



The Stafford Newsletter

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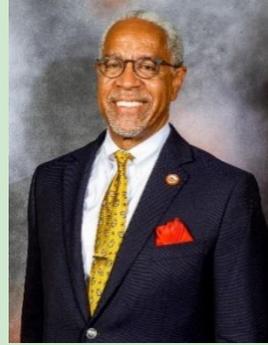
ELECTIONS SET FOR SATURDAY, MAY 5



Councilmember Willis



Councilmember Mathew



Councilmember Jones



Candidate Baiamonte

IT'S THAT TIME OF YEAR AGAIN.

Three Council seats are up for election this May: Those positions are currently held by Councilmembers Cecil Willis, Ken Mathew and Don Jones, while citizen Johnny Baiamonte is a candidate for one of those positions. The three top vote getters will be elected.

Citizens are encouraged to attend the 'Candidate Forum' which will take place Tuesday, April 17, 2018 at the Stafford Civic Centre commencing at 7PM.

The election is set for Saturday, May 5, 2018 from 7AM to 7PM at City Hall. Early voting will commence on Monday, April 23 and end Tuesday, May 1, 2018, which will also be at City Hall, as well as numerous locations throughout Fort Bend County where Stafford voters can cast their ballot.

The Stafford Municipal School District, will not have an election as the current trustees holding those two positions are unopposed.

ANNUAL TOWN MEETING AND THE STATE OF THE CITY REPORT

CITIZENS SPEAK OUT ON VARIOUS ISSUES AFFECTING STAFFORD

This year's Annual Town Meeting held on January 24th at the Civic Center had another good turnout. The Mayor delivered his State of the City and Goals for 2018 message, Councilmembers responded. The public then took to the floor. There were numerous comments about the various information contained in the speech and the goals. A hard copy of the speech may be obtained at City Hall at no cost.

RESIDENTIAL TRASH RATES ANNOUNCED

As of January 1, 2018, the City has entered into a three year agreement with Waste Corporation of Texas LP/WCA for the collection of solid waste, which was the only respondent, according to the City Attorney and a special Committee that adequately responded with a complete submittal of rates. The Council approved the contract with a vote of 6-0.

The new agreement has the following rates, which include all fees and taxes:

- Sugar Creek off curb pickup - \$21.42 per month
- City of Stafford curbside pickup - \$17.09 per month

Should you have any questions or comments, please contact the Public Works Department at (281)-261-3922.

for

SPRING CLEAN UP 2018



The Spring Clean Up for 2018 has been scheduled for Saturday, April 14th. Each year the event is enthusiastically responded to by our citizens and businesses of Stafford. This special event continues to grow with the turn out last year being the largest yet.

The event day will commence with registration at City Hall at 9AM. Team equipment will be assigned at that time. The teams will then be able to begin their pick up in their designated areas. Upon their return

to City Hall, lunch will be served: burgers, hot dogs and other refreshments all provided for free beginning at 11:30 AM.

Citizens unable to participate at City Hall will still be able to place heavy items such as freezers and refrigerators curbside, any coolant must be drained prior to collection and a notice to City Hall of these items is requested.

Any tires requiring pick up should also be placed at the curbside not later than 7AM. However, for large quantities of tires, a call should be placed to (281) 261-3941 in order for arrangements to be made.

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

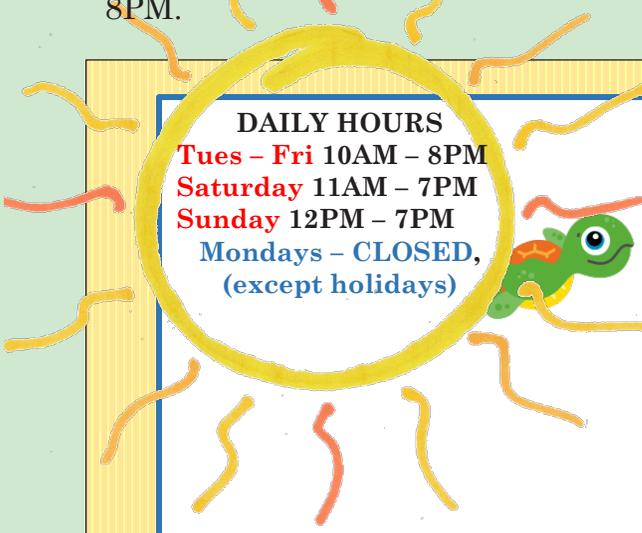
The conclusion of this most delightful event is the presentation of awards for “Most Unusual Trash”, “Most Valuable Trash” as well as the exchange for cash in the “money bottles.”

