

# The Spotsylvania CONNECTION



Spring/Summer 2016

## YOU ARE INVITED TO A TRULY "SPECTACULAR" INDEPENDENCE DAY PARTY!

The Spotsylvania Parks & Recreation Department is pleased to announce that it will be hosting the 12<sup>th</sup> Annual Spotsylvania Stars and Stripes Spectacular on Saturday, July 2<sup>nd</sup>. The free event will kick off at 3:00 p.m. in the Spotsylvania Courthouse area, ending after fireworks. *(The rain date, if needed, will be July 3<sup>rd</sup>.)*

### WE'RE FAMILY FRIENDLY...

In case you've missed it in past years – the Stars and Stripes Spectacular is a great, family event that features three stages with live music, numerous free children's activities and a huge selection of food vendors. Spotsylvania's amazing fireworks show, brought to you by W.J. Vakos Companies, will begin at approximately 9:20 p.m. – don't miss this "spectacular display!"



### ATTENTION, MUSIC LOVERS...

On Saturday evening, the Sullivan, Donahoe & Ingalls Main Stage, located behind Robert E. Lee Elementary School, will feature the Bittersweet Band from 4:30 until 6:30, and the US Army Downrange Band from 7:00 until 9:00. There will also be a Bluegrass Stage and the Spotsylvania Courthouse Village Family Stage, both hosting multiple talented acts for your listening pleasure. Guests are encouraged to bring a chair or blanket, sit back and relax (or bring your dancing shoes and get up and boogie!) and enjoy wonderful entertainment.

### RIDES, INFLATABLES, GAMES, DEMONSTRATIONS...

The 12<sup>th</sup> Annual Stars and Stripes Spectacular will also offer a large variety of children's activities to the Spotsylvania and area community. Fourteen free rides and inflatables, conveniently located between the Merchant Square Pavilion and the Spotsylvania Courthouse, will include some popular favorites like Bumper Cars, Bungee Run, Fire House Dog Obstacle Course, a giant Shark Slide, and the Wrecking Ball. Children can also test their skills on a mechanical Rodeo Bull, or go on a high-flying adventure on the Monkey Motion Air Extreme. The Spotsylvania Sheriff's Office will be onsite with demonstrations, games, information, and – maybe even a snake or two from Animal Control! All children's rides and activities will be running from 3:00 p.m. until 8:00.

### FOOD CHOICES FOR ALL...

A wide variety of food vendors will be on location to serve an assortment of fair food which will please taste buds. Long-time Stars and Stripes vendors, Wright's Delights and Knights of Columbus, will bring classic, ballpark options with their grilled hotdogs, hamburgers, French fries and fried fish. Those with a sweet-tooth may find what they need at Olde Time Lollipops and Candy, Funnel Cake Café or Fun Time Ice Cream – specialties include funnel cakes, ice cream, shaved ice, ribbon fries and cotton candy. If you are feeling adventurous, be sure to check out a new vendor, Gator Jack, for gator bites, gator tail, pomme frites, beignets and even gator shine!

## WELCOME to the Spotsylvania Connection!

Please let your friends and neighbors know that we have re-launched this publication as another means of connecting everyone in our great community, and as an additional way of providing valuable, useful information to County residents. This is an ongoing work in progress – your questions, suggestions and comments are welcomed!

Contact us at:

[ksmith@spotsylvania.va.us](mailto:ksmith@spotsylvania.va.us)

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## GREAT NEWS for VETERANS and OUR WHOLE COMMUNITY!

The Veteran Affairs Medical Center officially opened the doors to its new outpatient clinic in Spotsylvania at a ribbon cutting ceremony on Friday, May 20<sup>th</sup>! The 10,000-square-foot facility will provide much-needed relief to the older and more crowded location nearby in Fredericksburg. The new site is located at Lee's Hill Medical Plaza near Mary Washington Hospital's Emergency and Outpatient Center in Southpoint. The clinic includes twelve exam rooms, two specialty care rooms and a treatment room. Four teams of doctors, nurses and mental health professionals will be leaving the Fredericksburg facility to work at the new County location. With the addition of this new clinic, the region's veterans will now have access to a local full-time audiologist and will no longer need to make the trip to Richmond to have hearing tests done.

