

**Parks and Recreation Activities Brochure Inside!**

# STAFFORD *Virginia*

**At Last...  
Summer!**

Stafford County's  
News & Information  
Magazine  
Summer 2014





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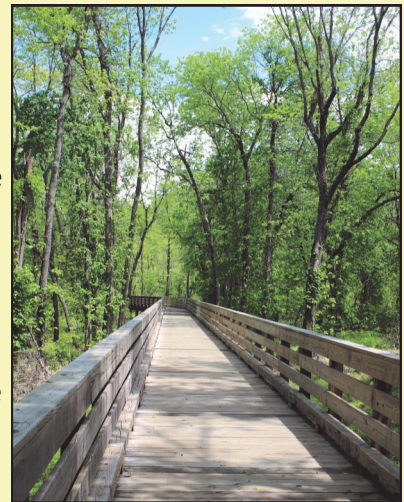
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## On the Cover

Lovely Government Island is featured on the cover.

Located at 191 Coal Landing Road in Stafford, Government Island is a 17-acre Stafford County park where Aquia sandstone was quarried to build the U.S. Capitol and the White House. The stone was hand chiseled and the marks are still visible on the stone on the island. The elevated boardwalk in the photo provides access



to the island and views of Aquia Creek. The island itself features a nature trail along the water's edge where visitors can see wildlife and their habitats. The park is open every day from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m., from mid-March through October 31, and from 8:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., from November 1 through mid-March.



## Message from the Chairman

**A**h, summer, we never thought you would make it here! After an especially challenging winter, I'm sure that everyone will want to spend as much time outdoors as possible. Stafford County is fortunate to have beautiful parks for you and your family to enjoy – from the history-filled Government Island and Civil War Park to the leisurely Belmont-Ferry Farm Trail and the pristine Crow's Nest. There's something for everyone.

Stafford County continues to work on enhancing your parks and recreation experience with new amenities and improvements to our existing facilities. In 2008, the Board of Supervisors adopted the Parks and Recreation Facilities Plan, which identified park improvement needs. In 2009, our citizens approved the Parks and Recreation Bond Referendum, which authorized the Board to sell general obligation bonds for park projects. We are making good progress on these projects, a few of which I'd like to mention in this column. Embrey Mill Park will feature up to 11 rectangular fields and is scheduled to open for public use in the Summer of 2015. Embrey Mill Park will also be home to a 76,000 square foot recreation facility that will include an Aquatic Center with three pools, stadium seating, a workout room, aerobics area, spinning room, gym area with two basketball courts, locker area, classrooms and a limited food service area. The Indoor Recreation Facility is expected to be open for public use in the Fall of 2015.

Chichester Park is also under construction and will feature a five-field baseball/softball complex. It is expected to open for

public use in the Fall of 2014.

At Curtis Park, one of our most popular parks, we are renovating the main pool and the wading pool, both of which will be ready for public use by this year's Memorial Day Weekend.

The Belmont-Ferry Farm Trail will also see enhancements. The next phase of this project will extend the existing asphalt trail from Stafford's 350<sup>th</sup> Celebration Stage at John Lee Pratt Memorial Park to the Chatham Bridge, with a connection to the sidewalk that crosses the bridge, adding another 2,100 linear feet to the two-mile trail. The current projected completion date of this project is 2016. You'll be able to enjoy the 350<sup>th</sup> Celebration Stage this year. That project, which will be Stafford's first covered amphitheater, will offer opportunities for performing arts, theatrical and dance events, concerts, movies and other large-scale events. Celebration Stage is scheduled to open on June 25, 2014.

Whether you want to run, walk, bike, ride, swim, or play a sport, you can do it right here in Stafford County. As the motto of our Parks Department states, all you have to do is "come play with us!"



*Jack Cavalier*

*Chairman of the Stafford Board of Supervisors*

### Stafford by the Numbers:

- **1** Airport
- **1** Tech & Research Park
- **2** Libraries
- **7** Voting Districts
- **22** Parks
- **22** Transportation Projects
- **30** Schools
- **350** Years of History
- **2,357** Businesses
- **135,141** Citizens



*Falmouth Intersection Groundbreaking*



# Falmouth Intersection and Roads Update

Solving transportation issues to improve the lives of Stafford's citizens is a priority for the Board of Supervisors. Stafford has many ongoing projects designed to relieve traffic congestion and make roads safer.

### Falmouth Intersection

Stafford County and some special guests celebrated the beginning of a project to improve the Falmouth Intersection at a groundbreaking on March 20, 2014. The \$22.4 million Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) project will widen the four-way intersection and create space for new turn lanes and through lanes. The project is scheduled to be complete in 18 months.

