Glamorgan Resident, Elizabeth Bock, and her Efforts to Save the Endangered Monarch Butterfly:
An interview with Elizabeth Bock
By: Katie Guroian

What is a monarch butterfly and what makes it so unique amongst butterflies?

The monarch butterfly, a large and brilliantly colored insect with deep orange wings with black borders and veins, and white spots along the edges is among the most easily recognizable of the butterfly species in North America. They have two sets of wings and a wingspan of three to four inches. Monarch butterflies are found across North America wherever suitable feeding, breeding, and overwintering habitat exists. They are broken into two populations separated by the Rocky Mountains, called the eastern and the western populations. In the summer they range as far north as southern Canada. In the fall the eastern population migrates to the cool, high mountains of central Mexico and the western population migrates to coastal California, where they spend the entire winter. Monarch butterflies are one of the few insects which undertake an annual migration.

Eastern monarchs head south along the Atlantic coast. Florida is a stop for many monarchs before they fly over the Gulf Coast to Mexico. Most adult monarchs only live for a few weeks, searching for food in the form of flower nectar, for mates, and for milkweed on which to lay their eggs. The last generation that hatches in late summer delays sexual maturity and undertakes a spectacular fall migration. This migratory generation can live upward of eight months.

The annual monarch life cycle and migration begins at the monarchs’ overwintering grounds in Mexico (for the eastern population) and the central to southern California coastal region (for the western population). Around March, the overwintering monarchs begin their journey north. Once migration begins, monarchs become sexually mature and mate. The females begin their search for milkweed plants on which to lay eggs. After mating and egg-laying, the adult butterflies die and the northward migration is continued by their offspring. It takes three to five generations to repopulate the rest of the United States and southern Canada until the final generation of the year hatches and does the return journey to the overwintering grounds.

The monarch migration is one of the greatest phenomena in the natural world. Monarchs know the correct direction to migrate even though the individuals that migrate have never made the journey before. They follow an internal “compass" that points them in the right direction each spring and fall. A single monarch can travel hundreds or even thousands of miles.

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President’s Message

Hello Salisbury Neighbors – Spring activity appears to be increasing as evidenced by higher traffic volumes, more bikers, and walkers on the roadways. June again brings the conclusion of another academic year: in person for many, virtual for others. Congrats to all graduates and much success on life’s next adventures.

The exuberance of our young ones will carry over to swimming, athletic and social events and will likely be more visible on or near our roads. Driving while distracted and speeding continue to be a concern. Our extra County Police patrols monitor and emphasize safe driving, stopping at the Four Corners intersection and slowing down. I am reminded of a mantra from my former employer, Union Camp Corp.: “There is nothing we do that is more important that it cannot be done safely.”

SHOA’s efforts with elected officials have resulted in the news that 53 streets are on the VDOT repaving list for 2022. We are working on more for 2023 and beyond. Seasonal activities like common area landscaping, maintenance and replacement of damaged street signs are ongoing. The 2021 Salisbury Directory is being readied by Joanne Ward. Please pay your 2021 dues and inform Joanne of any changes that need to be made for an updated Directory. The Directory also contains SHOA information, bylaws, covenants, architectural standards and renovation information.

Thank you for taking pride in your homes and properties - these contributions make Salisbury a beautiful neighborhood. We look forward to any feedback and participation within Salisbury, your community. We are proud of our partnership with The Salisbury Mother’s Club, Wishing Well Park, The Salisbury Garden Club and Lake Salisbury – all working to make Salisbury a great place to live!

Phil Sido
Phil.sido@gmail.com

Dues statements were mailed to all residents in January.

Thank you to all residents who pay their dues promptly by either mailing a check in the envelope provided or paying online on the SHOA website:

www.salisburyhomeowners.net
Click Pay online on the first tab.

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Monarch butterflies (Cont’d)

What first drew you to learning more about and becoming involved in monarch butterfly conservation efforts?

My mother, Mary Lu Sinclair, in Connecticut started raising and conserving monarchs before I was born, introduced to the hobby by her conservationist uncle. My sisters and I were raised with rearing monarchs, tagging them and educating the public about them as part of my life every summer. My participation is, in part, an homage to her as well as a celebration of the monarch butterfly.

What do you mean by “rearing and tagging” monarch butterflies?