## FARMERS MARKETS IN SPOTSYLVANIA COUNTY OFFERING FRESH LOCAL PRODUCE, PLUS MUCH MORE!

Spotsylvania County boasts having the largest farmers market in the region, the Spotsylvania County Farmers Market, with two locations – **Saturdays, from 8 a.m. until 1 p.m. (now through December 17), in the Route 3-Gordon Road Commuter Lot,** and **Wednesdays, from 2 p.m. until 6 p.m. (now through September 7) in the Spotsylvania Regional Medical Center parking lot.** With over 60 vendors between the two locations, the Spotsylvania Farmers Markets have served as a place for local farmers and food producers to sell their wares directly to the community for 17 years. Each market location has easy access to a wide variety of farm-fresh products, from fruits and vegetables to plants, seafood, eggs, cheeses, bread, honey – and more! Be sure to stop in – to buy fresh and buy local!



**SPECTACULAR ... continued from page 1**

### SHOPPING, OR INFORMATION...

Numerous civic organizations and business vendors will be in the mix too. Shop for LulaRoe leggings, see Martial Arts performances or get free water from some of our generous local churches. Get safety information from Spotsylvania Volunteer Fire & Rescue (and please share a "thank you" with them, for their service).

### HONORING MILITARY...

The 12<sup>th</sup> Annual Spotsylvania Stars and Stripes Spectacular will have a prominent, noteworthy presence of military and veterans support groups this year, in the Spotsylvania Courthouse Village area. Representatives from groups including Vets on Track, Blue Star Mothers, and Team Red, White and Blue will be happy to talk with all passing by about their missions and the services they provide. Stop by for a photo op, and maybe some additional surprises (hint...be on the lookout for the special Vets on Track car).

### PARKING AND SHUTTLE BUSES...

Free parking for the Stars and Stripes Spectacular is available behind the Spotsylvania Courthouse on Dean Ridings Lane. First-come, first-served \$5 parking is available in the Vakos field on the corner of Brock Road and Courthouse Road – all proceeds from this parking area will benefit the Fredericksburg Christian Health Clinic. A convenient, free shuttle bus service is again available from Courtland High School (located at 6701 Smith Station Road, Spotsylvania 22553) to drop attendees off in front of Robert E. Lee Elementary School, which is centrally located to all activities and displays.

Mark your calendars! Call your neighbors! Bring your families to the 12<sup>th</sup> Annual Spotsylvania Stars and Stripes Spectacular! You don't want to miss this fun-filled, family-friendly hometown celebration of Independence Day! Whether you bring your chair and relax in front of your favorite stage, or enjoy all of the rides and activities, there will be something for everyone at the Spectacular!



## ATTENTION SPOTSYLVANIA BUSINESS PARTNERS!

The Spotsylvania Department of Economic Development and Tourism is planning its first "Business Walk" for Tuesday, August 2<sup>nd</sup> from 9 a.m. until 12:30 p.m. The "Business Walk" will be dedicated to learning more about the County's local businesses through face-to-face interviews. Local Business Ambassador Volunteers will visit a sampling of businesses with the hopes of gathering the knowledge they need to help the community and strengthen relationships. This program aims to collect information that will aid in the development of strategies to help assist existing businesses within the County. An Orientation will take place on August 1<sup>st</sup> from 9:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. for the Business Ambassador volunteers. For further information, call 507-7210.



