

# THE STAFFORD ROTARY HIGHLIGHTER

August 23, 2023



Rotary  **People of Action**  
Club of Stafford

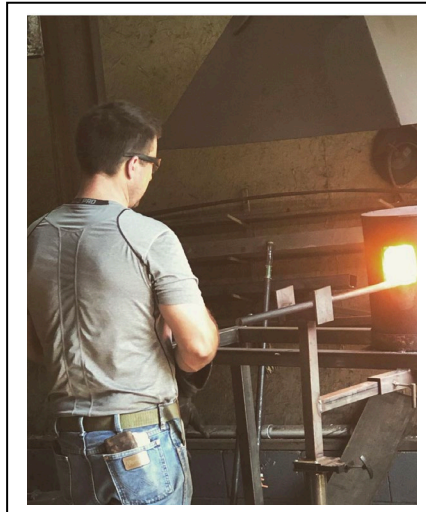
## August 23 - Farrier and Bladesmith Ben Pittman

Ben Pittman grew up in the heart of West Virginia where he discovered his love for horses, forging a deep connection to the land and nature that would shape his destiny. While visiting his grandparents' farm, Ben's early years were filled with the rhythm of hoofbeats and long hours in the hayfield.

In 1998, seeking new horizons, Ben left the familiar hills of West Virginia and ventured into the neighboring state of Virginia. Armed with determination, he found his calling, owning a farrier business. Through countless hours of hard work, skill honing, and a genuine love for the craft, Ben became a respected figure in the equestrian community. His dedication to the well-being of horses and his craftsmanship earned him a reputation that extended far beyond the fences of Virginia.

In 2018, a new chapter began when he delved into the art of bladesmithing. Drawing upon his experiences with metalworking and the lessons of his rural upbringing, Ben's transition from farrier to bladesmith seemed natural. With an unyielding commitment to excellence, he meticulously forged and shaped steel, breathing life into his creations.

The pinnacle of his bladesmithing journey came in 2021 when Ben Pittman was given the prestigious Best Damascus Award. This recognition was a testament to his mastery of the craft, showcasing his ability to transform raw materials into works of art that transcended mere tools. His knives were not just utilitarian objects; they were reflections of his passion, dedication, and relentless pursuit of perfection.



## Club Calendar August Is Membership and Extension Month

- ❖ August 23 - Farrier and Bladesmith Ben Pittman
- ❖ August 29 - Get together with potential new members.
- ❖ August 30 - Fundraiser for Maui all day at Paradise Diner - 5:30 - 9 pm - Club Social at Paradise Diner
- ❖ September 9 - Membership Summit
- ❖ September 23 & 24 - Via Colori, Stafford Regional Airport
- ❖ September 27, 3 pm - Social - Labeling dictionaries
- ❖ October 3 - National Night Out
- ❖ November 4 - District Rotary Foundation Seminar and Celebration Luncheon
- ❖ Feb. /March 2024 - District Grant Seminar - Feb/Mar 2024
- ❖ District Training Assembly - April 2024
- ❖ May 25-29, 2024 - Rotary International Convention in Singapore
- ❖ Fall, 2024 - District Conference

In 2022, Ben's journey reached another significant milestone as he was honored with the title of Journeyman Bladesmith by the American Bladesmith Society.

But Ben's ambitions did not stop at blades. In 2023, he embraced a new endeavor - a leather business that complemented his knives with custom-crafted sheaths and accessories. This expansion of his craftsmanship allowed him to explore new dimensions of creativity, uniting two ancient arts into a harmonious whole.

As he balances the heat of the forge with the precision of leatherwork, Ben Pittman continues to forge his legacy. His pieces not only demonstrate his technical skill but also carry the essence of his rural upbringing, his reverence for nature, and his unyielding dedication to quality.

Ben continues to shoe horses on a part time basis while reserving time to build his unique pieces of culinary art and create with leather. His desire to improve has steered him to many hours of education across the United States. Having met some incredible Mastersmith's along the way, Ben has enjoyed his journey thus far.



The story of Ben Pittman is one of transformation, determination, and unwavering passion. From the rolling hills of West Virginia to the halls of accolades and recognition, his journey serves as an inspiration to all who strive to turn their dreams into reality, one hammer blow at a time.

## August 16 Program



Our speaker was Lori Knowles. After she retired from the Stafford County Fire and Rescue Department with 27 years of service, Lori continued to volunteer at a local Rescue Squad. She is a representative of Damsel in Defense, a company whose mission is to help people protect themselves and their families from violent crime and to help rescue young girls from sex trafficking.





## Raise Funds for Maui Relief by Dining at Paradise Diner Any Time on August 30

Please join Stafford Rotary at  
**Paradise Diner,**  
260 Warranton Road  
Wednesday, 8/30, 5:30 - 9pm  
to raise emergency funds  
for Maui.

10% of all purchases go to relief  
efforts on the ground.

Maui  
Rotary  
Clubs

CREATE HOPE  
in the WORLD

Sending our aloha  
and prayers to  
our Maui 'ohana!

Rotary  
District 5000

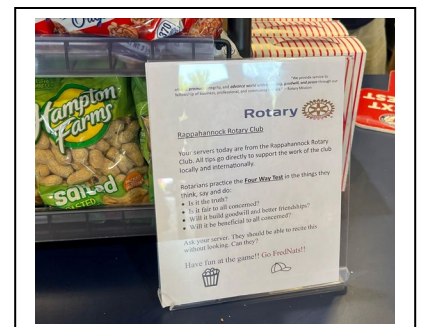
MAUI FIRE RELIEF FUND

**Mahalo !**

????? - email [staffordrotary7610@gmail.com](mailto:staffordrotary7610@gmail.com)



## Stafford and Other Area 4 Rotarians at End Polio Day at Fred Nats

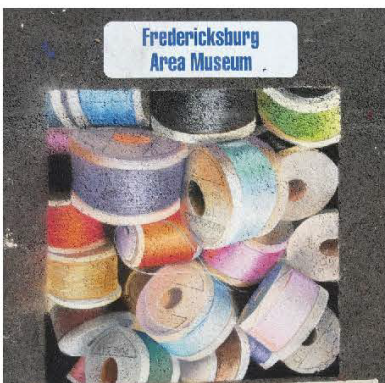




**September 23 & 24, 2023**  
**10:00am-5:00pm**  
**Stafford Regional Airport**  
**Artist Square Sponsorship Application**



*Join us ! Via Colori® Stafford* is a 2-day free community festival that showcases the street painting wonders of 75 local artists. Over the weekend, there will be food trucks, a children's creative area, music and performers, non-profit partners, sponsor booths, and thousands of guests. Businesses, groups, families and individuals are invited to sponsor an artist square. **Your sponsor name will be posted above an artist's creation and on the *Square Sponsors* board. A Sponsor Table will be available for your promotional materials inside the Artist/Sponsor tent, to which you will be welcome. A receipt for your 501(c)(3) donation will also be provided.**



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

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

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

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

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

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

Use the below QR code to reach the ***Become a 2023 Sponsor*** link, or complete this form. make your check payable to ***Stafford County Historical Society Inc*** with ***Artist Square Sponsorship*** noted in the memo section, and provide both to a team member. Email : [ViaColoriSales@gmail.com](mailto:ViaColoriSales@gmail.com) with questions.