A monarch butterfly lays 100-300 eggs during her short life. Only 10 percent of these will survive to adulthood if left in the wild. I check my milkweed daily from June till September. When I find an egg or young caterpillar, I bring it into my kitchen on its leaf. In 4 days, the egg will hatch, and the caterpillars will go through 5 stages, called instars, during which they shed their skin and grow exponentially. When they are about a week old, I transfer them to an outdoor screened enclosure on milkweed stems kept in water. After 2 weeks or so of constant eating, the larvae will climb to the top of the enclosure, weave a silk like mat and hang in a J shape. Shortly thereafter, the chrysalis develops. After 9-14 days, a butterfly will eclose, or emerge from the chrysalis, and is ready to fly in several hours.

Tracking monarchs by tagging has been in practice since 1940. Monarch Watch, founded in 1992 and based at the University of Kansas, now tracks the monarchs’ migration. For a small fee, they provide tags that safely adheres to the butterfly’s wing. On the tag is printed MWTAG.ORG and an individual identifying number for each insect. After the summer season, I send my tag particulars; number sex, date, where released, and reared or wild to Monarch Watch. When spotted along the migration route or found at the overwintering sight the number is sent to Monarch Watch and recorded. If recovered in Mexico, a small stipend is issued to the finder. Thus, monarch migration biology and monarch population dynamics can be studied to conserve this beautiful butterfly.

Why is the monarch butterfly endangered?

The monarch population has steadily and precipitously declined by at least 80% in the last two decades due to loss of its only food source as juveniles (milkweed), lack of pollinator plants along its migrating corridor, loss of overwintering habitat in Mexico, and climate change. The butterfly lays her eggs exclusively on the milkweed plant which, once plentiful in the wild, along roadsides, and in farm fields, has fallen prey to the rampant use of herbicides. Our propensity to favor monoculture lawns over native pollinators starves the eastern monarchs on their multi-generational 2000 mile plus migration from the farthest reaches of North America to Mexico. In addition, the overwhelming number of pesticides used in our landscape directly kills monarchs and other essential pollinators.

The wintering grounds of monarchs in Oyamel forests in Mexico are increasingly threatened due to the illegal harvesting of trees. Currently, there are only 5.19 acres of suitable winter habitat left. Because monarchs require specific altitude and temperature for overwintering (nearly 2 miles above sea level, 32-60 degrees Fahrenheit) there is an effort to plant Oyamel trees further up mountain slopes, so the butterflies have appropriate roosting grounds as our climate warms.

What can be done to protect and conserve the monarch butterfly?

I have had the honor of passing the family tradition of rearing and tagging monarchs to my daughters. As my children have grown and scattered, I relish in the sharing of my passion with my Salisbury neighborhood. Halloween treats are milkweed seeds (and chocolate). Milkweed seedlings are given away with abandon, advice and encouragement are always available, and pollinator plants and milkweeds are planted wherever I find a willing spot.

The study of the monarch butterfly provides invaluable teaching tools for parents and educators. I have lectured at schools, libraries, veteran homes, and churches to help spread awareness of the demise of and value of the monarch butterfly. Under the auspices of Chesterfield County Extension, my Master Gardener friend, Judy Lutz and I are planting pollinator gardens at Chesterfield County libraries. Visit North Courthouse and Meadowdale libraries to see our first projects. I would love the opportunity to increase appreciation of monarchs and other pollinators and am happy to share with any interested parties. I can be contacted at lizbet43@gmail.com for more information or with queries.
SAFETY CORNER

The first traffic calming event which provides a speed data analysis of number of vehicles analyzed, average speed, fastest speed, and enforceable violations over a 7-day period has been concluded. Of the three requested areas of study (West Salisbury Rd. and Braemer Ct.; Chepstow Rd.; and Salisbury Rd. along the country club.) The intersection of West Salisbury Rd. and Braemer Ct. qualified for the non-intrusive traffic calming measure of an additional fine of $200 for speeding. The speed data analysis for the qualifying area was 6,263 vehicles analyzed with 1633 enforceable violation (23%) with an average speed of 31 MPH and fastest speed of 60 MPH. This is the same measure that has been instated on Kings Lynn Rd. Oakengate Lane, and Castlebridge Rd.

For this traffic calming measure to be implemented, 50% of the 200 residences closest to the survey point must agree to the recommended traffic calming measure. These residences will receive a survey in the mail from CDOT. If you receive a survey, please be sure to return it with your concurrence within 30 days to ensure implementation. The VDOT request to conduct a traffic calming study for Winterfield Rd. from Lucky’s to the Powhatan line will take place next year. Additional events are in the planning stages. The section of Winterfield Rd. near Chepstow Rd. is next in the CDOT wave.