### I-95 Express Lanes

VDOT is changing the existing HOV lanes into express lanes and extending them from Edsall Road in Fairfax County to Garrisonville Road. The express lanes are designed to improve traffic flow and make travel time more predictable between here and Washington, D.C. The project is scheduled to be finished in early 2015.

### Route 17 Widening Project

VDOT is widening U.S. Route 17 between McLane Drive and Stafford Lakes Parkway from four to six lanes, a distance of approximately two miles. Due to be finished by the end of 2016, the project's aim is to improve traffic flow for area residents, visitors, and promote easier access to businesses by the construction of new through lanes and turn lanes.

### 2008 Transportation Bond Projects

Stafford is involved in two Public-Private Transportation Act projects: widening Garrisonville Road between Onville Road and Eustace Road; and Truslow Road improvements between Plantation Drive and Berea Church Road. The Garrisonville project should be complete in June of 2017 and the Truslow Road Project is on schedule to be finished in June 2016.



***The Falmouth Intersection Improvements Groundbreaking*** - Pictured L to R: Supervisor Cord Sterling; Supervisor Meg Bohmke; Supervisor Bob Thomas; Speaker of the House Bill Howell; Virginia Secretary of Transportation Aubrey Lane; Commissioner of VDOT Charles Kilpatrick; Marcie Parker, Fredericksburg VDOT Acting Administrator; local historian Jane Conner; and Harry Lee, former Fredericksburg VDOT Assistant District Manager.

Stafford has several safety improvement projects recommended by the Youth Driver Task Force. The following projects, due to be finished in two years, are designed to make roads safer for all drivers: Mountain View Road between Rose Hill Farm Road and Joshua Road; Brooke Road between Stagecoach Road and Eskimo Hill Road; Poplar Road between Truslow Road and Kellogg Mill Road; and the Poplar Road and Mountain View Road intersection.

**The Youth Driver Task Force was created by the Board of Supervisors in 2004 to conduct a review of vehicular safety within Stafford. The study took into account road design, weather conditions, driving experience and public awareness.**

For a detailed list of all road projects, status updates and completion dates, please visit the Stafford County website at [www.staffordcountyva.gov](http://www.staffordcountyva.gov) and click on "Road Projects" on the home page.





## In the Pipeline... Community Projects Underway

### 2014



*Grafton Village Elementary*

- Chichester Park
- Grafton Village Elementary School Renovation
- Rocky Pen Run Reservoir
- Trailblazing Signs
- Courthouse Streetscape

- Crow's Nest Nature Preserve
- Interstate 95 Express Lanes From Garrisonville Road to Beltway
- Staffordboro Commuter Parking Lot
- Curtis Park Pool Renovations
- 350th Celebration Stage at Pratt Park

### 2015



*Chichester Park  
Concession Building*

- Mountain View Road Safety Improvements, Phase I
- Embrey Mill Park/Indoor Recreation Center
- Mountain View Road Safety Improvements, Phase II
- Falmouth Intersection Improvements
- Second Right Turn Lane at Route 1

and Garrisonville Road

- Poplar Road Improvements, Phase I
- Corporate Center Boulevard
- Belmont-Ferry Farm Trail Phase 4, Pratt Park to the Chatham Bridge
- Poplar Road Improvements, Phase II and Phase III
- Garrisonville Road/Onville Road Turn Lane Improvement
- Stafford High School

### 2016



*Work on Mountain View  
Road*

- Truslow Road Improvements
- Brooke Road Safety Improvements
- Ferry Road Improvements

- Route 17 Widening
- Garrisonville Road Widening
- Enon Road Widening
- Courthouse Road West Widening





# Parade, Fine Arts Festival and History Square Headline Founders Day on May 3, 2014

Stafford is set to celebrate one of the most momentous days in its history - Founders Day, on Saturday, May 3, 2014. Founders Day is extra special this year as 2014 marks Stafford's 350th Anniversary. Founders Day, organized by the North Stafford Rotary Club, will feature a hometown parade beginning near Stafford Hospital and ending at Brooke Point High School, historical re-enactments, Stafford County Schools Fine Arts Festival, and Via Colori street painting demonstrations. The parade will start at 9:00 a.m. and the Fine Arts Festival will begin at noon at Brooke Point High School. The Fine Arts Festival and History Square will also be open on Sunday, May 4, from noon to 5:00 p.m.

The schedule for the weekend follows:

### Friday, May 2

Setup begins at Brooke Point High School and Stafford Hospital

### Saturday, May 3

6:00 a.m.	Partial closure of Courthouse Road (One lane in each direction will be closed)
8:00 a.m.	Full Closure of Courthouse Road for Parade
8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.	Satellite Parking Shuttles
9:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.	Parade
12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m.	Partial Opening of Courthouse Road
1:00 p.m.	Courthouse Road Re-opens
12:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.	Fine Arts Festival and History Square

### Sunday, May 4

11:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.	Satellite Parking Shuttles
12:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.	Fine Arts Festival and History Square

Founders Day marks the second major event of Stafford's anniversary year. Other major events include: Celebration Stage Opening, June 25; Wings and Wheels, October 18; and Trail to Freedom Tour/Rowser African-American History Wall Opening, November 1.

