

Fauquier Times

JANUARY 14 - 20, 2026

WWW.FAUQUIER.COM

VOL. 209, NO. 2: \$2.00

EDUCATION



Fauquier High principal resigns midyear

Superintendent Major Warner attempted to reassure students and families after the Falcons principal abruptly resigned after less than two school years. **PAGE 2**

DATA CENTERS

'Gigaland' proposal is back in Remington

The developers behind a massive data center complex pitched for Remington have resubmitted an application for a scaled down version of the project. **PAGE 4**

SPORTS

Fauquier boys hoops dominate Kettle Run



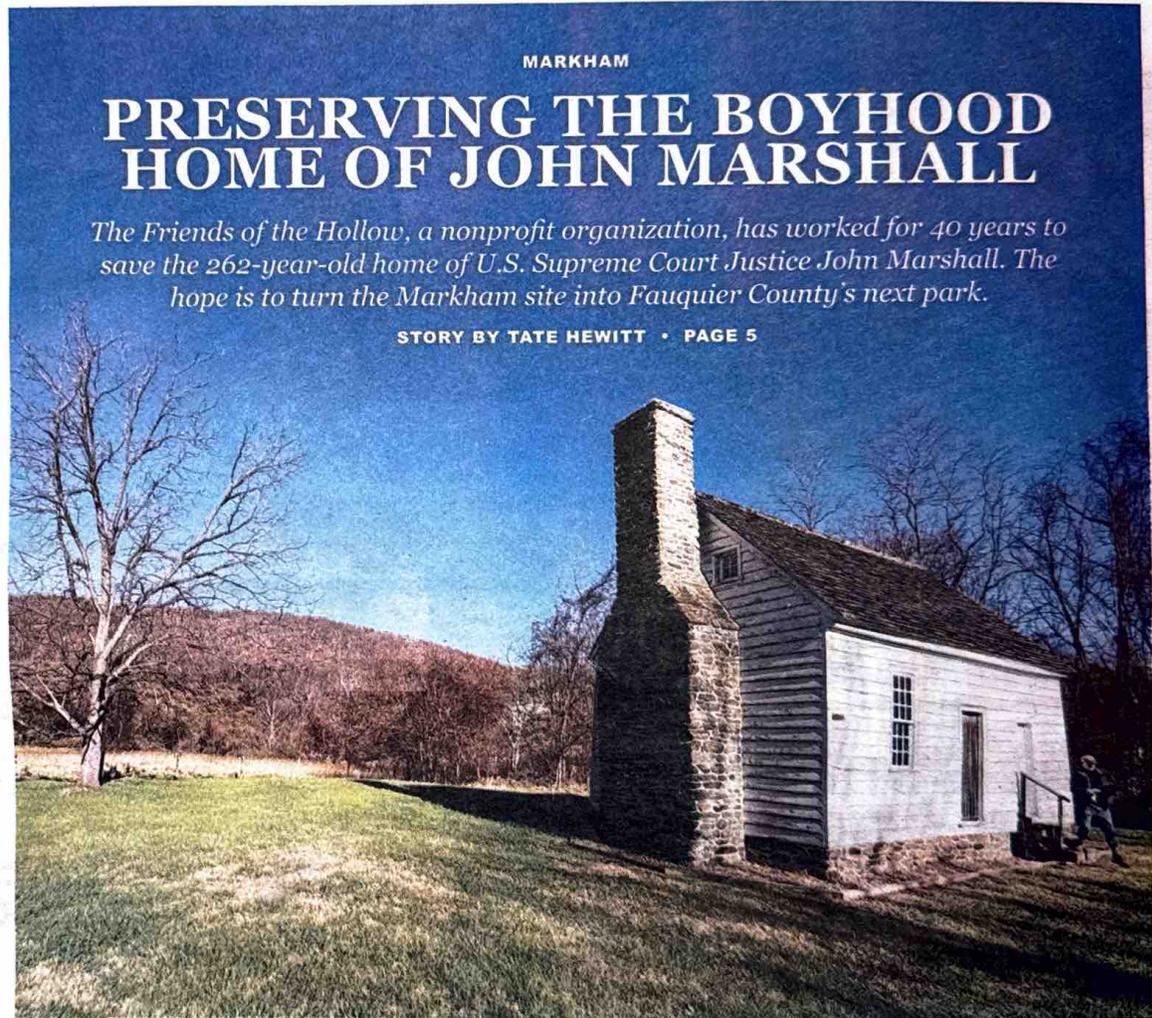
The Falcons are off to a hot start with a speedy lineup that features several talented newcomers. **PAGE 9**

