



# The Stafford Newsletter



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July 2015

All July 3 and July 4 Events Free to Public

## VARIETY OF EVENTS OFFERED DURING INDEPENDENCE DAY CELEBRATION

It's that time again! The 40<sup>th</sup> annual Independence Day Celebration of the City of Stafford will be held on Friday, July 3, and Saturday, July 4. All activities are free, and all will be held at the Stafford Centre.

The festivities will start on Friday with the parade lead by the Parade Marshal, J.P. Wiltz. That will be followed with a street dance, hay rides, and kiddy rides. Various organizations will be operating their booths as usual.

Saturday's activities will commence with the Freedom Rings Concert performed by the Fort Bend Symphony Orchestra in the Stafford Centre Theatre, and an inspiring fireworks display will follow in the Festival Field.

We encourage Stafford residents and their friends and family to join us for these many excellent events.

A complete schedule of activities is included within this *Newsletter*.

## GREEK COMPANY COMES TO STAFFORD



Attendees at announcement by Enimex from left to right: John Ferro, Mert Ozcan, Amy Ditta, Cristin Emshoff, Dimitri Rakopoulos, Mayor Leonard Scarcella, Tiffany Green

President Barack Obama often says that one of America's greatest challenges is to bring manufacturing companies back to the United States. Stafford has consistently illustrated the ability to bring foreign manufacturers to our City - - the most recent being Enimex, an oilfield valve manufacturing company which was founded in Greece 18 years ago and has served the North American oil and

gas sector during that time.

Through the persistent effort of its managing partner, Dimitri Rakopoulos, to find a Stafford location after more than a year's search and with the assistance of local real estate professional, John Ferro, Enimex made its formal announcement two weeks ago to locate here. Should all go as expected, Enimex plans to be in production by the end of the year.

