

Parks and Recreation Activities Brochure Inside!

STAFFORD *Virginia*



Gearing Up for Fun

Stafford County's
News and Information Magazine
Summer 2017

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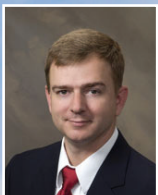


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ON THE COVER

Girl Scouts enjoying the 2016 Stafford's National Night Out grace the cover of the Summer 2017 magazine. The Stafford County Sheriff's Office sponsors the annual Stafford Marketplace gathering with vendors, prizes and food. The Sheriff's Office also coordinates neighborhood "block parties." The 2017 National Night Out will be held on Tuesday, August 1, 2017, and is just one of the many fun highlights of summer in Stafford County. Our Parks,



Recreation and Community Facilities host lots of fun activities. The Songfest concerts at Celebration Stage at Pratt Park are held the third Sunday of each month, May through September, from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. Stafford hosts an awesome Independence Day celebration at Pratt Park. A much-anticipated event is the Cardboard Boat Regatta, coming up on July 15 at Aquia Landing. Stafford's parks have miles of trails for you to explore. Crow's Nest Natural Area Preserve just came online with hiking trails and a canoe/kayak launch. Try one of Stafford's three breweries, tour a winery or visit one of our historical attractions like Belmont, Aquia Church or George Washington's Ferry Farm. Enjoy!



A Message from the Chairman

Spring was a busy time in Stafford County. The Board of Supervisors has accomplished a lot towards Stafford's motto "Progress Since 1664."

We held the groundbreaking for Stafford's new Animal Shelter in February. We are almost tripling the size to 17,400 square feet. We will be able to handle more dogs and cats, facilitating the potential adoption of more homeless and defenseless animals. The shelter is expected to be finished in the summer of 2018. I hope you will join us for the grand opening and maybe take a new friend home with you.

A special ceremony marked the groundbreaking for the \$838,000 Stafford Armed Services Memorial on March 4. Please stop by and see the progress on construction on the site to the rear of the George L. Gordon, Jr., Government Center, 1300 Courthouse Road, Stafford, VA. The members of the Armed Services Memorial Commission and Working Group have done a fantastic job of raising the bulk of the funds needed in less than a year. The dedication is scheduled for Saturday, July 15, 2017, at 10:00 a.m.

We held a ceremony at the March 21, 2017, Board of Supervisors meeting to add three farms to the Purchase of Development Rights program in our ongoing effort to preserve open space. The PDR program is one of many tools the Board of Supervisors has used to save more than 10,000 acres and retire 2,967 development rights. The three farms added to the PDR program bring the total acreage saved by the program to 448.17 acres.

April 1, 2017, was a day I personally have waited on for a long time. We joined the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation and Governor Terry McAuliffe in opening Crow's Nest Natural Area Preserve to the public. Helping save Crow's Nest through a creative partnership with the Commonwealth of Virginia was one of the most meaningful projects I have worked on with the Board of

Supervisors. Nearly 3,000 acres of prime habitat for birds, animals and aquatic creatures will always be protected. Take a trip there this summer and try out one of the miles of trails or kayak and canoe the gorgeous water areas. Crow's Nest is truly a jewel in Stafford and Virginia's parks and I am grateful for all the support shown by the community and local and state officials in saving this irreplaceable land.

More road improvements are on the horizon. We are continuing to make Poplar Road safer for drivers as well as Brooke Road. The Brooke Road improvements will straighten out the curves near Stagecoach Road and should be finished by 2020. As well, VDOT's \$125 million I-95 South-

bound Collector-Distributor Lanes – Rappahannock River Crossing project is scheduled to be finished by 2022.

In parks news, we expect to complete two additional full-size turf fields at Embrey Mill Park this year. Embrey Mill and the Jeff Rouse Center have been critical in Stafford's efforts at sports tourism. In March of 2017 alone, the Jeff Rouse/Embrey Mill complex hosted approximately 363 teams and 11,000 visitors to the county.

The estimated economic impact is \$943,474. We are just beginning to tap the potential of our beautiful parks system.

We proposed an FY2018 budget that does not have any tax raises for homeowners or businesses. We are confident that our priority on reducing the tax burden has directly helped the creation of the more than 43,000 jobs located in Stafford County.

I hope you take the time this summer to "vacation at home," here in Stafford County – a great place to live, work, raise a family...and play. Happy summer!

Paul Milde
Chairman of the Stafford County Board of Supervisors



Chairman Milde and special guests at the groundbreaking for the new Animal Shelter



Stafford Continues Work to Save Open Space

There is no one-size-fits-all solution to preserving open space and responsibly directing development. Once a rural, agricultural and river-based economy, with residents whose families had been there for generations, Stafford has become a crossroads of sorts for federal workers, Marines and FBI agents cycling through Quantico, with residents from all over the nation and world. Within the last 40 years, Stafford's population nearly tripled from 61,236 in 1991, to more than 142,000 in 2017.