MORE ONLINE

Read more at fauquier.com

• TOWN ATTORNEY:

Warrenion still without an attorney going into the town council's first meeting of the year.



MARKHAM

PRESERVING THE BOYHOOD HOME OF JOHN MARSHALL

The Friends of the Hollow, a nonprofit organization, has worked for 40 years to save the 262-year-old home of U.S. Supreme Court Justice John Marshall. The hope is to turn the Markham site into Fauquier County's next park.

STORY BY TATE HEWITT • PAGE 5

STAFF PHOTO BY TATE HEWITT

SIGN UP NOW!

News from us every morning in your inbox



789

CTN 2 PKG 151
WINCHESTER, VA 22603-4299

290 WMINSTR CNTRBRY DR APT 183
W C STRIBLING
45916 00-00-00 151B 2T
*****3-DIGIT 226

Stay safe!

OAK VIEW NATIONAL BANK WILL NEVER ASK YOU FOR:

- Your Username
- Security Question Answers
- Passwords
- Multifactor Authentication Codes

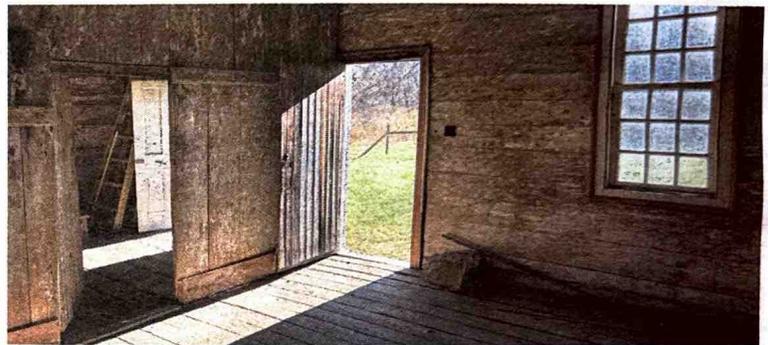
Fraudsters can spoof our number, so when in doubt, hang up and call us directly! 540.359.7100.



oakviewbank.com

MEMBER FDIC

NEWS



Left: Founding father John Marshall's boyhood home is in Markham, where it has been preserved for 262 years. Now the Friends of the Hollow would like it to become a Fauquier County park. Right: This is the largest of three rooms in The Hollow, which housed John Marshall, his parents and nine siblings when he left home at 17.

STAFF PHOTOS BY TATE HEWITT

MARKHAM

The Hollow inches closer to park status

Nonprofit preserves the frontier origins of a national hero

BY TATE HEWITT
Staff Writer

Stabilizing one of Fauquier's oldest homes

When the Friends of The Hollow formed in 1981, its goal was to save a building where its members thought John Marshall had lived from age 9 through 17. That turned out to be an uphill battle.

After more than two centuries of life and neglect, the Markham building was in poor shape and the large property it occupied was ripe for suburban development.

To make matters worse, the Friends hired an architectural historian, Del Upton, to study the building, and he concluded that the property was not old enough to have housed the Marshall family, refuting a claim that had been passed down among Marshall descendants for generations.

So, the nonprofit lost steam until 1993, when Thomas deButts joined the group — bringing new ideas to an organization that had lost momentum.

"I thought, let's do something different. Let's do dendrochronology," deButts said.