CITY POOL HOURS SET

Nothing marks the beginning of summer more than the opening of the City’s Swimming Pool, located at 1415 Constitution Drive (behind the Civic Center). As in previous years there will be many other activities available beyond the regular swimming activity. Swimming lessons, competition by the Stafford Sting Rays Swim Team, and Pool parties which can be booked during this summer season.

All Stafford residents may purchase a Pool/Recreation Pass for the entire swim season at a cost of \$15.00 (up to 4 passes – each additional card is \$10.00). This includes full access to the Pool and the Red Gym weight room. A one day Pass for residents is \$2.00. The cost for non-residents who are 5 years old and older is \$5.00 per day, and for those who are 2-4 years old is \$3.00 per day. Children under 2 years old may enter free.

The joint SMSD/City Recreation Program is offered by the Spartan Red Gym Weight Room. This program will run from June 11 - July 26, 2018; Monday – Thursday 1-4PM and 6-8PM.



DAILY HOURS
Tues – Fri 10AM – 8PM
Saturday 11AM – 7PM
Sunday 12PM – 7PM
Mondays – CLOSED,
(except holidays)



POOL OPENS: Memorial Day Weekend – Saturday, May 28

POOL CLOSURES: Labor Day Weekend – Monday, September 3

SWIM LESSONS: Swim lessons are offered for ages 4 through adult. Sign up begins May 26, 2018 at the pool or by calling (281) 499-8783.

STAFFORD SWIM TEAM: Online registration will start on April 14, 2018 from 3-5pm. You can also register by emailing Yvettehinojosa@yahoo.com (281)-546-8835.



SUMMER RECREATION PROGRAM

LOCATION: Spartan Red Gym Weight Room

DATES: June 11 – July 26, 2018 **HOURS:** Monday – Thursday 1-4PM & 6-8PM

FEE: \$15.00 Pool/Recreation pass card must be presented, no exceptions. Stafford children under the age of 10 yrs. old. must be accompanied by an adult. For more information call the SMSD Athletic Department at (281) 208-6140.



All interested in these activities should contact Susan Ricks at (281) 499 5763



"Best Little School District in Texas"

Spotlight



Mark Your Calendar!

- Elementary Career Day...**March 21
- Super Senior 55+ Breakfast ...**March 23
- Good Friday** March 30
- Board Meeting.....**April 9
- Super Senior 55+ Breakfast....**April 13
- SMSD Career Fair** April 21
- Academic Excellence Event** April 30
- HS Prom.....**May 4
- Super Senior 55+ Breakfast** May 11
- Board Meeting.....** May 14
- HS Graduation.....** May 25
- Memorial Day.....**May 28

**FOLLOW US
ON TWITTER!**



StaffordMSD SMSDINTERMED
Stafford_Sports SMSDMIDDLE
SMSDPrimary

FROM THE DESK OF SUPERINTENDENT BOSTIC

Dear Spartans,

We would like to welcome you back from Spring Break! We hope you had a relaxing and refreshing week to re-charge your batteries.

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

We are looking forward to an excellent finish to the 2017-18 school year!

We have some great news with regards to our quest for 100 percent achievement in all academic areas.

SMSD received 11 Academic Distinctions from the Texas Education Agency, which means we now have 27 distinctions over the past two years. Our high school students continue to succeed in dual credit courses, offered through a partnership with Houston Community College. They earn college credit before they graduate high school.

To continue our strong academic achievement, the Board of Trustees decided to pay for all 11th graders to take the SAT Exam.

The wheels have begun to turn with the 2017 Bond as construction projects are slated to begin soon. The \$62 Million Bond was the largest investment in public education in the history of Stafford Municipal School District.

In the coming years, we will have a new Middle School, a new community center, renovated classrooms and a STEM Magnet School serving grades 3-through-12 — the first of its kind in Fort Bend County.

We are preparing students at all campuses for bright futures through our Literacy and Math Initiatives. If you are interested in volunteering on a campus, please contact the campus and let them know. We value our volunteers and encourage more community members to get involved!

Another important reminder for parents. STAAR Testing has started. Our teachers have done a quality job of preparing students. We encourage parents to ensure their students are getting the right amount of sleep all the time, but especially on evenings before testing.

Dr. Robert Bostic
Proud to be SMSD!