Also, I would like to remind you of four (4) other items:

1. Utilize the non-emergency PD phone number, (804) 748-1251 to report speeding and/or suspicious activity. A license plate number and or a picture of the vehicle is most helpful. The email address speeding@chesterfield.gov is also available. The sooner the incident is reported the better chance the PD can remedy the situation.
2. Trim and/or clear bushes and trees on/or adjacent to your property so that traffic signs are visible to oncoming traffic. If you need assistance in accomplishing this, feel free to contact me.
3. Drive Like Your Kids Live Here signage is still available in limited quantities. Contact me if interested. You may also order direct from the website: www.drivelikeyourkidslivehere.com.
4. Low-speed vehicles which include golf carts must be street ready. In general, all golf carts driven on public thoroughfares must meet the Low-Speed Vehicle (LSV) criteria. To be specific, a golf cart driven from home to the country club does not need to meet LSV criteria for street ready, but a golf cart driven to any location other than the golf course should be street ready per the LSV criteria. These criteria include head, tail, and brake lights, and the vehicle must be registered and licensed. Drivers need to be licensed or have a learner’s permit accompanied by a licensed driver. A complete set of requirements can be found under VA Code Article 12.1, Low-Speed Vehicles.
Legislative Updates

As chair of SHOA’s Legislative Committee, I’d like to take some time to inform our residents of the three biggest community topics that are currently being discussed.

**Midlothian Special Area Plan:** This initiative is ongoing. Residents can give comments or questions directly to Senior Planner Joanne Wieworka via email at wieworkaj@chesterfield.gov or by phone at 804-748-1081. For further information, please visit the “Midlothian Special Design District Update” webpage at: www.chesterfield.gov/5304/Midlothian-Special-Design-District

**Woolridge Road/Old Buckingham Road intersection at Midlothian Turnpike:** VDOT has proposed a traffic plan change that involved turning this traditional intersection into a Restricted Crossing U-Turn (R-CUT.) This is one of the larger intersections in the county and has a high accident count. VDOT hosted an online community information meeting on April 29th. This meeting lasted well over two hours and contained quite a lot of background information on why VDOT has chosen the R-CUT over other options. There was also an hour for FAQ and for citizens to submit their own questions. Both the presentation and the meeting transcription have been provided by VDOT. It was an interesting discussion and I encourage you to learn more about this proposal. You are welcome to listen to that call or you may review the presentation documents and meeting transcription.

Please visit the following websites for further information:


**April 29th Meeting Overview:** [www.virginiadot.org/projects/richmond/chesterfield-route_60_midlothian_turnpike_rcut_installation_virtual_information_meeting.asp](http://www.virginiadot.org/projects/richmond/chesterfield-route_60_midlothian_turnpike_rcut_installation_virtual_information_meeting.asp)

**April 29th Meeting Presentation Documents:** [www.virginiadot.org/Projects/Richmond/easset_upload_file96745_177753_e.pdf](http://www.virginiadot.org/Projects/Richmond/easset_upload_file96745_177753_e.pdf)

**April 29th Meeting Transcription:** [www.virginiadot.org/Projects/Richmond/easset_upload_file67259_177753_e.pdf](http://www.virginiadot.org/Projects/Richmond/easset_upload_file67259_177753_e.pdf)

**Sidewalks, etc.:** There is a continuing discussion regarding sidewalks and bike paths in the area. The discussion revolves around the need for sidewalks, paths, and the positive addition that they would bring to the neighborhood. This is countered by concerns over high costs, placement, who pays for this addition and whether residents would be willing to possibly give up land that borders their property for this amenity. This is a complex issue and will require further discussion. SHOA President Phil Sido has been working on this topic for a while and is current as to its status.

I urge my fellow Salisbury residents to visit the above sites and share their comments with the appropriate group. Now is the time for input.

The Salisbury Directories have been sent off for printing. They will be delivered at the end of June, weather permitting. Homeowners will receive an email notifying exact dates of delivery.

Thank you to all who sent in their updates.
Every summer, one of my favorite activities to do with my family is plant and care for our vegetable garden. We have a plot in the backyard that we fill each year with a variety of vegetables and herbs to harvest throughout the growing season. Though planting a garden can seem like a gargantuan task, it isn’t as involved as it may seem and can provide amazing opportunities for education and family bonding! To get you started, I have a few tips both for having a successful garden and for ensuring that it remains an engaging activity all summer long.

