the laws, while treating others as we would want to be treated.

**Commitment** – The men and women of the Fredericksburg Sheriff's office are committed. They work in partnership with court personnel, city officials and other law enforcement agencies and the citizens of Fredericksburg to gain mutual respect and appreciation for one another. Together the Sheriff's office will provide responsive and efficient quality services through cooperation, problem solving and accountability.



Fredericksburg Sheriff's Office Command Staff with Sheriff Jon "Scott" Foster (L to R Lt. William Reyes, Lt. Tabatha Merrell, Sgt. William Rogers, Sheriff Foster, Capt. David Sullivan, and Lt. Nick Talbert (Ret))



Fredericksburg Sheriff Foster with Fredericksburg Police Chief Brian Layton

Upon taking office, Sheriff Foster undertook a major project to secure state accreditation for the Fredericksburg Sheriff's Office through the Virginia Law Enforcement Professional Standards Commission (VLEPSC). Why is this important? As Sheriff Foster stipulated, it is important for the community to have confidence that their law enforcement agencies are all trained, meeting community professional standards and are transparent to the public. Accreditation will increase the effectiveness and efficiency of the sheriff's office by promoting cooperation among all components of the criminal justice system, ensure appropriate levels of training amongst the deputies, promote community confidence in the agency and promote professionalism.

Sheriff Foster has outlined several goals that he would like to address for the coming year. He has noted the following;

- Ongoing and continued efforts to increase employee compensation.
- To achieve accreditation
  - Improve effectiveness
  - Identify problem areas
- Decrease liability potential
- Demonstrate to the community the office has modernized and is transparent
- Enhance relationship and engagement with the community
- o Increase training opportunities
- O Conduct performance evaluations on all employees.



Sheriff Foster and Lt. William Reyes participate in a local food drive



Fredericksburg Sheriff's Office participates in a community event



Sheriff Foster celebrating Halloween in Fredericksburg 2022



Fredericksburg Sheriffs Officer participates in a Christmas shopping event with those in need.

Sheriff Foster highlighted some of the areas that the Sheriff's Department is responsible.

Fredericksburg Sheriff's Office CY 2022

Date	Description	Metrics
CY 2022	Civil Papers Served	58,085
CY 2022	Transports	2234 Hours 605 Transports
CY 2022	Court Days	Circuit Court - 420
		General District - 222
		Juvenile - 246
CY 2022	Total # Persons Accessing Court	35,357



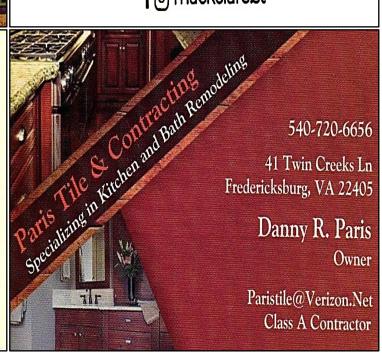


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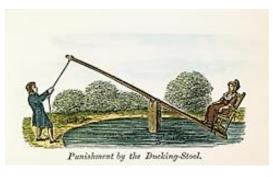




#### THE HISTORY OF THE FREDERICKSBURG SHERIFF'S OFFICE



The Fredericksburg Sheriff's Office has a rich and long history of serving the Fredericksburg Community. Prior to the formation of the Sheriff's Office the first law enforcement person for the Town of Fredericksburg (Fredericksburg's Charter was for a town not a city) was called a "Town Sergeant". On March 30th, 1782 the town legislative body elected Mr. John Legg as the Sergeant of the Town. Mr. Legg's duties encompassed law enforcement duties as well as a few other responsibilities delegated to him by the alderman of the town. One of the duties of the Town Sergeant was to oversee and administer punishment for crimes. A particularly interesting bit of information is the use of the "Dunking Stool". This device was like a



chair strapped to a long pole attached to a fulcrum. The purpose was to strap the guilty, or sometimes innocent, into the device and dunk them in a body of water. The Rappahannock River was usually the body of water that was used. This punishment caused great discomfort and sometimes even death, although this was deemed to be unintentional.

