



# The Stafford Newsletter

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## ANNUAL TOWN MEETING SET FOR WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 24 AT 7:00 P.M.

The City will conduct its Annual Town Meeting on January 24, 2018 at the Stafford Civic Center, 1415 Constitution Avenue with Mayor Leonard Scarcella providing the State of the City and Goals for 2018, as the meeting's opening item.

Following the Mayor's message Councilmembers will be afforded five minutes each to respond to the Mayor's State of the City message. This will be followed by questions and comments by members of the public regarding all-encompassing agenda items and the Mayor's State of the City address.

As in previous years, the agenda will cover all areas of City operations which will form the basis of the discussion points. Once the public comments are concluded the Mayor and City Council will provide closing comments. As always, we encourage everyone to come and join us at the Civic Center. However, for those unable to attend it will be televised on SMETV.

## RARE SNOWFALL IN STAFFORD IN DECEMBER 2017

The last time Stafford saw snow fall was in 2009, however, Mother Nature came with a pleasant surprise marking a great winter scene for the holiday season. As citizens woke on December 7<sup>th</sup>, they were greeted with a clean, crisp white blanket of snow across the City.



Holiday lights as snow fell at City Hall

Young and old alike took advantage of this rare treat, bringing much joy.

The sun came out and by noon, the snow, including those excited enough to build a "Frosty the Snowman" had disappeared.

2017 proved to be an incredibly active weather year, saving the snowfall for the grand finale.



Police vehicles laden with snow

## NEW YEAR PROMISES A PLATE OF INTERESTING ACTIVITIES

Each New Year brings a bevy of resolutions and interesting proposals. This year will be no exception. In fact, with major capital improvements in Police and Fire Department facilities and drainage enhancements, the City is expected to take on a fresh look in 2018. Add to that the potential for the "transformative redevelopment" of the 192 acre former Texas Instruments tract on the Southwest Freeway, provided the Council and the SEDC Board make a fiscally responsible agreement.

So let the show begin!

# SANTA'S CONVOY TOURS THE NEIGHBORHOODS



The City of Stafford Fire & Rescue helped Jolly St. Nick see the children in the City of Stafford from the department's fire truck. Led by the City of Stafford Police, the fire truck went through each neighborhood on December 23<sup>rd</sup> with Santa dispensing candy canes to excited children.

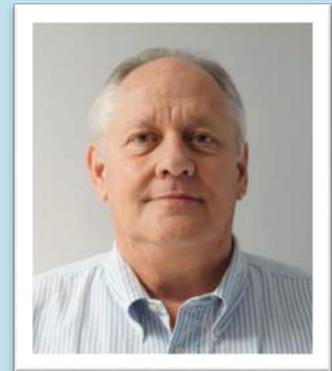


Santa's Convoy was so well received that Fire Chief, Larry Di Camillo foresees this becoming an annual event.

## DORRANCE RODERICK SELECTED AS THE NEW FINANCE DIRECTOR

Mayor Scarcella introduced at the beginning of December as the new Finance Director, Dorrance Roderick. Mr. Roderick began his accounting career in 1993 and has garnered a wealth of expertise, knowledge and experience since that time.

With the arrival of Mr. Roderick, the City is sure to be in a sound position to ensure that city funds are monitored very closely and expenditures measured with exact detail. The City has been without a Finance Director since the former Finance Director, Karen Austin moved out of state in December 2016.



## ENTICEMENT OF BUSINESSES TO CITY TO HEART OF PUBLIC WORKS RESTRUCTURING

With the resignation of the Public Works Director and two of his top employees at the end of the year, an opportunity to reformulate the department into a significant source of enticement for attracting business became obvious. Our City has long been recognized for its business friendly image.

Under serious consideration is an umbrella structure that will not only address the basic components of parks, streets, drainage, equipment and facility maintenance, but will focus on an expedited process for permitting and inspections, which is at the heart of every entrepreneur. There is nothing new about this process. For decades, Stafford embraced this approach to take it to the top. With so many challenges on the horizon, resorting today to a tried and proven structure seems most prudent.



"The Best Little School District in Texas"

# SPOTLIGHT

WINTER 2018

Thank You!  
Thank You!



## #STAFFORDMSDPROUD



### FROM THE DESK OF SUPERINTENDENT BOSTIC

Happy New Year, Stafford MSD! We hope that everyone enjoyed a wonderful winter break. We know all of our students and teachers are refreshed and ready to learn in 2018.

