

Parks and Recreation Activities Brochure Inside!

STAFFORD *Virginia*



From the Past to the Future

Stafford County's
News and Information Magazine
Fall 2017

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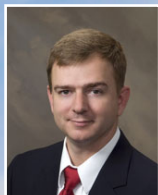


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ON THE COVER

The cover depicts the Dedication of Stafford's Armed Services Memorial on Saturday, July 15, 2017. More than 1,000 veterans from several wars, their families and guests came out on a hot day to help Stafford celebrate the opening of the memorial. There are nine markers for each major conflict in America's history: the Revolutionary War; the War of 1812; the Civil War; World War I; World War II; the

Korean War; the Vietnam War; Desert Shield/Desert Storm; and the Global War on Terror. Marking the conflicts back through the Revolutionary War is appropriate for Stafford as Stafford's history begins even before our nation was established – in 1664. Things have changed over the years but the one thing that has never changed is the willingness of Stafford's citizens to do whatever is necessary to help our country and our county and to make things better for our future citizens. Stafford is about to tackle its next biggest challenge – a reimagining of the courthouse area. One thing is for sure, Stafford has a lot of great things in the past upon which to build its future.





Stafford is again poised on the brink of a big change. The Courthouse Road Widening/Interchange Project is going to bring a new gateway into the courthouse area, along with the area's first diverging diamond interchange and four lanes of roadway with multi-use trails on Courthouse Road from I-95 to Ramoth Church Road, that will eventually reach Stafford Hospital. These two projects join the more than \$1.4 billion investment in the Atlantic Gateway Project that focuses on improving the I-95 corridor between Washington, D.C., and Fredericksburg. In light of these future changes, we are renewing our efforts on redeveloping the courthouse area into Stafford's downtown or hometown. People will be able to live there, walk to restaurants and businesses and have easy access to the interstate and region. A new courthouse is in the works and a possible sixth high school. We are building a new Fire and Rescue Station 14 at Garrisonville and are making great progress on our beautiful new Animal Shelter. Time doesn't stand still and neither does Stafford County. Since our last Stafford magazine came out, we built two new full-size artificial turf

fields at Embrey Mill Park. We hosted Fox5 News from Washington, D.C., for a live broadcast. With the help of the Commandant of the Marine Corps, Gen. Robert Neller, we opened our beautiful Armed Services Memorial. We passed a budget that added no new taxes but provided funds to pay for all the projects that enrich the lives of our citizens. Our Board of Supervisors and staff accomplished all this through the process of having an interim County Administrator and the hiring of a new County Administrator. We did this because we are dedicated to serving Stafford County. There is no better place to live and no better group of caring, engaged citizens anywhere. I am proud to have served as the Chairman of the Stafford Board of Supervisors. I look forward to more good things to come.



Paul Milde
Chairman of the Board of Supervisors

STAFFORD
Virginia

Stafford
Songfest
Sundays

August 20
Nick Smith

September 17
Cabin Creek

Pratt Park 5:00 p.m. -7:00 p.m. \$4/person or \$10/car @ gate



Preparations Begin for Traffic Transformation in Courthouse Area

A groundbreaking in July kicked off construction on a \$35.9 million project to widen and improve Courthouse Road from Ramoth Church Road to the I-95 interchange. An additional \$149.4 million project will renovate the I-95/Courthouse Road Exit 140 interchange and connect the widened Courthouse Road to Stafford Hospital. The projects are expected to conclude in July of 2020. Let's take a look at how these projects will improve traffic flow and safety for all our drivers.

Diverging Diamond Interchange

The new interchange will modernize Exit 140 with new ramps and bridges to accommodate current and future traffic volumes, and keep traffic flowing smoothly off the interstate and help prevent congestion on I-95. This innovative design eliminates traditional left turns that cross over oncoming traffic. These interchanges reduce the number of spots where vehicles can collide.

Courthouse Road

When the project is complete, Courthouse Road will have four lanes from Route 1 to Ramoth Church Road, a distance of just over three miles. Courthouse Road will intersect with Route 1 at Hospital Center Boulevard, across from Stafford Hospital. A traffic signal with pedestrian crossing features will be installed at the entrance to Colonial Forge High School in late August 2017. Ramoth Church Road and Winding Creek Road will eventually be realigned to intersect directly at a new traffic signal.

Commuter Parking

Two new commuter lots will open along the relocated Courthouse Road east of I-95. The lots will have a combined total of 1,100 parking spaces, doubling the current total of the existing lot. The largest lot will have dedicated carpool/vanpool pickup and drop-off areas and dedicated areas for bus passengers. Commuter lot users will see no changes until summer 2018. The existing Park & Ride lot will be closed and users will be shifted to a temporary lot east of

Board of Supervisors Vice Chairman Meg Bohmke and Chairman Paul Milde (middle of photo) join VDOT officials in breaking ground on the Courthouse Road Widening/Interchange Project.

I-95 until the new lots are completed.

Pedestrian Features

Bicyclists, walkers and runners will see improved pedestrian facilities along Courthouse Road when the project is complete. On the north side of Courthouse Road, a 10-foot-wide paved shared use path will be built from Ramoth Church Road to the new I-95 interchange. On the south side of Courthouse Road, a five-foot-wide sidewalk will be constructed from Ramoth Church road to just east of Colonial Forge High School. Additionally, a new sidewalk will connect the new Park & Ride on the north side of relocated Courthouse Road to the George L. Gordon, Jr., Government Center and Route 1.

Traffic Impacts

Drivers can expect lanes to stay open during morning and evening rush hour. Outside of rush hour, lane closures will be needed at midday and overnight hours to widen the road and build new interchange bridges. Drivers should consider adding several minutes of travel time when leaving for work or school. Drivers can help with safety by eliminating distractions in the work zone, reducing speed and obeying direction from crews.

This is a major traffic project but one that will be completed in a fairly expeditious time frame. Stafford County and the Virginia Department of Transportation will work together to make sure citizens stay informed and the impacts are minimal on our drivers. For more information, please visit: www.StaffordCountyVa.gov or www.VirginiaDOT.org.





Stafford's Armed Services Memorial in Photos



The 37th Commandant of the Marine Corps, General Robert B. Neller, addresses the crowd.



World War II veterans stand to be acknowledged during the WWII marker salute.



A veteran poses with the centerpiece of the memorial, an etching depicting armed service members throughout history.



Members of the Third Infantry Old Guard dressed in period costume and saluted each other during the ceremony.





Officials Stepping Up Efforts to Fight Opioid Crisis

The Community Collaborative for Youth and Families will continue work began by Mary Washington Healthcare to educate and engage the region on opiates. The Collaborative is a group of 35 partner agencies including Stafford County that works to cultivate a thriving community.

They plan to engage the community on this very serious issue facing the region by focusing on: prevention, treatment and harm reduction. The group plans on holding screenings of “Chasing the Dragon: the Life of an Opiate Addict” in each of the localities that are members of Planning District 16, followed by town halls with informative panelists for those dealing with the opioid epidemic on a daily basis. These events will take place on the dates below in the following localities:

- **August 21** King George County
- **September 13** Caroline County
- **September 28** Stafford County
- **October 2** Fredericksburg

- **October 19** Spotsylvania

More information on the locations of the meetings will be forthcoming and may be found on www.TheCommunity-Collabortive.org. All citizens are welcome.



“Chasing the Dragon” is a documentary about opiate addiction produced by the FBI and the DEA.



**Remarkable Americans.
Remarkable museum.**





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

The National Museum of the Marine Corps celebrates 241 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.

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Stafford Hospital



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



Stafford Hospital

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ALL YEAR LONG

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