

The Stafford Newsletter



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July 2017

COUNCIL ELECTION RETAINS INCUMBENTS

The City of Stafford election held in May, retained the Council's current composition. Mayor Leonard Scarcella running unopposed, was re-elected. Incumbent Councilmembers AJ. Honore, who received the largest number of votes, Virginia Rosas and Wen Guerra won the three available seats on Council. They were opposed by former city employee Lawrence Vaccaro, who failed in his bid. A total of 896 citizens voted in the election, representing a turnout of approximately 10%.

Formal installation of the reelected candidates was held on May 17, 2017.



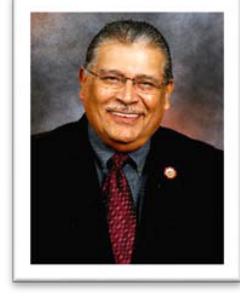
Leonard Scarcella



AJ. Honore



Virginia Rosas



Wen Guerra

INDEPENDENCE DAY CELEBRATION SET

The Annual City of Stafford Independence Day Celebration will mark its 42nd consecutive year of honoring the birth of our nation. As in the past, but expanded, are numerous free activities for all the family to enjoy, it will be all commemorated on July 3rd and July 4th.

The parade on Monday, July 3rd at 7 p.m. will kick off the celebration. Following that will be the honoring of this years "Parade Marshal" (see page 7), a street dance, children's rides and many other activities, together with nonprofit booths. On Tuesday, July 4th the Fort Bend Symphony Orchestra will once again inspire us with a delightful patriotic concert. Concluding the two days of activity will be a much anticipated Fireworks Display.

Something citizens and visitors have come to appreciate, and of which the City is most proud, is that these events are all free to the public. The Stafford Centre, an exceptional and renowned venue, which brings great pride to our citizens, will be the site for all activities.

A complete schedule and parade route are here:



Monday July 3rd

- Parade **7:00PM**
- Parade Marshal **7:30PM**
- 7:30PM – 11:30PM**
- Carnival Rides
- Food/Game Booths
- Hay Rides
- Street Dance
- Tejano Knights Band
- Cecil Shaw & The Allstylz Band

Tuesday July 4th

- Fort Bend Symphony Orchestra –
- Freedom Rings Concert **7:00PM**
- Fireworks **9:00PM**

Parade starts in HCC parking lot at corner of Cash and Stafford Road; travel west down Cash and turn left on Greenland Drive; turn right on Stafford Centre Drive; turn right into Stafford Centre's far parking lot; turn left on Cash; and turn left and enter main entrance of Stafford Centre

PRIZED CITY SWIMMING POOL IS OPEN



Memorial Day weekend officially initiated the opening of our prized City pool. Children and adults alike are dipping into and keeping cool in this outstanding facility. A compliment to the pool has been the summer recreation program at the Spartan Red Gym Weight Room, which increased the number of participants this year.

POOL HOURS:

DAILY HOURS: Tuesday – Friday 10AM – 8PM; Saturday 11AM – 7PM; Sunday 12PM – 7PM.

SWIM LESSONS: Swim lessons are offered for ages 4 and over including adults. Please call (281) 499-8783 for scheduling.

STAFFORD SWIM TEAM: Contact Yvette Hinojosa at Stafford.stingrays17@gmail.com to join.

FEES: Season pool pass card - \$15.00; One day pass card - \$2.00 residents only. Non-residents 5yrs or older - \$5.00 per day and non-residents 2yrs – 4yrs - \$3.00 per day. Children under 2 yrs. will enter free.

POOL CLOSURES: Labor Day – Monday, September 4 is the last day of our swimming season.

SPRING CLEAN UP IS MOST SUCCESSFUL

The Citywide Spring Clean Up event held Saturday, April 8th was another rousing success. The weather beautifully cooperated with over 900 residents and inspired participants collaborate in the event, ranking it among the most impressive the City has sponsored.

Scott McElrath led this well organized and orchestrated effort. He most adequately stepped in for Marcia Fouts, traditionally the prime activist, but who was unfortunately ill. In spite of her absence, city employees and volunteers entertained the enthusiastic and ambitious participants that Saturday morning.