To start a successful garden, the two most important qualities are good soil and consistent watering. Whether you’re planting your vegetables directly in the ground, in raised beds or in pots, make sure you can see organic material in the soil, like pieces of leaves, small sticks, or even grass clippings. These add nutrients to the soil as they decompose and will help your plants become strong and fruitful. You also want to ensure that the soil isn’t hard or tightly packed down, as that prevents both oxygen and water from reaching the roots. Most vegetable and herb plants need watered 3-5 times per week to be fruitful, but check with your plant supplier or research the internet for your specific garden’s needs.

The next tip for a flourishing garden is to buy your plants pre-sprouted instead of starting from seeds. Though it can be incredibly rewarding to incubate seeds and watch them grow from the very beginning of their lifecycle, it’s a time-consuming and delicate process. Most vegetable plants need to grow for months before they’re ready to start flowering and producing the tomatoes, cucumbers, squash, and other delicious veggies that we all love, so do yourself a favor and start with plants that are already strong enough to flower and fruit.

My last tip for a fruitful summer vegetable garden is to be aware and respectful of the environment where you’re planting. Here in Salisbury, we have a wide range of wildlife right in our backyards—deer, rabbits, snakes, bats, birds, and so much more. It’s tempting to spray pesticides or poison to protect your precious harvest from being eaten, but that can have a lasting negative impact on our collective ecosystem.

In lieu of these methods, consider putting up a temporary fence around your garden plot or planting animal-resistant native plants around the edge to discourage curious wildlife. A great guide to these types of plants can be found on the Plant NOVA Natives website, plantnovanatives.org. You can also paint rocks to look like the vegetables you planted and place them in your garden before anything has ripened. Birds will peck at these and be discouraged, therefore learning to avoid your garden in the future. Lastly, leaving some weeds in your garden can help protect your vegetable plants from pests because they hide the ripening fruit with more foliage. It’s less work for you and makes for a more successful garden!

Now that you’ve planted your summer garden with all the vegetables your heart desires, it’s time to make garden care a family affair. From the start, make sure you plant vegetables that people in your household will be excited to eat. Though not everyone needs to love every single item you’re growing, they should each be ready to partake in some of the harvest. I personally enjoy tomatoes and zucchini, but am less enthused about cucumbers; however, my younger sister loves cucumbers, so we plant them anyways. It’s about compromise! If each person is interested in the yield of at least one of the vegetables, they’ll be much more willing to help take care of the garden.

Next, you’ll want to make an event out of the progress your garden is making. That might mean checking for flowers or baby vegetables every day, measuring the height of the plants once a week to see how much they’ve grown, or counting the new leaves consistently. You might even want to take some pictures to see how much your garden has grown. It’s tons of fun to track your progress, so consider writing down your findings so you can look back on where you started! Once your garden starts to bear fruit, ensure that everyone has the opportunity to try a piece of the vegetable and consider integrating it into a special dish that you can share with each other.

Whether your garden is popping out produce every day or you pick just one special tomato all summer long, having a family vegetable plot is a great bonding experience and can help everyone learn about the collective care of our homes and local environment. The summer may seem short, but with a little time and a lot of love, it can be a season for learning and growth, right in our own backyards.

For more gardening resources, check out these websites!
- https://www.gpmga.org/
- https://chesterfield.ext.vt.edu/index.html

This piece was written by Emilia Ruzicka, a recent graduate of Brown University with a degree in data journalism. She is working on personal projects and seeking permanent employment. She can be contacted at go2emiliaruzicka@gmail.com for comments on this piece or other opportunities.
Everybody’s talking about Monarchs and milkweeds! While monarch butterflies will drink the nectar from many flowers, they need the milkweed, the host plant, to go on to the next stage of metamorphosis. This butterfly lays its eggs on milkweed plants and they hatch into caterpillars that feed exclusively on milkweed leaves. They use a variety of milkweed leaves.

One of the most identifiable milkweed plants is the *Asclepius tuberosa* which has bright orange flowers. It is a perennial that should return each year and can be started from seed though the seeds need a period of cold stratification before they will germinate. That is a period of moist cold that would simulate a cold winter followed by a warm, wet spring.

