



The Stafford Newsletter



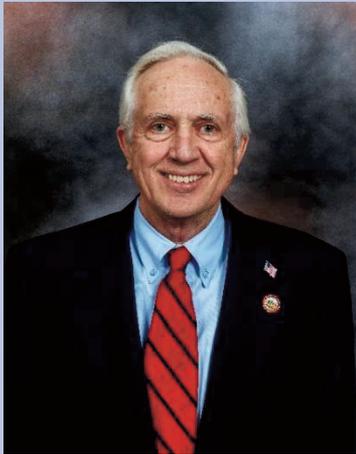
Volume 37, Issue 2

Circulation 7,000+

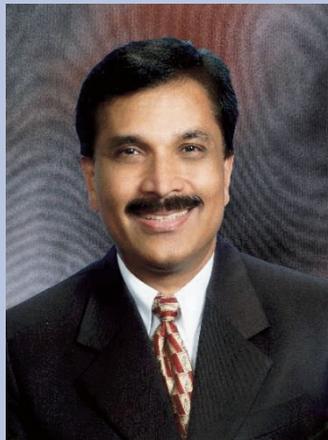
April 2016

City Council Elections Cancelled

COUNCIL TO HAVE NEW FACE



Cecil Willis



Ken Mathew



Don Jones

With the cancellation of the City election as a result of the withdrawal of one of four candidates, newcomer Don Jones will be assuming the seat currently held by Councilman Robert Sorbet who chose not to seek re-election.

Continuing to serve Stafford and remaining as long time members of City Council will be Cecil Willis and Ken Mathew. Both were also declared

reelected as a result of the uncontested election.

Soon to be Councilman Jones has been a Stafford resident for 27 years and a former Principal at SMSD. He currently serves as the Accelerated Teacher Program Director at Houston Community College. Under State Law, Willis, Mathew and Jones will be administered their Oaths of Office in May to formally initiate their new two year terms on Council.

ANIMAL CONTROL ORDINANCE APPROVED

A large crowd was in attendance for the discussion of the latest Animal Control Ordinance presented at last month's Council meeting. Following fervent debate and a Public Hearing in which eight people addressed Council about reservations, objections and suggested revisions, City Council on a 6 – 1 vote, approved the Ordinance. The effective date of these new regulations is April 22, 2016.

Also included are "grandfathered" provisions which will extend until October 1 of this year. Most prominent

are requirements relating to the number of animals an owner may have on his property. Much discussed were efforts to provide for the adoption of at-large dogs and cats, and a trap, neuter and release provision for feral cats. Despite the urging by animal activist groups of more extensive program to protect these strays, Council determined under existing circumstances that a less progressive approach would be best.

The one area of agreement was that the humane treatment of all animals was imperative.

POOL READIED FOR SUMMER ACTIVITIES -- SUMMER RECREATION PROGRAM EYED

Complimentary endeavors which are generating interest and enthusiasm for the approaching summer are the opening of the City Swimming Pool and the commencement of the Summer Recreation Program jointly sponsored with SMSD.

Our Pool which is recognized throughout the area as a fun filled venue will be available from Memorial Day weekend to Labor Day except for Mondays when it is closed for maintenance. There will not only be regular swimming activities but lessons, parties, practice and competition by the Stafford Sting Rays Swim Team.

Stafford residents may purchase a Pool Pass for the entire swim season at a cost of \$10.00. The cost for non-residents is: 5yrs & older - \$4.00 per day, 2yrs - 4yrs. \$2.00 per day, under 2 yrs. old may enter free.

The joint Recreation Program makes available the Spartan Red Gym Weight Room and other activities.

This program will run from June 7 through July 21, with hours of operation from 1PM - 4PM and 6PM - 8PM.

While the activities of these programs provide excellent physical activity opportunities the City and SMSD are considering increasing available events. Under consideration are exercise classes, dancing lessons, driver's education, water aerobics, card and domino games, art classes, meditation, and flower arranging, to name just a few.

Should any of these activities appeal to you we would encourage you to call Susan Ricks at (281) 499 - 5763 to give us your suggestions.