On March 21st, 1821, the Town Sergeant was changed to the Sergeant of the Corporation. The first individual elected to this position was a Mr. Hundley. At that time the, duties were the same in that he assisted the militia and was the overseer of the firemen and constables.

From that time until about the last decade of the 19th Century, things remained the same. As the role evolved, a well-known Mr. John Conway Chichester took over the role of Sergeant. He oversaw the Fire and Police Departments and was under the authority of the City Mayor. The next documented town sergeant was Mr. C. Chichester. The next three men who held the office of the Town Sergeant are as follows:

Mr. A. D. Middleton 1942-1946

Mr. Leonard Chittum 1946-1946

Mr. Frank Fines 1946-1972

Mr. Fines was the first actual Sheriff. During his time in office, the title was changed to Sheriff. From that time on, all the men were called Sheriff. The next Sheriff was Claude A. Hughes. He stayed in office from 1972-1985. He was followed by Roland Oates whose term lasted from 1985-1993 until Phillip C. Robinson took over from 1994-1998.

In 1998 until 2022 Sheriff P. W. Higgs held the position of Sheriff. With the retirement of Sheriff P. W. Higgs in 2022, Scott Foster was appointed to Sheriff by Circuit Court Judge Gordon F. Willis on September 15, 2022.

Overall, the history of the Fredericksburg Sheriff's Office offers the community insights into the interesting turnover of extraordinary men holding one of the highest positions in local government and the time they all devoted to the city and its citizens.

#### **Past Sheriffs**

1921-1941 Sergeant C. Chichester

1942-1946 Sergeant A.D. Middleton

1946-1946 Sergeant Leonard E. Chiium

1946-1972 Sergeant/Sheriff T. Frank Fines

1972-1985 Sheriff Claude A. Hughes

1985-1993 Sheriff Roland Oates

1994-1998 Sheriff Philip C. Robinson

1998-2022 Sheriff P.W. Higgs



2022- Present Sheriff Scott Foster and the Current Command Staff of Fredericksburg Sheriff's Office



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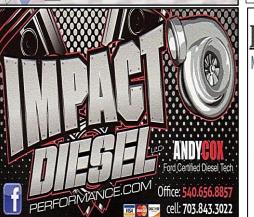
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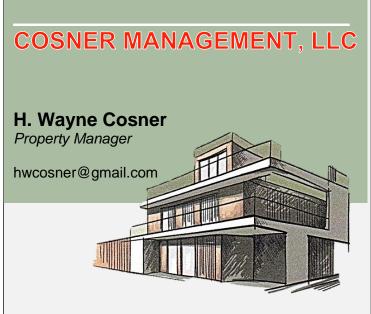
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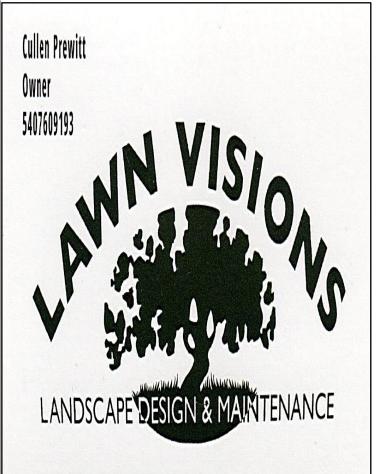
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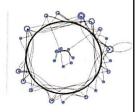
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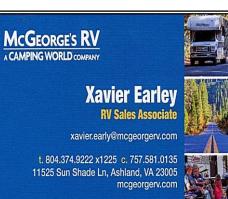
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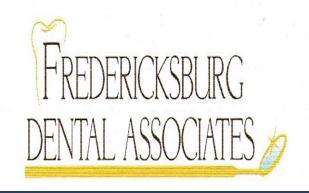
Empowerhouse suffered a catastrophic fire over the past summer. Many of the items used to support local victims of domestic violence had been destroyed. Rappahannock Area Lodge #15 offered to provide financial support to this organization.

The mission, of Empowerhouse is to empower survivors of domestic violence and their children to believe in themselves and build new lives filled with dignity, respect, safety and hope; and its vision: to create a diverse network of community members working together to promote safe relationships, homes and communities remains the same.