For those 16 plus teams involved there were free food, drinks and ice cream together with recognition for those having special achievements, including the finding of interesting and bizarre trash. Mayor Leonard Scarcella kicked off the presentations with a stirring speech about the benefits of community involvement in this activity to enhance our City. Scott McElrath served as the presenter and not only handed out trophies and awards but took full advantage of the beautiful day including taking many photographs which will long remain a remembrance of the celebration. Gaining the most attention was a member of the Fire Department who scaled the ladder on the fire truck to take photographs and video via the SFD drone thus allowing special images of the day to be sent directly to many, including the recuperating Marcia Fouts.

COMMUNITY INFORMATION: *BE PREPARED*

MOSQUITOS: It is that time of year from May through end of October, when those pesky critters are out day and night, and can be most dangerous. The City has a most active mosquito spraying schedule. There are many things that you personally can do to reduce the mosquito population by being vigilant. Watch for standing water, which is a natural attraction to these insects and a breeding ground for them around your home.

Be aware: leaves clogging your rain gutter can become a sanctuary for mosquitos breeding. Many innocuous items, such as children's wagons holding water are an invitation to mosquitos for their larvae to hatch and is an enticing nursery for mosquitos. When outside after dusk wear long shirt sleeves and long pants. Spraying with an insect repellent containing DEET is recommended.



16 TEXAS EDUCATION AGENCY ACADEMIC DISTINCTIONS

SPOTLIGHT

SUMMER 2017

CONGRATULATIONS STAFFORD CLASS OF 2017



Members of the Stafford High Class of 2017 were awarded a total of \$2.4 Million in Scholarships. They will attend 43 different colleges and universities.



FROM THE DESK OF SUPERINTENDENT BOSTIC

We have enjoyed a superb 2016-17 academic year, which culminated with the momentous graduation of the Stafford High Class of 2017. On June 2 We are proud to say that many of the graduates began their academic careers as Pre-K or Kindergarten students in Stafford MSD.

Stafford MSD is proud to report that we have achieved a 97 percent in College and Career Readiness on the TSI (Texas Success Initiative) Exam. Our achievement there, while no surprise, is the perfect follow-up to our 16 Texas Education Agency Academic Distinctions.

We hope our students and teachers are enjoying a well-deserved summer break. During that time, the Administration has been working diligently to follow through with an encore to our success in 2017-18. We are outlining the future with Stafford Vision 2020.

A large part of our future planning includes the Long Range Facilities Planning meetings. Community members have dedicated a great deal of team working with the architectural firm, Autoarch, in anticipation of a possible School Bond. The Board of Trustees and the City Council have been meeting regularly to discuss these developments. We are here to provide any information or answer any questions regarding the current state of our District.

Circling back to academics, we are ever closer to reaching Our Vision for every SMSD student to graduate college or career ready, without remediation.

I 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.

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

- * Our High School Robotics Program won a 48-Team Tournament in San Antonio to qualify for the World Championships. They also qualified for the UIL State Competition.
- * Our Track & Field Program had three athletes and three relay teams qualify for the State Meet in Austin.
- * The SMSD band continues to thrive. The Middle and High School bands received first division ratings on concert stage and sight reading challenges.
- * The Culinary Arts program continued the delicious La Sparta Café for faculty, and they're currently working on planning a Culinary Field Trip to Italy.

Dr. Robert Bostic, Superintendent

STAFFORD MSD DRONES & SCONES EVENT



Stafford MSD was honored to host the inaugural "Drones & Scones" Event in April.

The purpose of the event was to showcase the latest educational technology programs — Robotics and Drones with our local community and business leaders.

These programs are preparing students for careers in Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM).



Students, Parents & Employees in Action

SMSD TEACHER OF THE YEAR: STAFFORD INTERMEDIATE'S ILEANA DURAN-REYES



Stafford MSD Teacher of the Year Ileana Duran Reyes (Stafford Intermediate) was awarded a free summer lease on a Sterling McCall Ford Edge SUV. 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 One Automotive for the SMSD District Teacher of the Year. Group 1 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, Ms. Duran-Reyes!

Camille Merck (Stafford High) was named the Secondary Teacher of the Year.

Duran-Reyes was also the Stafford Elementary Teacher of the Year. Fellow 2016-17 SMSD Teachers of the Year were Regina Matthews (Primary), Michael Sweeney (Intermediate) and Carin Williamson (Middle). Middle School Assistant Principal Michael Kearns was named Administrator of the Year.