City of Stafford Swimming pool

2016 POOL SCHEDULE

POOL OPENS: Saturday May 28

CLOSES: Monday September 5

DAILY HOURS: Tuesday - Friday, 11am - 7pm
Saturday, 12 noon - 7pm
Sunday, 1pm - 7pm
Closed: Mondays (non-holidays)

SWIM LESSONS: Swim Lessons are offered for ages 4 through adult. Sign up begins May 28 either at the pool or by calling 281/ 499- 8783.

STAFFORD SWIM TEAM: Online registration will start on March 21; however, you can register in person at the pool April 23. Please email staffordstingrays.swimtopia.com

SUMMER RECREATION PROGRAM

LOCATION: Spartan Red Gym Weight Room

DATES: Tuesday June 7 - Thursday July 21

HOURS: 1pm - 4pm & 6pm - 8pm

FEE: \$10.00 Pool pass card must be presented, no exceptions. Children under the age of 10 must be accompanied by an adult. For information please call Athletic Department at 281/ 208- 6140



"Best Little School District in Texas"

Spotlight



Mark Your Calendar!

- Good Friday Holiday.....March 25
- City-Wide Clean-Up..... April 9
- Board Meeting.....April 11
- Student Holiday..... April 15
- Education Foundation....April 19
- SMSD Job Fair..... April 23
- Pre-K/Kinder Round-Up April 30
- Cinco De Mayo May 4
- Board Meeting.....May 9
- Education Foundation....May 17
- Memorial Day.....May 30
- MS/HS Early Dismissal... June 1
- HS Graduation..... June 3
- School Board Meeting... Jun 13



Stafford Elementary School students making knots at the Lunar New Year Celebration

STAFFORD PRIMARY CELEBRATES BLACK HISTORY MONTH

More than 30 Stafford Municipal School District (SMSD) students showcased their talents and guided the audience through history with an excellent Black History Month presentation on Feb. 26 at Stafford Civic Center.



The program, titled "Remembering The Past...Shaping The Future" featured pre-Kindergarten through fourth graders who had spent six weeks rehearsing for the big performance under the direction of Kindergarten teacher Jasmi Brown.

"I'm very proud of starting a new tradition like this," Brown said. "We matched the

kids with different roles, depending on their personalities, skills and interests."



Brown debuted the inaugural Black History presentation with an on-campus performance last year. The demand from parents and the community was so strong that it was moved to the Civic Center this year, and Brown is hopeful that next year's event will move to an even larger venue – the Stafford Centre.



Education Foundation.....
June 21

FOLLOW US

ON TWITTER!



StaffordMSD



FROM THE DESK OF SUPERINTENDENT BOSTIC

Students, teachers and administrators had a great chance to recharge their batteries over Spring Break. Now, it's time to return to the classroom and finish the 2015-16 academic year strong.

Spring is upon us, and it has brought with it testing season! For three years now, since the 2012 implementation of the STAAR (State of Texas Assessment of Academic Readiness), the Texas Education Agency has acknowledged SMSD schools have "MET STANDARD", the highest accountability standard possible. There's more good news. All SMSD schools have received distinctions in various areas. When it comes to testing, please make sure our kids get enough rest and sleep the night before, eat a hearty and healthy breakfast, and arrive early. I am confident our faculty and staff have successfully prepared our students for academic achievement!

SMSD is an educational community that celebrates diversity. I was so proud to watch our students participate in performances for the Chinese New Year and Black History Month. We will have an exciting Cinco De Mayo performance on May 4.

As educators, we can never underestimate the importance of reading. That's why I'm so happy that our students participated in #ReadAcrossAmerica on March 2.

SMSD is the place to be and the force to join! If you are zoned to Stafford schools and your child is not attending SMSD, we invite you to contact our schools for campus tours so you can receive an up-close look at the world-class education we provide.

Robert Bostic
Dr. Robert Bostic
Proud to be SMSD!



STUDENTS, PARENTS & EMPLOYEES IN ACTION

SHS SOCCER TEAMS CONTINUE TO EXCEL



The Stafford High boys and girls soccer teams continue to excel as they prepare for the 2016 UIL playoffs.

