

Media Release

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From: Caroline County Board of Supervisors

Re: Ribbon Cutting, Meadow Event Park/State Fair of Virginia

Date: September 25, 2009

Percy Ashcraft, County Administrator

Ribbons were cut yesterday morning at the Meadow Event Park to inaugurate the new home of the State Fair of Virginia in Caroline County.

The business recruitment that began in early 2001 to bring the State Fair to the birthplace of Triple Crown Champion, Secretariat, Meadow Farm, was realized 9:00 AM this morning with multiple ribbon cuttings that opened the Fair and several permanent structures that will make the Fair grounds an impressive and rewarding experience for Fair goers.

The Caroline County Board of Supervisors was on hand for the opening ceremonies as well as members of the Caroline Industrial Development Authority and senior County staff. For Caroline County, Chairman, Wayne Acors and Vice-Chairman, Maxie Rozell cut the ceremonial tape to open the Fair.

From recruitment to Planning, to the development of infrastructure on the site, to health and security, Caroline officials have worked diligently to bring the Fair to Caroline and to assure that it will be the safest and most successful event site possible.

Caroline County made no proffers to secure the State Fair of Virginia, and infrastructure investment and development has not been a cost carried by Caroline County. The first financial return from the Fair to the County was realized with a fifteen million dollar highway upgrade of Rt. 30 which created four lanes to access the Meadow Event Park. The upgrades also serve to make Rt. 30 much safer for the traveling public throughout the year.

The State Fair of Virginia, by agreement with the locality, mentions, "Caroline County" in all of its advertising.

The State Fair of Virginia opening caps a series of Tourism development successes by Caroline County in the last few years. Caroline has added two premiere golf courses, the Virginia Sports Complex, a County Museum, a state of the art Visitor Center (also not paid for with General Funds), and tallied a five year expansion in Tourism spending that lead the Northern Virginia Region in growth percentage.

The Meadow Event Park will operate over 200 days a year with planned events.

The State Fair of Virginia will be open through October 4th in Caroline County.

To plan a visit to Caroline County, email or call:

Kathy Beard, Tourism Manager

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804.633.4074

For additional information:

Gary R. Wilson, Director

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Visitor Center, Carmel Church