



The Stafford Newsletter



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July 2016

Exciting Free Events Set for July 3rd & 4th

INDEPENDENCE DAY CELEBRATION OFFERS STAR SPANGLED EVENTS

The history of Stafford celebrating this country's Independence began with the Bi-Centennial in 1976. In contrast to most cities, we have staged 41 consecutive annual ceremonies. It will all be kicked off with the parade on Sunday evening of July 3rd. This will be followed by the honoring of the Parade Marshals, a street dance, kiddie rides and various activities and non-profit booths.

On Monday the 4th, there will be a stirring patriotic concert by the Fort Bend Symphony Orchestra followed by a most looked forward to Fireworks display, which will conclude the activities. All events will be held at the Stafford Centre and are free to the public. A complete schedule of activities including the Parade route is set forth in this Newsletter.

DRAINAGE STUDIES MOVE FORWARD

Starting on Sunday evening, April 17th and running throughout the week were a series of heavy rains, producing over ten inches of precipitation. An 8 ½ inch downpour occurred on Monday. Despite extremely high waters and dangerous flooding conditions in areas surrounding Stafford, impacting more than a 1000 houses, there were only a minimal number of houses in the City which took on water. The Federal Emergency Management Authority (FEMA) has sent a representative to the area and is not only staying in a hotel in Stafford but set up a Disaster Recovery Center for applications under the Emergency Declarations by the County Judges of Fort Bend and Harris County to receive the hundreds of applications for Federal grants and loans. As of this writing preliminary indications are that no houses in Stafford qualify for relief under Federal Standards. Despite the minimal damage incurred in Stafford as contrasted in it's neighboring cities, the 200 year storm was termed as a "historic, horrific event".

At the request of City Council the City is conducting a comprehensive evaluation of drainage in the City. Currently Interim, Public Works Director Lawrence Vaccaro Jr. and Special Drainage Consultant Bob Jones are doing an assessment and analysis of numerous areas in the city, especially Missouri City Estates, Vaccaro Manor and Sugar Creek subdivisions.

While many have offered suggestions and potential remedies, the vastness of the recent downpours makes it obvious that regardless of the planning and facilities a storm of this magnitude will have adverse effects within the City. While it is of little consolation to some, the stark contrast to damages suffered by thousands within a few miles of Stafford clearly demonstrate the superiority of our drainage planning to many communities in close proximity. That is accentuated by the fact that a great majority of outfall necessary to control flooding is intended to flow into Harris County. An ongoing report on this situation will be presented to Council and the Public.

RAMIREZ APPOINTED POLICE CHIEF

Richard Ramirez, a 23 year veteran of the Stafford Police Department, was appointed by Mayor Leonard Scarcella and confirmed by Council members as the Police Chief for the City of Stafford on April 20, 2016.



Chief Ramirez follows the iconic and longest serving Police Chief in Texas, Bonnie Krahn. He will be addressing innovations and enhancements to the department based on an audit by a nationwide police department consulting firm

The Chief has been a prominent citizen and is a highly respected figure in our community. At the meeting appointing him more than a 100 people turned out to express their support. Also present was his wife Teresa and children Rudy, Andrew and Makayla.

A formal swearing in and Pinning Ceremony was conducted at the Stafford Centre May 31, 2016, with Mistress of Ceremonies Sadie Williams presiding over the event. Colleagues, friends, family and citizens were all in attendance to honor him at this event.

