

Parks and Recreation Activities Brochure Inside!

STAFFORD *Virginia*

**“Fall” In Love With
Stafford County!**

Stafford County
News & Information Magazine
Fall 2013



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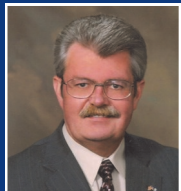


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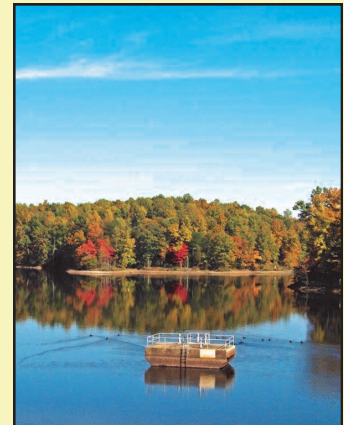
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On the Cover

Beautiful Abel Lake and Reservoir is the star of the cover this month. Matt Sauter, the plant manager at Abel Lake Water Treatment Facility, took this photo of the principal spillway for the reservoir last fall. Abel Lake is a lovely place at all times of the year. It boasts a stocked fishing area for anglers on foot or in boats with electric motors. Hiking and picnicking are also popular activities in the park which is open from dawn to dusk, year round. A Virginia fishing license is required to fish. The park is located on Kellogg Mill Road, nine miles west of Mountain View Road.



Please note: the ad on the back cover is sponsored by the Stafford Hospital. For more information about the Stafford Magazine, contact the Public Information Office at (540) 658-4894.



Message from the Chairman

I hope you enjoyed your summer. As much fun as summertime can be, it's always fun moving into another beautiful Virginia season. As fast as time seems to go by, so is the progress we're making in Stafford County.

Our Board believes quality of life is an important component to our community. Our budget reflects the community's priorities. Have you enjoyed the Belmont Ferry Farm trail? What about Government Island? In the last two years, both of these parks and trails have opened. This past April, we also opened the Stafford Civil War Park. All three parks link Stafford's rich history with a great opportunity to take your family on a walk or bike ride.

This spring, we broke ground at Chichester Park, home to a baseball complex where both kids and adults will have more fields to play baseball and softball. We also broke ground at Embrey Mill, where we have partnered with Nash Stafford and Newland and will soon have a rectangular field complex and an athletic pool facility.

Transportation is a part of quality of life, too. Both VRE lots at Lee-land and Brooke stations have been expanded, and an expansion of the commuter lots on Garrisonville Road is underway, too. In fact, there's a new road improvement in every corner of Stafford County because our Board has prioritized roads in our budget.

All of these infrastructure projects are possible because of Stafford County's sound fiscal management. Tough decisions have to be made in order to continue to lower taxes on our citizens and to pay for these infrastructure projects while living within our means.

Having a strong credit rating is important to every household. I am

happy to report to you that Stafford County recently earned two bond rating upgrades from Standard & Poor's and Fitch and an upgrade from Moody's for our financial outlook. Standard & Poor's upgraded the County's bond rating from AA to an AA+, Fitch Ratings upgraded the County's bond rating from AA to AA+.

Both S&P and Fitch rate the County at their second highest credit rating, just below AAA.

Moody's affirmed the County's Aa2 bond rating and upgraded our outlook from stable to positive. These companies are considered the "Big Three" financial rating agencies and their upgrades reflect our commitment to being fiscally responsible to you, our citizens.

Even with this good news, our eye is on development, ensuring that infrastructure is in place to handle the growth that we're experiencing in Stafford County. We don't blame people for wanting to locate here because our schools are fantastic, our history is rich and our citizens are the best!

We will continue to carefully watch over your resources. Please visit our website at www.staffordcountyva.gov for more information on Stafford County or come to a Board of Supervisors meeting to give us your feedback. We like hearing from you.

Susan Stimpson

Chairman of the Stafford Board of Supervisors



Stafford by the Numbers

Stafford has **130** volunteers who assist at the Government Center and Courthouse.

They provided more than **35,000** volunteer hours from July 1, 2012 through June 30, 2013.

Their service is valued at **\$940,264!**

2 volunteers served more than **2,000** hours!

Carolyn Beatson
Longtime Volunteer



Want to make a difference?
Visit www.staffordcountyva.gov
or call (540) 658-4516 for information.



Fundraising for Stafford's 350th Campaign Advances

Stafford's 350th Anniversary Blue Ribbon Committee announced at a special campaign kickoff breakfast on June 11 that two major sponsors have joined the committee's efforts to celebrate Stafford's 350th Anniversary in 2014.



al support, as have the County's department directors and the members of the Blue Ribbon Committee.