For up-to-the-minute information on Founders Day activities and satellite parking locations, as well as future events, please visit [www.Stafford350.com](http://www.Stafford350.com). Interested individuals can also sign up to receive a free monthly e-newsletter on the site. Additional information can be found on Facebook at Stafford County 350 Anniversary, Twitter @StaffordCo350 or by emailing [info@stafford350.com](mailto:info@stafford350.com).

6 SUMMER 2014 Dial 311 for info. or visit [www.staffordcountyva.gov](http://www.staffordcountyva.gov).

## Thank You to Our 350th Anniversary Sponsors

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## Tell Your Stafford Story



Do you have a story to tell about your experiences in Stafford County? Whether you are a longtime resident, a newcomer, or a visitor, we want to hear your story. The George Washington Foundation is partnering with Stafford County to collect oral histories on video to celebrate our 350th Anniversary. Stories may be filmed at George Washington's boyhood home or other locations throughout the County. The Foundation is partnering with the Central Rappahannock Regional Library to archive the "Tell Your Stafford Story" videos for use by citizens and genealogists. To find out more, visit the 350th Anniversary website at [www.Stafford350.com](http://www.Stafford350.com) or the George Washington Foundation website at [www.kenmore.org](http://www.kenmore.org).

## Library Programs a Highlight of the 350th

With topics as diverse as dinosaurs, Quaintico, and the Civil War experiences of Stafford's citizens, the Central Rappahannock Regional Library (CRRL) is partnering with the 350th Anniversary to bring a



wonderful **"History Lecture Series"** to residents and visitors. The lectures run every month through November. Most take place at the Porter or England Run libraries. Speakers include: local historians Jane and Al Conner; longtime Commonwealth's Attorney Dan Chichester; local historians Jerilynn Eby MacGregor; and John Hennessy, National Park Service historian. The CRRL is also facilitating a **"Geocaching Youth Project,"** with classes on geocaching available in May. What is geocaching? Geocaching involves using a GPS to find hidden treasures or "caches." The classes are free and GPS units will be available on loan for citizens. For more information on the History Lecture Series or the Geocaching Youth Project, please visit [www.Stafford350.com](http://www.Stafford350.com).

## Stafford Online

**Official Website—**[www.staffordcountyva.gov](http://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](http://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.



**Pinterest .....Stafford County, VA**

Pictures and information about Stafford County.

## Did You Know?

That by 2015, Stafford County's total park acreage will be 1,572 acres? This includes Chichester Park and the Park at Embrey Mill, both of which will be open by 2015. Stafford's park system includes 22 parks and several pools, including Woodlands, Curtis Park and the Indoor Recreation Center at Embrey Mill, opening in 2015. Many of our parks have scenic trails and fishing opportunities. The Belmont-Ferry Farm Trail is a beautiful two-mile hike through three different parks - the Historic Port of Fal-mouth, St. Clair Brooks Park and Pratt Park. Take a pick of one of our wonderful parks and enjoy your summer!



**Call 311  
for General Government Information**

**Call 911 for Emergencies**





## Stafford County's 350th Anniversary Buy-a-Brick Campaign

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PERMIT NO. 3009

Your donation of \$350 will help support the Trail to Freedom Tour and the Rowser African American History Wall, along with other programs and events, as a part of the lasting legacy and continued celebration of Stafford County's 350th Anniversary. To commemorate your gift, a personalized engraved brick will be installed at the Rowser Building, a county owned property just south of the Courthouse (known as the former Stafford Training School - the only high school serving African American students in Stafford prior to 1961). Join more than 60 others partners, sponsors and brick purchasers who have already joined this permanent memorial effort! Remember: Multiple families, friends or even a neighborhood can join efforts to buy one brick! **The DEADLINE to make your purchase is July 1, 2014.**

**Please print the following information and return this completed form with your donation:**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Is this donation designated to fulfill part of a church's pledge? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

If yes, church's name: \_\_\_\_\_

**Use the boxes below for your personalized message on your brick. Include an empty box for spaces between words.**


Donations may be tax deductible and should be made payable to: **Stafford County 350th Anniversary Fund**

Please return this form with your accompanying check to:

**Stafford County 350th Anniversary**

**P.O. Box 1463**

**Stafford, VA 22555**

Donations can also be made online at:

**[www.stafford350.com](http://www.stafford350.com)**

We gladly accept Discover Card, Visa and Mastercard.

*Thank you again for your generous donation and continued support of the 350th Anniversary Celebration!*

**Thank you for your patronage!**