Empowerhouse is a nonprofit, 501(c)(3) Virginia accredited domestic violence program serving Fredericksburg, Caroline, King George, Spotsylvania, and Stafford. They have provided services to the community for 37 years. They have continued to provide helping and educational programs offered throughout the community including their secret shelter, a 24-hour hotline (540-373-9373), victim advocacy, children's services, support groups for victims, teens and children, Spanish language and culturally relevant services, transition in-place housing assistance, court advocacy, accompaniment to court and healthcare visits, teen dating violence prevention, as well as batterer intervention programs.



Pictured is Craig Peters, Charity Committee Chairman providing a check to the ladies of Empowerhouse during a recent meeting of Rappahannock Area Lodge #15



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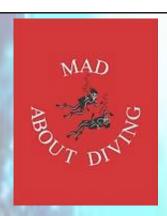
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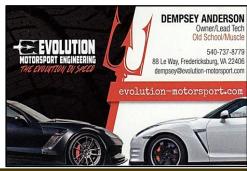
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Water quality is important to us all, whether we swim, eat seafood, enjoy fishing or simply want a glass of water out of the tap, clean water is essential to our health and well-being. Our staff is committed to playing a positive role in achieving water quality.

Owner and President, Kristen has over 25 years of experience in the land development and residential/commercial construction industry. Many projects are adjacent to the National Park Service in the historic Chancellorsville Battlefield and in the Rappahannock River watershed. Many of these sites contain civil war earthworks which require sensitive construction practices. Prior to her start in construction, she worked in public accounting with firms in Washington, D.C. and Fredericksburg, Va. She has a B.S. degree in Accounting and Economics from Shepherd University located in Shepherdstown, West Virginia. Kristen is a member of the Virginia Society of Certified Public Accountants and the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants. She holds a Class A CBC/HH/RBC license and is OSHA-30 certified.

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#### AMERICAN FOUNDATION FOR SUICIDE PREVENTION (AFSP/VIRGINIA)

The Rappahannock Area Lodge, #15 recently hosted Ms. Shannon Sullivan of the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention (AFSP/Virginia). Ms. Sullivan provided an overview of the organization and the work that they do.

AFSP is a grassroots organization that focuses on eliminating the loss of life from suicide by delivering innovative prevention programs, educating the public about risk factors and warning signs, raising funds for suicide research and programs, and reaching out to those individuals who have lost someone to suicide.

As a part of AFSP's growing nationwide network of chapters, they bring together people from all backgrounds who want to prevent suicide in our communities. Families and friends who have lost someone to suicide, vulnerable individuals, mental health professionals, clergy, educators, students, community/business leaders, and many others energize our chapter.



Trustee Craig Peters, along with President Dave Theisen, present a check to Shannon Sullivan of AFSS of Virginia



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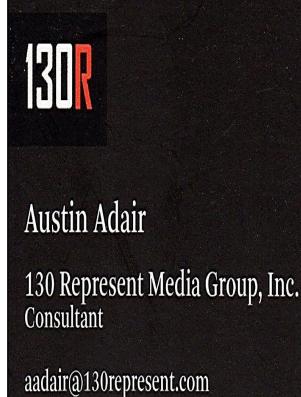
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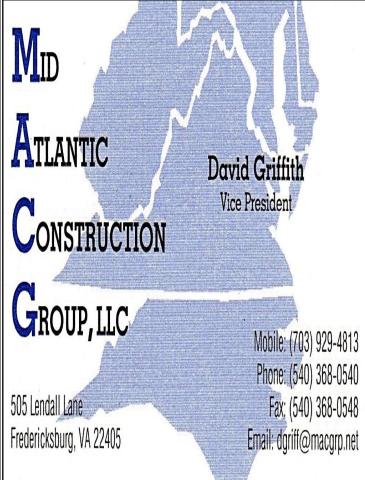
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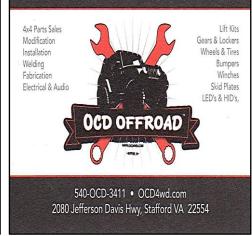








