



## **Trestle Board**

**Olive Branch Lodge 114**  
**Leesburg, Virginia**



**June 2025**

### **From The East**

Brethren,

I went to the movies last week. CMX Cinemas in the Villages of Leesburg has \$8 matinees on Tuesdays. I just had to see the latest Mission Impossible on the big screen. I highly recommend it.

One of the great things about Freemasonry is that you can find references, either specific or hidden, in the most unlikely places. At the beginning of the film (no spoilers here), an important message is discussed: Our lives are not defined by any one action. Our lives are defined by the sum of all our choices. It struck me that we discuss this topic in the lodge frequently.

Freemasonry teaches us to live by Brotherly Love, Relief, and Truth. These values guide our actions daily. When we help a Brother, stand by our principles, or seek knowledge, we are making choices that reflect our commitment to growth and integrity.

The tools of our Craft—square, compasses, and plumb—symbolize the importance of virtuous decisions. They remind us to act with fairness, set boundaries, and live uprightly.

Our Lodge's rich history is built on the choices of those before us. Their dedication made Olive Branch Lodge a beacon in Leesburg. Now, it's our turn to continue this legacy by mentoring, strengthening bonds, and serving our community.

Let us embrace the responsibility of choice. Together, we can honor our principles and ensure our Lodge remains a source of light and brotherhood for generations to come.\*

This message will not self-destruct. It will continue to shine a guiding light for us.

Fraternally Yours,

Worshipful Master Alex Fogelson



## From the West

First Impressions are everything! From that initial Job Interview, our initial contact with the public, and a well-kept lawn. A well-kept lawn is an eye-magnet! When the public utilizes the parking lot, they are forced to look at our lawn; they will admire it and look at the building. They will see we are Masons and that we take pride in the external representation of what we represent. Maybe one or two will want to know more and read the sign on our door, or see cars there on the weekend, and stop by!

A well-kept lawn has other benefits as well. In addition to being a visual magnet, a well-kept lawn chokes out the weeds. Though the soil in this area is poor, when properly fertilized (which I perform), the roots extend deeper which will help to sustain it when the eventual droughts come; when kept tall, that is, when cut at the highest setting, the blades of grass will provide shade and prevent burned-patches throughout - burned patches invites weeds/crab-grass); when occasionally mulched, the cuttings provide natural nutrients.

What is needed? The lawn must be cut regularly. If it gets too long or thick before cutting, this will actually shock the grass. During the Prime cutting season (non-drought), our lawn should be cut weekly (and fed every two months), at the highest setting, and in a different pattern – one should not cut in the same pattern as before. With the electric mower, we should bag the clippings (Leesburg picks up on Mondays) as this mower does not cut the grass blades into small enough pieces (mulch). We need paper bags, and we need volunteers regularly.

We have a signup for grass cutting. Please add your name when you are available.

[Grass Cutting Signup](#)

John Rutan



## Stated Meetings

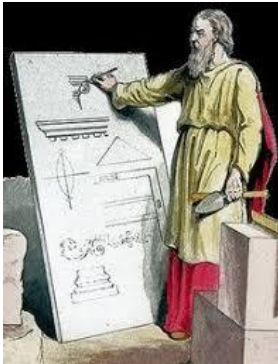
Representatives of the Town of Leesburg presented at our last Stated Meeting. Mayor Kelly Burk and Councilman Zach Cummings delivered a program on how our lodge and individuals can connect with the town. One of our driving goals this year is to



strengthen our ties to the town, and they offered several ideas, including attending regularly scheduled information gatherings with the mayor and joining one of the many committees of the town. As a lodge, we will be participating in the Taste of Leesburg later this summer and hopefully in the Halloween Parade next October.

The program for the July meeting will be a presentation on MAHOVA. Please reach out if you need a ride.

## Future Trestle Boards



Consider submitting an article for future Trestle Boards. Share your masonic journey, your role in the lodge, or anything else you think other brothers should know about you. Send your submissions directly to me at [master@olivebranch114.org](mailto:master@olivebranch114.org). \*The article about Mission Impossible utilized AI for writing assistance. Feel free to use any help you like.

## Upcoming Activities



Bring the entire family on July 10 for an outing to the Purcellville Cannons game. This will be a food drive like we have done the last two years. The game starts at 7 PM.



Taste of Leesburg will be on Saturday, August 9. Olive Branch has applied for a space as we did last year. Please help out by supporting our table for an hour or so during the event. More information is coming soon.



Our September meeting will be held at the Luck Stone Quarry on Monday, September 8. Dress will be casual.

Dinner starts at 6:30 with the meeting starting at 8:00. This was an exceptional evening last year, and you will not want to miss it this year.

Luck Stone  
20210 Luck Lane  
Ashburn, VA 20147

Be sure to check our lodge calendar for all events. It is updated regularly and can be found on our website at <https://www.olivebranch114.org/calendar>.

## Ongoing Programs

### Clothing and More Drive

Brothers, join us in making a difference by supporting our community! Our lodge is hosting an ongoing donation drive for Hope's Treasures. During this drive, we collect clothes, bags, and shoes in the blue bin in the lobby.

The proceeds from our donations will support those in need in Leesburg by providing meals, shelter, or clothing for the homeless. Every donation counts, regardless of its size. Together, we can spread hope and kindness to those who need it most. Join us today and be part of something meaningful!!! "

### Food Drive

We continue to collect dry foods for Loudoun Hunger Relief. Boxes will be placed in the lodge to collect the food regularly taken to Loudoun Hunger Relief. Please bring canned food (veggies, soup, beans, etc.), cereal boxes, hygiene items (soap, shampoo, toothpaste, etc.), rice, pasta, and peanut butter. A complete list will be provided at the lodge. This year, we are challenging ourselves to a 1K where we donate either 1,000 pounds of food, \$1,000, or any combination thereof.

### Practice and Fellowship

We continue to meet on Saturday and Sunday mornings for study, practice, and fellowship. We gather at the lodge at 8:30 a.m. for fellowship and begin work around 9:00 a.m.

A few potential petitioners have attended our Saturday and Sunday morning get-togethers. These events have been great ways to get to know potential candidates and introduce them to our fraternity. If you know someone interested in becoming a Mason, bring them on Saturday or Sunday mornings.



## June Masonic Birthdays

Morgan Chase	6 years
David Gheen	29 years
Gregory Marks	6 years
Samual Rotolo Jr.	14 years
Carl Van Stavoren	40 years

## Lodge Information



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### **Location:**

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