SMSD Grad Raymond Root hired as new Stafford High Principal

Twenty years after graduation, a Stafford High School graduate is going back to his roots.

The Stafford MSD Board of Trustees voted to hire 1998 Stafford High School graduate Raymond Root as the new principal of Stafford High School.

Root, the son of Stafford residents Raymond Root Sr. and Bobbi Root, beamed with excitement and gratitude as the Trustees made their vote official at Monday's Board Meeting.

"I am very excited," Root said. "The opportunity of returning to your hometown in a leadership role is one that not very many people get to experience. I look forward to ensuring that the kids at Stafford have every opportunity possible."

Root is currently the Principal of Manvel Junior High School in Alvin ISD. He started working as a full-time teacher in Alvin ISD in 2004 and later became an Associate Principal at Manvel High School, a school that is on the edge of 5A/6A.





STUDENTS, PARENTS & EMPLOYEES IN ACTION

PRINCIPAL, TEACHERS OF THE YEAR ANNOUNCED

Stafford Middle School Principal Ginny Gayle, a first-year principal, is the 2017-18 Stafford MSD District Principal of the Year. The 2017-18 Stafford MSD Campus Teachers of the Year/Rookies of the Year:

CAMPUS TEACHERS OF THE YEAR:

STAFFORD ELEMENTARY - Ashley Bratcher

STAFFORD INTERMEDIATE—Cheri Bernazal

STAFFORD MIDDLE— Marissa Vanison

STAFFORD HIGH—Megan Thompson



One of the four Campus Teachers of the Year will be presented with a complimentary lease to a vehicle, courtesy of Group 1 Automotive

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT: Carlton & Charles Anumnu

There’s a popular saying on the Stafford Municipal School District Campus – “STEM to Earn.”

It essentially means that the STEM fields (Science, Technology, Engineering & Math) are where the most promising jobs of the 21st Century will continue to be for the foreseeable future.

Stafford MSD has a strong STEM focus with top-notch teachers and a championship Robotics program. Within the next few years, Stafford MSD will open a STEM Magnet Campus.

A pair of relatively recent Stafford MSD graduates, twins Charles and Carlton Anumnu, credit the District’s STEM focus with helping them prepare for their careers in Electrical Engineering, which they begin next week.



Charles accepted a position as an Upstream Facilities Engineer with Valero in Texas City, and Carlton starts as a Downstream Facilities Engineer with Chevron in downtown Houston.

Facilities Engineers in the Oil & Gas industry have starting salaries of approximately \$80,000-\$90,000 per year, thus emphasizing the validity of “STEM to Earn.”

The Anumnu twins have enjoyed success at every turn. But their accomplishments are a product of the hard work and dedication that happens away from the spotlight.

NATIONAL READING MONTH/DR. SEUSS DAY



Literacy is a high priority at Stafford MSD!

Our goal is to have all of our students reading at or above grade level by third grade.

Stafford Elementary Principal Dr. Valerie Orum and her staff are committed to this goal.



STAFFORD GIRLS BASKETBALL’S CHAUNTA THOMAS NAMED MVP

There aren't any High School Girls Basketball Players in Fort Bend County better than Stafford High junior Chaunta Thomas, who was named the District 25-4A Most Valuable Player after averaging 19.8 points per game this season.

The Lady Spartans finished 7-3 in District Competition and advanced to the Class 4A Playoffs for the second time in three seasons.

Thomas wasn't the only Stafford High Player honored.

2 Teammates Denicha Pastor (District Newcomer of the Year) ,Diavian King (First Team All-District) and Chelsea Nwuso (Second Team All-District) were honored.





Auturo Jackson President
Chris Caldwell Vice-President
Xavier Herrera Secretary
Jacquelyn Jean-Baptiste Trustee
Manuel Hinojosa Trustee
Alicia Lacy-Castille Trustee
Greg Holsapple

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.

2018 UNOPPOSED CANDIDATES

SMSD Board Secretary Xavier Herrera and SMSD Trustee Manuel Hinojosa are unopposed for re-election. Both Trustees will begin their second terms in May. Their second terms will expire in 2021. Each of the seven trustees represent Stafford MSD at large. Here's some information on the candidates. May 5 SMSD Election has been canceled because only the two incumbents filed for office.



**Xavier
Herrera**

Xavier Herrera was elected to the Stafford MSD Board of Trustees in May 2015. Herrera has proven himself over the years as an active and involved parent member of the Stafford Primary/Elementary School Parent Teacher Organization (PTO). He has served in a number of leadership positions within the organization, including recent parliamentarian. A product of Texas public schools, Herrera believes public service is a premium value in his life. He is currently the state treasurer for MASBA (Mexican American School Board Association) and a member of the TASB (Texas Association of School Boards) Leadership Class.