There are many chances to join in the festivities throughout the year. Four key events seeking principal sponsorships include:

The Free Lance-Star has earned "Founder" status, with its agreement to provide \$100,000 of in-kind media support to assist the committee's efforts in marketing and publicizing all of the events in 2014. This will include both print and digital media exposure, as well as special publications to highlight the anniversary celebration.

The Free Lance-Star
freelancestar.com

fredericksburg.com

93.3 WFLS
Today's NEW Country

ATLANTIC BUILDERS
GIVING YOU MORE

Atlantic Builders is a "Benefactor" sponsor, agreeing to provide \$25,000 toward the events and activities of the anniversary year.

"We are very pleased that these corporate citizens of our community have stepped up to help us celebrate this milestone in Stafford's history," said Harry Crisp, chairman of the 350th Anniversary Blue Ribbon Committee and former member of the Stafford Board of Supervisors. "We gladly welcome their participation and are confident that their actions today will inspire others who are considering sponsorship to take that step and be a part of celebrating Stafford's place in America's history and its potential for the future."

The committee's goal is to raise \$1 million. The Board of Supervisors approved \$350,000 for the celebration, and each member of the Board of Supervisors has pledged their person-

Celebrate Stafford 350! This event in January will officially launch the year's celebration of Stafford's illustrious past, highlight its present, and salute its future.

Legacy Film. This 25-minute film will provide new understanding and appreciation among residents and visitors of the important role Stafford County played in American history.

Wings and Wheels. This annual event at the Stafford Regional Airport will accelerate to "warp speed" to commemorate Stafford's proud military heritage with flight demonstrations, military exhibits, and a motorcycle and antique car show.

Trail to Freedom Tour. The tour will explore and honor the African American story in Stafford by commemorating the lives, strengths, personal stories and struggles of Stafford's African American citizens.

More information about the 350th anniversary can be found at www.Stafford350.com or on Facebook at [Stafford County 350 Anniversary](https://www.facebook.com/StaffordCounty350Anniversary) and Twitter [@StaffordCo350](https://twitter.com/StaffordCo350). Interested individuals can also call the Stafford Public Information Office at (540) 658-4894.



350th QR Code

New Parks Underway

Stafford's much-anticipated new parks are under construction! The groundbreaking for Chichester Park was held May 21, 2013, with the Park at Embrey Mill groundbreaking taking place on June 4, 2013. Excited athletes and parents gathered with the Board of Supervisors to signal the start of construction of both parks.

Located adjacent to Stafford High School, Chichester Park features a diamond field complex, concession stand, restrooms, and a picnic shelter. The park is scheduled to open in late 2014. The Park at Embrey Mill will have a rectangular field complex, and an indoor recreation center with a 50-meter indoor pool. The park opens in 2015. Both parks are initiatives of the 2009 Parks Bond Referendum.



Athletes help break ground for the Park at Embrey Mill.



Historic Register Adds Stafford Training School

Students of the Stafford Training School/H.H. Poole School gathered recently to help unveil a plaque to honor the school's inclusion on the National Register of Historic Places and the Virginia Landmarks Register. The school is now known as the Rowser Building and is located at 1739 Jefferson Davis Highway, Stafford, VA 22554.

The school was the only place African American students could receive education beyond the seventh grade during segregation. Parents formed a league to raise funds to buy the land for the school, which was built by the Public Works Administration in 1939. The actions of students from the Stafford Training School caused the integration of Stafford's schools in 1961. Other schools in the area followed Stafford and desegregated soon after.



Supervisor Gary Snellings (right of plaque) and students from the Stafford Training School listen as Stafford resident and former student Frank White reads the plaque honoring the school's listing on the National Register.

Stafford Hospital Grows With the Community

Four-year-old Stafford Hospital is relatively new among area health care facilities, yet it has seen continual growth in numbers of patients served and services offered. Greater access to leading-edge surgical options close to home was enhanced when Stafford welcomed surgeons Ki-yanda Baldwin Young, MD, a general surgeon and colorectal surgery specialist with Central Virginia Surgical Specialists; and Premal Sanghavi, MD, an oncoplastic breast surgeon with the new Virginia Breast Health Center.

The Virginia Breast Health Center provides comprehensive breast care and treatments for breast disease. Dr. Sanghavi's specialty training and experience makes it possible with in a single surgical procedure for breast tissue to be removed and breasts to be reshaped cosmetically to achieve a more natural appearance. This greatly streamlined approach enables women to recover and feel back to normal more quickly.

Another initiative to streamline patient care is the Emergency Department's addition of an online waiting service called In-Quicker, which launches in July. InQuicker enables patients to schedule ED appointments and register from home. ED person-

nel are then notified so they can prepare for the patient's arrival, with the goal of having all patients seen by a healthcare provider within 15 minutes of their projected treatment time.