Stafford voters approved a \$62 Million SMSD Bond in November. Thanks to their confidence in the future of SMSD, projects that were merely hypothetical at the beginning of 2017 are now in the planning stages. The Board of Trustees has approved the charter for the Bond Oversight Committee, a citizen group that will ensure that projects are on track for completion. Construction is set to begin on the new Stafford Middle School in July. We will open a Science, Technology, Engineering, Math (STEM) Magnet School for grades 3-12 — the first of its kind in Fort Bend County — within the area where the current Middle School is located. Construction will begin on that project in 2019. Among the other projects within the 2017 Bond are a New Administration Building, Renovations at Elementary and High School, Site Improvements and the conversion of the current Administration Building into a Community Center for all Stafford citizens. The Intermediate School will morph into a Pre-K/Kindergarten Center with the addition of education for 3 years olds. The Fifth Grade will relocate to the Elementary Campus and the Sixth Grade will be part of the new Middle School. All of these projects are expected to be completed in 2020 or earlier. Speaking of 2020, we are excited about our "20/20 Vision which maps out the District's goals and strategies as we move closer to the next decade.

On another note, thanks to the generosity of our School Board and Stafford City Council, we were able to provide employees with an appreciation check for the holidays! All employees who maintained exemplary attendance received a check that was personally handed to them by some of our School Board Members and City Councilmen at the Employee Attendance Incentive Event. Please join us this month to honor School Board Appreciation Month. Our Seven Trustees dedicate countless hours to the betterment of the District and its students.

Dr. Robert Bostic, Superintendent



### Mark Your Calendar!

- M.L.K. Jr. Holiday. . . . . Jan 15
- Super 55+ Seniors' Breakfast. . . . . Jan 19
- Super Senior 55+ Breakfast..... Feb 9
- School Board Meeting. . . . . Feb 12
- Super 55+ Seniors' Breakfast. . . . . March 9
- Spring Break. . . . . March 12-16
- School Board Meeting. . . . . March 19
- Good Friday Holiday. . . . . March 30
- Super 55+ Seniors' Breakfast. . . . . April 13

Visit [www.staffordmsd.org](http://www.staffordmsd.org) for an updated calendar of events



Communities shape the education provided Stafford children and SMSD is eager to engage our *Super Seniors* in what they want our children to learn. If you are 55 or older and want to learn about Stafford Municipal School District, you are invited to a monthly breakfast prepared by our Culinary Arts students. Call 281-261-9219 or email [partners@staffordmsd.org](mailto:partners@staffordmsd.org) for more information.





# Students, Parents & Employees in Action



## STAFFORD ROBOTICS WINS ANOTHER CHAMPIONSHIP

The Stafford High School Robotics team won the Championship at the Remix Competition on Nov. 11 in The Woodlands

The Competition featured 31 teams (including only three rookie teams). Among the competitors were the top ranked in Houston and Austin.

"We did not have an advanced machine like theirs, but 5908 is extremely quick and versatile," SHS Robotics Co-Coach Byron Thompson said. "We were able to use it, a solid set of plays, and smart operation to help our alliance (Texas Torque and RoboWranglers)."

## ALUMNI SUCCESS STORY: MICHELLE RAMIREZ

Michelle Ramirez, the 1986 Stafford High School Valedictorian, is currently the Strategic Planning Manager for Workforce Solutions. She was a member of the second graduating class from Stafford MSD. Upon graduation, she attended the University of St. Thomas (where our two most recent Valedictorians - Vanessa Phung and Jerry Amomoy -- are currently enrolled). Ramirez earned a Degree in Marketing and went on to work for several prominent Advertising agencies in the Houston area.



## Stafford MSD honors First Responders

Stafford MSD was proud to sponsor the first annual Stafford MSD First Responders Dinner.

Stafford MSD Chief Financial Officer Daniel Flores and Stafford MSD Superintendent Dr. Robert Bostic were pitmasters, and students from the Stafford Culinary Arts Program prepared food for the meal as well.

The District is grateful for the Stafford Police Department and Stafford Fire Department. Both agencies are committed to keeping our community, and our District safe.

We were happy to see several SMSD Trustees, SMSD Employees and Stafford City Council Members at the inaugural SMSD First Responders Dinner.

## SHS Special Olympics Bowlers



Congratulations to the Stafford Spartans Special Olympics Bowling Team on their phenomenal performance last month.

Eleven Spartan athletes competed in the Area 22 Bowling Tournament in Webster, Texas.