## Lidl, European Grocery Retailer, Coming to the County and the Commonwealth

One of Europe's most popular grocery retailers has chosen Spotsylvania County as the site of its first US distribution center. On June 12, 2015, Lidl announced it would be constructing a \$125 million distribution center off of Smith Station Road adjacent to Luck Stone's Spotsylvania Plant. In addition to the distribution center, the company has plans to build a \$77 million corporate headquarters in Arlington and retail stores across Virginia.

Lidl, a competitor of the grocery chain Aldi, currently operates almost 10,000 stores throughout 26 countries in Europe. Construction is currently underway for one of Lidl's planned local retail sites, at the corner of Gordon Road and State Route 3. Another site has been purchased by Lidl in Southpoint II, across from the Lowes. At this writing, the company has not provided a timeline of construction plans, but has said its first stores will open before 2018.

Governor Terry McAuliffe granted a total of \$7 million to help aid Arlington and Spotsylvania on the project. Five million dollars of the amount is funded from the Governor's Opportunity Fund, and the remaining \$2 million is funded from the Virginia Economic Development Incentive Grant. The new distribution center is expected to create at least 200 new jobs for the County.



## CONGRATULATIONS TO DR. PAULINO SAMBAT, 2016 GOVERNOR SPOTSWOOD AWARD RECIPIENT!

Spotsylvania resident and physician Dr. Paulino Sambat was chosen to receive the County's esteemed 2016 Governor Spotswood Award and honored at an Award Reception on June 16<sup>th</sup>. Family, friends, and many from the community and region helped celebrate the many years of medical practice excellence, volunteer service and community friendship that Dr. Sambat has contributed to Spotsylvania and the region.



He and his wife Perla, a Registered Nurse, were drawn to reside and practice in Spotsylvania County, which had not had a doctor in residence for six years up to their arrival in 1972. The successful concerted recruitment efforts to bring Dr. Sambat to the County by the Spotsylvania County Woman's Club were followed by the Club's continuing and strong support. The Club welcomed him and helped him get established through its fundraising efforts on behalf of his medical practice.

Dr. Sambat set up practice in 1972 in the historic Spotsylvania Courthouse area, later establishing his office on Falcon Drive. For years he maintained a primary care practice as a sole practitioner, offering service to citizens throughout the Spotsylvania and area community, while working nights at Mary Washington Hospital as an attending physician and surgeon. He has practiced medicine in the County for over 43 years, retiring from private practice at age 75 in January of 2016, but continuing to give back through increasing the hours of his already important volunteer medical practice at the Moss Free Clinic.

## SpotsyBusiness.com: Your Business Registration Roadmap

Starting, expanding, or relocating a business can be a complicated process. To help make the process smoother, the Spotsylvania Department of Economic Development and Tourism, in partnership with the Economic Development and Tourism Committee, has recently launched SpotsyBusiness.com, a free and unique online business tool for new, relocating, and expanding businesses. The website gives businesses an overview of forms that may be required for proper registration in the County, and provides contact information for any departments involved in the process. Users will be guided through a series of basic questions about their business to help identify the starting point for their particular business need.

Tom Rumora, Director of Economic Development and Tourism, reminds users, "The site does not issue or authorize any permits, licenses, or certificates, nor collect any fees or personal information from the visitor. It is a merely a resource for information and initial application forms in its current configuration."

Consulting an attorney, insurance agent and CPA/accountant is recommended to address specific questions and concerns.

SpotsyBusiness.com is just one of the many resources that the Department of Economic Development & Tourism provides to our local business community. Whether you're a new, existing, or prospective business, the department is here to help guide you to the tools you need for your business to succeed. Contact: 540-507-7210.



