



The Stafford Newsletter



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STAFFORD POLICE OFFICER'S BRAVERY CAPTURES NATION'S ADMIRATION

Just after 3:30 a.m. on Saturday, October 26, Officer Ann Carrizales followed, stopped, and then approached a vehicle at 12707 FM 1092 when suddenly one of the three male occupants thrust a pistol out of the window and shot her twice - - once in the face and once in the chest. The vehicle spun out leaving her severely wounded.

In spite of this horrific assault and the serious wounds, Ann had the presence of mind to fire four shots at the fleeing assailants, then get back in her patrol car and give chase, all the while calling the dispatcher with instructions on how to best apprehend the gunman and his two accomplices.

By the time she entered US 59 going east, Stafford, Missouri City, and Houston officers joined the pursuit which ended at Greenfork and Concourse near Beechnut and the Beltway where the three men abandoned their car and took off on foot.

As police attempted to surround the assailants, an ambulance and other medical personnel arrived to treat Ann and to quickly transport her to Memorial Hospital at the Medical Center where she underwent treatment for the bullet wound to the face, which



had exited through her ear lobe, and the chest wound, which fortunately had been blunted by her bulletproof vest - - literally saving her life.

The gunman was captured near the scene, while the other two were caught several days later following a media blitz which included the FBI and ICE.

Ann's incredible display of bravery and commitment garnered nationwide

attention including a feature on NBC's Today Show, CNN, and extensive reports by all the local media outlets. The *Houston Chronicle* provided a humorous twist to the story when they featured a front-page picture of Ann pinching the cheek of Stafford PD Chief Bonny Krahn while her husband interestingly looked on.

Ann is most appreciative of the outpouring of admiration for her extraordinary dedication. Upon reflection, she has become increasingly aware of her good fortune and how close to death she came. Confirming her unwavering devotion to protecting the people, she has expressed an anxious desire to get back on the road in her patrol car.

Across this nation, her valor has been saluted as setting a glowing example for those in her profession to aspire - - and emulate.

Children's Holiday Spirit Celebration on December 3, at Stafford Centre

"SANTA'S VILLAGE COMES TO STAFFORD"

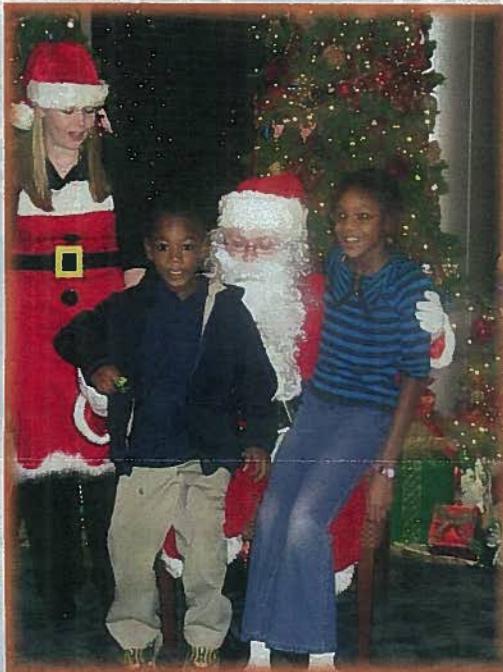
For many years, the City, in conjunction with the Stafford Historical Society, promoted a tree-lighting ceremony to kick off the holiday season. Its main purpose was to illuminate our City and entertain our children.

Circumstances dictated alternations to the program over the years in an effort to capture the spirit and interest of the season. Last year it became quite obvious that the original intent had lost its sparkle.

In order to capture the most important aspect of this special season

-- to entice the children into the holiday spirit -- City Council authorized a revamping to focus on activities that will truly delight them. The new program will feature the arrival of Santa Claus to "Santa's Village" to visit with the children, carolers singing holiday favorites, and activity booths with games and special surprises. Hotdogs and snacks will be served.

The event is scheduled for Tuesday, December 3, beginning at 5:30 p.m., at the Stafford Centre. Santa will arrive at 6 p.m. and depart at 7:30 p.m. "Santa's Village" will close at 8 p.m.



DANCE THE NIGHT AWAY ON NEW YEAR'S EVE

The eighth annual Rockin' New Year's Eve Bash will be held at the Stafford Centre on Tuesday, December 31, from 7 p.m. until 1 a.m. This year's celebration features the seven-piece band, Password.

In honor of the Stafford Centre's 10th Anniversary, tickets for Stafford residents are specially priced at \$37.50, if purchased by December 20.

As for the general public, early-bird tickets are \$55 for the first 125 tickets. After those are sold, tickets will be \$75 each.

The admission price includes dinner, party favors, two drinks, and a champagne toast at midnight.

For additional information and ticket purchases, call 281-208-6900 or visit www.staffordcentre.com.

Stafford Centre Events

City of Stafford Children's Holiday Spirit Celebration, Dec. 3

Fort Bend Symphony presents "Deck the Halls", Dec. 8

SMSD Band Concert, Dec. 10

The Commissioner's Black Tie Gala, Dec. 13

Balletforte presents "The Nutcracker", Dec. 13-15

City of Stafford New Year's Rockin' Eve Bash, Dec. 31

Alarm Permits Expire in December

Alarm Permits expire December 31, 2013. Renew by January 31, 2014, for \$15. The fee is \$25 on or after February 1, 2014. Alarm Permits are available at the Stafford Police Department. The Alarm Permit Application can be found at www.cityofstafford.com under the section "Forms, Instructions, Fees" on the front page. For questions, call 281-261-3955.

