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College Receives Trail Grant From Northampton County

By Emma LiBy Emma Li, Staff Writer

Northampton County awarded Lafayette College \$75,000 through the Livable Landscapes Grant, which will spur the planning process for a multimodal trail connecting Easton's College Hill and West Ward neighborhoods to nearby locations.

The initial plans for the trail will connect the Easton neighborhoods to Palmer Township and Forks Township, both located a few miles north of Easton, Pennsylvania. The trail, which will not be completed for several years, will also connect College Hill to the Metzgar Sports Complex and LaFarm, according to the Lafayette Today, as well as existing local trails such as the adjacent Karl Stirner Arts Trail.

"It became clear that there was support for this idea more broadly within the campus community, as well as among our neighbors," Director of Sustainability Delicia Nahman said.

The Livable Landscapes Grant, established in 2006, has since awarded \$20.75 million to projects focused on local park improvements, land conservation and ecological restoration.

The college applied for the grant in the spring, according to Sherry Acevedo, the conservation coordinator for Northampton County Parks and Recreation. As part of the application, the Forks Township Board



Plans for the trail are expected to be completed in 2025. (Photo courtesy of Lafayette Communications)

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'We Don't Want To See It Closed Forever': Slate Belt Landmark Roaring Back To Life

By Amy Unger Channel 69 News

WIND GAP - The curtain could rise again at the beloved Gap Theatre in Wind Gap, Northampton County, before the end of the year. 69 News has learned that renovations at the movie theater, which closed in 2020, are nearing completion.

Joseph Farruggio has owned the theater for more than 40 years. He's now leasing the theater to Harry Guerro, who has been overseeing the building's facelift, with a mission of getting people back in the seats at 47 Broadway.

"We cleaned it up, restored some things, and brought it back to what it looked like when Joe bought it," Guerro said.

Guerro also runs Exhumed Films, a company that organizes film festivals and events at movie theaters in Philadelphia, southern New Jersey, and the Poconos. Its website promises a "dedicated horror and cult repertory cinema experience like no other."

This weekend, Exhumed Films is presenting "Halloween-A-Thon II" at the Mahoning Drive-In Theater near Lehighton in Carbon County. Guerro has been involved with several events at the theater, which is also owned by Farruggio. That was how he first learned of the Gap Theatre's plight.

"It's a cool little place and we don't want to see it closed forever," Guerro said.

The curtain went up 77 years ago

The single-screen Gap Theatre first opened its doors in 1947. For decades, it was a popular first-run theater for Slate Belt residents, many of whom lamented its loss on social media when the closure was announced in January of 2020.

Harry Guerro

More buzz was circulating on social media earlier this year, when it was noted that the theater's marquee said, "reopening soon."

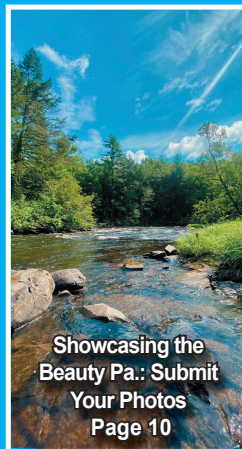
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