## FROM SPOTSYLVANIA FIRE, RESCUE AND EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT



As the summer season is upon us, with parties, celebrations and family gatherings, the Spotsylvania Department of Fire, Rescue and Emergency Management (FREM) takes this opportunity to remind you of a few safety tips for your outdoor events. According to the US Consumer Product Safety Commission's 2014 Annual Fireworks Report:

- Fireworks were involved in an estimated 10,500 injuries treated in US hospital emergency departments during calendar year 2014.
- An estimated 7,000 fireworks-related injuries (or 67 percent of the total estimated fireworks-related injuries in 2014) were treated in US hospital emergency departments during the 1-month special study period between June 20, 2014 and July 20, 2014.
- Children younger than 15 years of age accounted for 35 percent of the estimated 2014 injuries. Nearly half of the estimated emergency department-treated, fireworks-related injuries were to individuals younger than 20 years of age.
- Children 5 to 9 years of age had the highest estimated rate of emergency department-treated fireworks-related injuries.
- There were an estimated 1,400 emergency department-treated injuries associated with sparklers and 100 with bottle rockets.
- There were an estimated 1,400 emergency department-treated injuries associated with firecrackers.
- The parts of the body most often injured were hands and fingers (an estimated 36 percent); head, face, and ears (an estimated 19 percent); eyes (an estimated 19 percent); legs (an estimated 10 percent); and arms (an estimated 5 percent).
- Fifty-four percent of the emergency department-treated injuries were burns. Burns were the most common injury to all parts of the body, except the eyes, where contusions, lacerations, and foreign bodies in the eyes occurred more frequently.
- Approximately 83 percent of the victims were treated at the hospital emergency department and then released. An estimated 14 percent of patients were treated and transferred to another hospital or admitted to the hospital. (2014 Fireworks Annual Report, 2015)

**In an effort to keep your family safe, FREM recommends the following tips with regard to fireworks safety:**

- Never allow small children to hold sparklers, as their arms are too short to hold them at a safe distance. Give them a glow stick as these can be just as fun since they don't burn out. Sparklers can cause severe burns and can heat up to 1,200 degrees.
- Never wear loose clothing around fireworks.
- Never light fireworks indoors or near dry grass.
- Point fireworks away from homes, bushes, leaves and flammable substances.
- Stand several feet away from lit fireworks. Always have a bucket of water and/or extinguisher nearby.
- Seek medical attention in the event of severe burns or if a small child is injured by fireworks.

Rather than risk an injury or a trip to the emergency room, protect your family by attending a public fireworks display and leave the fireworks lighting to the professionals. **Be safe and enjoy your summer!**



## DOMINION RACEWAY UP AND RUNNING, DRAWING RACING FANS FROM HERE AND FAR

On April 16<sup>th</sup>, racing fans lined up to attend the first public event at Dominion Raceway, one of Spotsylvania's newest tourist attractions. Located just off Interstate 95 in Thornburg, the site puts Spotsylvania on the Nation's radar. The NBC Sports Network is airing at least one race this summer, bringing media attention to the County. The facility sits on more than 100 acres and offers a two-mile road course, a 4/10<sup>th</sup> mile oval track and a 1/8<sup>th</sup> mile drag strip. The track currently employs nine full-time and sixty part-time employees, and is expected to hire additional full-time staff in the near future. The new Raceway is anticipated to be a catalyst for increased development in the Thornburg area. Since the announcement of Dominion Raceway's construction, a Taco Bell and Best Western Plus have recently opened their doors nearby.



## A Note from the Treasurer's Office

The Treasurer's Office prepares, mails, and collects all tax bills for real estate and personal property located in Spotsylvania County. The Office is also the collection point for the majority of fees and taxes generated by or within the County, including water and sewer charges, business licenses, meals tax, local vehicle license fees, dog license fees, etc.