On May 1, Stafford became the only Virginia hospital, and one of just 40 nationally, to be selected by VHA, a national network of more than 1,350 not-for-profit hospital systems and 72,000 non-acute facilities, to receive the prestigious 2013 VHA Leadership Award for Clinical Excellence for meeting national performance standards for clinical quality, safety, and patient experience.

In June, Stafford began hosting the North Stafford Farmers Market in the parking lot outside the Medical Pavilion each Sunday from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. Shoppers can find local produce, meat, dairy products, baked goods, and more every weekend through October.

Stafford Hospital continues to provide great service and the highest quality care to all members of the communities we serve.

Article sponsored by the Stafford Hospital



Human Services Teams Up To Make Life Better

Imagine a mother feeling defeated because she does not know how to help her angry child. Perhaps a family has run out of money to pay the bills because one of the parents has lost a job. Maybe a homeless student could use some personal care products to prepare for the new school year, but cannot buy them. These are the people whom Human Services staff try to assist.

Their goal is to listen to the needs of individuals and families and provide options to them so they can be successful in the community. Their mission is to provide a link between human service agencies within the community and access to services to the children and families of Stafford. With the Board of Supervisors recent adoption of the Plan for Human Services, staff will be able to serve these individuals in a more proactive and collaborative way. They will begin to implement the details of that plan along with the array of services listed below that Human Services currently offers the community.

Comprehensive Services Act Program (CSA). Your child and family may be eligible for assistance through the Virginia CSA Program for At-Risk Youth and Families if your child meets the following guidelines: is under the age of 18, or in some cases, under 22; at risk of having serious emotional or behavioral difficulties; and in need of services from multiple county agencies. Youth aged 22 and under who are eligible for special education services and whose Individual Education Program requires education in a private school or residential placement, are eligible for CSA services until the last day of the school year in which they turn 22 years old.

Fill the Tub Campaign. Last year marked the first annual Fill the Tub campaign. County agencies collected personal items for homeless students in Stafford schools such as soap, shampoo, conditioner, deodorant, toothpaste and toothbrushes.

Stafford Safety Net. The Stafford Safety Net provides emergency assistance to citizens who do not meet the qualifications or guidelines of traditional County programs through the Department of Social Services, religious organizations, or other

non-profit community-based organizations. Assistance can be provided for loss of fuel during cold months, hotel accommodations if displaced due to emergency, and other situations.



Participants in the Youth First event collected gift cards for this giving tree. The cards were given to the Safe Harbor Child Advocacy Center.

Best Buds. Best Buds is a mentoring program at a Stafford elementary school for identified at-risk youth. Mentoring takes place at the school twice monthly and is provided by Stafford County employees.

YES Program. Human Services also strives to inspire people. The YES program (Youth Engaged in Stafford) helps local high school students learn more about county government. This program gives students an opportunity to be a part of the different boards, authorities, commissions, and committees that help develop projects, make recommendations to the Board of Supervisors, and have an impact on our community.

Youth First. The Youth First Partnership is comprised of representatives from the City of Fredericksburg, Stafford and Spotsylvania counties, the Rappahannock Area Office on Youth, and the Rappahannock United Way. The mission of Youth First is to build a stronger community by promoting collaboration among youth serving agencies. Agency representatives

provide an annual venue to share resources and ideas, and to promote communication and collaboration. For more information about Human Services, please call 540.658.4622.



In Memory of Joan Donahoe, pictured to the right in the photo above, with Human Services staff Donna Krauss (center) and Stephanie Beamer (left). Joan, who passed away on June 30, 2013, was a dedicated member of the Stafford Family Assessment and Planning Team for more than 19 years.



Get Connected With Stafford's Free App!

Stafford County now has a free mobile app to connect citizens and visitors with government services, news, job openings, online payment options, emergency alerts, its 311 Center and much more.

"Our new app, which is free, provides convenient access to all of our services for citizens, visitors, and businesses," said Chairman of the Stafford Board of Supervisors Susan Stimpson. "This will be especially useful to our residents, so many of whom are commuters and are not in Stafford during regular business hours. Now, they will have the latest information from Stafford County in the palm of their hands, and can pay bills, inquire about a service, and do other government business with us no matter where they are during the day."

Staff worked with the County's website vendor, CivicPlus to develop the app. Some of the highlights include:

News – Receive official news from the County as soon as it is posted on the County's website.

Calendar – Users can stay informed about special events, meetings and sign up for calendar notifications.

Emergency Alerts – Receive notification about urgent County news, local emergencies, closures for roads, government offices and parks, and road conditions.