# City of Stafford 40th Annual Independence Day Celebration

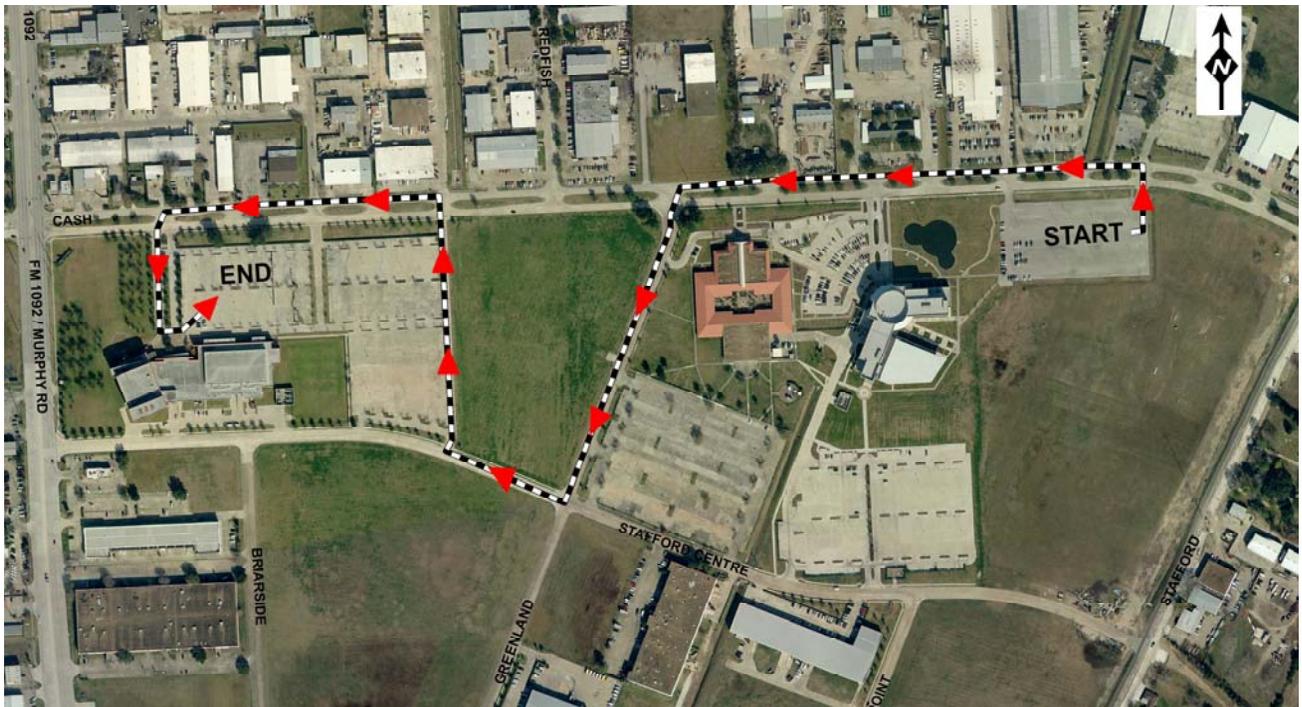
## Friday, July 3

Parade 7:00 p.m.  
 Carnival Rides - Free 7:30 – 11:30 p.m.  
 Food/Game Booths 7:30 – 11:30 p.m.  
 Hay Rides - Free 7:30 – 11:30 p.m.  
 Dance - Free 7:30 – 11:30 p.m.  
 Featuring:  
 Step Rideau & The Zydeco Outlaws  
 Los DesperadoZ

## Saturday, July 4

Freedom Rings Concert - Free 7:00 p.m.  
 Featuring:  
 Fort Bend Symphony Orchestra  
 Fireworks 9:00 p.m.

## Parade Route



*Parade starts in HCC parking lot at corner of Cash and Stafford Road. Travels west down Cash and turns left on Greenland Drive. Turns right on Stafford Centre Drive. Turns right into Stafford Centre's far parking lot. Turns left on Cash. Turns left and enters main entrance of Stafford Centre. Parade ends in Stafford Centre parking lot.*

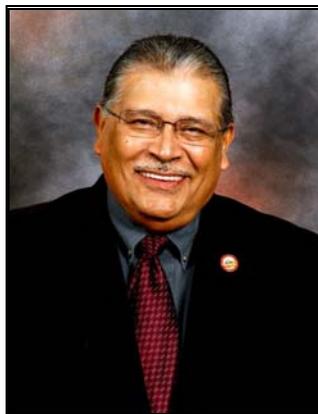
## COUNCILMEMBERS ELECTED MAY 9

The just concluded City election saw Mayor Leonard Scarcella reelected as Mayor over Councilmember Robert Sorbet. Wen Guerra, A.J. Honore, and Virginia Rosas (who served on the City

Planning & Zoning Commission and the SMSD Board) were elected by garnering more votes for seats on City Council than challengers Jacqueline Jean-Baptiste and Ray Garcia. Formal installation was on May 20.



Mayor  
Leonard Scarcella



Councilman  
Wen Guerra



Councilman  
A.J. Honore



Councilwoman  
Virginia Rosas

# J.P. WILTZ

## PARADE MARSHAL AND GUEST OF HONOR

Elected in May 2000, J.P. Wiltz was the first African-American to sit on the Stafford City Council. He served as Councilmember until 2006 and as Mayor Pro Tem during the 2004-2005 term.

While in office, J.P. headed Council's committee to plan and host a multi-cultural festival to showcase Stafford's diverse heritages and cultures. He served on the City's Home Rule Charter Commission, Computer Committee, and Electrical Board. In addition, he was the Council's liaison to the Fort Bend Theatre.

J.P. coached youth basketball for many years and also has been involved in various youth development programs, providing a rich and positive environment geared towards encouraging, motivating, and rewarding the youths of our City.

