



# The Stafford Newsletter

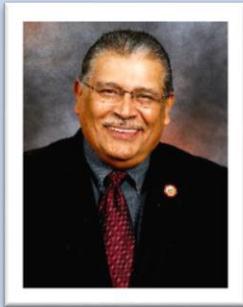


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## ELECTIONS SET FOR SATURDAY, MAY 6



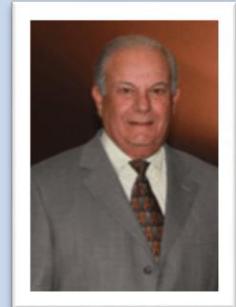
Councilmember Guerra



Councilmember Honore



Councilmember Rosas



Lawrence Vaccaro

Three Council seats are up for election: Those are currently held by Councilmembers Wen Guerra, AJ Honore and Virginia Rosas. Also filing for a Council seat is Lawrence Vaccaro, who is a retired city employee. Mayor Leonard Scarcella, who is seeking re-election, is unopposed. The election is set for Saturday, May 6, 2017, from 7AM to 7PM at City Hall. Early voting (April 24 – April 28, 2017 and May 1 – 2, 2017) will be at City Hall, as well as numerous locations throughout Fort Bend County.

Stafford Municipal School District Board which is electing two trustees, will not have an election as both candidates are unopposed.

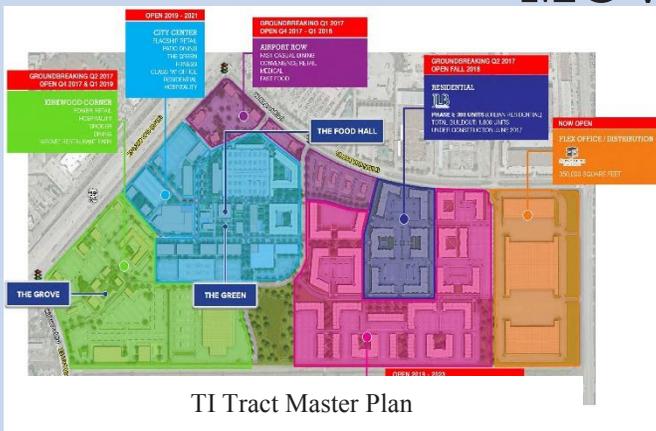
### Annual Town Meeting Receives State of the City Report

## CITIZENS GET THEIR SAY

This years Annual Town Meeting in January had a good turn out. Eleven (11) members of the public took the opportunity to address City Council. The meeting began with the State of the City and Goals for 2017 delivered by Mayor Leonard Scarcella. In his address he illustrated the accomplishments throughout the history of the City which brought Stafford to its current status. He also presented the twelve (12) goals he believes the City should pursue. His conclusion emphasized the unique attributes of the City but cautioned that we must keep a watchful eye of its expenditures. Following his presentation, Council members had the opportunity to address issues they deemed important in the message related to the condition of the City. After hearing from the public, on which there were a broad range of public comments, the Council and Mayor took the opportunity to make closing statements.

A complete presentation of the meeting is available at SMETV. <http://www.staffordtx.gov/departments/smetv/whats-on.html>

## DEVELOPMENT AT THE FORMER TI TRACT MOVES FORWARD



City Council and the Stafford Economic Development Corporation (SEDC) met last month with representatives of Street Level Inc., the development firm revitalizing the 192 acre tract on US.59, to explore approaches to transforming the property. The promoter emphasized the need for desired incentives. With extensive work by staff led by Patti Worfe, Chris Riggs and Dr. Milton Rahman, a plan for negotiations is being formulated and will be presented to council. Advances in this effort continue to be anticipated over the next few months.



Registration team

# SPRING CLEAN UP SCHEDULED

The enthusiastically supported Citywide Spring Clean Up is scheduled for Saturday, April 8, 2017. Since it's inception this event has grown each year as more members of the community get involved and take part in this effort.

This much anticipated endeavor will begin with registration at City Hall at 9:00 AM. Team equipment will be assigned at that time. After scouring the city the teams will return to City Hall for lunch, consisting of free hot-dogs, burgers and other refreshments beginning at 11:30 AM.

Additionally, citizens can also place heavy trash at their curbside not later than 7AM that morning. The city's waste collector WCA will have extra trucks available to collect heavy trash items.

Refrigerators and freezers are collected. However, all coolant must be drained from the appliance for them to be picked up.