I have not had any luck growing this version of milkweed, but many gardeners around here have. I even dug up a plant growing in a ditch and put it in my garden. No success. Local nurseries now carry this plant. The ones I saw were in 4” pots. My next attempt will be to buy a packet of seeds and after cold stratification will plant a few in each sunny spot in all my beds. Surely it will like one of the locations.

There is also a milkweed called the common milkweed. Something – I assume birds – planted this in my yard and from one plant it has grown to a 15’x3’ patch that returns year after year. The soil is clay and it is sunny. I have not fertilized or given it any attention except to water during extreme drought. It comes up in bare soil and has spread on its own even through a patch of juniper ground cover. I have pulled new starts up, or I think it would take over the side yard. I have read several places that it is hard to get rid of, but new starts pull up easily.

*Aesclepias syriaca* or common milkweed is tall, 4’-6’, and has a pink fist-sized blossom on the top. The seed is in a pod and contains a silky attachment enabling it to catch the wind and travel to new locations. Despite my success with the common milkweed, I saw only one monarch in the patch last year and none elsewhere in the roughly one-acre yard that is full of flowers.

Success is not a sure thing with all types of milkweed, but I have all kinds of bees, wasps, butterflies, moths and dragonflies in my yard. Those pollinators ensure that my yard has all kinds of wildlife including birds, rabbits, opossums, raccoons, foxes and other critters. Someday the monarch will find my yard.
The Buzz on Pollinators
By: Lela Martin

Does your morning include a cup of coffee, a mug of hot cocoa, or a glass of orange juice? If so, thank a pollinating insect. From almonds to zucchini, most fruit and vegetable crops, nuts, and seeds rely on pollinators. In fact, pollinators are responsible for one-third of our food and beverages. Additionally, fiber crops (such as cotton) and hay to feed livestock require insect pollination. Although most plant pollinators are tiny, they certainly aren’t trivial. Here are some facts to add to your pollinator trivia collection.

1. About 75% of all flowering plant species need the help of insects or animals to move their heavy pollen grains from plant to plant (or within a flower) for fertilization. Pollinators inadvertently pollinate plants while searching for a nectar or pollen reward.

2. Most people know that bees are pollinators, but butterflies, moths, ants, beetles, flies, midges, wasps, and even some slugs do their part as well. Worldwide, there are over 100,000 species of insect pollinators.

3. In Virginia, there are over 450 native bee species, including a dozen species of bumblebees. Carpenter bees, mining bees, leafcutter bees, and orchard mason bees are all Virginia native pollinators. Many are solitary and live in the ground. (Note: These are not the same as ground-dwelling yellow jackets.)

4. One European honeybee visits 50–100 flowers during one collection trip, traveling up to three miles. Bumblebees visit even more blooms per minute than honeybees.

5. Bumblebees and many native bees perform buzz pollination, in which the bee grabs onto a flower’s anthers and vibrates its flight muscles, releasing a burst of pollen from pores in the anther. This is how tomatoes, watermelon, and blueberries are pollinated, for example.

6. If your tomato plants flowered but didn’t fruit, it’s possible that your neighbor has used a mosquito control service. Pesticides that kill mosquitoes will kill bees and all other flying insects.

7. Although you may think of bees as stinging insects, it is only the bees that live in a colony or hive (i.e., honeybees, bumblebees, and sweat bees) that would sting as a defense of their colony.

8. Both European honeybees and native bees are attracted to flowers with bright lively colors (especially blues and yellows). Unlike humans, they can see ultraviolet color, but not the color red.

To learn more interesting facts about pollinators, visit the Children’s Farm at Maymont during Pollinator Week, June 21–27. Chesterfield County Master Gardeners are sponsoring Bumblebee Jamboree 2021, the Pollinator Path, a free, family-friendly, self-guided stroll with educational signage. For more information, visit https://linktr.ée/BBJ2021 or https://www.facebook.com/bumbleejamboree/.

Salisbury resident Lela Martin is a Master Gardener with the Chesterfield County office of the Virginia Cooperative Extension. She is also the co-chairman of Bumblebee Jamboree 2021.
Most residences in Salisbury are covered by sectional covenants designed to protect land and home values for all. They are listed on the SHOA website and in the Salisbury Neighborhood Directory delivered annually to all our homes. Your volunteer board seeks to follow the covenants, and encourage resident compliance. This is not always easy, and sometimes results in letters being sent to encourage compliance. When some issues arise, we utilize the Chesterfield County code guidelines. Recently, Chesterfield published a brochure depicting how code compliance can contribute to clean, attractive, safe neighborhoods. This brochure contains explanations of county codes and contact information for all related county resources. The link is https://www.chesterfield.gov/DocumentCenter/View/2649/Code-Compliance-Brochure-PDF?bidId=.