City of Stafford 41ST Annual

Independence Day Celebration

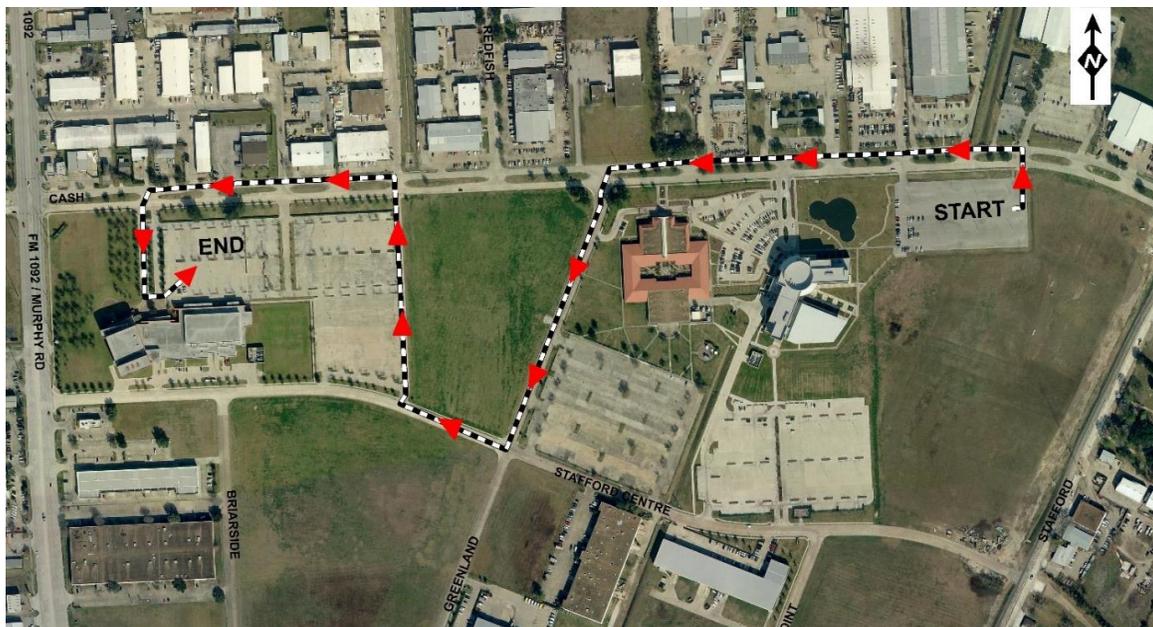
Sunday, July 3

Monday, July 4

Parade	7:00 p.m.	Freedom Rings Concert – Free	7:00 p.m.
Parade Marshals' Ceremony	7:30 p.m.	“Fort Bend Symphony Orchestra”	
Carnival Rides - Free	7:30 – 11:30 p.m.	Fireworks	9:00 p.m
Food/Game Booths	7:30 – 11:30 p.m.		
Hay Rides - Free	7:30 – 11:30 p.m.		
Street Dance - Free	7:30 – 11:30 p.m.		

Featuring: Chris Brade Band & The Zydecoplayers

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.



"The Best Little School District in Texas"

SPOTLIGHT

SUMMER 2016

AUGUST IS STAFFORD MSD PROUD MONTH!



Welcome to a new Stafford MSD Tradition! Stafford MSD Proud Month is a month where we recognize and celebrate the numerous accomplishments of our school district. You're cordially invited to a free event, SMSD Proud Month Celebration at 4 -8 p.m. Aug. 18 at Stafford High.



FROM THE DESK OF SUPERINTENDENT BOSTIC

School is out and it's been an incredible year here at SMSD!

The 2016 Senior Class enjoyed an amazing graduation ceremony on June 3 at The Kingdom Builder's Center. They received diplomas and were awarded over \$1.5 million in scholarships. Some of our students will be attending colleges and universities throughout Texas, and some will be going abroad. We had several students who decided to join the enlisted forces of our military branches to serve our country. We wish them well and pray for their success.

Due to the strength of our faculty and staff and the dedication of our students, we are ever closer to reaching Our Vision for every SMSD student to graduate college or career ready, without remediation.

I believe with all of my heart that every student deserves the opportunity to succeed. I also believe we need to ensure our children are given all the tools, techniques and skill-sets necessary to perform in our workforce. Many times that means providing additional resources to students and additional training for staff to put us in the best position for success. In the days ahead we will be hiring the needed support staff and classroom instructors, preparing our administrators and teachers through professional development, and hopefully taking some time to rest and relax with those that we love the most.

