Preserve Craig ~ *Sustaining the Quality of Life We Value*

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Report to the Craig County Board of Supervisors August 6, 2026

Submitted by Dr. Marge Lewter, email preservecraig@gmailcom Phone: 540-392-4773

Swann Compressor Station

Thanks to the work of POWHR (Protect our Water Heritage and Rights) and the 2022 Elliston-Lafayette household study, conducted by Virginia Tech researchers, the Virginia Air quality permit for the compressor station has been paused. This is good news in that the entire process has screeched to a halt until MVP submits a new application. The details are attached below including a cover letter from POWHR to FERC and the recent Roanoke Times article.
How this affects Craig County remains to be seen but we now have documentation from FERC that Alternate site 1 is unsuitable. The application process and environmental review would have to start over before selecting a new location (i.e. an alternate site) for their desired compressor station.

Hanging Rock Raptor Observatory Report

Preserve Craig will sponsor a fundraising Barn Dance on September 12 with live music by Reed Connection and dance instruction by a well -known square dance caller, Lou Mauiri for the Hanging Rock Observatory. Friends of Monroe is accepting donations. The bird migration begins in August and happens through the fall. Volunteers tally the bird count each day. September is the peak time for Broad wing Hawks and Bald Eagles, and Golden Eagles are spotted in November.

Dark Sky Community

Marge Lewter met with the Town of New Castle this month to answer any questions about becoming a Dark Sky Community. Preserve Craig has purchased a light meter for recording our skies. We are in the process of researching flexible ordinances that might be applicable to our community.

Artivism

The Artivism Tapestry is finished and is displayed in Lenny McDonald's office. We encourage other local businesses to display the art to bring awareness for dark skies, astronomy, and bird migration. Look for it around town as a reminder to keep our skies dark.

Thank you,
Sincerely,
Marge Lewter