# Spotsylvania TREASURER'S OFFICE

The Spotsylvania Treasurer's Office is dedicated to serving our citizens in a professional, efficient and courteous manner. While June 6<sup>th</sup> tax collection is past, please keep in mind the following multiple options offered for fee and tax collection, for your future reference and convenience. We offer citizens the following options of making payments for personal property taxes, real estate taxes, and water and sewer bills:

- **In person** at 9104 Courthouse Road, Spotsylvania, VA 22553 during normal business hours of Monday – Friday, 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. (During the week prior to the tax deadlines of June 5<sup>th</sup> and Dec 5<sup>th</sup>, our office is open several nights until 7:00 p.m. for your convenience). Most accounts can be paid by either cash, check or credit and debit cards. There is a convenience fee for the use of credit or debit.
- **After normal business hours** at 9104 Courthouse Road, use the payment drop box located outside the left front of the Holbert Building.
- **By mailing payments** to Larry K. Pritchett, Treasurer, at PO Box 100, Spotsylvania VA 22553. Checks should be made payable to: "Treasurer of Spotsylvania County."
- **Online** at [www.spotsylvania.va.us](http://www.spotsylvania.va.us) – select BILL PAY. Most accounts may be paid with a check, at no charge, or by credit card, which includes a convenience fee. You will need your account number or customer number to pay online.
- **By telephone:** 1-844-443-8803, but note: currently, only Personal Property and Water/Sewer payments may be made by phone. You will need your account number or customer number for telephone payments.

Feel free to contact our office at any time at 540-507-7058 or by email at [treas@spotsylvania.va.us](mailto:treas@spotsylvania.va.us).

## Your Tax Dollars at Work

Your real estate tax bill is dependent upon the assessed value of your property and the tax rate set each year by the Board of Supervisors. Following months of budget analysis, preparation and public discussion, the Board adopted the County's Fiscal Year 2017 Budget and 2016 Tax Rates on April 12, 2016.

The FY 2017 Budget, with detailed information on revenues and expenditures, will be posted on the County's website in early July, and its availability will be widely advertised through print and social media.



\*\*Other\* includes Parks, Recreation & Cultural; Executive Services; Community Development; Judicial Administration; Voter Services; and Transportation

## JUST FYI...NEW VA LAW AFFECTS PROFFERS

### A Planning Department Update

A new law, effective July 1, 2016, will change the voluntary proffer system in Virginia for residential rezonings. A rezoning is a request by a property owner or developer to change the permitted use of their property. Typically a rezoning results in a greater number of homes and/or more intense use of the property than what was permitted. The proffer system is a way for developers voluntarily to offer cash or other means of mitigating the impact of the increased population on the County's public facilities. The new law limits the public facility types that can benefit from cash proffers to transportation, public safety, parks, and schools. It also limits the County from requesting or accepting any proffer that is considered an "unreasonable proffer," defined as any proffer that does not address an impact "specifically attributable" to the proposed new residential uses. This will require specific analysis of each rezoning proposal and the public facilities that serve it to determine impacts and what may be considered a reasonable proffer.



### A Note From the County Administrator –

Thanks for taking the time to check out this new edition of the Spotsylvania Connection.

There's always some excitement that goes with any fresh start, but this new Connection is especially well-timed to highlight and give some extra excitement to our upcoming Stars & Stripes Spectacular.

Spotsylvania County is blessed to have the support of the sponsors that are enabling the Spectacular to continue for another year. For myself and on behalf of my nearly 1,000 co-workers serving Spotsylvania County in your local government, please accept our invitation to the Spectacular at Spotsylvania Courthouse on Saturday, July 2<sup>nd</sup>. Come enjoy the family-friendly fun, the variety of live music, and the fireworks. Invite your friends and neighbors. Come meet some new friends, too. It is wonderful for our growing community (now over 130,000) to have this opportunity to gather and celebrate. I hope I'll see you there.

— Mark Taylor



Kathy Smith, Public Information Officer  
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#### Get connected, stay connected!

The website homepage at [www.spotsylvania.va.us](http://www.spotsylvania.va.us) leads to a wealth of useful information and details about Spotsylvania County ... a great place to be! Sign up for County Facebook and the SpotsyAlert system through the County icons on the homepage. Please note that the SpotsyAlert system is being upgraded and plans are to transfer names of those currently signed for SpotsyAlert into the revamped alert system. Thank you!

## Spotsylvania County



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