The Stafford boys, who reached the third round of the playoffs last spring, wrapped up their season on March 11 at Hempstead.

The Stafford girls continued to build on their program and also wrapped up the season on March 11 at Hempstead.

BON APPETITE — LA SPARTA CAFE

Wednesdays just got a whole lot tastier at SMSD.

The La Sparta Café at the Stafford College and Career Center debuted on March 2. Chef Courtney Ralls and her Culinary Arts students spent a great deal of time preparing for the opening, which now puts 1625 Staffordshire Road among the best locations for cuisine in the Greater Stafford area.



The students showcased teamwork and skill in preparing an excellent meal. Faculty and staff had the opportunity to dine in, or take out. There were options of salad, soup and dessert, or a combination of all three for \$8. The Culinary Arts Academy is equipped with a fully functioning commercial kitchen (pictures attached) and the instructor is a certified Chef with 14 years of industry and teaching experience. She is currently an adjunct instructor for the Art Institute of Houston and Houston Community College. The goal of the academy is equip students with the necessary skills needed for jobs in the food service industry. As part of the instructional program the students provide catering services for district functions as well as outside non-profit functions. In addition, the students have an in-house for profit café where they provide lunch service for staff and community members. We are seeking partners to underwrite the operational cost of the café either through a monetary donation/grant or product donation.



STAFFORD DUO HEADED TO BAYLOR

Stafford High juniors football players Hezekiah Jones, right, and Jalen Pitre, have verbally committed to Baylor University, one of the top college football programs in the country. Jones, a wide receiver who runs a 4.4 in the 40-yard-dash, is the defending 4A state champion in the 200 meter dash. Pitre, a safety, is one of the best defenders in the Houston area. They chose Baylor primarily for academics, but they hope to lead the Bears to the College Football Playoff.



OPEN HOUSE

The Stafford MSD Primary, Elementary and Intermediate Schools hosted Open Houses earlier this month.

Parents enjoyed an opportunity to get an up-close look at their child's education. They received information and had time to ask questions about their child's day activities in their respective classrooms.



STAFFORD HIGH TRACK RULES

Stafford MSD makes the Spartan Stadium Track available to the community, but there are some essential guidelines that citizens must follow.

The track closes at sundown.

Please stay off the field turf at all times.

No public use during the school day

No public use while Spartan practices are in session

Community exercise – please use outside lanes (4-8)

No wheeled vehicles on the track



Auturo Jackson President Chris Caldwell Vice-President Greg Holsapple Secretary Rodney Butler Trustee Manuel Hinojosa Trustee Alicia Lacy-Castille Trustee Xavier Herrera Trustee

The Board of Trustees meets monthly on the second Monday at 6:30 PM in the SMSG Administration Building Board Room. Meeting agendas, information about each agenda item and past meeting videos are linked to the district website under the Board page.

2016 NEWLY-ELECTED TRUSTEES

The three SMSG School Board Candidates who were up for re-election in May are all unopposed. The community's confidence in trustees President Auturo Jackson, Secretary Greg Holsapple and Alicia Lacy-Castille allowed them to earn a three-year team that runs through May 2019. Trustees are elected at-large by qualified voters and the candidates receiving the most votes will be elected. Each trustee represents Stafford MSD at large. Information on each re-elected trustee is below.



AUTURO JACKSON

Mr. Jackson has been a resident of Stafford since 1996. He and his wife, Denise, have one child who graduated from SMSG and one child who attends Stafford Middle School. Mr. Jackson Trustee in 2012 and 2013. In 2013, Stafford residents elected Mr. Jackson to office on a platform of academic excellence, safe and secure schools, and fiscal accountability.

Mr. Jackson believes in community service. His service includes serving as: Chairman of the City of Stafford's Planning and Zoning Commission, Fort Bend YMCA Board Member, member of the Advisory Board for Accessible Travel with United Airlines, former Commissioner on the Mayor's Commission for People with Disabilities in Houston, and active member of Windsor Village United Methodist Church since 1989.