A clean up team in action

Anyone desiring to have old tires removed should place them curbside before 7AM on Saturday. Anyone with a large quantity of tires should call (281) 261-3941.

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

Following the hearty lunch, this fun filled event will conclude with the presentation of awards for "most unusual trash", "most valuable trash" as well as the most sought after "money bottles".

# CITY POOL SCHEDULES ANNOUNCED

Children are getting excited as that time of year is approaching. One of the most anticipated functions of the summer in Stafford is the opening of the City's Swimming Pool, located at 1415 Constitution Drive (behind the Civic Center).

Stafford residents may purchase a Pool Pass for the entire swim season at a cost of \$15. A one day pass for residents is \$2.00. The cost for non-residents who are 5 years & older is \$5.00 per day, and for those who are 2 – 4 years is \$3.00 per day. Children under 2 years old may enter free. The Summer Program - there will not only be regular swimming activities but lessons, parties, practice and competition by the Stafford Sting Rays Swim Team, Pool parties can be booked during the season. Sign-up for these parties begin May 27.

The joint SMSD/City Recreation Program will be making available the Spartan Red Gym Weight Room and other activities. This program will run from June 6 through July 20, with hours of operation from 1PM - 4PM and 6PM - 8 PM.

If any of these activities appeal to you, please call Susan Ricks at (281) 499 5763.

## 2017 POOL SCHEDULE

**POOL OPENS: Memorial Day Weekend -Saturday, May 27**

**POOL CLOSURES: Labor Day Weekend - Monday, September 4**

**DAILY HOURS: Tuesday - Friday 10AM - 8PM  
Saturday 11AM - 7PM ; Sunday 12PM - 7PM  
CLOSED all Mondays, except holidays**



**SWIM LESSONS: Swim lessons are offered for ages 4 through adult. Sign up begins May 27, at the pool or by calling (281)-499-8783.**

**STAFFORD SWIM TEAM: Online registration will start on March 21; however, you can register by emailing Yvette Hinojosa at [Stafford.stingrays17@gmail.com](mailto:Stafford.stingrays17@gmail.com).**

## SUMMER RECREATION PROGRAM

**LOCATION: Spartan Red Gym Weight Room**

**DATES: Tuesday, June 6 - Thursday, July 20                      HOURS: 1PM - 4PM & 6PM- 8PM**

**FEE: \$15.00 Pool pass card must be presented, no exceptions. Children under the age of 10 must be accompanied by an adult. For information call the Athletic Department at (281)-208-6140**



# Spotlight

"Best Little School District in Texas"



## Mark Your Calendar!

- Choir Pop Show**.....April 6
- City-Wide Clean-Up** April 8
- Board Meeting**.....April 10
- Good Friday** April 14
- District Advisory Mtg**.....April 19
- Drones & Scones**..... April 28
- Hispanic Multicultural Event** .....
- May 4**
- Board Meeting**..... May 8
- Spring Concert**..... May 16
- Memorial Day**.....May 29
- Early Dismissal**... June 1
- HS Graduation**..... June 2

### **FOLLOW US**

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- Stafford\_Sports SMSDMIDDLE
- SMSDPrimary
- SMSDELEMENTARY
- SMSDHIGH

### FROM THE DESK OF SUPERINTENDENT BOSTIC

Dear Spartans,

Welcome Back from Spring Break! We hope you enjoyed yourselves and are ready to finish the 2016-17 School Year on a high note!

Stafford Municipal School District's Mission is to graduate every student College or Career Ready, without remediation.

Stafford MSD currently graduates 96 percent of its students, College or Career Ready. We will not be satisfied until that number reaches 100 percent!

We have some great news with regards to our quest for Academic Excellence.

SMSD has more than doubled the number of students enrolled in Dual Credit Courses through an outstanding partnership with Houston Community College. Dual Credit courses give our students the opportunity to earn college credit during their high school years.

Student enrollment in Advanced Placement (AP)/Pre-Advanced Placement (Pre-AP) courses is up 18 percent. The number of students enrolled in Stafford College & Career Center courses has seen a 13 percent rise. These are more than just encouraging statistics. We believe these figures are symbolic of our staff's dedication and determination toward meeting the District's Mission of preparing graduates for College or Careers, without remediation.

We are preparing students at all campuses for bright futures through our Literacy and Math Initiatives. Mastering the building blocks of education is a key first step in achieving future success.

All of these are key reasons why Stafford MSD has 16 TEA Distinctions and is the #HomeofChampions in Academics, Extracurriculars and everything we do!