**Manuel
Hinojosa**

Mr. Manuel Hinojosa believes that service and community involvement is at the core of our civic duty. Mr. Hinojosa is a Stafford High School graduate (1988) and parent of four children currently enrolled in SMSD schools. Mr. Hinojosa is a Healthcare Administrator and chose to return to the community where he was a student and athlete. He appreciates the small-town school district and the education he received at Stafford. Mr. Hinojosa has served as a Boy Scout leader for Pack 822 and is involved in all his children's activities. In 2010, Mr. Hinojosa served on an SMSD Strategic Planning Committee.

SMSD Partners with Houston Sabercats on Literacy, Robotics



Houston Sabercats Professional Rugby Players Jake Turnbull and Justin Allen read to Stafford Elementary School Kindergarten students as part of the "Reading & Rugby" Program in January.

In February, the Sabercats invited members of the Stafford High Robotics Team to join them on the field during player introductions. At halftime, the SHS Robotics team did a demonstration that was televised live on the large scoreboard, before 2,000 fans at Constellation Field in Sugar Land.

Stafford MSD Band Director honored

Congratulations to Stafford MSD Band Director Rod Rodriguez on a well-deserved honor! Rodriguez has been selected to membership in Phi Beta Mu, an International School Bandmasters Fraternity. Phi Beta Mu is an honorary, non-political, non-profit fraternity established in 1938. There are approximately 350 active members in Texas with additional chapters in most of the 50 states as well as Canada, Japan and Europe. Mr. Rodriguez was inducted at the annual new member's breakfast last month, in San Antonio. He was sponsored by Bill Duggan of Missouri City, Region 13 Executive Secretary. Co-sponsors were Houston Cummings of Industrial ISD and Mike Cudd of West Columbia (both pictured alongside Mr. Rodriguez in the photo)





STAFFORD MSD CELEBRATES BLACK HISTORY MONTH



Stafford Elementary School and Stafford Intermediate School students celebrated Black History Month with unique, inspiring programs.

The students dressed up as prominent African-American leaders such as Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and President Barack Obama. They performed songs and honored the contributions of Civil Rights pioneers.

SMSD Students revved up for Rodeo



Our Stafford MSD students were glad to be in the Rodeo spirit in March.

Stafford Elementary students dressed up for “Go Texan Day” and several of our Stafford High School Agriculture students had the opportunity to show animals at the Houston Livestock Show & Rodeo.

Super Senior 55+ Breakfast

The Stafford Culinary Arts Program recently returned from a Culinary Field Trip to Italy.

The students will share their experiences — along with some delicious food at our two upcoming Stafford MSD Super Senior 55+ Breakfast events in April & May. Both events start at 8:30 a.m.

Friday, April 11

Friday, May 13



SPORTS

High School Baseball

DATE OPPONENT LOCATION TIME

- March 24 Bellville Bellville 7 p.m.
- March 26 Sealy Sealy 7 p.m.
- March 9 Needville Needville 7 p.m.
- April 3 Columbus Stafford 7 p.m.
- April 6 Royal Royal 7 p.m.
- April 13 Bellville Stafford 7 p.m.
- April 17 Sealy Sealy 7 p.m.
- April 18 Bellville Bellville 7 p.m.
- April 20 Needville Stafford 7 p.m.
- April 24 Columbus Columbus 7 p.m.

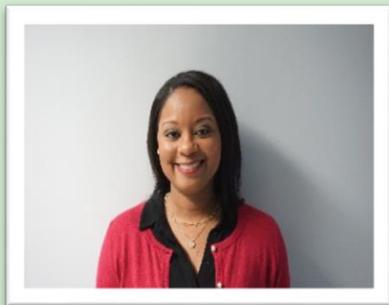
High School Softball

DATE OPPONENT LOCATION TIME

- March 23 Bellville Bellville 5/7 p.m.
- March 24 Sealy Stafford 5/7 p.m.
- March 29 Needville Needville 6 p.m.
- April 3 Columbus Stafford 6 p.m.
- April 6 Royal Royal 6 p.m.
- April 13 Bellville Stafford 6 p.m.
- April 17 Sealy Sealy 6 p.m.



