

Parks and Recreation Activities Brochure Inside!

STAFFORD *Virginia*

Lincoln's Legacy
Lives On In
Stafford

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2-1863

Stafford County's News &
Information Magazine

Winter 2015



Board of Supervisors



Chairman

Jack Cavalier

Griffis-Widewater District

Phone: (540) 207-5317

Email: jcavalier@staffordcountyva.gov



Vice Chairman

Gary Snellings

Hartwood District

Phone: (540) 371-6293

Email: gsnellings@staffordcountyva.gov



Meg Bohmke

Falmouth District

Phone: (540) 842-6334

Email: mbohmke@staffordcountyva.gov



Paul Milde

Aquia District

Phone: (540) 845-1880

Email: pmilde@staffordcountyva.gov



Laura Sellers

Garrisonville District

Phone: (540) 424-4353

Email: lsellers@staffordcountyva.gov



Cord Sterling

Rock Hill District

Phone: (540) 604-1610

Email: csterling@staffordcountyva.gov



Bob Thomas

George Washington District

Phone: (540) 446-9216

Email: bthomas@staffordcountyva.gov

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On the Cover

The photo on the front is of Abraham Lincoln first-person interpreter Don Mullen. Mr. Mullen is a science teacher at Gayle Middle School. He has interpreted Abraham Lincoln at many of Stafford's 350th Anniversary events. In honor of our 350th Anniversary, 19 plaques have been placed around the County detailing Stafford's history, with several recounting Lincoln's visits to Stafford during the Civil War.* Perhaps the most poignant story recalls April 8, 1863, when President Lincoln sat on a horse for more than five hours as 60,000 men passed by in a review. Lincoln constantly touched his tall hat in a return salute to the officers, but uncovered his head when enlisted men passed.



*Photo Courtesy of
Stafford Tourism*

*Visit www.Stafford350.com for sign locations



Message from the Chairman

Abraham Lincoln, called by many one of our nation's greatest presidents, visited Stafford County six times in 1862 and 1863. As part of Stafford's 350th anniversary, we dedicated a plaque at the Government Center memorializing one of his visits. Lincoln's legacy of unrelenting persistence and an iron resolve to preserve the Union catapulted him into mythological stature. It also helped to set the stage for subsequent acts of courage, one of which took place in Stafford, with reverberations across the region.

In 1961, Doretha and Cynthia Montague, students at the all-black Stafford Training School (now the Rowser Building) successfully entered the all-white Stafford Elementary School. Afterwards, school systems in the Fredericksburg region desegregated.

Last year, we received approval for the Rowser Building to be included on the National Register of Historic Places. In October,

we unveiled a Virginia Historical Highway Marker at Rowser to commemorate the persistence and courage that Rowser so passionately symbolizes.

Rowser once housed County government offices. The years took their toll on the building and in 2003, the County had plans to renovate it. It would have been the easy thing to do to tear Rowser down and rebuild a modern office building. We didn't pick the easy route, and today we have a fully functioning office building, senior center, community facility, and we've saved a part of our history.

On November 1, Rowser was once again in the spotlight. We celebrated the African American experience in Stafford with the Trail to Freedom and the unveiling of the History Wall at Rowser, which features prominent African Americans, chronicling the historic journey to find freedom.

In his Gettysburg Address, Lincoln urged Americans to carry on the work of freedom so that those who fought for it would not have died in vain. "It is for us the living, rather, to be dedicated here to the unfinished work which they who fought here have thus far so nobly advanced," he said.

Preserving who we were to help chart the course for who we want to be; Stafford County does this well. Lincoln would be proud.



Chairman of the Board of Supervisors Jack Cavalier greets players at the opening of Chichester Park in September.

*Jack Cavalier
Chairman of the Stafford Board of Supervisors*

There's Still Time to Enjoy the 350th!

When citizens receive this magazine, two months of the 350th Anniversary will remain. While the marquee events - Celebrate Stafford 350, Founders Day, Celebration Stage, Wings and Wheels, Trail to Freedom and the Rowser History Wall unveiling - have concluded, there are still lots of fun programs to enjoy. If you like looking for treasures with a GPS, there are 10 official 350th geocaches waiting for you to find. You can visit the Rowser Building at 1739 Jefferson Davis Highway and view the recently unveiled 40-foot long African-American History Wall and the commemorative 350th

Anniversary brick garden. Become a Stafford Trailblazer by picking up a scavenger hunt booklet at the library and visiting Stafford's historical sites.

Attend the world premier of the 350th Anniversary Legacy Film on Monday, December 1, 2014, from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at Mountain View High School. And it's never too late to "Tell Your Stafford Story." Visit Ferry Farm and you can be filmed talking about your experience in Stafford. For more information, visit www.stafford350.com.





More Offerings Planned for Stafford Parks

Stafford's baseball and softball players are enjoying expanded field offerings and this time next year, Stafford's football, soccer, and lacrosse players will as well.

Chichester Park

Chichester Park held a soft opening coinciding with Stafford Baseball League's opening day on September 13. The park, named after the Chichester family, features five diamond fields, four of which are baseball and softball fields. Hundreds of parents and players came out to see members of the Board of Supervisors, the Chichester family and other special guests cut the ribbon to signal the park's opening.



Players watch as Dan Chichester prepares to throw out the first pitch at Chichester Park.

Curtis Park

Last summer, Stafford unveiled the newly renovated Curtis Park pool to members of the Curtis family, citizens and members of swim teams.

Embrey Mill

A groundbreaking was held August 19, 2014, for the indoor recreational center at Embrey Mill Park. The center will feature workout rooms, classrooms and three pools, including a 50 meter by 25 yard competition pool. The park's rectangular field complex has an 11-field capacity but plans call for six fields initially, four of which will be turf fields. The fields and indoor recreation center are scheduled to be finished by Fall 2015.