In order to continue improving Academics, we must consider the importance of Long Range Facilities Planning. If you're interested in serving on our Long Range Facilities Planning Committee, e-mail Communications Coordinator Michael Sudhalter at msudhalter@staffordmsd.org

Another reminder for parents & guardians: STAAR Testing is ongoing! Our teachers have done a good job of preparing students. We encourage parents to ensure their students get plenty of rest at all times, but especially on the nights before testing.

**Dr. Robert Bostic**  
Proud to be SMSD!



## Stafford High UIL Academic Team enjoys incredible success

We are proud to announce that our Stafford High UIL Academic Team enjoyed incredible success at the UIL Needville Invitational last month.

Our UIL Science Team, anchored by Peter Gao, Dung Trinh and Maraki Samuel, placed first overall. Gao, who will attend Dartmouth College in the fall, placed first overall and first in the Biology category.

Our UIL Math Team took first place in Number Sense and Mathematics. Gao, Trinh and Vy Nguyen led the way.

Stafford High is crossing new frontiers. We had a Literary Criticism Team for the first time, and they won first place. A member of that team, Hira Ahmed, placed first individually. Deja Gardiner and Courtney Reed placed third and fourth, respectively.

We had a Computer Science Team for the first time and placed third in the Small School Category, with Trinh placing third individually.

Our UIL Spelling/Vocabulary Team (Dinh, Ahmed and Brittany Kiet) placed second at the Invitational.



# STUDENTS, PARENTS & EMPLOYEES IN ACTION

## STAFFORD BASKETBALL'S OUTSTANDING SEASON



The Stafford High Boys Basketball Team went 10-0 in District Competition to win its third District Championship in seven years.

The Spartans went on to advance to the Regional Quarterfinals for the first time in seven years, winning District, Bi-District and Area Championships along the way.

Senior Desmond Mathis (pictured here) earned Co-District MVP honors, and Head Coach Torrence Botts was named District Coach of the Year after leading the Spartans to the third round of the postseason.

## ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT: Kimberly Burks,

### Senior Construction Project Manager

I am currently a Sr. Construction Project Manager in Facilities Planning and Construction at the University of Houston. I would advise anyone with an interest in delegating and organizing to pursue Project Management in any area; IT, construction, Oil/Gas. There is a need for someone to organize work activities, while ensuring the project is within the schedule and budget. Burks is a proud 1993 Stafford High Graduate.



### How did your time at SMSD inspire you toward your current career?

The Technology class at the time helped me to explore the curiosity I had with Science interactively.

### What lessons did you learn at SMSD that have served you well in your current career?

Diversity is the key. While I was a student at SMSD, the population was small and diverse. I was exposed to different cultures. This allowed me to learn about other cultures, while appreciating my own culture. SMSD is where I developed my passion for the Spanish language, the appreciation of the Hispanic culture and the love of traveling the world.

## NATIONAL READING MONTH



Literacy is a high priority at Stafford MSD!

Stafford MSD celebrated National Reading Month in March. Students participated in "Read Across America" Week and the "Rock & Read Event" at the Primary School. Stafford Primary Principal Karen Hatter dressed up as her favorite character, Little Red Riding Hood.



## SMSD HOME OF CHAMPIONS



Stafford MSD hosted "Home of Champions" on Friday, March 3 to celebrate the Academic and Extracurricular accomplishments of its students. SMSD Superintendent Dr. Robert Bostic attended this celebratory event, along with each of the five campus principals.

Wristbands, Car Decals, Bumper Stickers and more giveaways were presented to the attendees, who had a great time!



## BECOME AN STAFFORD MSD KEY COMMUNICATOR



Did you enjoy reading this newsletter?

Would you like weekly updates on everything that's going on at Stafford MSD?

E-mail Stafford MSD Communications Coordinator Michael Sudhalter at [msudhalter@staffordmsd.org](mailto:msudhalter@staffordmsd.org) to receive weekly updates at the end of the work week.



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

The Board of Trustees meets monthly on the second Monday at 6:30 PM in the SMSD 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.

### 2017 CANDIDATES

SMSD Board Vice President Chris Caldwell is unopposed for re-election. After much thought and consideration, SMSD Trustee Rodney Butler has decided not to seek a fourth term. Longtime Stafford resident Jacquelyn Jean-Baptiste decided to run for the Board of Trustees and is unopposed. If elected, the terms for Caldwell and Jean-Baptiste would expire in May 2020. Each of the seven trustees represent Stafford MSD at large. Here's some information on the candidates.