City Offices Closed

Thursday-Friday, November 28-29 - Thanksgiving

Tuesday-Wednesday, December 24-25 - Christmas

Tree Limb Pickup

Quarterly tree limb pickups are scheduled to begin January 6, April 7, July 7, and October 6

CITY PARKS TAKE CENTER STAGE

Stafford has taken great pride in providing accessible parks to its citizens to enjoy at their leisure. That effort has been elevated by an enthusiastic Parks Committee which has developed programs, ultimately adopted by City Council, that expand amenities to these much utilized and embraced facilities.

The first of these recent programs authorized \$7,500 for stretching and exercise equipment at the First Street Park, Gordon Fountain Lake Park, and Vaccaro Manor Park.

A significant embellishment, at a cost of \$8,500, to the Rubin Park occurred when basketball goals and related equipment were installed on the

facility. Not only do they bring an exciting new element to this park but also provide a safe place for kids to play near their homes.

The Parks Committee is actively seeking a committed resident to serve as a member of the Committee who will represent either the Northwest or the Southeast parks. Gordon Fountain Lake Park is located in the Northwest section of the City. Rubin Park, First Street Park, and Stafford City Park on Fifth Street are in the Southeast section.

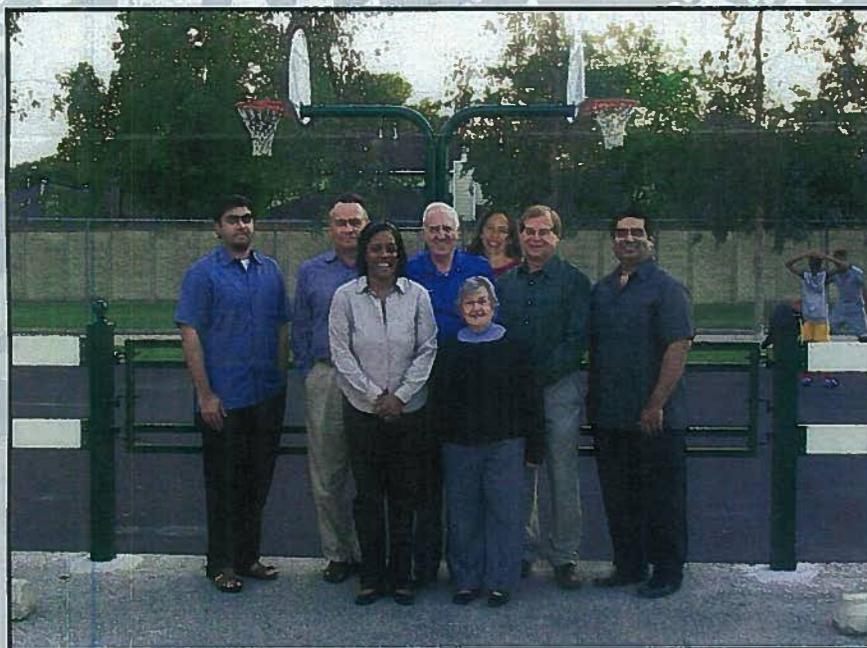
Persons interested in being considered for an appointment to the Parks Committee should submit a resume to the City Secretary, Ms. Bonnie Baiamonte, at City Hall.



Basketball goals at Rubin Park



Stretching and exercise equipment



Parks Committee Members: Joji George, John Rose, Trina Reed, Cecil Willis, Antonia Comardo, Jenny Holzaepfel, Harvey Koudleka, Syed Sultan

Christmas Tree Disposal

The City of Stafford will be accepting Christmas trees for disposal Monday, December 30, 2013 – Monday, January 6, 2014. Trees may be dropped off at the Street Department located at 1014 Staffordshire Road. For more information, please contact the Street Department at 281-499-2626.

Budget Based on Living within Our Means

CITY'S \$26 MILLION BUDGET ADOPTED

With an emphasis on providing outstanding City services, maintaining a zero property tax, eliminating general obligation debt, making major infrastructure improvements, enhancing employees' salaries and benefits, upgrading computer technology, and funding a new comprehensive plan to take the City through the next 25 years, City Council approved Mayor Leonard Scarcella's

2013-2014 budget of \$26 million, with several revisions.

Still in the refining stage are classification categories for police officers and merit raises for employees.

This budget reflects strong cash balances which would be available for emergencies or special projects. It was formally approved on September 30 by a unanimous vote of City Council.



City of Stafford
2610 South Main
Stafford, TX 77477

NEW COMPREHENSIVE PLAN AUTHORIZED

After dusting off and reviewing the City's 1971 Comprehensive Development Plan, the Planning & Zoning Commission recommended and City Council authorized preparing a similar document to provide a game plan for the City's growth and development over the next 25 years.

City Council is considering the creation of a committee consisting of representatives from Council, Planning & Zoning Commission, Stafford Economic Development Corporation, and other involved citizens to formulate this plan. It will require the committee to meet over the next year-and-a-half to delve into the many anticipated aspects of the City going forward. Its completion is anticipated to occur by the end of 2015.

A review of the 1971 Plan clearly demonstrates that the vision, desire, and pursuit of those persons who crafted this illustrated study in many respects are quite accurate as to how the City progressed over the past four decades.

When completed, at a cost of about \$150,000, this strategy will outline paths that will shape the City's future.