CLASS OF 2017 VALEDICTORIAN/SALUTATORIAN

Meet our future Surgeon and Computer Programmer! Valedictorian Jerry Amomoy has attended Stafford MSD since Pre-K. He will attend the University of St. Thomas to study Biology/Pre-Med with plans of becoming a Surgeon. Salutatorian Genesis Perez will study Computer Science at the University of Texas-Austin. Perez, who scored 56 goals in four seasons for the SHS Soccer Team, chose to attend SMSD from sixth grade onward, after starting at a charter school.



GAO HEADED TO IVY LEAGUE SCHOOL

Stafford High senior Peter Gao is an outstanding student -- among the Top 10 students in Stafford High's Class of 2017, to be exact. He has been accepted into an Ivy League University, Dartmouth College, in Hanover, New Hampshire.

"I plan on studying Computer Science and minoring in Economics/Finance," Gao said. "I would like to earn a Doctorate in Computer Science, and one day, start my own company." Gao is very interested "in the infinite possibilities that computers can bring" and wants to improve the world around him through Computer Science. He discussed his college choices with his uncle, and chose Dartmouth - where Computer Science Professor Dr. Tom Cormen is the author of several Computer Science textbooks used by universities through the world. Gao said his experience at Stafford MSD has prepared him for the Ivy League school.

He moved to Stafford from China as a freshman 3.5 years ago.

Gao learned English soon after arriving at SMSD. "My classmates welcomed me, and some of them volunteered to tutor me in English," Gao said. "My teachers were very patient with me."



Stafford High Robotics qualifies for FIRST World Championship!

The Stafford High Robotics Program qualified for the FIRST Robotics World Championships in Houston after winning a 48-Team Regional Qualifier in San Antonio.

Once at the World Championships, Stafford finished in the top one-third of teams in its division. Their competitors included teams from throughout the United States, and as far away as China and Israel.

The Stafford Robotics Team was also one of 32 schools, state-wide, invited to the UIL Championships in Austin.

SMSD Superintendent Dr. Robert Bostic had a vision for Stafford Robotics, and the program continues to grow each year. It's accomplishing the intended goal of preparing students for careers in Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM).

FORMER SMSD STUDENT RETURNS AS SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICER

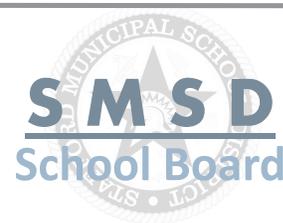


Stafford Police Department Officer J. Perry is glad to serve the community where she grew up.

Perry attended Stafford Municipal School District from 2000-05 and now works as a School Resource Officer in the District where she was once a student. It's not uncommon for her to pass the same teachers in the hallway that once instructed her in the classroom.

Perry was working in the service industry, when she decided to pursue a career in Public Service. At the age of 20, she became an Emergency Dispatcher with the Stafford Police Department. She enjoyed that position, but she gained an interest in finding out about the other side of those dispatch calls. Perry decided to enroll at the University of Houston-Downtown Police Academy. Perry, who was working full-time as an SPD Dispatcher and raising her son while attending the Academy, earned her law enforcement certification in 2013.

The following year, Stafford PD hired her as a Patrol Officer.



Auturo Jackson
President

Christopher Caldwell
Vice-President

Xavier Herrera
Secretary

Jacqueline Jean-Baptiste
Trustee

Alicia Lacy-Castille
Trustee

Greg Holsapple
Trustee

Manuel Hinojosa
Trustee

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



STAFFORD MSD TRUSTEE NEWS

Stafford MSD Trustee **Jacqueline Jean-Baptiste** was sworn in to office on May 23, and Trustee **Christopher Caldwell** was sworn in for his second term. **Auturo Jackson** was named Board President for 2017-18, with Caldwell continuing to serve as Vice President, and **Xavier Herrera** as Secretary.

The Stafford Community bid a bittersweet farewell to longtime Trustee **Rodney Butler**, who served his last meeting on May 23. He was honored with a reception after the meeting.

Secretary Herrera was elected to the Mexican-American School Board Association (MASBA) Board. He also became the first SMUSD Trustee to graduate from the Fort Bend Chamber of Commerce Leadership Class.