Dial 311 – Get connected directly to Stafford's 311 center, where customer service representatives answer callers' questions and provide information.

Employment – Apply for County government jobs.

Online Payment – Convenient online payment for water, property taxes, real estate taxes and dog tags.

The app is available at the Apple Store and the Google Store and is compatible with iPhones, iPods, iPads and Android phones.



Stafford Online

Official Website—www.staffordcountyva.gov

Includes names and contact information for elected officials and staff; meeting times and places; agendas; videos; tax rates; and history.

Stafford Alert—www.staffordalert.com

Provides emergency information to cell phones, home phones and email. Information includes road closings, cancellations and weather updates.



Facebook—Stafford County Government

Provides an interactive option for users to learn more about the Stafford County Government.



Twitter—[@staffordvagov](https://twitter.com/staffordvagov)

Twitter is especially useful during an emergency. Next to Stafford Alert, it's the fastest way to get information.



PinterestStafford County, VA

Pictures and information about Stafford County.

Did You Know?

That Stafford won national recognition for its work in creating a new 311 service from existing resources! The National Association of Counties (NACo) awarded Stafford a 2013 Achievement Award in the category of Civic Education and Public Information. The awards recognize innovative programs that modernize county government and increase services to residents. Stafford utilized existing resources to provide a new service

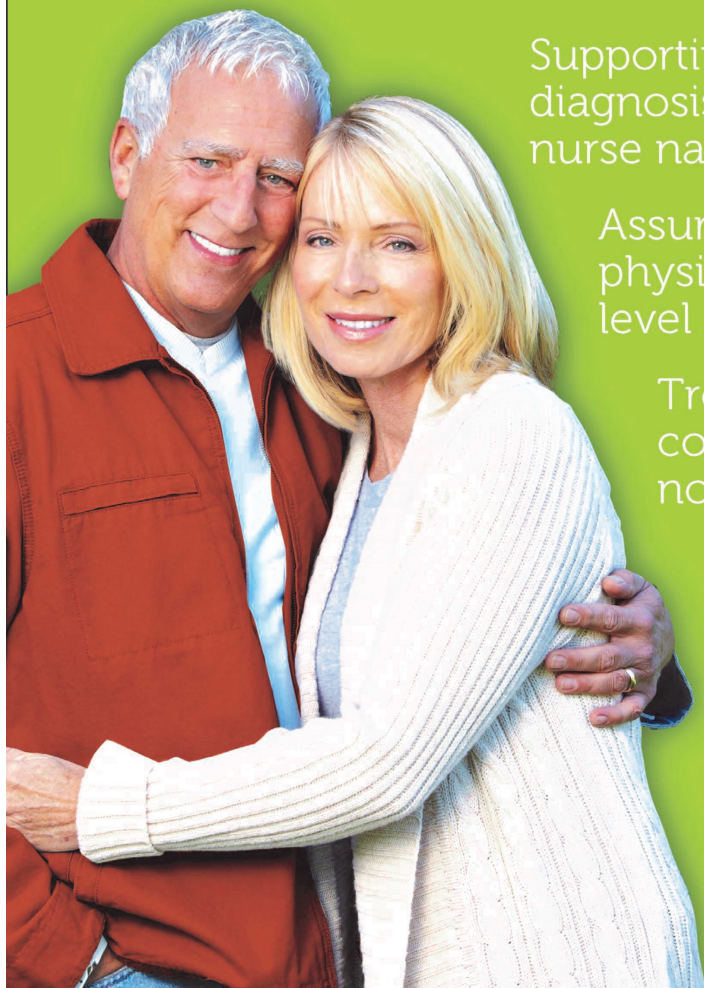


to citizens at a time when most governments were cutting back. Authorized in 2011 by the Stafford Board of Supervisors, 311 came online in 2012. Citizens can call 311 from a landline with all their non-emergency questions and complete their business with one call. Cell phone users may call (540) 658- 4311 or 658-5311 or connect with Stafford's new app (see story on the left).

**Call 311
for General Government Information**

Call 911 for Emergencies

Because we go the distance in cancer care,



Supporting patients and their families through diagnosis, treatment, and recovery—offering nurse navigators to guide patients at every step.

Assuring patients of the best outcomes from physicians who have achieved the highest level of clinical and surgical training.

Treating brain and lung tumors precisely, comfortably with highly advanced, non-invasive radiotherapy technology.

On the forefront of cancer care through clinical trials and innovation.

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The journey from diagnosis to surviving cancer no longer includes traveling hours to other cities for the best care. The Mary Washington Regional Cancer Center offers that same level of treatment and care while keeping you close to home and close to the support of family and friends.

Here for You.



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