Throughout the five SMSD campuses, we celebrated many excellent accomplishments:

- * Our test scores, especially in Mathematics, continue to rise.
- * Our High School Robotics program competed in an event that featured teams from across the country, and some from other nations.
- * Our Boys Track Team won its first-ever State Championship, and the first State Championship of any Stafford team since 1992.
- * The SMSD band continued to flourish with over 200 strong in the number of kids showing SMSD musical pride. The Middle and High School bands received first division ratings on concert stage and sight reading challenges.
- * The Culinary Arts program opened the delicious La Sparta Café for faculty, and they also catered several off-campus events, including the Officer Installation Dinner for the Elks Club. They also prepared the food for the Super Senior 55+ Breakfast.
- * Parent University began at the high school and middle school, as a way of engaging parents in their students' educational experience.
- * The Varsity Football team took the field with a record-setting 11-1 record. Our tenacity on game night, and practice throughout the season, put SMSD on the map as a force to be reckoned with on the football field.

Dr. Robert Bostic
SMSD Superintendent

COACH MESA

1989-2016

This edition of The Spotlight is dedicated to the memory of

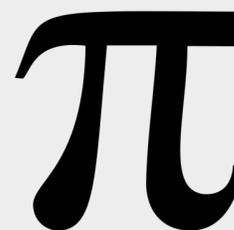


Michael Mesa, a Stafford High graduate who returned to Stafford to teach Spanish and coach varsity baseball and middle school football.

Coach Mesa passed away unexpectedly at age 26 in April. He had a profound impact on the lives of students, colleagues, family, friends and the entire community.

He will always be in our hearts.

ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT



One Hundred Percent of the Grade 8 Stafford Middle School Algebra I students passed the Algebra I assessment.

91 percent of the Stafford Intermediate Grade 5 students passed the STAAR Math assessment.



Students, Parents & Employees in Action

SMSD TEACHER OF THE YEAR: STAFFORD ELEMENTARY'S CAROLINA SIEVERS



Stafford MSD Teacher of the Year Carolina Sievers was awarded a free summer lease on a David Taylor Cadillac of her choice. At the end of the summer, she'll have the option of purchasing or continuing to lease the vehicle. This is part of an SMSD partnership with Group 1 Automotive for the SMSD District Teacher of the Year. Group One is a strong supporter of SMSD and it pays SMSD \$100 for every vehicle that an SMSD employee purchases with one of their dealerships. Congratulations, Mrs. Sievers. We hope you enjoy your Cadillac this summer!

Sievers was also named the 2015-16 Stafford Elementary Teacher of the Year. Fellow 2015-16 SMSD Teachers of the Year are Tameka Collins (Primary), Michael Sweeney (Intermediate), Omoaga Anetor (Middle) and Martina Judge (High). Intermediate Principal, Cornelius Anderson, was named Administrator of the Year.

CLASS OF 2016 VALEDICTORIAN/SALUTATORIAN

Meet our 2016 Stafford High School Valedictorian and Salutatorian, or as we like to say, our future Pediatrician and Neurologist. Valedictorian Vanessa Phung will continue her educational experience at the University of St. Thomas in Houston where she'll study Biochemistry with plans of becoming a Pediatrician one day. Salutatorian Theresa Tran will attend Texas A&M with plans of becoming a Neurologist.



SUPER SENIOR 55+ BREAKFAST

Community involvement is the cornerstone of a quality school district, which is why Stafford Municipal School District is proud to share the continued success of its Super 55+ Senior Breakfast Program.

Some of the attendees have grandchildren who attend SMSD, but the common thread is that all of the seniors care deeply about the Stafford community. The popular breakfasts will resume in September 2016, at 8:30 a.m. on the second Friday of each month.

"We're delighted that our Super 55+ Seniors Breakfast Program has continued to grow," said Stafford MSD Superintendent Dr. Robert Bostic, who attends the breakfasts. "These events are enjoyable and informative for those who attend, and they come away with a new-found appreciation for SMSD's community-centric approach to education."

Dedicated students of the Stafford College & Career Center's Culinary program prepared a delicious breakfast for the Seniors to enjoy.