Here are the names of the students:

Evan Borowski (third place)

Liam Borowki (first place)

Nihal Caglar (third place)

Felipe Carranza (second place)

Christian Catuiza (first place)

Jaelin Fisher Harris (second place)

Josiah Regino (first place)

Rufus Stevens (first place)

Dominique Turner (first place)

Juliana Velasquez (second place)

Christopher Wright (first place)

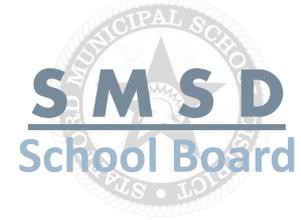
## STAFFORD SENIOR EARNS EAGLE SCOUT

Stafford High senior Gerald May -- ranked No. 5 academically in the Class of 2018 -- recently became an Eagle Scout.

As part of this distinct honor, May had a chance to meet with proud fellow Eagle Scout, Stafford MSD Superintendent Dr. Robert Bostic in November

Dr. Bostic congratulated May and told him that the lessons he's learned en route to becoming an Eagle Scout will serve him well in the future.





**Auturo Jackson**  
President

**Christopher Caldwell**  
Vice-President

**Xavier Herrera**  
Secretary

**Jaqueline 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 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 of Education.

Upcoming Meeting Dates: January 8, February 12, March 19, April 9 & May 8, 2018.

### Trustee Election (May 2018)

The Stafford MSD School Board will hold its annual officials' election on Saturday, May 5, 2018. Candidate application packets for the general election ballot are available at the SMSD Administration Building. The general election ballot will be for three seats for positions with three-year terms.

The first day to file an application for a place on the general election ballot is Wednesday, January 17, 2018. The last day to file an application for a place on the general election ballot is Friday, February 16, 2018. The school district conducts its election jointly with the City of Stafford. For additional information, call 281-261-9219 or email [partners@staffordmsd.org](mailto:partners@staffordmsd.org).



## Community & 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 SMSD 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](http://www.collegecommunitycareer.org)

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 in October and November. 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, preAP 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.



### DISTRICT PARTNERS WITH BARNES & NOBLE



The Stafford MSD Library Department partnered with Barnes & Noble at the First Colony Mall in Sugar Land to raise money for the District.

Barnes & Noble donated 12 percent of all sales to SMSD, when a customer mentioned SMSD. We raised more than \$2,000!

Stafford MSD is proud to partner with Marco's Pizza, 3623 South Main, Suite 113.



Marco's honors our Student of the Month from each of the four campuses with a gift certificate for a free pizza.

Monday's are now Stafford MSD Spirit Night at Marco's.

They will donate 15 percent of every order to SMSD (dine in or take out) to any customer who mentions SMSD.



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.

Tune into the monthly "Spartan Sports Central" TV Show, which will resume in February.



### SHARE YOUR HOLIDAYS FOOD DRIVE

Stafford MSD Board Secretary Xavier Herrera spearheaded the District's efforts in the Channel 13 Share Your Holidays Food Drive.

Stafford MSD donated an entire van worth of canned goods. The Stafford High Jazz Band and the Stafford Sensations both performed at the collection ceremony.

Herrera, center, is pictured with Channel 13 reporter Rebecca Spera, left, and Afshi Merchant, right, of the Ismaili Jamatkhana Center in Sugar Land.



# Athletics

**Athletic Director:** Ken Savannah  
**Athletic Trainer:** Jordan McDougal

## Girls Cross Country reaches Regionals

### Regionals

The Stafford High Girls Cross Country Team enjoyed an outstanding season, advancing to the UIL Class 4A Regional Meet in Corpus Christi under the direction of first year head Cross Country Coach Angel Maldonado, a 2008 Stafford High graduate.



## Volleyball Update

The Stafford High Volleyball Team competed in head coach Ivana Ellas' first season. The team, which included seniors Talya Monroe, Asia Morris, Tia Elepano and Alliyah Williams, competed against some of the top 4A teams in the Houston area.

## Football

The Stafford High Football Team earned victories over two programs — Bay City and Bellville — that advanced to the second and third round of the playoffs, respectively. Those wins showed the Spartans the potential for what's in store for the 2018 season.



## Stafford High School Seniors Sign With Colleges

Stafford High School seniors Kenneth Bodwin and Talya Monroe signed with their respective universities in November.

Bodwin, a Class 4A State Track & Field Qualifier, committed to Texas A&M-Kingsville, an NCAA Division II program in South Texas. Bodwin also played football for the Spartans.

Monroe signed with Texas Southern, an NCAA Division I member of the Southwestern Athletic Conference. Stafford fans are glad that Monroe decided to attend college in Houston, because they'll be able to follow her collegiate volleyball career.