The Wiltz family has lived in Stafford since 1997. J.P. and his wife, R'Wanda, have been married 20 years. Their son, Maurice, attended K-12 at SMSD and graduated this May from Southern Illinois University at Edwardsville, Ill, with a degree in Communications. J.P. works in the oil and gas industry as a process and maintenance management specialist.



### **Stafford Centre Calendar of Events:**

City of Stafford Independence Day Celebration (parade, food, carnival, hay rides, street dance) - July 3 & Freedom Rings Concert and Fireworks - July 4; Quilt Guild of Greater Houston Show, "The Joy of Quilts" - July 17-18; BJ Thomas Concert - July 23; Kollaboration Houston - July 24; Nitin Mukesh Concert - July 25; Fort Bend Theatre's "Legally Blonde-The Musical" - July 31-August 2

Play, "Mera Who Mat lab Nahin Tha" - August 7; Anjali Performing Arts 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Performance - August 15; ICC's Independence Day Indoor Festival - August 16; Texas Unified Buddhist Congress Broadcast's Concert - August 16; Fiesta MoSa Texas Indoor Festival - August 23; Aim For Seva's Fundraiser Performance - August 28; Fort Bend County Women's Center's "Music Fest" featuring Little River Band - August 29

Soul Food Festival - September 12; Houston Hot Sauce Festival - September 19-20; Russian Grand Ballet's "Swan Lake" - September 27

Houston Bead Market - October 3-4; Indo American Forum of Fort Bend's "Navratri" Dinner & Dance Fundraiser - October 10; Zakir Hussain and Shankar Mahadevan Concert - October 10; Chinmaya Mission's "Navratri Garba" - October 16; NPC Stage Body Building Competition - October 17; Fort Bend Symphony Orchestra - October 18; Southwest Craft Show - October 24; Southwest Wedding Show - October 25

### **City Offices Closed:**

Friday, July 3 - Independence Day  
Monday, September 7 - Labor Day

### **Tree Limb Service:**

Tree limb service begins Monday  
July 6 and Monday, October 5.

### **Hurricane Season:**

June 1 - November 30

Visit [www.cityofstafford.com](http://www.cityofstafford.com) to view the Hurricane Preparedness Guide.

# EPIC STORM THRASHES STAFFORD

A freakish and horrific storm swept through the Gulf Coast at the tail end of Memorial Day and early the next morning, dumping about 10 inches of rain on Stafford. More than 2,000 lightning strikes occurred over the City.

Although there was heavy street flooding in Stafford, only a minimal number of homes had water damage. This was in comparison to surrounding areas where thousands of homes had extensive flooding, and roads and byways became the watery tombs for many vehicles. Stafford officials

acknowledged the City's good fortune with the very limited flooding.

Some have described this storm as potentially reaching the level of a 300-year storm. As an illustration of the inundation, the Brazos River rose to the brink reaching a level of 50 feet in Richmond, TX, overflowing its banks and devastating subdivisions there and in nearby areas along the river.

As part of the Comprehensive Development Plan, which is expected to be adopted by Council early this fall, the impacts of this epic storm will be thoroughly assessed.



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

**CITY OF STAFFORD**  
**2015 INDEPENDENCE DAY CELEBRATION**

JULY 3RD, 2015  
STAFFORD CENTRE  
10505 CASH RD.  
STAFFORD, TEXAS 77477

PARADE 7:00PM / J.P. WILTZ PARADE MARSHALL  
FOOD VENDORS  
GAME BOOTHS

FREE CARNIVAL / HAY RIDES  
7:30PM - 11:30PM

**DESPERADO!**  
FREE DANCE 8:00PM - 11:30PM

*Step Rhythms*

**FREEDOM RINGS Concert 2015**

Featuring  
**The Fort Bend Symphony Orchestra**

Stafford Centre  
10505 Cash Road

Sponsored by  
**City of Stafford**  
and  
**The Fort Bend Symphony Orchestra**

Fireworks 9 pm

A FREE All-American Holiday Celebration!

www.staffordcentre.com ★ 281-208-6900