

A photograph of the Stafford County Courthouse in Virginia during winter. The building is a white, two-story structure with a prominent portico supported by several tall, white columns. Above the columns, the words "STAFFORD COUNTY" and "COURTHOUSE" are visible. The roof is covered in snow, and a small, white, cupola-like structure sits atop the roof. Snow-laden tree branches frame the top and sides of the image. The title "STAFFORD" is written in large, bold, dark blue capital letters, and "Virginia" is written in a dark blue script font below it.

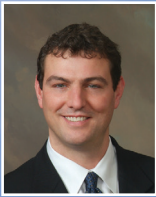
# STAFFORD *Virginia*

**Welcome to Stafford County**

Stafford County's  
News and Information Magazine  
Winter 2018



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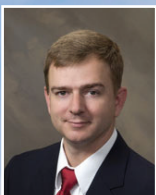


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## ON THE COVER

The cover shows our beautiful courthouse framed by a snow last winter. It was taken by Michelle Long, a Parks, Recreation and Community Facilities employee. This issue is entitled “Welcome to Stafford County” because we are committed to creating a welcoming community in Stafford. In fact, we placed a message to that effect on the home-

page of our website that reads, “Stafford County would like to express our commitment to providing a welcoming, inclusive, and safe community for all residents and visitors. We value an environment of unity, trust and understanding. We honor our history and respect and protect the right to live free from discrimination.” Stafford is a wonderful mix of people from around the country as well as the world. Some have been here for many years, like the Patawomecks, and some have just been transferred here in the military. We embrace our diversity and look forward to all the things we can do together to make Stafford even better in the future.







## A Message from the Chairman

**A**s the Aquia District Supervisor and as Chairman of the Board, it has been a privilege to serve and work with the citizens of Stafford County for the past twelve years. Though this is my last column as Supervisor, it is not the last of my efforts to continue working with people to make our community even stronger.

Our citizens come from diverse backgrounds and experiences. It's through these interactions that I've realized that holding an office isn't the only way we can make a difference. I've watched many people come forward to fight for ideals and principles important to them. Communication is the key to our "Progress Since 1664."

Governing requires a balance of being careful with the taxpayers' dollars while also implementing important services of government such as strong schools, a robust public safety infrastructure and an environment welcoming to businesses.

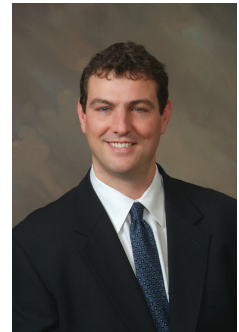
Our Board over time has cut taxes, removed constraints on businesses and we've jumped to #1 in job growth.

We've improved local roads, invested in school infrastructure such as Anne E. Moncure Elementary and Stafford Elementary while also ensuring teacher raises.

Very important to me is the preservation of our land and our history. I have led the fight to preserve Crows Nest and we now have a park where residents can launch their kayaks or hike beautiful trails. We have also preserved land through a program called "Transfer of Development Rights." Over 10,000 acres have been placed in conservation so far.

We can't forget our non-human residents! I've long been a proponent of a new animal shelter and am pleased that the Board is funding a 15,000 square foot Animal Shelter that is under progress right now. The new structure will have upgrades for animals' living quarters, vet spaces and interaction areas, and it's scheduled to be finished in June 2018.

While we have many accomplishments in making life better for our citizens, we are always striving to do more. I look forward to seeing Stafford welcome and embrace its future. Thank you for allowing me to serve.



Paul Milde

Chairman of the Board of Supervisors



### Area 11 Special Olympics

## Finest Christmas Arts and Crafts

**Nov. 18, 2017** **9:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.**

**Brooke Point High School, 1700 Courthouse Road, Stafford, VA**

**Food Trucks - Door Prizes - Lots of Hand-Crafted Gift Ideas**

**Santa - 10:00 a.m. to Noon**

**Admission \$2 (Children 12 and under free)**

**Interested in being a vendor?**

**Contact Tim Doyle at 540-219-3340**

**tpdva01@yahoo.com**

**All proceeds benefit Area 11 Special Olympics.**





### Stafford Has the Answers to Your Important Questions

Stafford County is your county. The government offices, the Sheriff's Office, the courts, the Fire and Rescue Department, Utilities and the Regional Landfill are all entities whose sole reason for existence is to serve you. With so many departments, it can sometimes be hard to know where to start. To assist you, we've come up with a list of



our most asked questions about conducting business in the County along with their answers.