He hired Herman J. Heikkenen, a scientist who worked at Virginia Tech to do an analysis of the tree rings on the structure's wooden sills. Heikkenen determined that the timbers in the frame were cut in 1763.

Then the Friends had another dendrochronologist study the site, who came to the same conclusion, and then, under the prodding of local historian John Gott, deButts wrote a newsletter that attracted David Collins, a wealthy philanthropist who had developed an interest in Marshall after purchasing John Marshall Jr.'s Delaplane estate.

In 2000, Collins bought The Hollow,

and with the nonprofit he funded agricultural digs and the expensive stabilization of the building, but in the past decade, progress slowed on The Hollow, shy of Collins' dream of using the space for a historical children's park.

Collins died in 2021, but last year his widow, Mary Collins, agreed to transfer 7.6 acres and Marshall's home to The Friends of the Hollow on Dec. 31, 2025 — preparing the nonprofit to take next its steps in fulfilling Collins' vision.

Sharing the frontier origins of a national hero

Like many founding fathers, Marshall is not short of memorials named in his honor. A bronze statue sits in John Marshall Park on Pennsylvania Avenue in Washington, D.C., another greets visitors to the Philadelphia Museum of Art, and a third statue sits on Warrenton's Main Street in front of the Fauquier County Juvenile and domestic relations court.

That last sculpture is just one of multiple Fauquier landmarks with a connection to Marshall, but The Hollow may be the only site that documents the realities of Marshall's life growing up.

It's also one of the county's oldest homes, and one of only a few that haven't changed much over two-and-a-half centuries, according to deButts. He said it's a minor miracle the building has survived to 2025.

Today, the building provides insight into the formative years of Marshall's life — from where he grew up to the limited resources he drew upon.

Thomas deButts pointed out the back door to what was the edge of the colony

when Thomas Marshall moved his family there in 1765.

"When that war broke out, a lot of (people) had to move back over here because the valley was not safe," deButts said. "The valley is right through Manassas Gap, so this is right on the frontier. This was not going to be a very safe place."

The one-and-a-half story, three-room house might have been average or even large by colonial standards, but John Marshall had to share it with a growing number of siblings and, for a year, visiting deacon James Thompson — who tutored John Marshall in exchange for room and board.

Jim Stribling — another fourth great-grandson of Marshall, member of the Friends of the Hollow and the John Marshall Center Council — found resonances in Marshall's education with Fauquier County's tradition of home-schooling.

"John Marshall was homeschooled. I mean this great mind that shaped the country was homeschooled. And you can go up to that house and put your hand on it and see where he was self-taught with his father's assistance," Stribling said during a public hearing Nov. 13 at the Fauquier County Board of Supervisors.

When asked, deButts had a different takeaway.

"I mean, this is a humble abode," deButts said, looking around the 448-square-foot building. "The lesson I take is that not all the founding fathers grew up in mansions."

Reach Tate Hewitt
at thewitt@fauquier.com.

Starting from the U.S. Supreme Court, people can drive 60 miles west on Interstate 66, take exit 18 and make a quick right turn to see the boyhood home of Justice John Marshall.

That's the dream of Thomas Marshall deButts, the great-great-great-great-grandson of the nation's fourth Supreme Court chief justice and the president of the Friends of The Hollow — a nonprofit organization that has worked for 40 years to save the 262-year-old building in the hopes that it might become Fauquier County's next public park.

"I would imagine it's a place where people can stop and learn about the history here when they're picking apples in the orchards," deButts said.

Now known as The Hollow, the small, wood-paneled building holds a story unfathomably distant from modern America. It bears the marks of life when northern Fauquier County was the frontier where a home-schooled student grew up on the edge of the Virginia colony and became one of the most influential legal minds of an emerging nation.

Now, the Friends of The Hollow is one step closer to preserving that story for a new generation of Americans — last year, it was deeded the 7 acres on which the building sits, and in November the Fauquier County Board of Supervisors granted the property tax-free status — but getting to this point took the nonprofit over four decades of fits and starts.