HUMAN RESOURCES DIRECTOR APPOINTED



Shanell Garcia

Effective February 1, 2018, Shanell Garcia became the first Human Resource Director for the City. Prior to that date, the Human Resource Director had always been a component of the Finance Department. Ms. Garcia was appointed by Mayor Scarcella and received a confirming vote of 6-0 and 1 abstention. Charged with the responsibility of creating this department from the ground up, she has a wealth of knowledge, experience and skills to take the City forward, with the primary focus on the well-being of our current employees, but she will also be instrumental in the City's hiring process. Additional responsibilities include oversight of health care, insurance, posting and assessing of applications and assisting new employees, discipline and safety. Ms. Garcia has hit the ground running and is demonstrating her outstanding attributes in handling this department.

DEPARTMENT HEADS UNDER CONSIDERATION FOR APPOINTMENT

With the resignation of both Public Works Director, Dr. Milton Rahman, and Emergency Management Coordinator, Jennifer Taylor, Mayor Leonard Scarcella is currently in the process of making recommended appointments to Council for these positions and IT Director position. The goal is to have these positions filled in a very timely manner.



BULLETIN BOARD

STAFFORD CENTRE EVENTS: APRIL - JUNE

- APRIL:** 7th & 8th - Ballet Forte presents "Swan Lake"
24th - Weird Al Yankovich
- MAY:** 20th - Fort Bend Symphony presents "All in the Family"
24th - Fort Bend Mayor and Council Banquet
- JUNE:** 22nd - Indo American Association "Bollywood & Hollywood Brass"
Concert

CITY OFFICES CLOSED - Monday, May 28, 2018 - Memorial 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 and police officers.

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: \$50.00 each: Fire: 4-7 \$175.00 each
PD 8+: \$100.00 each: Fire: 8+ \$250.00 each

Pet Registrations

City Ordinance No. 1101 states any dog or cat kept, over four months of age harbored or maintained by their owner in the City, shall be vaccinated and registered with a licensed veterinarian.
Fees: \$2.00 per dog or cat. Bring the animal's current vaccination certificate to City Hall. All pet registrations expire December 31st.

Tree Limb Pick-Up: First Mondays of April, July, October and January

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

Although it's been six months since Hurricane Harvey devastated the region, its impact still widely resonates! At a recent meeting of some forty Fort Bend County public officials and guests, including several seeking to replace current office holders, there was a spirited discussion of the effects of this record breaking storm.

While opponents claimed there was a lack of preparedness throughout the county, there was a fervent rebuttal, with a myriad of facts, cited. Led by County Judge Bob Hebert, who stated that this was a 'thousand year flood' with the largest rainfall ever of 47 inches, more than 6,000 homes in the county that were hit with substantial flooding was modest in comparison to the tens of thousands of homes severely damaged in Harris County and throughout the region. He was bolstered in his arguments by several mayors who asserted these critics, who did virtually nothing to assist with the horrendous challenges confronting those of us in the Emergency Operations Centers for the more than a week long ordeal had only the flimsiest concept of what was encountered by emergency management officials, first responders, public works and other personnel engaged in the preventative activities and cleanup efforts.

When considered in this context, Stafford fared better than anyone else. Only a few houses in the City had any water damage, none rising to the level of qualifying for a FEMA grant or loan. Totally ignored by the naysayers was the extraordinary flood control improvements made in Stafford over the past 40 plus years that was so critical to sparing us from far more serious damages. Based on many discussions with our citizens and business owners, an extremely high percentage have given this City glowing marks for its excellent readiness and remedial actions during Harvey.

Respectfully,

Leonard Scarcella, Mayor



City of Stafford
2610 South Main
Stafford, TX 77477

SEDC MESSAGE

2018 is off to a great start! Several new businesses are in the final planning stages with the Building department and we are hoping to see some new construction happening in the next 90 days! Be on the lookout for signs along Highway 90 announcing some of these new businesses very soon!

The city and Streetlevel developments are in what we believe to be the final planning stages for the TI Redevelopment. The underground infrastructure is nearly in place, work is beginning on new street work and soon after, we hope to see construction on some things that we have all been anticipating. New

retail, restaurants, entertainment and hotel facilities are expected to encompass the nearly 100 acres between West Airport and Kirkwood on the Highway 59 side. We are also excited to see a new apartment complex begin between the retail area and the Industrial area that runs along Murphy Road. We are excited to welcome some new residents to our great community!

As always, we will continue to work to bring new businesses to Stafford while we help our current businesses grow! Great things are happening in Stafford!

Wen Guerra, SEDC President