After breakfast, the attendees listened to presentations from Stafford Middle School students who are involved in the Band and Robotics programs. Students spoke about how these programs have benefited them, and how these activities have motivated them to set high goals.



ROBOTICS PROGRAM FLOURISHES

The Stafford High Robotics Team has embraced Science, Technology, Engineering & Math (STEM), and are enjoying the lessons of teamwork and ingenuity along the way.

Under the direction of instructors Frank Hoang and Byron Thompson, Stafford made its debut in the prestigious FIRST Robotics Competition (FRC) at the George R. Brown Convention Center in Houston.

The team worked hard to assemble its robot, "Staff 2D2," which it showcased during the 65-team competition. The event brought in teams from throughout Texas, and even as far away as Mexico and Turkey.

"The students had an opportunity to learn many new skills that are required to compete in such a forum," Hoang said. "The students worked together to solve problems. They made repairs and adjustments to their robot. The entire event was an eye-opening experience for our students. Over time, the students will hone upon their skills and learn to program their robot with those competitive moves."

RASBERRY PROMOTED TO DEPUTY SUPERINTENDENT

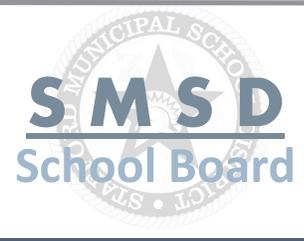
Over the past 33 years, Marva Rasberry has been #CommittedtoSMSD in a variety of roles and responsibilities. Rasberry, who has served as an Assistant Superintendent for SMSD since 2003, was recently promoted to Deputy Superintendent, which means she's the district second-in-command to SMSD Superintendent Dr. Robert Bostic.

"I look forward to playing an increased role as ambassador for the district, and working to ensure quality education and student success at SMSD," Rasberry said.

The Houston native is SMSD's longest-serving employee at 33 years and has worked during the administration of eight different SMSD superintendents. She arrived in the district a year after it opened for classes (1983) as the leader of the Business Education Department. After seven years in that role, she became a Counselor at Stafford Middle School. Rasberry worked as an Assistant Principal, and later, a Principal at Stafford Middle School, before becoming Assistant Superintendent.

"With each position I held, I was able to take those valuable lessons and experiences to the next position, causing me to enhance my professional toolbox in a most productive manner!" said Rasberry, who has a Master's of Education from the University of Houston and a Bachelor's from Stephen F. Austin State University in Business Education/Marketing. Rasberry is the proud mother of two lovely daughters.





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



VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT: ELVIRA MARTINEZ

Elvira Martinez is a dedicated volunteer for Stafford Municipal School District.

The parent of three Stafford MSD students and one SMUSD graduate, Martinez regularly assists teachers and staff with creating and updating bulletin boards on a regular basis.

“From Pre-K to 12th grades, they’re all my kids,” Martinez said.

Every year, Martinez volunteers with the district’s Cinco De Mayo presentation, which includes teachers and staff from the Stafford Primary and Stafford Elementary schools.

For this year’s Cinco De Mayo performance, Martinez worked on all but one of the individual performances.



Community and Business Partners in Action

‘Stafford MSD is doing great things’

Congressman Al Green was the Commencement Speaker at the Stafford High Class of 2016 Graduation on Friday, June 3 at The Kingdom Builder’s Center in Houston.



“Stafford MSD is doing great things,” Congressman Green said.

Green, who has represented the Ninth District of Texas since 2005, told the 230 graduates that they can do anything they set their mind to do. He emphasized the importance of the strong partnership between the City and SMUSD, and the positive contributions of students, family and administration.



The **Stafford Municipal Education Television (SMETV)** through a partnership with Houston Community College creates quality video programs shown on Comcast Channel 16 and linked to the district’s website from the “About Us” section.

