

# THE STAFFORD ROTARY HIGHLIGHTER

JUNE 8, 2022



## This Week's Speaker: Michael McLaughlin

Michael McLaughlin joined the Virginia Passenger Rail Authority (VPR) as its Chief Operating Officer (COO) in April of 2021. This followed the conclusion of successful negotiations between the Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation (DRPT), CSX, Amtrak, and VRE on the \$3.7 billion Transforming Rail in Virginia Program. As COO of the newly created VPR, McLaughlin oversees the Planning, Programming, and Design & Construction of rail activities.

Previously, McLaughlin was the Chief of Rail at DRPT, where he oversaw statewide rail planning and passenger and freight programs. Prior to joining DRPT, McLaughlin was the Deputy Chief of Staff at the Chicago Transit Authority, overseeing Planning, Infrastructure, Finance, and Government Relations for the nation's second-largest transit agency. He also worked on Capitol Hill for over 12 years as a senior transportation aide to Authorizing and Appropriations committee members in both the House and Senate.

McLaughlin resides in Mechanicsville, Virginia, with his wife Sarah and their five children. He holds his undergraduate degree from the University of Iowa and his Master's Degree in Public Policy from Indiana University.

## CLUB CALENDAR

### June Is Rotary Fellowship Month

- June 8 – Michael McLaughlin, VDRPT
- June 15- Club Assembly
- June 22 – Dr. Thomas Taylor, SCPS
- June 29 – Installation Banquet at Renato's
- July 13- Dr. Janet Gullickson, President of Germanna Community College
- Sept. 24 -25 – Via Colori



## June 1 Meeting

President Jake presided and welcomed visiting Rotarian John Atkins. PDG Sandy and PE Cherice submitted a proposal for a district grant for a project that will be working with Stafford Junction on developing an outdoor classroom. The Installation Banquet will be held on Wednesday evening, June 29 at Ristorante Renato. There is no charge for club members. The cost for guests will be \$25 each.

Our speaker on June 22 will be Dr. Taylor Stafford County Public Schools Superintendent. Interactors will be attending.

In a Via Colori update President Jake announced that the Stafford Museum and North Stafford Rotary had reinvested their entire share of the profit from the 2021 event as start-up funds for the 2022 event. Our board voted to reinvest one-half of our share. That will leave us some funds for projects this year.

## Classification Talk



Dylan gave his classification talk after two work related delays. It was definitely worth waiting for. He is a television news producer for Fox 45 in Baltimore. He began with a tribute to his station's popular traffic reporter (seen here with Dylan at Camden Yards) who died suddenly in mid-May.

Dylan is from Chicago. He's 28. He mentioned that he was adopted, a nice follow-up to Heather's talk. He attended Southern Illinois, but wasn't happy there. So he switched to Columbia College in Chicago.

He lives in Baltimore with his three cats. He began his television career in Rockford, Illinois. He took a career

detour for a few years when he became a flight attendant for American Airlines, a job he enjoyed - especially when he got to meet celebrities.

Fox 45 in Baltimore is a station owned by the Sinclair Broadcast Group. It is not owned by Fox News. They simply have an agreement to air Fox Entertainment shows. The news department has no relation with Fox News. Dylan described how new technology has reduced the number of technical support people required to put a show on the air.

He showed us views of the station control room and went through his work day step by step. He described the quick changes that needed to be made as breaking news or news anchors' adlibbing changed the flow of the show. Every second counts.

The Q&A session concentrated on how broadcasters evaluate facts and how they handle corrections.

Thank you, Dylan, for an interesting and entertaining classification talk.



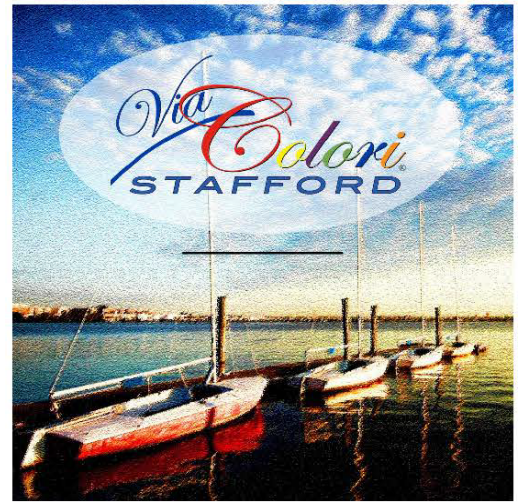
# September 24 & 25, 2022

## 9:00am-5:00pm

Join the magic of Stafford County !

Via Colori® Stafford is a free community festival that showcases the street painting wonder of 50+ local artists as they create masterpieces on the asphalt of the Hwy 630 East (exit 140), Courthouse Road commuter lots. During

the weekend, there will be food trucks, a children's creative area, music, community vendors, sponsor booths and thousands of guests. Businesses, groups, families and individuals are invited to sponsor an artist's square. Your name will be prominently posted by an artist's creation and on the *Square Sponsors* board and a Sponsor Table will be available for promotional materials (\$500 +). You will also be recognized during the event and provided a receipt for your 501(c)(3) donation.



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

Business/Group/Family Name : \_\_\_\_\_

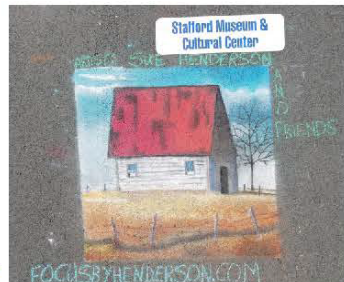
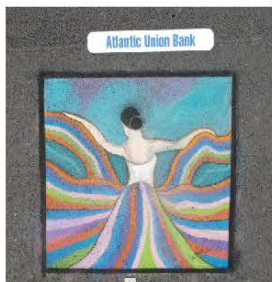
Sponsorship:  \$250 - 4'x 4' ft  \$500 - 6'x 6' ft  \$1000 - 10'x 10' ft

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

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

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Use QR code below or make checks payable to **North Stafford Rotary Foundation** with **Via Colori Stafford** noted in the memo section. Mail to 18 Vanburgh Ct Stafford, VA 22554 Questions: email [ViaColoriSales@gmail.com](mailto:ViaColoriSales@gmail.com)







## HOW WILL YOU GET INVOLVED?

When you get involved, it's not just your club and community that benefit. You benefit, too. As an active Rotarian, you'll make connections and develop skills while Doing Good in the World. You'll meet community leaders and tackle local and global issues that are important to you and your fellow club members. You'll feel the shared sense of purpose that comes from working together to better your community. When it comes to being an active Rotarian, the opportunities are endless.