Professionally, Mr. Jackson serves as Senior Director of Contracted, Paratransit, and Vanpool Services with the Metropolitan Transit Authority of Harris County (METRO). Having worked at METRO for almost 25 years, his responsibilities include overseeing one of the company's largest non-union departments with over 125 employees. Mr. Jackson is a graduate of the University of North Texas with a degree in Marketing Management.



GREG HOLSAPPLE

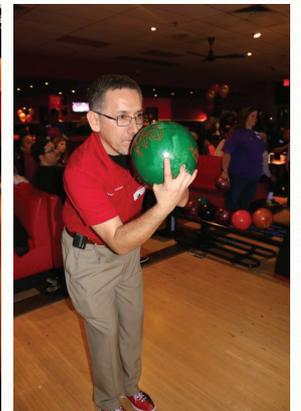
A 30+ year Stafford resident, Mr. Holsapple is a senior systems administrator for Baylor College of Medicine. He graduated from the University of Houston. Mr. Holsapple served on the SMSG Board of Trustees from the 1991-92 school year through the 1997-98 school year was re-elected for the 2003-04 school year and has been serving since then.



ALICIA LACY-CASTILLE

Ms. Lacy-Castille was appointed to the SMSG Board of Trustees in November 2014 and elected to fill the final year of Ed Castillo's term in May 2015. She served on SMSG's Vision and Planning Committee. Ms. Lacy-Castille attended Southern University A & M, earning her Bachelor of Arts in Secondary Education with an emphasis in English. She obtained her Master of Education in addition to her English-as-a-Second Language and Mid-Management certifications. Ms. Lacy-Castille has 27 years in education as a teacher, registrar, magnet coordinator, and assistant principal. She is currently with Houston ISD as an Assessment Program Manager. Ms. Lacy-Castille is proud of the positive impact she has made in the lives of children during her many years as an educator and administrator. She has lived in Stafford for 16 years and is an active member of the Top Ladies of Distinction, Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Girl Scouts of America and has performed in the Fort Bend Theatre. Ms. Lacy-Castille has been married to Gary Castille for more than 20 years and they have one daughter.

BOWLING FOR EDUCATION



The Stafford MSD Education Foundation held its "Stafford Bowls" night on Feb. 26 and raised more than \$5,000. SMSG Trustee Alicia Lacy-Castille, along with several other board members, SMSG employees, civic leaders and Stafford residents and alumni participated in the event.



READ ACROSS AMERICA DAY



Stafford Primary School teachers and students celebrated “Read Across America” Day on March 2 with teachers reading Dr. Seuss books to Pre-K through Second Grade students in English and Spanish. “Read Across America” Day is also Dr. Seuss’ Birthday. Students and staff were also encouraged to dress up as their favorite Dr. Seuss characters.



Eighth graders prepare for D.C./N.Y. trip, April 13-17

Stafford Middle School students are preparing to take a trip to visit two of the most significant cities in the world — Washington D.C. and New York City, from April 13-17.



The students will visit Arlington Cemetery, Mount Vernon, Smithsonian Museums, Holocaust Museum, Capitol Hill, Library of Congress, Statue of Liberty, 9/11 Museum/Memorial and see a Broadway Musical.

Stafford MSD would like to thank the following partners who make this annual trip possible for our students.

Rockwell Management donates a scholarship each year.

Hunting Energy Services has committed to provide a scholarship next year.

Freedom Automotive Services Inc., Colony One Auto Center Inc., Walter Veterinary Services, State Farm – Jenny Stevens Masters



Brothers Produce adds to the proud list of Stafford MSD Donors

Brothers Produce made a generous donation to the Stafford High College & Career Center’s Culinary Arts program. They donated seven cases of produce, and made an eight week commitment to the program.

Brother’s Produce of Houston became a sponsor for the La Sparta Café. Brother’s Produce has established themselves as one of the largest produce distributors in the state of Texas. Brothers Produce covers the greater Houston, Dallas/Ft Worth, Austin, San Antonio, Corpus Christi, McAllen and all areas surrounding. Aside from Texas we also cover the Southeast Louisiana region. We distribute a full line of fresh fruits and vegetables, specialty items, and processed items to meet the customer’s needs. Offering only high quality products and service we supply a broad range of foodservice and retail customers with a fleet of over 175 refrigerated trucks.