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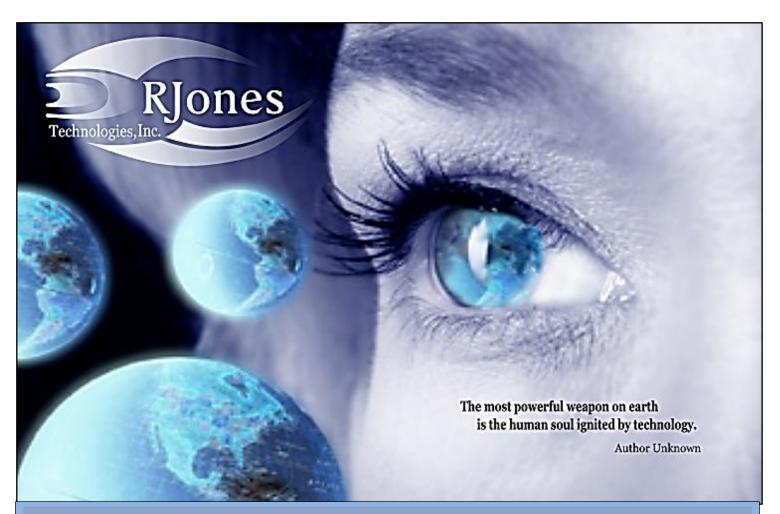




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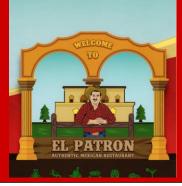
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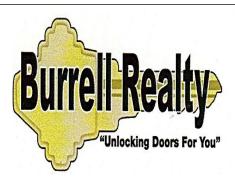
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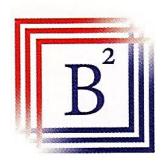


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Recently, St. Patrick's Church in Spotsylvania County, Virginia had asked for donations to install a stained glass window depicting St. Michael. Rappahannock Area Lodge #15 provided a financial contribution to Fr. Zeigler, Pastor at St. Patrick's Church. We view St. Michael as our protector and anything that the lodge and the Fraternal Order of Police can do to enhance our protections against the wickedness and snares of the devil is always appreciated. Given the tragic events of this past year with over 238 law enforcement officers having been killed in the line of duty, we need all the help we can get.



Trustee Neil Hornung presents a check to Fr. Zeigler, St. Patrick's Church



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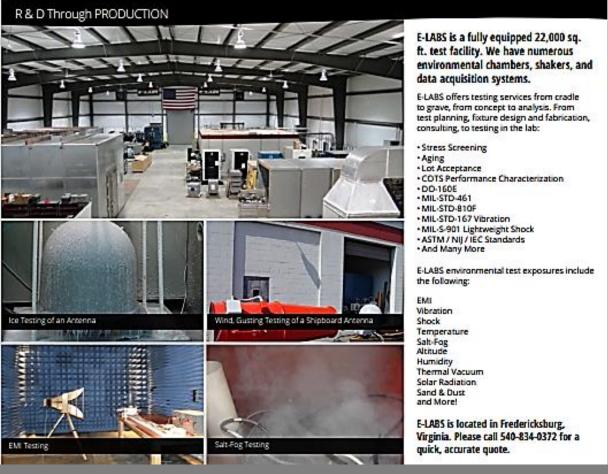
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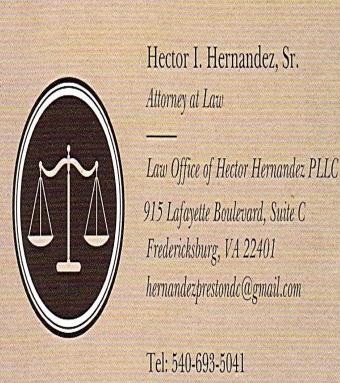
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#### **AQUIA HARBOR POLICE DEPARTMENT**

On February 10, 2023, Rappahannock Area Lodge #15 presented a check to the Aquia Harbor Police Department to purchase two tasers. The department provides essential law enforcement services to the Aquia Harbor Community.