Belmont-Ferry Farm Trail

Design plans are almost complete for Phase IV of the Belmont-Ferry Farm Trail, which connects Pratt Park to the riverfront at the Chatham Bridge. All of these projects, excluding the indoor recreation center, are initiatives of the 2009 Parks Bond referendum approved by Stafford's citizens.



**Area 11
Special Olympics**
Formerly Stafford Volunteer
Fire Department

**FINEST CHRISTMAS
ARTS & CRAFTS
SHOW & SALE**

November 22, 2014
9:30 a.m.-3:00 p.m.

Brooke Point High School
Route 630 East (Courthouse Road)
Stafford, Virginia

SNACK BAR – DOOR PRIZES
Lots of hand crafted gift ideas!

SANTA – 10 a.m. to 12 p.m.

Admission \$2 (children 12 and under free)

If interested in being a vendor contact Tim Doyle,
540-219-3340
tpdva01@yahoo.com

All proceeds benefit Area 11 Special Olympics



Relationship with Quantico Integral to Planning

Planning for any community can be challenging, but when you have to factor in the effect of a major military installation on the activities of your community, it becomes even more tricky. Stafford County has an excellent working relationship with Marine Corps Base Quantico, which is situated in the northern part of the County, making planning a little easier.

Stafford and three localities, Quantico, Prince William and Fauquier, recently completed a Joint Land Use Study (JLUS) with Quantico. The purpose of the study was to improve the quality of life in local communities while protecting the overall mission of the base.

The localities examined the types of activities that affect different areas around the base. This helped them plan for development and how to address current issues with roads and neighborhoods. Public meetings were held to obtain community input. The study was produced with recommendations on how to better utilize areas adjacent to Quantico. Stafford helps preserve buffer areas around the base by promoting a Purchase of Development Rights program that pays property owners for development rights to land used as a buffer.

For more information on the JLUS study, visit www.staffordcountyva.gov. Click on the *Boards and Commissions* link.



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Familiarity with AEDs Can Save a Life

Did you know that sudden cardiac arrest is one of the leading causes of death in the United States according to the Red Cross? An automated external defibrillator (AED) is an effective treatment for restoring a regular heart rhythm. For each minute defibrillation is delayed, the chances of survival are decreased by 10 percent.

AEDs Are Easy to Use.

AEDs are not just for paramedics. They are designed for anyone to use them. All devices have simple written or audio instructions included. Users are simply asked to stick two pads on a person's chest and press the start button on the AED. The machine measures the person's heart rhythm and determines if a shock is needed. The machine also warns bystanders to step away. It's important to note that there are special pads for children under eight, although the American Heart Association

recommends using adult size pads if child-size pads are not available.

Users should not be afraid to help someone. State and federal "Good Samaritan" laws provide protection for untrained bystanders who respond to emergencies.

Stafford Was Designated a Heart Safe Community.

AEDs are one reason Stafford was designated the first Heart Safe Community in the Commonwealth through the Office of EMS and the Rappahannock EMS Council earlier this year. The International Association of Fire Chiefs also bestowed its annual Heart Safe Community Award on Stafford for our efforts to prevent and treat cardiac-related diseases.

Where Can You Find AEDs in Stafford?

Stafford County has AEDs in visible locations in government buildings, schools and parks. Each school has anywhere from two to five AEDs. In the parks, AEDs should be visible from the walkways and are marked on any park maps. Take a moment to familiarize yourself with the location of AEDs. You just might save a life.



AED on the Third Floor of the Government Center

*CPR classes cover the use of AEDs. Visit the Red Cross website, www.redcross.org, or the Mary Washington Healthcare site, www.marywashingtonhealthcare.com, to find a class.

{ FREE TAX PREPARATION & FINANCIAL SERVICES }

If your 2014 household income was less than \$60,000, you are eligible for free tax services and if you worked you may be eligible to claim and receive the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) of up to \$6,143.

Visit one of Rappahannock United Way's Free Tax Sites open January-May 2015. For tax site locations and schedule log onto: WWW.RUWFREETAXES.ORG

OR FILE YOUR TAXES ONLINE FOR FREE

www.myfreetaxes.com/Fredericksburg

Questions?
(540)373 -0041 ext. 300



Did You Know...

The County's third reservoir, formerly known as Rocky Pen Run, has been renamed Lake Mooney by the Board of Supervisors in honor of Deputy Sheriff Jason Edward Mooney, who died in the line of duty on October 19, 2007. The reservoir has been filled to 1.2 billion gallons of its eventual 5.5 billion gallons of water. Future plans call for stocking the lake with fish and allowing boats without gasoline engines. Lake Mooney is projected to meet the water needs of Stafford County well into the future.



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, parks info, cancellations and weather updates. Stafford Alert is a free service.



Facebook—Stafford County Government

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



Twitter—@staffordvagov

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



YouTube - Stafford County

videos relevant to Stafford County activities

Call 911 for Emergencies

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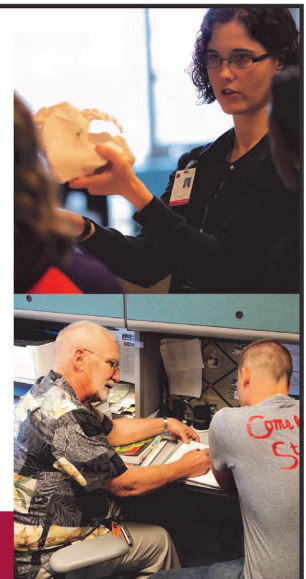
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