The entire Stafford MSD Community appreciates their commitment to our community. To learn more about how you can support our programs, contact Ms. Cherise Roberts at partners@staffordmsd.org or 281.208.6134.

SPORTS SCHEDULES

High School Baseball

DATE OPPONENT LOCATION TIME

- March 15 El Campo El Campo 1:30
- March 18 Columbia Stafford 7:00
- March 22 Brazosport Brazosport 7:00
- March 29 Needville Stafford 7:00
- April 2 Reagan (Non-District) Stafford 11:00
- April 5 La Marque La Marque 5:00
- April 8 Sweeny Sweeny 7:00
- April 12 Columbia Columbia 7:00
- April 15 Brazosport Stafford 7:00
- April 19 Needville Needville 7:00
- April 22 La Marque (Senior Night) Stafford 5:00
- April 26 Sweeny Stafford 7:00

High School Softball

DATE OPPONENT LOCATION TIME

- March 15 Sweeny Stafford 5/7 p.m.
- March 18 Columbia Stafford 5/7 p.m.
- March 22 Brazosport Brazosport 5/7 p.m.
- March 29 Needville Stafford 5/7 p.m.
- April 5 La Marque La Marque 5/7 p.m.
- April 8 Sweeny Sweeny 5/7 p.m.
- April 12 Columbia Columbia 5/7 p.m.
- April 15 Brazosport (Senior Night) Stafford 5/7 p.m.
- April 19 Needville Needville 5/7 p.m.



SPRING CLEAN UP SET FOR APRIL 9TH



For the last two decades the City of Stafford has held its annual City Wide Pride Spring Clean Up. This year it will be take place on Saturday, April 9 and originate at City Hall.

Since it's relatively small beginning it has blossomed into a premier event which not only Stafford citizens but civic groups, church organizations, businesses, HOA entities and especially youth organizations have embraced the function, making it a prestigious and highly anticipated event.

Last year over 500 volunteers joined in traversing the City to gather hundreds of bags of debris from City streets and rights of way. For their efforts, participants will receive a T-shirt and a hearty meal of hot-dogs, hamburgers, chips and an ice-cream delight.

The City's waste collector WCA will have extra trucks available to

collect heavy trash items and other unusual garbage.

Refrigerators and freezers will also be collected however, all coolant must first be drained from the appliance.

Anyone desiring to have old tires removed should place them curbside on Saturday morning. Anyone with a large quantity of tires should call (281) 261- 3941.

Automobile batteries can be dropped at Stafford Auto Supply located at 2424 South Main.

The event is concluded with the awarding of trophies in a number of categories including largest amount of trash collected and the most unusual items found.

This fun-filled event will begin at 9:00AM with awards presented at Noon.

STAFFORD CENTRE EVENTS

Coming Soon

APRIL

April 2 - Boogie Prom Night

April 7 - CCA Texas Greater Sugar Land Chapter Annual Banquet and Crawfish Boil

MAY

May 2 – Graham Nash

May 6 - Steve Tyrell

JUNE

June 16 – Nitty Gritty Dirt Band
(as advertised on PBS.)

City Offices Closed

Monday May 30 – Memorial Day

Tree Limb Service

The next tree limb service will be conducted beginning, Monday April 4, 2016

INDEPENDENCE DAY FESTIVITIES PLANNED



The City will host it's 41st Annual Independence Day celebration on Sunday July 3rd and Monday July 4th. As in past years the City Council has taken great pride in elevating and expanding the numerous events that will be available to the citizens and other attendees. A parade, street dance, kiddie carnival rides, and hayrides will again be featured events.

Nominations for Parade Marshal will be accepted through April 30, 2016. The nomination for Parade Marshal maybe found at:

<http://www.staffordtx.gov/city-events/fourth-of-july.html>

Persons interested in volunteering should contact Susan Ricks at 281/ 208-6902. Look for complete details in the July issue of the Newsletter.



City of Stafford
2610 South Main
Stafford, TX 77477

BRAND LANE NEARS COMPLETION



The long awaited and substantially improved construction on Brand Lane, which started in October 2014, is anticipated for completion in the next two weeks.