President Jackson always enjoys meeting and greeting future Spartans. Here he is pictured with Timmy Wood, the infant son of Stafford Middle School Teacher Tim Wood.



Community and Business Partners in Action

CollegeCommunityCareer fosters a college-going culture with low income, first generation high school students and families. Founded by Kathy and Bill Rose, the nonprofit organization prepares high school students for admission to and graduation from a four year university. The program supports students by providing them with the skills to be successful in college, leadership development, civic engagement and career discovery. In September, the SMUSD School Board approved an agreement with the organization to provide services for select Stafford High School students. To learn more about this unique program, go to www.collegecommunitycareer.org



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.



Starbucks, Marco's Pizza partner with Stafford MSD



The Stafford locations of Starbucks and Marco's Pizza, both located on U.S. 90-A, have become strong partners of Stafford Municipal School District. Starbucks honors our Teacher of the Month at each campus each month with a free coffee and free pastry. Marco's Pizza recognizes our Student of the Month at each campus with a free dine-in pizza for the student and their family.

STAFFORD ATHLETES RECORD TOP 5 INDIVIDUAL FINISHES AT STATE MEET

Nine Stafford High Track & Field Athletes competed at the UIL Class 4A State Meet for the first time, in Austin on May 13.

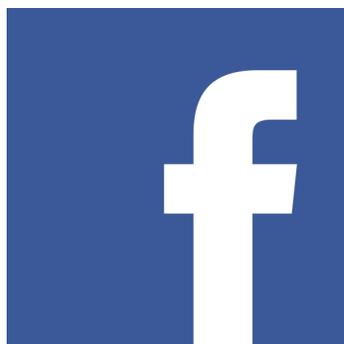
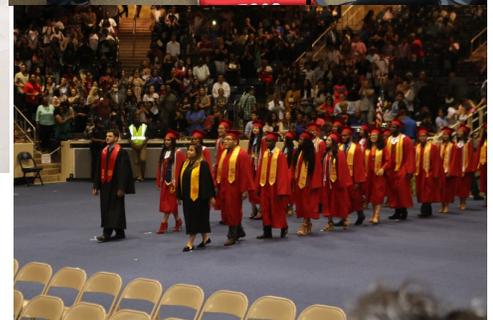
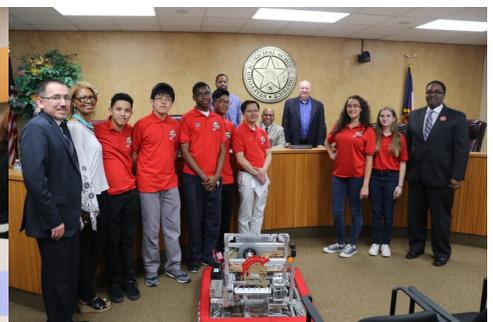
The Spartans recorded four Top Five finishes.

Junior Kenneth Bodwin finished fourth in the 300 Meter Hurdles (38.66 seconds), and tied for fifth in the Long Jump (22-6 1/2).

Hill-Johnson was seventh in the 100 Meter Girls (12.14). The Relay Teams (4x100 Girls and 4x400 Boys) both finished eighth. The 4x100 Girls Relay Team featured Hill-Johnson, junior Faith Odigi, sophomore Chaunta Thomas and freshman Jayla Pratt. The 4x400 Boys Relay Team was made up of Bodwin, senior Jerrell Hunter, sophomore Jalen Curry and freshman Sterling Riles.



The Year in Photos...



For Daily Updates, log on to the Stafford Municipal School District Facebook page at [Facebook.com/MSD82](https://www.facebook.com/MSD82)



"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

FORMER CHIEF KRAHN HONORED AS PARADE MARSHAL



Bonny Krahn as Police Chief

This Year's Parade Marshal is Bonny Krahn, the former City of Stafford Police Chief who reigned for over four decades. Krahn came to Stafford as a young 11 year old, and began working as a Police Officer in 1970. He won the accolade of the longest serving Texas Police Chief with 42 years as the Chief and 45 years overall on the force before his retirement in 2015.

As a most respected community leader, he dedicated his professional life to the citizens of the City of Stafford. It is most fitting that we honor Chief Bonny Krahn as this year's Parade Marshal.