#### ***Where are you located?***

The courts are located at 1225 Courthouse Road, Stafford, VA 22554. Social Services, Economic Development and Tourism, County Attorney, DMV Select, the Health Department, Human Resources, Human Services, Finance, Citizens Assistance, Budget, the Commissioner of the Revenue, the Treasurer's Office, County Administration, Public Works, Planning and Zoning and Geographic Information Systems are all located in the George L. Gordon, Jr., Government Center, 1300 Courthouse Road, Stafford, VA 22554.

#### ***Where do I get a building permit or arrange for an inspection?***

You may call the Community Development Services Center at (540) 658-8650 or visit their offices on the second floor

of the George L. Gordon, Jr. Government Center. To schedule an inspection, call (540) 658-8950 or visit <http://hello.stafford.va.us>.

#### ***Who is responsible for potholes and snow removal?***

The Virginia Department of Transportation is responsible for the care of the roads in the county. They may be reached at 1-800-367-8723 or by visiting [www.virginiadot.org](http://www.virginiadot.org). Home Owner's Associations are responsible for snow removal in neighborhoods with HOAs.

#### ***Am I allowed to take a phone into the courthouse?***

Phones are not allowed in the courthouse. Please leave phones in your vehicle.

#### ***Where can I find out more about parks programs, renting a pavilion or park or pool hours?***

All Parks, Recreation and Community Facilities programs, addresses and hours are listed on the parks website, [www.StaffordParks.com](http://www.StaffordParks.com). Online registration is available for classes and sports. You may also call parks at (540) 658-4871. To rent a pavilion, please view rules on the parks website and dial (540) 658-5019 to reserve.

#### ***When is the landfill open?***

The landfill is open to customers every day of the year, including Saturdays and Sundays. Weekly hours are Monday through Friday, from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., and weekends from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. The landfill is closed on the following holidays: New Year's, Easter Sunday, Memorial Day, Independence Day, Labor Day, Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Day and closes at noon on Christmas Eve. Snow closings are posted on television, radio, the County website – [www.StaffordCountyVA.gov](http://www.StaffordCountyVA.gov), the Rappahannock Regional Solid Waste Management Board website - [www.R-Board.org](http://www.R-Board.org) and social media.

#### ***How do we find out about snow closings?***

We post information regarding County offices and departments on the County website, television, radio and social media. We also send out Stafford Alerts. If you have not signed up to receive alerts regarding closings, weather and emergencies, you may visit [www.StaffordAlert.com](http://www.StaffordAlert.com). Stafford County Public Schools send out school closing information.







## Stafford Has the Answers to Your Important Questions (Cont.'d)

### ***When are real estate and personal property taxes due?***

Real Estate and Personal Property taxes are typically due each year on June 5 and December 5. If the fifth falls on a weekend, taxes are due on the next business day. You may visit [www.StaffordCountyVA.gov](http://www.StaffordCountyVA.gov) to pay taxes online.

### ***What can I pay online?***

You may pay Utilities, real estate and personal property taxes online as well as buy dog licenses.

### ***Is there a DMV at the Government Center?***

Yes, there is a DMV Select in the Treasurer's Office on the second floor. Services provided include: vehicle titles and registration; license plates; EZ Pass; and voter registration. You may not acquire a license at the DMV Select. For a full list of services, visit the Treasurer's page of [www.StaffordCountyVA.gov](http://www.StaffordCountyVA.gov).

### ***Where do I get a concealed handgun permit?***

You may apply in person at the Circuit Court Clerk's office at Stafford Courthouse, 1225 Courthouse Road, Stafford, VA 22554, or you may apply by mail. First time applicants must apply in person. Details are listed on the Circuit Court page of [www.StaffordCountyVA.gov](http://www.StaffordCountyVA.gov) or you may call (540) 658-8750.

### ***How can I find out more about my real estate assessment and other tax questions?***

Visit the Commissioner of the Revenue page of [www.StaffordCountyVA.gov](http://www.StaffordCountyVA.gov) or call (540) 658-4132.

