



The Stafford Newsletter



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Budget Demonstrates City on Firm Foundation

FY 2012-2013 BUDGET APPROVED

On September 26, City Council adopted a \$25 million budget for FY 2012-2013. The continuation of a zero property tax for the 17th straight year is a major highlight of this budget. Additional is the aggressive pursuit of eliminating the City's General Obligation Debt, which now stands at less than \$500,000. Infrastructure enhancements play a key role in this budget and include the completion of Dulles Avenue, the initiation of a Brand Lane project and the extension of Staffordshire Road from Fifth Street to Scanlin Lane. Also authorized are negotiations with Fort Bend County for the purchase of a sizeable portion of the Regal Ranch property and substantive upgrades to technology.

As in the past, sales tax is the primary source of revenue, generating two out of three dollars received. Franchise and hotel taxes, fees and fines make up the greater part of the other revenues.

The cost of police, fire and emergency services will total almost

\$7.6 million. Public Works, including maintaining the infrastructure, will require \$2 million, exclusive of the major street projects. Administration, Finance, Building and Zoning, Court and television productions will necessitate expenditures totaling \$3.2 million. The Stafford Centre and Civic Center will carry a combined tag of \$2.1 million. The City will also be providing more than \$500,000 to fund programs for SMSD.

The availability of cash is of critical importance. Nothing would illustrate that better than the demands on the City as a result of Hurricane Ike a few years back. Fortunately, cash reserves have nearly been rebuilt to 2008 levels to address emergency and other special needs.

All in all, this budget places the City on a firm foundation and has gained the attention of experts who recognize the solid status of this City.

The full budget is available online at www.cityofstafford.com, or a copy can be obtained at City Hall.

TEXAS INSTRUMENTS' DEPARTURE DELAYED

The initial announcement by Texas Instruments in January that it would be shuttering its facilities in Stafford by the end of the year has, according to company officials, been delayed for at least several months.

The ultimate disposition of this prime 193-acre property is still in negotiation. While there has been considerable interest, no specific details on the sale of the property have been announced by the company.

The City, working with TI in an effort to facilitate the sale and enhance the promotion of this tract, has rezoned it and approved its plat. These actions by City Council, in conjunction with the Planning & Zoning Commission, are positive steps in assisting the company with its eventual sale.

While the City has only regulatory authority over the property, its ultimate use and development will have profound impacts on the future of Stafford.

NO SMOKING ORDINANCE PROGRESSES

Following several months of discussion, City Council is progressing toward a more restrictive no smoking ordinance. At its meeting on September 19, City Attorney Art Pertile presented a draft ordinance with numerous approaches to this perplexing and contentious topic. After a lengthy and thorough discussion, Council agreed to provide feedback to

the Attorney so that he could craft an ordinance which Council could refine.

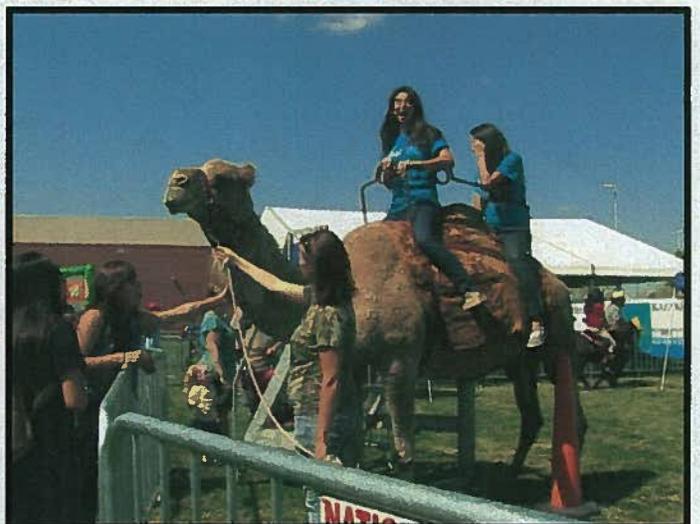
The goal is to have a public hearing on a specific ordinance, and subsequently, that it be considered for adoption. It is anticipated that a draft of the ordinance will be debated by Council at its regular meeting on December 12. The public is encouraged to attend.

SILK ROAD FESTIVAL GAINS ACCOLADES

The Turkish community unveiled extraordinary events and an elaborate façade for the first Silk Road Festival which was held at the Stafford Centre October 4-7. Final estimates show that 25,000 people, including local officials and numerous dignitaries from the honored region, attended the event.

The displays and performances provided an insight into an ancient world that has recently regained significant respect around the globe.

The Stafford Centre was an ideal setting to present not only the culture but the many aspects of this unique and storied region of the world.





CITY TO CELEBRATE HOLIDAY SEASON

The City of Stafford will host the Tree Lighting ceremony at the Stafford Centre beginning at 7 p.m. on Thursday, November 29. Santa Claus will make his regular stop, so do not miss this setting to gather with family and friends and celebrate the holiday season.