Parent University is an opportunity for parents to learn what their children are learning in school and ways to effectively assist in their learning. All Stafford Schools hosted Parent University events throughout the school year. Teachers modeled ways parents can engage their children in learning and support their reading, writing, math and science skills attainment. With the assistance of community partners from Houston Community College, CollegeCommunityCareer, and others, the Middle and High Schools provided parents with sessions on dual credit, pre-AP and AP instruction, career and technical course awareness, certification options, college preparation and planning, SAT/ACT tests, financial aid, community college, financial planning for college, and scholarship opportunities. Parent University events are scheduled throughout the year.



YIP presents \$13,000 in scholarships to SMUSD students



Youth In Philanthropy, a collaborative project between the Fort Bend Chamber of Commerce, The George Foundation and school districts within the county, hosted an end-of-the-year banquet and scholarship presentation. Seven SMUSD students were presented a total of \$13,000 in scholarships. The George Foundation presented three \$5,000 scholarships, and Stafford junior Breanna Presley was awarded one of them. Dee Koch of The George Foundation read Presley’s essay before an audience of 2,000 people.

STAFFORD WINS 4A BOYS STATE TRACK TITLE



Nothing could stop the Stafford High Boys Track & Field Team, although Mother Nature and the opponents from Atlanta and Dallas Hutchins, respectively, tried their best. The Spartans finished with 50 points to win the UIL Class 4A State Championship in Austin, outlasting a 5+ hour lighting delay at University of Texas' Mike Myers Stadium. Stafford finished first out of 58 schools to win its first state championship in Track & Field, and it's first state championship in any sport since the boys basketball team won the 1991-92 state title. Junior Cam Montgomery captured three medals, winning the 100 meter dash with a time of 10.70. Montgomery ran on the 4x200 meter relay team that finished second to clinch the state championship. His relay teammates were fellow juniors Christopher Brantley, James Brown and David Allison with a time of 1:27.75. Montgomery -- along with Brantley and Brown, and senior Eli Washington -- finished fourth in the 4x100 meter relay. The 4x100 missed out on a medal by 0.1 seconds. Senior Caleb Parker won the hold medal in the 110 hurdles (14.52) and placed third in the High Jump (6-foot-7). He was ninth in the 300 hurdles (43.31). On the girls side, Stafford senior Lynette Amaram repeated as the 4A 800 Champion (2:15.19) and placed fifth in the 1600(5:14.76) .



The Year in Photos...



For Daily Updates, log on to the Stafford Municipal School District Facebook page at [Facebook.com/MSMSD82](https://www.facebook.com/MSMSD82)



"There's an App for That!"

"As part of our commitment to keeping you aware of district activities, we have created a navigable mobile app with resources, tools, and a new visual design.

Knowing that you depend on our research and insight to develop new, innovative ideas and strengthen policy and practice, we've built our new mobile site to make it much easier to find and share resources.

Reflecting our long-standing commitment to learning and continuous improvement, we welcome your feedback as we continue to improve this site." *- Willie Roberts Jr., Director of Technology*

PARADE MARSHALS: STAFFORD HIGH SCHOOL STATE TRACK CHAMPIONS

This year is unique in that the Parade Marshal to be honored is a team rather than an individual. Outstanding performances and achievements by the Stafford H.S. Track Teams led them to be named Parade Marshals.



SMSD Track Team

The Stafford H.S. Boys Track and Field Team brought home the Gold, winning the UIL Class 4A State Championship in May. Stafford's last state championship title was the 1992 3A Boys Basketball Championship. Leading the assault for SMSD was Junior Cam Montgomery who captured three medals, including the most prestigious Gold Medal in the 100 meter sprint, and added sterling performances in the 4 x 200 meter relay and the 4 x 100 meter relay.

Montgomery's teammates Christopher Brantley, James Brown and David Allison finished in 2nd Place in the 4 x 200 meter relay clinching the Championship title and Montgomery, Brantley, Brown and Eli Washington placed fourth in the 4 x 100 meter relay.

Senior Caleb Parker captured the Gold Medal in the 110 meter hurdles and secured the bronze medal in the High Jump. These outstanding efforts accounted for the Spartans winning total of 50 points, with Atlanta finishing second with 36 points while Dallas Hutchins finished third with 32 points.