This is provided for informational purposes in our continuing focus on maintenance of all property values.

Please know that you can always contact us for clarifications or concerns.
Welcome New Salisbury Residents!

Baum, Heather & William
2921 West Brigstock Road
Lucie, Emmaline

Ix, Douglas Jr. & Kristin
14211 Helmsley Road
(804) 638-5858
“Tripp” Douglas III, Sara

Sevinsky, Matt & Amanda
2910 Mount Hill Drive
(804) 543-1436
Max, Owen, Audrey

Bennett, John & Mary
2216 Winterfield Road

Mark Jansen & Nancy Foster
2860 Barrow Place
(612) 414-7044
David Foster

Stanford, Greg & Sarah
2001 Heathland Drive
(804) 382-3787
Charlie

Bumpus, Dan & Elizabeth Schiller
2212 Worcester Road

Jenkins, Terry & Beth
13909 Ladybank Court
(804) 937-1884

Sullivan, Joshua & Leigh Anna
2811 Winterfield Road
Ford, Tucker

Benne W, John & Mary
2216 Winterfield Road

McNinch, Jennifer (Jen) & James (Jim)
2203 Albion Road
(571) 594-2763
Charlotte

Walence, Ben & Lauren
14210 Chepstow Road
(804) 220-5519
Bo, Payton, Rae

Carter, Phillip & Peyton
2340 Castlebridge Road
(540) 379-2857

Means, Charles & Kimberly
13521 Kingsmill Road
Charlotte, Rowan

Weiskopf, William & Chelsea
14220 Netherfield Drive
(804) 310-7913

Eaton, Richard & Ellen
2001 Winterfield Road
(804) 840-2041

Moon, Cary IV & Courtney
13900 Chepstown Road
(804) 840-9899

Henry

Fischer, Jason & Jennifer Wheeler
2431 Viburg Court
(804) 212-8511

O’Keeffe, Andy & Jamie
2311 Kings Lynn Road
(770) 412-3119
Avery, Madelyn, Sloan

Ava Fischer, James Wheeler

Fischer, Jason & Jennifer Wheeler
2431 Viburg Court
(804) 212-8511

Finnegan, Sullivan

Hanger, Allyson & Paige
2201 Castlebridge Road

O’Keeffe, Andy & Jamie
2311 Kings Lynn Road
(770) 412-3119
Avery, Madelyn, Sloan

Hanger, Allyson & Paige
2201 Castlebridge Road
Finnegan, Sullivan

Project Swing / Wishing Well Park Update
By: Rebecca Hollis

Thanks to the joint efforts of Salisbury Life Magazine and Wines for Humanity, as well as the support of our wonderful community, Project Swing had a great turnout for our first-ever wine tasting fundraiser on March 30, 2021. The proceeds of the event were enough to cover the cost of our new ship sail!

We are currently planning our second fundraiser of 2021 on May 17, when neighborhood resident Dr. Robert Schmidt will open his business, West End Facial Plastic Surgery, to host a day of facials and other services. He has generously offered to donate all proceeds from this event to the improvement of the Park.

Project Swing also has been busy behind the scenes, exploring the possibilities for drainage mitigation and researching options for the eventual refurbishment of the entire space. We are hopeful that the drainage mitigation project will be accomplished during 2 to 3 days over this summer, so that we will have a less soggy place to play leading into fall.

Meanwhile, in light of the lull that Covid necessitated, Project Swing plans to form a steering committee to review our various options, conduct additional community engagement, and determine exactly what type of playground our community would like to re-build. Whatever the specifics of the ultimate plan, we envision a final product that will be not only refurbished, but also more ADA accessible and attractive for various age groups- a Wishing Well Park that is an inclusive neighborhood meeting spot for residents of all ages.

If you are interested in contributing to the planning process, please contact Project Swing at wishingwellpark@gmail.com. To keep up with our progress, and/or to learn other ways which you can support our efforts, follow us on Facebook or on Instagram @wishingwellpark.
Efforts Arise to Save the Historic Home of Virginia Justis, Beloved Midlothian Middle School Teacher
By: Katie Guroian

A group of local preservationists, together with the Virginia Department of Historic Resources (DHR) and the nonprofit, Preservation Virginia, are feverishly working to save the 184-year-old historic which is known as Turkey Run House or the Justis House. The home is adjacent to the grounds of Old Hundred Elementary which is close to the intersection of Old Hundred Road and Otterdale Road. The home resides on acreage that is potentially slated for the constructions of a new middle school. Having no use for the house and no desire to retain it or rehabilitate it, Chesterfield County had intentions of having the home either demolished or removed, until local historians and residents got wind of the plans and put into action their efforts to save the home.