**Chris Caldwell**

Christopher Caldwell has lived in Stafford for nearly 20 years, and has two children: daughter, Ashle and son, Ethan. He currently works at Houston Community College where he is a Professor of Business Technology and a member of the S.T.E.M committee. Christopher Caldwell is very active in the community where he has served as coach/director of the Stafford Youth Basketball Association (SYBA) for nearly 10 years. He is also a coach for the C.L. Stars Track Club which trains at Stafford High. Aside from his volunteer activities in Stafford, Mr. Caldwell also coaches little league football. He is currently a Doctoral student at Texas Southern University. His field of study is Educational Administration with emphasis in Higher Education. Christopher Caldwell is a perpetual supporter of education and has worked in the field of education for 25 years. His roles in education have spanned from Teacher's Assistant to Department Chair.



**Jacquelyn Jean-Baptiste**

Jacquelyn Jean-Baptiste has been a resident of Stafford for over 21 years. Jean-Baptiste and her husband, Fred, have been married for 29 years. They have three sons, Nicolas, Julian and Christian, who attended Stafford MSD. Jean-Baptiste is a member of Holy Family Catholic Church. She is employed by a medical device manufacturing company as the Regulatory and Quality Assurance Director. Jean-Baptiste is a graduate of Howard University where she received a Bachelor's of Science in Zoology and Chemistry.

Jean-Baptiste enjoys reading, running through the park, football and most other sports.

## The Inaugural SMSD Education Foundation Mardi Gras Gala





# STAFFORD PRIMARY CELEBRATES BLACK HISTORY MONTH



Stafford Primary School students celebrated Black History Month in February at the Stafford Civic Center.

The theme was "Because Of Them, We Can."

Students portrayed Dr. Martin Luther King, President Barack Obama, Ralph Abernathy, Rosa Parks, Harriet Tubman and several other important historic leaders.

## STAFFORD JROTC EARNS GOLD HONOR STAR



Congratulations to our excellent Stafford High JROTC Program, under the direction of U.S. Army Ret. Col. Thomas Ehlinger.

Our JROTC Program had an Inspection last month. They did an outstanding job and showed why Stafford JROTC is one of the best JROTC programs in the area, maintaining their Gold Honor Status with a score of 95.5

## Wal-Mart Donates School Supplies to Stafford MSD

Thank you to our generous community partner, Stafford Wal-Mart, for donating school supplies (for teacher/students) last month.

The students and staff truly appreciate them! We needed an entire van to bring all of the donations to our campus!



# SPORTS SCHEDULES

## High School Baseball

### DATE OPPONENT LOCATION TIME

- March 21 Columbia Stafford 7 p.m.
- March 24 West Christian West Christian 4 p.m.
- March 28 Bellville Stafford, 7 p.m.
- March 31 Sealy Sealy 7 p.m.
- April 4 Needville Stafford, 7 p.m.
- April 7 Columbus Columbus, 7 p.m.
- April 13 Huffman-Hargrave Stafford 7 p.m.
- April 18 Bellville Bellville 7 p.m.
- April 21 Sealy Stafford 7 p.m.
- April 25 Needville Needville, 7 p.m.

## High School Softball

### DATE OPPONENT LOCATION TIME

- March 21 Columbia Stafford 5/7 p.m.
- March 24 Royal Royal 5/7 p.m.
- March 28 Bellville Stafford 5/7 p.m.
- March 31 Sealy Sealy 5/7 p.m.
- April 4 Needville Stafford 5/7 p.m.
- April 7 Columbia Columbia 6 p.m.
- April 13 Hitchcock Hitchcock 6 p.m.
- April 18 Bellville Bellville 6 p.m.
- April 21 Sealy Stafford 6 p.m.





# ANIMAL PROTECTION PROGRAM OPTIONS EXPLORED

In November of 2016 and February 2017, Mayor Leonard Scarcella convened a special committee to address revisions to the recently adopted Animal Control Ordinance. Sixteen persons, many of whom are representatives of animal rights organizations, including several citizens attended the workshops. Discussions centered around necessary policies and accommodations proposed for the addition of an inclusion of “no kill” provisions for dogs and cats in the ordinance.