CHEER IN THE NEW YEAR AT STAFFORD CENTRE

The seventh annual Rockin' New Year's Eve Bash will be held at the Stafford Centre on Monday, December 31, from 7 p.m. to 1 a.m. The Doppelganger Band, a nine-piece variety-dance band, will return this year to provide the evening's entertainment.

Tickets are \$85 per person - for dinner, party favors, two drinks and a champagne toast at midnight - and can be purchased by calling 281-208-6900 or at www.staffordcentre.com.

STAFFORD CENTRE EVENTS: SOME NEW, SOME RETURN BY POPULAR DEMAND

Headline events coming to the Stafford Centre are: Studio 2.5, Oct. 27; Fort Bend Symphony Orchestra *Hauntcert*, Oct. 28; Sugar Plum Market, Nov. 2-3 (Nov. 1 preview night); Travis Tritt concert, Nov. 9; Gujarati Samaj of Houston Diwali Banquet & Dance, Nov. 9; BJ Thomas with The Triumphs concert, Nov. 10; Mickey Gilley & Johnny Lee concert, Nov. 15; Stafford Gun Show, Nov. 24-25; Missouri City Ballet *Nutcracker*, Nov. 24-25; Fort Bend Symphony Orchestra *Deck the Halls*, Dec. 2; Heart of Texas Arts & Crafts Show, Dec. 7-9; Balletforte *Nutcracker*, Dec. 7-9; SMSD Band concert, Dec. 11; Grady Prestage, Commissioner's Black Tie Gala, Dec. 14; Ray Price concert, Jan. 12; The Music of Abba, Jan. 17; Sugar Land Home & Garden Show, Jan. 26-27; The Ultimate Doo Wop Show, Feb. 16.

City Offices Closed

Thursday – Friday, November 22 – November 23, Thanksgiving

Monday – Tuesday, December 24 – December 25, Christmas

Holiday Trash Pickup

When regular pickup falls on a holiday (New Year's Day, Memorial Day, July 4 Independence Day, Labor Day, Thanksgiving, Christmas), the pickup will be made on the next regular scheduled pickup day.

Tree Limb Pickup

Monday, December 3

No tree limbs can lay in a yard longer than 7 days prior to the tree limb pickup date.

*****NOTICE*****

The City of Stafford will change Tree Limb Service from (6) times per year to (4) times per year beginning January 1, 2013. Tree Limb Service will be performed beginning the first Monday of each quarter (January, April, July, October).

ALARM PERMITS EXPIRE IN DECEMBER

2012 Alarm Permits expire December 31, 2012. Renew by January 31, 2013, for \$15. The fee is \$25 on or after February 1, 2013. Alarm Permits are available at the Stafford Police Department. For questions, call 281-261-3955. The Alarm Permit Application can be found at www.cityofstafford.com under the section "Forms, Instructions, Fees" on the front page.



City of Stafford
2610 South Main
Stafford, TX 77477

NEW SERVICES PROVIDED BY STAFFORD PD

The Stafford Police Department is excited to announce new services to the community. The Citizen's Police Academy and the R.A.D classes are starting soon and will be open to all citizens who either live or work in the City of Stafford.

As the City grows, the Department recognizes the need to further educate our citizens and, through a combined effort, effectively attack the cause of crime in our City. Our goal is to provide a safer area for the citizens through education and encourage stronger relationships between officers and citizens through open discussion and interaction.

The Stafford Citizen Police Academy

Originally started by the late Assistant Chief Jan Jones, the program is designed to educate our citizens on the many aspects of police operations through class instruction and hands-on demonstrations. The goal and purpose of the Citizen's Police Academy are to provide a structured program that increases understanding and communication between the citizens and the Department.

Class lecture and hands-on experiences guide the members through the investigation process from initial contact to the final criminal prosecution. Instructors will provide insight into the inner operations of law enforcement services, including SWAT, Hostage Negotiations, and the Special Crime Unit.

Each session is a 10-week program with classes meeting one night a week for three hours. Enrollment will be limited to 20 students per session. For details and to download the application, please visit the Stafford Police Department website at www.staffordpd.com.

By building our relationship with the community we serve, the Department hopes to make the City of Stafford a great place to live and work.



R.A.D.

The Rape Aggression Defense Systems of Self Defense (R.A.D.) classes offered by the Stafford Police Department include programs for women and young girls. These classes are designed to help students create a safer future for themselves. Classes include educational components comprised of lecture, discussion, and physical resistive strategies that are designed to give students the confidence to consider self defense as a viable option against potential attacks.

Our program also supports the necessity of continuous learning in order to provide realistic options of self defense for women and young girls as they go through life. R.A.D. Instructors are supported by a network of dedicated professionals who honor one another's students through a unique Lifetime Return and Practice Policy. Classes are facilitated by Officer Ann Carrizales, a certified R.A.D. instructor, who will challenge students to evolve into an existence where violence is NOT an acceptable part of daily life.

Classes are conducted in the evening over a period of two to three days. For details, please visit the Stafford Police Department website at www.staffordpd.com.