# Sports Schedules

## High School Boys Soccer

Date	Opponent	Time	Teams	Site
Jan 16	Bay City	5/7 p.m.	JV/Var	Stafford
Jan 18	Pasadena Rayburn	4:30 p.m.	JV	Pasadena
Jan 19	El Campo	5:00	Varsity	Stafford
Jan 23	Katy Tompkins	5:00/7:00	JV/Var	Stafford
Jan 26	Cypress Falls	5:30/7:30	JV/Var	Cy Falls
Feb 2	Navasota	5:00/7:00	JV/Var	Navasota
Feb 9	Sealy	5/7	JV/Var	Sealy
Feb 16	Needville	7:00	Var	Needville
Feb 21	Royal	5:00/7:00	Varsity	Stafford
Feb 23	Bellville	7:00	Varsity	Bellville
Feb 26	Sealy	5/7 p.m.	JV/Var	Stafford
Mar 5	Needville	7:00	JV/Var	Stafford
Mar 9	Royal	5:00/7:00	Varsity	Royal
Mar 12	Bellville	5:00	Varsity	Stafford

## High School Girls Soccer

Date	Opponent	Time	Teams	Site
Jan 15	Palacios	5/7 p.m.	JV/V	Palacios
Jan 19	Terry	5/7 p.m.	JV/V	Terry
Jan 23	La Porte	5/7 p.m.	JV/Var	La Porte
Jan 26	Foster	4:30/6:30 p.m.	JV/Var	Foster
Feb 9	Sealy	5/7	JV/Var	Stafford
Feb 13	Katy Mayde Creek	4:30/6:30	JV/Var	Stafford
Feb 16	Needville	5:00	Var	Needville
Feb 21	Royal	6:00	Varsity	Stafford
Feb 23	Bellville	5:00	Varsity	Bellville
Feb 26	Sealy	5/7 p.m.	JV/Var	Sealy
March 2	Bay City	5/7 p.m.	Varsity	Bay City
Mar 5	Needville	5:00	JV/Var	Stafford
Mar 9	Royal	6:00	Varsity	Royal
Mar 12	Bellville	5:00	Varsity	Stafford
Mar 20	Alief Taylor	5:00	Varsity	Alief

## High School Boys Basketball

Date	Opponent	Time	Teams	Site
Jan 12	Royal	6:15/5/7:30	FR/JV/Var	Stafford
Jan 16	Bellville	6:15/5/7:30	FR/JV/Var	Bellville
Jan 19	Sealy	6:15/5/7:30	FR/JV/Var	Stafford
Jan 23	Needville	6:15/5/7:30	FR/JV/Var	Needville
Jan. 26	Columbus	6:15/5/7:30	FR/JV/Var	Stafford
Jan 30	Royal	6:15/5/7:30	FR/JV/Var	Royal
Feb 2	Bellville	6:15/5/7:30	FR/JV/Var	Stafford
Feb 6	Sealy	6:15/5/7:30	FR/JV/Var	Sealy
Feb 9	Needville	6:15/5/7:30	FR/JV/Var	Stafford
Feb 13	Columbus	6:15/5/7:30	FR/JV/Var	Columbus

## High School Girls Basketball

Date	Opponent	Time	Teams	Site
Jan 5	Needville	5:00/6:30	JV/V	Stafford
Jan 9	Columbus	5:00/6:30	JV/V	Columbus
Jan 12	Royal	5:00/6:30	JV/Var	Stafford
Jan 16	Bellville	5:00/6:30	JV/Var	Bellville
Jan 19	Sealy	5:00/6:30	JV/Var	Stafford
Jan 23	Needville	5:00/6:30	JV/Var	Needville
Jan. 26	Columbus	5:00/6:30	JV/Var	Stafford
Jan 30	Royal	5:00/6:30	JV/Var	Royal
Feb 2	Bellville	5:00/6:30	JV/Var	Stafford
Feb 6	Sealy	5:00/6:30	JV/Var	Sealy

**Baseball and Softball:** HS Baseball and Softball District 24-4A season begins March 2018 (schedules in the Spring Spotlight).



