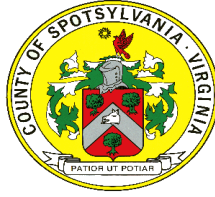


County of Spotsylvania

Founded 1721

Board of Supervisors

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Service, Integrity, Pride

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
FOR PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENTS AND PUBLIC CALENDARS**

**SPOTSYLVANIA OFFERS AFRICAN AMERICAN HERITAGE TRAIL
EXPERIENCE, AND AVAILABLE APP**

**John J. Wright Museum Hosting
AAHT Ribbon Cutting, Scheduled for June 20th**

Spotsylvania, VA – May 20, 2015 -- Spotsylvania County has created an African American Heritage Trail (AAHT) for enhancing public education about, local pride in and appreciation for the County's African American contributions to County history. This driving trail will encourage citizens and visitors to explore, learn, appreciate and preserve the County's local African American historical resources. The County was able to put this project together with a Preserve America Grant from the National Park Service.

Approximately 41 sites were designated as having historical significance around the County. Of the 41 sites, a site selection committee narrowed down the actual Trail stopping points to *11 sites*. These 11 sites combine 23 historic African American events, people or places. Also, the County's GIS staff created a Trail app, which is available at http://gis.spotsylvania.va.us/tour_AAHT/#

In addition, the John J. Wright Educational and Cultural Center Museum located in Spotsylvania is on mission to celebrate Spotsylvania by collaborating with individuals and organizations to collect, archive, share and facilitate learning about the interactive history of education, cultures and civic life of the County's African American citizens, demonstrating how those interactions within the wider population contributed to the richness of Spotsylvania County's development.

The John J. Wright Educational and Cultural Center Museum will be hosting a ribbon cutting for the African American Heritage Trail on Saturday, June 20, 2015, at 10 a.m. The ribbon cutting will be at the AAHT signs located on the west end of the parking lot of the John J. Wright Educational and Cultural Center, 7565 Courthouse Rd., Spotsylvania, VA 22551. Welcoming and opening remarks will be offered by Reverend Garcia, Chairman, John J. Wright Museum Board of Directors, followed by remarks from Ms. Cleo Coleman, a member of the AAHT Committee and a County historian. Local dignitaries and leaders will also be on-hand. A reception and light refreshments will be available in the John J. Wright Museum. RSVPs would be welcome at 540-582-7583 x 5545.

For additional County information : www.spotsylvania.va.us
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