Devising ways to balance the preservation of open space alongside responsible development became a priority of the Stafford Board of Supervisors. To date, they have saved more than 10,000 acres of open space while directing development to targeted growth areas with the needed infrastructure support already in place. They have used several major tools to accomplish this: the Transfer of Development Rights program; the Purchase of Development Rights program; instituting Targeted Growth Areas; and increasing park lands.

- **Transfer of Development Rights Program** - Stafford is only one of two localities in the Commonwealth of Virginia to adopt its own TDR Program. This market-driven program allows land owners to sell development rights for land that would be too expensive to develop because of its rural location. Developers can buy those rights and build homes in more dense areas. The land where the development rights are sold is put into a conservation easement.
- **Purchase of Development Rights Program** - This program allows land owners to sell their development rights to the County. The land is then put into a conservation easement. This helps to preserve agricultural resources on farms as well as historical resources such as slave cemeteries, civil war encampments and even a historical tavern site. Stafford currently has six farms in the program, comprising 448 acres. This means 115 development rights have been retired for these properties.
- **Targeted Growth Areas** - The Board of Supervisors has instituted Targeted Growth Areas as part of the County's Comprehensive Plan. By focusing growth



The 100-acre Historic Spotted Tavern Farm in Hartwood is new to the PDR Program.

and development in areas where infrastructure already exists, Stafford is able to better control the impact of new residents and students on schools, roads and the environment.

- **Parks** - One of the best examples of Stafford using a potential park to save open space is the story of Crow's Nest. Crow's Nest is a 2,700 acre parcel along Potomac and Accokeek creeks. It is an ecological wonder, with hardwood forests, migratory birds and rookeries for herons and nests for eagles, to a marsh and bodies of water home to a multitude of marine and land animals. Years ago, developers wanted to build a huge subdivision on the land. Supervisors and citizens stepped in to save the property. Stafford currently is arranging to purchase an additional 121 acres to bring the total to 3,000 acres.

The numbers speak for themselves. The 10,000 acres of open space saved by Stafford equates to 2,928 retired development rights that will not be developed in rural areas - less people and less stress on the environment and need for infrastructure. Using the lessons it has learned, the County continues to look for innovative ways to preserve and increase the amount of open space.



PulsePoint App Set to Launch and Save Lives

Stafford's Fire and Rescue Department is implementing an innovative new app to save lives. The app, a free smart phone application geared toward citizens trained in Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR), notifies users immediately if someone nearby goes into sudden cardiac arrest. The app also pinpoints the closest location of public automated external defibrillators. Citizens may download the app now but Stafford will not go online until mid to late May. The app is possible because of a generous \$50,000 donation from the Stafford Hospital Foundation and the Gwyneth's Gift Foundation.



a Heart Safe community, one that promotes CPR training, the widespread dissemination of public access defibrillators and aggressive resuscitation protocols for first responders

Stafford also asks that residents download the PulsePoint AED app, an app that allows users to take photos of automated external defibrillators and upload the information to the PulsePoint AED registry. The American Heart Association estimates that immediate cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) and early defibrillation with an AED can more than double a victim's chance of survival. The PulsePoint AED and PulsePoint Respond apps are available for free download from the iTunes Store

Stafford County was Virginia's first county to be designated and Google Play.

STAFFORD

Virginia

June 18

Dixie Power Trio

August 20

Nick Smith

Stafford
Songfest
Sundays

July 16

Groove Motive

September 17

Cabin Creek

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



Armed Services Memorial Dedication Set for July 15

Construction is proceeding on the Stafford Armed Services Memorial and the dedication is set for Saturday, July 15, 2017, at 10:00 a.m. at the site located to the rear of the George L. Gordon, Jr., Government Center, 1300 Courthouse Road, Stafford, VA 22554. The Joint Color Guard from the Military District of Washington will present the colors. The Quantico Marine Band will be performing as well as a soloist from the "The President's Own" Marine Band. There are more details to come, including information about shuttles for parking. The public is invited and asked to bring chairs if possible. There will be limited seating available for veterans, with elderly veterans having preference. The first order of bricks honoring loved ones has been closed. Citizens may still buy bricks for the next installation which will take place in the fall. Please visit www.StaffordArmedServicesMemorial.weebly.com for more information.

To the right, please find a sneak peek of a segment of the focal point of the memorial, an etching in a black granite wall. The art was created by local artist Jason Breidenbach, who specializes in historic military aviation.





**Remarkable Americans.
Remarkable museum.**





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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.

18900 JEFFERSON DAVIS HIGHWAY ★ QUANTICO, VA ★ FREE PARKING & ADMISSION ★ WWW.USMCMUSEUM.COM



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is born.

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Jeff Rouse Swim
and Sport Center
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Stafford, VA 22554

ONLINE
\$35

ON SITE
\$40

DIVISIONS

(Boys & Girls)

- 8 & under
- 9-10
- 11-12
- 13-14
- 15-18

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- Swim cap
- VIP Swimja Bag
- Temporary tattoos
- Ninja star stress balls



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