"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*

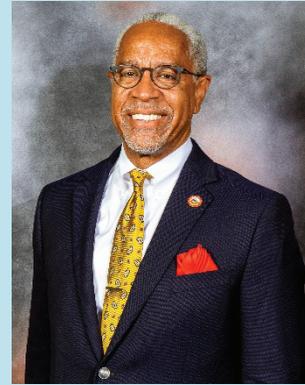
# THREE COUNCIL SEATS UP IN MAY ELECTION



Councilmember Willis



Councilmember Mathew



Councilmember Jones

Three positions currently held on City Council, Councilmembers Willis, Mathew and Jones will be up for the Saturday, May 5 election. Persons interested in running for any of these positions can obtain a candidate's packet at City Hall, from the City Secretary.

The first day for filing an application to appear on the ballot is Wednesday, January 17 while Friday, February 16 is the last day to file for a place on the ballot.

Citizens desiring to vote in the election must submit a voter registration application by Thursday, April 5. Early voting will begin on Monday, April 23 and run through Tuesday, May 1 at City Hall and other locations. Election Day voting will occur exclusively at City Hall on Saturday, May 5.



## BULLETIN BOARD

### STAFFORD CENTRE EVENTS: JANUARY - MARCH

**JANUARY:** 20<sup>th</sup> – India Culture Center “India Republic Day Festival”  
27<sup>th</sup> - The 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Sugar Land Home & Garden Show

**FEBRUARY:** 9<sup>th</sup> – Stafford MSD Education Foundation Banquet  
18<sup>th</sup> – Fort Bend Symphony Orchestra “All in the Family”  
20<sup>th</sup> - City of Stafford Employee Appreciation Banquet

**MARCH:** 24<sup>th</sup> – Fort Bend Women’s Center “Boogie”  
31<sup>st</sup> - Indo American Association Silver Jubilee “2018 Concert”

**THE YOUTH BOWL EXPERIENCE:** Saturday, January 27, 2018, Stafford High School  
Registration is FREE. For more information contact: [www.theyouthbowlxperience.com](http://www.theyouthbowlxperience.com)

### **CITY OFFICES CLOSED – MONDAY FEBRUARY 19<sup>TH</sup> – PRESIDENTS DAY**



**COFFEE WITH A COP & COMMUNITY FOOT PATROL** – Please watch the Stafford Police Departments social media for time and dates for this very popular program with our citizens.

#### **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 No. 1101 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 31<sup>st</sup>.

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

**Residential Trash Pick-up: Monday & Thursday or Tuesday & Friday.** There will be **NO** trash pick-up on a Holiday. Your trash will be collected on your **next scheduled** pick up day.

# MAYOR'S MESSAGE

Stafford enters 2018 with an optimistic outlook.

Notable achievements will include full staffing and equipment of the Police and Fire Departments; the recent employment of a new Finance Director and his anticipated elevation of the department; the appointment of a first ever Human Resource Director charged with the development of a new department. Further I will be proposing a stand-alone Emergency Management Director answering directly to the Mayor, whose need was vividly illustrated by Hurricane Harvey; and a restructuring of the Public Works Department as the result of discord led by the resignation of the director, and two top employees in the department.

Five major projects consisting of Missouri City Estates, Vaccaro Manor and Sugar Creek drainage enhancements, a new Fire Station and a two story Police Annex all estimated to cost about \$8.5 million will add an elevated dynamic to the city.

Still under negotiations after five years is the former Texas Instruments "transformative" development as advocated by the developer, who is seeking over \$13 million in cash rebates to bring a new point of focus to our City.

Wishing you and yours a very Happy New Year.

Respectfully,

Leonard Scarcella, Mayor



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

# SEDC MESSAGE

With 2017 behind us, it is time to look forward to 2018 and all of the great things happening in Stafford!

Prospective businesses continue to inquire about available land and buildings throughout our city. The appeal of no property tax is a great selling tool that we will continue to use to our advantage.

We are hopeful that our big news for 2018 will come from the new development within the old TI property. Street Level Development continues work on infrastructure and will hopefully begin construction on new retail, restaurants and entertainment facilities in the very near future. Negotiations continue with the city, the SEDC and Street Level about how we can best maximize our sales tax potential while building a first class facility that everyone can be proud of. We are excited and looking forward to some

announcements very soon about some of the things that are planned for this property.

Sales tax continues to remain fairly stable even during the months following Hurricane Harvey. Most cities in our area are working to make up for the deficit created by the storm and we are hopeful that a good holiday shopping season will bring us back to where we should be in the second quarter of the 2017-2018 fiscal year.

The SEDC will continue to solicit and assist new businesses looking to move to Stafford during 2018. If you know of a business who might be interested in the benefits of no property taxes, please have them call the Economic Development Office here at City Hall. We would love to talk with you about what Stafford could do for you! Here's to a fabulous 2018!

Wen Guerra, SEDC President