Not to be overlooked, are the Stafford H.S. girls, led by Lynette Amaram who captured the Gold Medal in the 4A 800 meter sprint. All in all it was a truly outstanding performance by Stafford H.S. Track Team performers and for those achievements are named City of Stafford 2016 Independence Day Parade Marshals.

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; Sara Evans in Concert – July 14; Good Hair Hair Show – Consumer show – July 17; Namaskaar Entertainment performance – July 22; NPC Lee Labrada Classic Body Building Competition – July 30.

Fiesta Ko Sa Texas Festival – August 7; Billy Bob Thorton & The Boxmasters in concert – August 14; ICC's Independence Day Indoor Festival – August 20; Namaskaar Entertainment performance – August 20.

Dariush – Persian Concert – September 3; Coastal Prairie Quilt Guild of Texas Quilt Show – September 9 & 10; Health Line Magazine's Health & Wellness Expo – September 17; Clint Black in Concert – September 22; Indo-American Forum of Fort Bend – Navratri Dinner & Dance Fundraiser – September 24; Sino Professional's Association – Chinese National Day Multi-Art Show September 24.

Russian Grand Ballet presents "Sleeping Beauty" – October 7; Fort Bend Symphony Orchestra – October 9; Fort Bend Star Seniors Expo – October 12; NPC State Body Building Competition – October 15; Chinmaya Mission's "Navratri Garaba" – October 15; Project P.U.S.H. Women's Empowerment Conference – October 27; "Music of Abba" in Concert – October 29.

City Offices Closed:

Monday, July 4 – Independence Day
Monday, September 5 – Labor Day

Tree Limb Service:

Tree limb service: Tuesday
July 5 and Monday, October 3.

****THERE WILL BE NO RESIDENTIAL TRASH COLLECTION FOR THOSE FALLING ON A HOLIDAY****

Hurricane Season:

June 1 – November 30

Visit www.staffordtx.gov to view the Hurricane Preparedness Guide.

LEWIS NAMED NEW CITY SECRETARY

The City Newsletter will take on a somewhat different appearance. Since its inception, I, as Mayor, have presented four quarterly reports over the past 37 years. City Council is now insisting on its approval citing two alleged discrepancies in some 150,000 words of copy over the decades.

Considering the significant assistance provided by her department, it is only fitting that this publication recognize my appointment of our new City Secretary, Ms. Tomika R. Lewis, who in March assumed the vital duties of overseeing the Administrative Department.

Following the lengthy tenure of Bonnie Baiamonte, Ms. Lewis not only brings a new



face to the position but many innovative ideas obtained during her combined 10 year tenure with the State of Alabama and the City of Tuscaloosa, Alabama. She is a graduate of Stillman College and the University of West Alabama.

There are a myriad of requirements related to her office. Included are arranging agendas for City meetings, conducting elections and dealing with the numerous enquiries and requests of the public. Foremost among her challenges will be to elevate this department into the new technological age.

With enthusiasm we welcome Ms. Lewis to the City and this most important role.

Leonard Scarcella, Mayor



City of Stafford
2610 South Main
Stafford, TX 77477



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STAFFORD ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION (SEDC) NEWS

As the President of the SEDC, the very first thing I did was to get the assistance of two economic consultants, Jeff Wiley from the Fort Bend Economic Development Corporation and Jason Claunch from Catalyst, who is the City's Economic Development Recruiter. We came up with a consensus on the top three economic developments. 1. The former TI property; 2. City owned property next to the Stafford Centre and 3. The Island on Highway 90A.

Street Level, the developer has already began work on the east side of the TI property that was zoned Light Industrial/Commercial. The Stafford Centre is being looked at for future development. Bryan Blaum of FM2 and our new consultant will recommend the usages of the vacant land.

Highway 90A in front of the Promenade Subdivision, now has a new Frost Bank, McDonalds and very soon a Starbucks will be complete. After the study of the Stafford Centre, and the revitalization and redevelopment of Highway 90A, the City should look at the vast potential of the vacant property on Kirkwood. This shows the City has a bright future.

Wen Guerra, President SEDC