### ***Where can I get a plat of my property or a copy of a deed?***

Plats are available in the Commissioner of the Revenue's office. For deeds, you must contact the Land Records Office of the Circuit Court or call (540) 658-8740.

### ***Where do I get a copy of my marriage or divorce license?***

The Circuit Court can help you. Dial (540) 658-8740.

### ***Where do I pay traffic tickets?***

General District Court handles traffic tickets. Some tickets may be paid online. Visit the General District Court page of [www.StaffordCountyVA.gov](http://www.StaffordCountyVA.gov) or call (540) 658-8766.

### ***Who do I call if I have a water leak?***

If you have County water, Stafford Utilities provides 24-hour service, 365 days a year. During the week, you may call Utilities at (540) 658-4857. On weekends or at night, please call (540) 658-8616, a line that is routed through the Sheriff's Office non-emergency number.

### ***Where do I apply for Medicaid?***

Visit the Social Services page of our website at [www.StaffordCountyVA.gov](http://www.StaffordCountyVA.gov) to connect to Medicaid services.

### ***Where can I get general information?***

The Citizens Assistance Office is always ready to answer your questions. You may reach them by dialing 311 on a

Stafford landline. If you are outside Stafford or on a cell phone, please call (540) 658-4311 or (540) 658-5311. There is also a "Report-a-Concern" button on Stafford's website, [www.staffordcountyva.gov](http://www.staffordcountyva.gov).



## Stafford Goes Green!

At Stafford County, we are always looking for ways to be better stewards of our resources for our citizens. We are saving money and minimizing our impact on the environment by going green with the Stafford magazine and Parks Brochure. Starting with the Summer 2018 issue, the magazine will be published online instead of mailing the magazine to every address in Stafford County. For those who do not have internet access, the magazine and brochure will still be available in the Government Center, parks facilities and libraries.





### New Faces in Stafford Administration

County Administration oversees the day to day operations of Stafford County Government to ensure that employees provide high quality services that help build a great community and support the priorities of the Board of Supervisors.

Thomas C. Foley came onboard February 1, 2017, as County Administrator. He came to Stafford from Albemarle County where he served as County Executive. Foley has more than 30 years of experience in local government and holds a Master of Public Administration from Virginia Commonwealth University and a Bachelor of Business Administration from Marshall University.

Mike Smith was appointed Deputy County Administrator officially last September. Smith has served Stafford County for more than 31 years, spending time as Director of Public Works



*Thomas C. Foley*



*Mike Smith*



*Fred Presley*

and Director of Utilities. He has a Bachelor of Science in Biology from James Madison University and is a veteran of many graduate level government courses, including courses at Weldon Cooper, the University of Virginia and the University of North Carolina.

Fred Presley rounds out the County Administration team. Presley is the former Town Manager of West Warwick, RI, and has over 18 years of public and private experience. Fred's experience includes: four years running his own firm, seven years as a Director of Planning and Economic Development and four years as a Town Manager. Fred has a Master's Degree in Public Administration from Norwich University. He holds a Bachelor of Sciences Degree in Resource Development from the University of Rhode Island. He is also a veteran of the United States Army.



## Remarkable Americans. Remarkable museum.



★ **NOW PLAYING!**

The giant screen Medal of Honor Theater is now open, featuring a signature film, *We, The Marines!* Be immersed in the experience of being a Marine!



### FOLLOW IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF MARINES AT THE NATIONAL MUSEUM OF THE MARINE CORPS

The National Museum of the Marine Corps celebrates 242 years of United States Marine Corps history. Come follow in the footsteps of Marines: from boot camp to the boot prints left in the sands of the Pacific Islands, in the snow of the Chosin Reservoir, on Vietnam's Hill 881, and the continued global fight against terror.





# Stafford Hospital



**Trustworthy care, from  
the neighbors you know.**

In the heart of Stafford County, we continue to expand services to meet the needs of our growing community. Along with the quality you expect from Mary Washington Healthcare, you'll also find soothing amenities, easy access to the services you need, and a patient-first experience.

For more information about our services,  
please call Health Link at **540.741.1404**.



**Stafford Hospital**

*Here for You.*

[Stafford.mwhc.com](http://Stafford.mwhc.com)





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