History of the House and Mrs. Justis

Turkey Run House was built in 1836. It is one of only six masonry homes of its age left standing in Chesterfield County. The original owners of the house, the Spears family, owned a 612-acre tract of farmland. Mr. Spears rented his enslaved African-Americans to the Midlothian Mines in the fall and winter after the farming season was over. There is little doubt that the house was built by slaves and that their handiwork and craftsmanship have been preserved through time. Indeed, the original moldings and mantels still remain and bear the mark of true artistry. Both the DHR and Preservation Virginia have affirmed the architectural significance of the home. The house sat vacant in the early 1900’s, until Ms. Ada Corpening, also a teacher, bought the dilapidated house and began an extensive restoration which included trips to Williamsburg to study similar period properties for inspiration. Mrs. Justis and her husband, Robert Justis bought in 1959. She lovingly maintained, owned, and lived in the house, until her death in 2015, after which her heirs sold the house and its 82 acres to Chesterfield County for use by the county school system.

Mrs. Justis was a lifelong resident of Midlothian. She served as the biology teacher to generations of students who walked through the front doors of Midlothian Middle School. She served as Midlothian's girls' basketball and softball coach early in her career and also started the school field hockey program. Midlothian Middle’s National Honor Society chapter is named in her honor. She retired in 1985 after a 38-year career. Mrs. Justis was known as a warm, inviting, intelligent women who was well-loved and respected by both her peers and students. She was fondly referred to as “Mrs. J.” She was highly regarded as a devoted Christian, aunt, friend and teacher; she was an active member of Winfree Memorial Baptist Church and served as trustee, deacon, Sunday school teacher and clerk of the church. A lover of animals, Mrs. Justis shared her home with her two black labs, numerous other pets, and the birds and deer for whom she provided seed and corn every evening in the fields outside her house.

The Goal and the Plan

The mission of the various parties involved is to save the home by dismantling, protecting, and storing it by July 31, 2021, the date by which Chesterfield County requires that the home be removed. Eventually, the home will be reassembled at Mid-Lothian Mines Park for use as the Mid-Lothian History and Culture Center. The museum will highlight Mid-Lothian’s unique place in American history with particular focus on some of the following: The Native American tribes who lived in the area some 16,000 years ago; the mines which were the first industrialized coal mines in America; early railroads and how they shaped transportation and commerce; and the contributions of enslaved African Americans who worked the mines and the surrounding fields and their contributions to daily life in the area.

The plan involves three phases:
- **Phase 1-Dismantel, protect, and store Turkey Run House by late July 2021**
- **Phase 2-Design and construct The Mid-Lothian History and Culture Center using the reconstructed Turkey Run House as its centerpiece.**
- **Phase 3-Design and install historic exhibits and establish the Center as a sustainable working entity.**

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Mid-Lothian History and Culture Center—the home of Midlothian's extraordinary story. Give today online at

Join the Commi

throughout it all, a story of a small town of hope with a spirit of community that s

Again, you can help.

Mid-Lothian Mines Park and Chesterfield County's Impact on America

Coal was first discovered in Chesterfield County in the early 1700s, and by 1730, commercial mining was well underway. During the Revolutionary War, Chesterfield County's coal mines (then called “pits”) supplied a Richmond foundry with fuel to manufacture weapons and ammunition for the Continental Army.

As the mining industry grew, coal from Midlothian was shipped throughout the fledgling nation, and abroad. The large output of coal from the region demanded improvements in local transportation. By 1802, Chesterfield coal manufacturers and residents were petitioning the Virginia General Assembly for permission to construct a turnpike between the Midlothian mines and the wharves along the James River. The Midlothian Turnpike opened in 1804, the first lengthy road in Virginia to have a fully graveled surface.

Eventually a more substantial mode of transportation was necessary. This led to the construction of the first railroad in Virginia. The 13-mile, mule-and-gravity-powered line called The Chesterfield Railroad began service in 1831. It connected Midlothian to the wharves of Manchester on the south side of the James.