A pilot program run entirely on a volunteer basis by those in attendance is being developed for one area of the City known to have a high populous of feral cats. Captain Herman of Stafford PD, Pete Ramirez, Animal Control Officer and Nici Browe, Assistant City Secretary visited the Friends for Life Shelter owned and run by Salise Shuttlesworth, who has been front and center in the movement towards ‘No Kill’ Shelters and the Trap Neuter and Release Programs (TNR) for feral cats. The tour provided the opportunity to observe the operation of a successful ‘No Kill’ shelter. Demonstrated was the process necessary to proceed with the TNR, once a cat has been trapped and brought to the facility. The Mayor is working with the animal groups and citizens to present in the near future to City Council a proposal of a Pilot TNR Project. At the next Animal Ordinance Revision Workshop there will be tangible information and guidelines as the City progresses in this endeavor.



## BULLETIN BOARD

### STAFFORD CENTRE EVENTS

- April:** - Ballet Forte Spring Performance “Sleeping Beauty” April 1-2;  
 - Greater Sugar Land CCA Fundraiser April 6;  
 - International Plastic Model Society “Modelmania” April 29

- May:** - B.J.Thomas Concert May 4;  
 - Quilters Guild “Quilt Show” May 4-6;  
 - Fort Bend Symphony “Carmena Buraro” May 21;  
 - TX High Class Bullyz & Space City Bullies “Dog Show” May 27

- June:** - Comedian “Andres Lopez” June 15;  
 - Vegan Society of Peace “VegFest 2017 Festival” June 17

#### City Offices Closed

Friday, April 14, 2017 - Easter Monday  
Monday, May 29, 2017 - Memorial Day



**Tree Limb Pick-up:** First Monday **of July and October**



**Residential Trash Pick-up:** Days are **Monday and Thursday** or a **Tuesday and Friday depending on residence location**. There will be **NO trash pick-up on a holiday**. Your trash will be collected on your next scheduled pick-up day.



#### **BURGLAR/FIRE ALARM \*\*new amendment effective January 18, 2017\*\***

<u>Registration Fees:</u>	<u>False Alarm Fees:</u>
Residential Alarm Registration - \$30.00	3 free per calendar year
Commercial Burglar Alarm Registration - \$100.00	4-7 \$50 each – Police / \$175 each – Fire
Commercial Fire Alarm Registration - \$100.00	8+ \$100 each – Police / \$250 each - Fire



#### **PET REGISTRATIONS**

City Ordinance #1065 states that any dog or cat kept, over four months of age harbored or maintained by their owner in the City, **shall** be licensed and registered.  
Fees: \$2.00 per dog or cat. **Bring the animals’ current vaccination documentation to City Hall.**  
Payable at City Hall. All pet registrations expire December 31<sup>st</sup>.

# MAYOR'S MESSAGE

As reported in my State of the City address: Stafford has tremendous potential. This has been amplified by the significant interest President Trump has placed on oil and gas production since taking office, which has a direct bearing on our City's economy, whose strongest section is the oil field valve manufacturing component.

Another area that the President and Congress are in agreement is the need for quality high paying jobs. No city has a stronger potential in this area than we do – especially with so many foreign corporations locating and operating here and with the new recently opened HCC Workforce Development Center offering most beneficial curriculums.

Keeping this clearly in mind, we must continue to recognize the importance of fiscal prudence. We cannot generate enough income to out run irresponsible spending.

Nevertheless, with the promising economic situation and the responsible use of our resources, Stafford can not only maintain its zero property tax rate, but can have an exceedingly prosperous 2017.

Respectfully,



**Leonard Scarcella, Mayor**



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

# SEDC MESSAGE

The New Year is off to a great start! Several new businesses have begun construction including the new Dairy Queen on Hwy 90-A at Promenade, the new Circle K store at the corner of Hwy 90-A and Avenue E along with several new businesses coming into The Fountains in the next couple of months. We are expecting demolition to begin across from the Circle K to make way for a Stripes Convenience store and we have several new businesses that have recently opened including a new Jimmy Johns and a Marco's Pizza. Lots of construction will continue in the next few months and we are excited to see all the changes coming to Stafford!

The city has recently met with the developers of the hopes in what is coming. Next up, you will see apartment construction begin behind the warehouses that are near the corner of West Airport and Murphy Road. And not far behind

the apartments, you will begin to see new restaurants, hotels, commercial and office settings. We are excited to see all of this come to fruition and add new sales tax to the city coffers!

Sales tax continues to remain steady with a nice increase in the month of January and as new business moves to Stafford, we hope to continue to see this increase monthly. Work continues on the projects that SEDC had previously approved including the expansion of the 1092 corridor, new sidewalks along Staffordshire from US 90A south to Scanlin Road and the upgraded security measures to better monitor the primary commercial / retail areas of the city.



**Wen Guerra, President SEDC**