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# The Stafford Newsletter



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Volume 29, Issue 2

April 2008

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## City is #36 on 100 Best Places in Nation to Live and Launch a Small Business

### **FORTUNE SMALL BUSINESS MAGAZINE NAMES STAFFORD TO PRESTIGIOUS LIST**

Sometimes fiscal responsibility, hard work and sound judgment take a while to be recognized. But, last month, City officials were pleasantly surprised with the receipt of, first a telephone call, and then a letter from New York:

“Congratulations! We are pleased to inform you that your city has been included in FORTUNE Small Business’ first-ever list of the 100 best places in America to live and launch a small business.”

In fact, Stafford wound up Number 36 in the nation. Other Texas towns in the elite group were Georgetown, Fort Worth and San Antonio.

In the words of the magazine, “We scoured the country for towns that combine a great business environment with alluring leisure opportunities...We build our list by assessing economic conditions, such as local tax rates and startup activity, alongside natural beauty, affordable housing, and easy access to such diversions as museums and hungry gamefish.”

Specifically referencing Stafford, the main article said “With energy markets booming, the Houston area (Stafford, No. 36) emerges on the list’s top half, ....”

At the time of the writing of this newsletter, City leaders, citizens and businesses alike were applauding this significant award.

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## Staffordians Vote for City/SMSD Officials at May 10 Joint Elections

### **CANDIDATES CAMPAIGN FOR POSITIONS**

Saturday, May 10, is Election Day in Stafford! Candidates have begun actively campaigning for three Stafford City Councilman positions and two Trustee positions on the Stafford Municipal School District Board.

Vying for the Council positions are incumbents Cecil Willis and Ken Mathew, former Alderman Victor Linares and newcomer Robert Sorbet. The three candidates receiving the largest number of votes will be elected to the three open Council positions. Councilman Mike Sachs who has served four terms has chosen not to seek reelection.

Cindy Hoelscher, who was appointed to fill an unexpired term, and

Rodney Butler, Virginia Rosas and Felix Vega are seeking the two open SMSD Board seats that carry three-year terms. Incumbent Hector Acevedo is not seeking reelection.

On Election Day, City Hall will be the sole polling place and precinct for both the City and School elections. Polls will be open from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.

For the first time, early voting will be conducted at the SMSD Administration Building as well as at City Hall, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. each weekday commencing Monday, April 28, through Tuesday, May 6. Extended early voting will be only at City Hall with the polls open on Monday and Tuesday, May 5 and 6, from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.

## Routine Call Leads to Near Fatal Attack

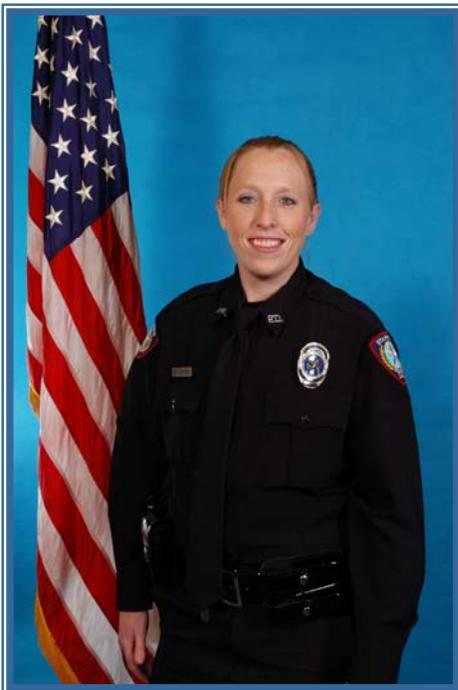
# OFFICER LESLIE CLAUNCH RECOVERING FROM STAB WOUND

It was supposed to be a response to a routine call where a patron of the Stafford Lanes had become inebriated and disorderly.

Officers Leslie Claunch and Kristi Hill responded to that call on February 22. After handcuffing the unruly patron and taking him into custody, Officer Claunch was attacked by Ginger Fisher, a friend of the arrested patron. Ms. Fisher stabbed Officer Claunch from behind, which resulted in a wound that deflated her right lung. Fortunately, in addition to receiving assistance in overpowering the outraged attacker from other police

officers, employees of the establishment also went to Leslie's aid.

Leslie was transported by ambulance to Memorial Hermann Texas Medical Center where she underwent surgery. A very tenuous and painful recovery period ensued. After a



stay in intensive care, she was moved to a room. However, extensive procedures were required to reinflate and stabilize her lung. The disorderly patron, Frederick Syrett, was released on a \$25,000 bond. Ms. Fisher remains in jail charged with attempted capital murder of a police officer and is being held under a \$500,000 bond. In spite of some very difficult days after the attack, Leslie is recovering at home while still undergoing physical therapy.

Sometimes it is easy to take for granted the jeopardy in which our fine men and women of the Police Department place themselves. Nothing better illustrates their exposure than this near fatal attack on Officer Claunch. A deep debt of gratitude from Staffordians goes to Leslie. Fortunately a full recovery, though long and painful, is anticipated.



## *NEW PUMPER ARRIVES*

The newest addition to the Fire Department's fire-fighting equipment is a Pumper which cost \$563,000. The Pumper expands the Department's fleet to 4 pumpers, a ladder truck, a rescue truck, a mini-pumper, and 3 EMS vehicles. The SVFD has the nation's highest ISO rating of One.