BULLETIN BOARD

STAFFORD CENTRE EVENTS: JULY - SEPTEMBER

JULY: 3rd & 4th Celebrations
16th Yugpurush – Hindi Play
29th NPC Lee Labrada Classic

AUGUST: 11th – 19th BAPS Swami Celebration

SEPTEMBER: 15th September Siavash Ghomayshi
22nd September – Laureamor y emidillo

CITY OFFICES CLOSED

Monday, September 4, 2017 - Labor Day



COFFEE WITH A COP & COMMUNITY FOOT PATROL – watch Stafford Police Department's social media for time and dates.

NATIONAL NIGHT OUT –Tuesday October 3rd, participants must register at: <http://staffordtx.gov/departments/police/national-night-out.html> to receive donations and visits from Stafford Police and Fire Departments.

OFFICERS DOWN 5K – September 23rd this nationwide law enforcement event will be hosting a 5K run/2K walk and Kids Fun Run Community Day at the Stafford Civic Center. For more information and registration: <https://runsignup.com/staffordod5k>

Tree Limb Pick-Up: **First Monday of July, October and January**

Residential Trash Pick-up: **Monday & Thursday OR Tuesday & Friday.** There will be **NO** trash pick-up on a holiday, including Tuesday July 4th and Monday September 4th. Your trash will be collected on your next schedule pick up day.

Burglar/Fire Alarm Fees

Residential Alarm Registration - \$30.00
Commercial Burglar Alarm Registration - \$100.00
Commercial Fire Alarm Registration - \$100.00

False Alarm Fees

3 free allowed per calendar year
PD 4-7: \$50 each: Fire: 4-7 \$175 each.
PD 8+: \$100 each: Fire: 8+ \$250 each.

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 animal's current vaccination documentation to City Hall. All pet registrations expire December 31st.

MAYOR'S MESSAGE

It is with great pride that the State Lieutenant Governor Dan Patrick, the Texas Senate, in Resolution No. 613 sponsored by Senator Joan Huffman and Texas State Comptroller Glen Hegar commended me, together with acknowledgement of City Council, for eliminating City property taxes for the last 22 years and establishing a model for other municipalities in the State to consider. Foremost among the accolades is the abolishment of the City property tax in 1995, thus saving Stafford residents and businesses thousands of dollars a year by negating this most onerous tax.

The Texas Senate has a special interest in this as they have been besieged by City and County Officials for attempting to place a cap on their property taxes. With this being one of the most contentious issues in the entire Legislative

Session just concluded, Stafford stood as a glowing example for not burdening our citizens and businesses with this despised tax. So impressed was the Lieutenant Governor Dan Patrick's applause for this achievement he stated in his Certificate extolling me "You are a shining star for Texans everywhere."

As often has been stated in this Newsletter, living within our means and avoiding a bloated bureaucracy are the two main criteria in preserving this most elevated and praised status—the key to our long term success.

Stafford continues to have a very bright future. These unparalleled achievements gaining recognition from many of our most prominent State Officials confirm this.

Respectfully,



Leonard Scarcella,



City of Stafford
2610 South Main
Stafford, TX 77477

SEDC MESSAGE

Great things are happening in Stafford! The new Dairy Queen, the new Circle K Convenience store and several new stores in The Fountains are all places we are looking forward to visiting in the coming month. We were sad to hear about the loss of Kirkland's but are excited to have a new Burke's, a shoe store called Show Flow, a new kids party activity center called Pump It Up and a new Conn's appliance store opening all near the Fountain's Complex.

The site of the former 59 Diner will become Brenda's Taqueria shortly giving us a new restaurant along Hwy 59 to dine at. Demolition on the site of the new Stripes Convenience store has begun and we are hopeful we will begin to see some new construction at that site coming soon. Work continues on the TI Redevelopment site and we hope to see some progress on buildings as soon

as the infrastructure is complete. We are working with the developer to facilitate this process and they have some exciting plans for new business within the development.

New retail, restaurants and entertainment venues are all planned for this nearly 100 acre development that could truly change the face of Stafford!

Sales Tax continues to remain steady for the year, even after a couple of down months. We hope to see this increase as some of the new commercial businesses come on board.

Hope your summer is off to a great start! Stay safe and cool!



Wen Guerra, SEDC PRESIDENT