About that same time (In the mid-1830s), a vein of coal 36 feet thick was found in the mine; it soon became the largest in the country. After the mine flooded in 1856, a large and impressive pump was used to drain the shaft. News of this operation brought attention to the area, then called Coalfield Station. Eventually, the area became known as Midlothian. The Pump Shaft of the Mid-Lothian Mine is still visible in the Park today.

Coal fed the iron works during the Civil War. Enslaved people and free Blacks represented a major part of the workforce. After the war, coal continued to be mined in the area off and on until the early 1930s. As the coal was depleted, Midlothian’s economy shifted to agriculture. With the advent of the automobile, Midlothian became a commuter community for Richmond—the beginning of modern-day suburban development in Chesterfield County.

The mines remained in private hands throughout this time. Some 600 acres were purchased by Fleetwood Garner in 1957 and remained in the Garner family until they generously donated 65 acres for the park's creation in 2004.

Today, Mid-Lothian Mines Park is a verdant preserve that sees active use by both the local community and visitors from afar. The cut-stone ruins of the mines, surrounded by beautiful woodlands, paved walking trails, and an amphitheater that hosts concerts and events; all stand in remembrance of the courage, innovation and sacrifice of those workers who so long ago heralded the beginning of the American industrial revolution. Today a rich “seam” of oral history, research and interpretation are coming together that have the power to shed new light on those dark old tunnels and the importance that northern Chesterfield County played in the development of our nation.

Again, you can help. This is Midlothian’s story. It is a story coal mines and railroads, early American architecture, and entrepreneurial endeavors. A story of enslavement, prosperity, and the ending of both. And throughout it all, a story of a small town of hope with a spirit of community that still thrives to this day.

Join the Committee to Save Turkey Run House on this journey to bring Turkey Run House back to life as the Mid-Lothian History and Culture Center—the home of Midlothian's extraordinary story. Give today online at preservationvirginia.org/saveturkeyrunhouse, or www.saveturkeyrunhouse.com.

You may also mail contributions to: Preservation Virginia

204 W Franklin St

Richmond, VA 23220

For more information, please contact:

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Hometown Hero Returns from Overseas

When Salisbury father and Air National Guardsman, Jared Williams, was called up for deployment last year, the moms of the neighborhood and surrounding community set out to do what they could to help out his wife, Andrea, and daughter, Bella, as they endured the long separation during a time made even more difficult by Covid-19. Meals, playdates, gift cards and care packages to Jared while overseas are amongst the efforts made on behalf of this family and in recognition of their sacrifice.

In advance of his return, the group, nicknamed “Williams Love Group” organized to decorate their house and to collect funds and items for generous welcome home gifts. Local children made signs, one Salisbury family donated the banner hung on their front porch, and Andrea arranged for the patriotic yard sign.

Salisbury wishes Jared a very welcome return home and we thank you, Andrea, and Bella for your sacrifice! We love our Hometown Hero!
SHOA Dues Report  By: Joanne Ward

Many thanks to the Salisbury residents who support our neighborhood by promptly paying their Homeowners Dues!

A 2020 membership list, as well as a complete 2021 membership list (as of 5/31/2021) is available on the SHOA Website: www.salisburyhomeowners.net

Salisbury Groundskeeping Update  By: Janet Mallon

Salisbury planting beds have been adorned with summer flowers and the grass is green and growing! Plants and turf are monitored for pests and disease and are treated as needed. Our irrigation system keeps everything watered while our lawn maintenance contractor keeps everything tidy. Have a wonderful Salisbury summer!

www.SusanMorrisHomes.com
**Salisbury Homeowners’ Association**

**2021 Board of Directors**

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272-5737

SHOA Administrator:  
Joanne Ward  
897-SHOA

The Salisbury Homeowners’ Association Board of Directors typically meets on the second Tuesday of each month at 7:30 PM, currently via Zoom. Please contact a board member if you would like to attend a meeting; all Salisbury residents are welcome to attend. If you wish to place a matter of interest on the agenda for consideration and/or discussion by the Board, please contact the Secretary of the Association at least one week prior to the scheduled meeting.

*The Salisbury Courier* is published by the Salisbury Homeowners’ Association. Letters to the Editor are the opinions of the writers and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Salisbury Homeowners’ Association or its Board of Directors. Letters to the Editor are subject to editing, and are not necessarily published in their entirety; authorship identification is required.

www.SalisburyHomeowners.net (804) 897-SHOA / (804) 897-7462