## CANDIDATES TO FACE OFF AT APRIL 22 FORUM

One of the most anticipated events in any Stafford city or school election is the Candidates' Forum presented by the League of Women Voters. This year the event will occur on Tuesday, April 22 at 7 p.m. at the Stafford Civic Center, 1415 Constitution Avenue. Candidates for the City Council, School Board of Trustees and Directors of the Fort Bend WC&ID No. 2 will appear to respond to questions from the three



panelists and to give statements on their positions. Written questions from the audience will also be accepted and the best ones asked by the panelists.

The Candidates' Forum is open to the public, and your attendance is encouraged. It will be televised "Live" on S-METV, Channel 16 on Comcast Cable in Stafford and will be rebroadcast daily until Election Day, Saturday, May 10.

# UPGRADED ZONING REGULATIONS PROGRESS

City Council, the City Planning and Zoning Commission and the Stafford Economic Development Corporation Board have met with Kendig Keast Collaborative (KKC) consultants to develop upgraded design standards and zoning criteria for the areas along US 90-A, with special attention to the Island, and along FM 1092.

A presentation by KKC at the January 23 Town Meeting and subsequent meetings on February 13 and March 12 have moved the process forward. Council has authorized City staff, the consultants, City Attorney and a committee to prepare a draft of the ordinance and round it into form for

consideration by the P&Z Commission, and Council.

Upon its completion, Council and the P&Z Commission will conduct public hearings on the ordinance and consider it for ultimate adoption.

The goal is to enact the ordinance by the end of June.

The new regulations will require properties constructed in the corridors to be of high quality and to prevent a deleterious or devaluating impact on neighboring properties and the corridors as a whole.

The regulations will be founded on principles that reflect the City's culture and future aspirations.

## PLANS FOR JULY 4<sup>TH</sup> CELEBRATION ADVANCE

Once again, the City is preparing for the annual Independence Day celebration, its 33<sup>rd</sup>.

Everyone's favorite activities, including children's rides, remain on the schedule and begin with the parade at 7 p.m. on Thursday, July 3. Fireworks



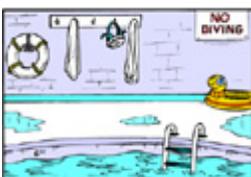
will conclude the event. Mark your calendars. For more information or to join the July 4<sup>th</sup> Committee, call the Civic Center at 281-499-5763.

Watch for detailed information in the next issue of *The Stafford Newsletter*.

## CITY POOL OPENS AGAIN IN MAY

Final preparations for the opening of the City swimming pool are nearing completion. A full-season pass for those living in the Stafford city limits costs \$7.50. A use fee of \$4 for non-resident adults and \$2 for children ages 2-5 will be charged each day they enter the pool. For information, call 281-499-5763.

### POOL SCHEDULE



Opens: Saturday, May 24  
Closes: Tuesday, September 2  
Open weekends only from:  
August 9 – September 2  
Closed Mondays (non-holidays)  
Tuesday - Friday, 11 a.m. – 7 p.m.  
Saturday, 12 noon - 8 p.m.  
Sunday, 1 p.m. - 8 p.m.

### SWIM LESSONS

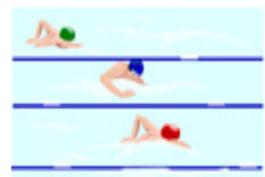


Morning and evening  
Ages 4 and up

Sign up begins:  
Saturday, May 24

281-499-5763  
281-499-8783

### STINGRAYS SWIM TEAM



May 2008 – July 2008

Early registration in April

For information, call:

Linda May  
281-240-6765

CITY OFFICES CLOSED: MONDAY, MAY 26 - MEMORIAL DAY;  
FRIDAY, JULY 4 - INDEPENDENCE DAY; MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 1 - LABOR DAY



**City of Stafford**  
2610 South Main  
Stafford, TX 77477

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## KEEP STAFFORD BEAUTIFUL!

# ANNUAL SPRING CLEAN UP SET FOR APRIL 19

It happens every spring - - and it is getting bigger with more participants and activities.



The City of Stafford, along with Keep Texas Beautiful, will be holding its 15<sup>th</sup> Annual City Wide Pride Spring Clean Up, a part of the Great American Clean Up, on Saturday, April 19, 2008, between 9 a.m. and 1

p.m. More than 300 participants are expected to be involved in this year's event including area banks, students, churches, homeowner associations, day care centers and civic clubs as well as other groups and local citizens. They will be walking the streets of Stafford gathering trash and debris.

Participants will receive a t-shirt and be served lunch between 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. in the courtyard at Stafford City Hall. Trophies will be awarded to participants for Most Trash Collected, Most Valuable Trash and awards given to the youngest and oldest participants. There will be some hidden surprises along the streets that will result in some extra spending money for lucky group members.

Residents will have an opportunity to place heavy trash at their curbside for pickup that day. The City's waste collector, WCA, will also

be joining in the effort by sending their trucks throughout the neighborhoods. Residents are asked to have their heavy trash placed by the curb no later than 7 a.m. on Saturday. WCA will NOT accept paint, chemicals, batteries or car parts. Refrigerators and freezers will be accepted, but must be drained of coolants. Lumber, plywood, small tree limbs and other such material must be cut into four-foot lengths and tied into bundles.

Automobile batteries can be dropped off at **Stafford Auto Supply** located at 2424 South Main. City crews will be canvassing the neighborhoods to pick up old rimless tires. The tires should be placed at the curb early Saturday morning separate from other heavy trash. Anyone having a large quantity of tires must contact our office at 281-261-3941 to make special arrangements for disposal. **Firestone Tire & Service Center**, located at 515 FM 1092, again will serve as the depository for these tires. However, they will not accept tires without prior approval from the City.

Come join the fun and brighten up your City. If you have a group that would like to volunteer for the clean up or you would just like to assist City staff, please contact us at 281-261-3940.