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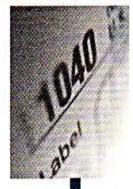


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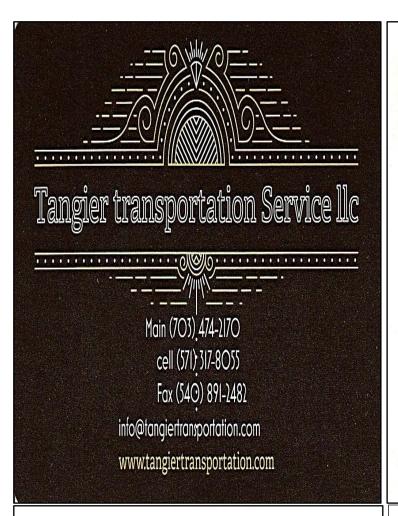
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#### **CUB SCOUT PACK 325 DONATION**



On Sunday February 26, 2023, Cub Scout Pack 325 held its annual Blue and Gold Banquet. The Blue and Gold Banquet is held to celebrate the Birthday of the Cub Scouts of America. This program introduces young boys and girls to the scouting program. They are organized into Packs and then subdivided into Dens based upon their age. Cub Scouts can start in the Lions program which is designed for kindergarten age children. The parents are very much involved in the planning of activities and events. The highest rank a Cub Scout can achieve is Webelos. Once they attain the rank of Webelos they can choose to "bridge" to Scouts BSA program. There are several BSA Scout troops in the Fredericksburg area which is a rising Cub Scout may choose to join.

Cub Scouts conduct several parent supervised campouts and participate in the "pinewood derby race." This race consists of wooden blocks which are transformed into race cars by the scouts with a lot of help form the parents. There is also the rain gutter regatta in which the cub scouts will race a miniaturized sailboat on water. The cub scouts have the opportunity to attend a summer camp filled with activities where they can earn belt loops and patches for a number of outdoor related activities.

Rappahannock Area Lodge #15 has been the proud sponsor of Cub Scout Pack 325 for several years. Trustee Neil J. Hornung serves the Charter Organization Representative to the Pack. Dr. Dan Gray is the Cubmaster and Terri Hoffman serves as the Pack's Committee Chair. The three of them make up the Key Three for the Pack which means they help to guide the Pack along any business related functions which need to be performed.

Pictured at this year's Blue and Gold Banquet is Lodge #15 President David Theisen accepting the charter from Cub Master Dan Gray. The Charter is an agreement between the Cub Scout Pack and the Charter Organization, in this case Rappahannock Area Lodge #15, to provide a meeting facility and to provide support to the Cub Scout Pack.



(L to R) Cubmaster Dan Gray and Rappahannock Area Lodge President David Theisen



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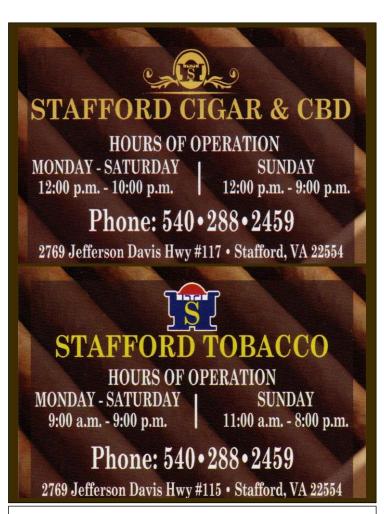
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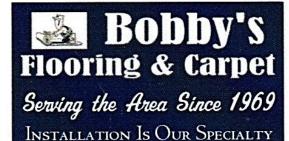
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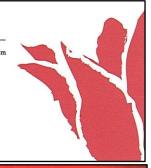




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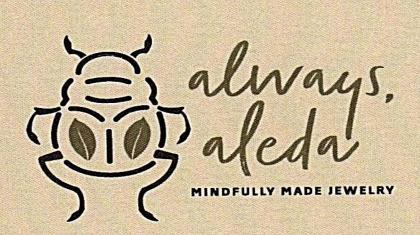
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