

NEWS RELEASE



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TIGER READY TO GREET VISITORS TO NEW EXHIBIT AT ZOO

Norfolk, Va. – The newest resident at the Virginia Zoo is not an animal or plant, but it will greet every visitor to the new Asia – Trail of the Tiger exhibit, which is scheduled to open the first weekend in April.

“It really is an amazing statue,” said Greg Bockheim, executive director of the Virginia Zoo. “It’ll be an exciting welcome for visitors to Trail of the Tiger.”

The life-sized statue, by Matthew Gray Palmer of Friday Harbor, Wash., will be unveiled during the grand opening of Trail of the Tiger, Saturday, April 2. It is the centerpiece of finishing touches to the exhibit, and sits atop a reflective fountain surrounded by thatched-roofed pagodas at the exhibit entrance.

Palmer is the same artist who created "All Things Within All Things," the butterfly-elephant statue at the Zoo's entrance.



The Virginia Zoo's life-sized tiger statue, dedicated to the memory of Shaka and Shere Kahn, the Zoo's beloved Siberian tigers, will greet visitors to the new Asia – Trail of the Tiger exhibit (Virginia Zoo photo by Lori Cummings).



Artist Matthew Gray Palmer (left) is assisted in moving the Virginia Zoo's new tiger statue from the fountain after marking the position of its feet (Virginia Zoo photo by Greg Bockheim).



Artist Matthew Gray Palmer inserts one of the bolts that will secure the new tiger statue's feet to the fountain at the entrance to Asia – Trail of the Tiger at the Virginia Zoo (Virginia Zoo photo by Winfield Danielson).

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