



THE STAFFORD NEWSLETTER

JANUARY 2019

CITY OF STAFFORD, TEXAS

VOL 40 ISSUE 1

ANNUAL TOWN MEETING SET FOR WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 30 AT 7:00 P.M.

The City of Stafford will conduct its Annual Town Meeting as prescribed in our Home Rule Charter, this year on January 30, 2019, at the Stafford Civic Center, 1415 Constitution Avenue. Mayor Leonard Scarcella will present the State of the City and Goals for 2019.

Councilmembers will be given an opportunity to respond to the Mayor’s State of the City and Goals upon the conclusion of the Mayor’s speech,. This will be followed with questions and comments by members of the public, regarding the City of Stafford and the Mayor’s.

The Annual Town meeting agenda provides an opportunity to cover all areas of City operations and is the basis of the discussion points. After the Public Comments, the Mayor and City Council will give their closing remarks.

This meeting is a great avenue for citizens to join in the government process and have their voices heard. We encourage everyone to come and participate, however, if you are unable to attend the meeting, it will be televised on SMETV.

NEWSLETTER SET TO CHANGE FORMAT

For over 40 years, the City of Stafford has mailed each resident and business a quarterly Newsletter.

We informed you in the November Newsletter that City Council now intends to discontinue mailing it out to our citizens and businesses and only continue to publish the Newsletter on our City website.

We have already received numerous requests to cease delivery to some of our citizens, therefore please note, this will be the LAST paper publication of the newsletter that will be sent to you. However, should you wish to have a paper copy mailed to you, please call our office at (281) 261-3903 or email: nbrowe@staffordtx.gov and we will send you a “hard” copy.

We will still provide quarterly Newsletters in January, April, July and November. It will be in an electronic format and you may obtain it as well as our archived copies from previous issues at: <http://www.staffordtx.gov/newsletter/city-newsletter.html>

HOLIDAY CHEER ALL ROUND



SANTA & MRS. CLAUS

Santa’s Village held on November 27, 2018 saw the largest crowd since its inception. Hundreds of children accompanied by their parents attended this outstanding Holiday event. All of whom enjoyed the various activities that were on offer and treated to Mayor Scarcella, dressed as the Gingerbread Man reading “T’was the Night Before Christmas”.

The City’s Police Department delivered Thanksgiving boxes to local families in need on November 21st.

The City’s Fire Department toured the neighborhoods with Engine 2, carrying a very special guest “Santa” to greet all the children with a cheerful smile, wave and a gleeful “Merry Christmas” on December 22nd.

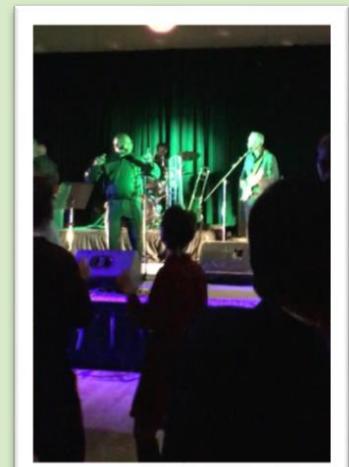
The year was rounded off with a wonderful evening of fun, music and dance at the Stafford Centre, which hosted the City’s New Year’s Eve Bash, an evening of dinner and revelry, featuring “Klockwork Band” was much enjoyed.



OFFICER TYLER – THANKSGIVING BOX DELIVERY



SANTA GOING AROUND STAFFORD



LIVE BAND AT THE NEW YEARS EVE BASH



CITY ELECTION SET FOR MAY 4 AT CITY HALL

Mayor and Three Councilmember Positions on Ballot

The 2019 City Officers election for Mayor and three Councilmember positions will be held on Saturday, May 4th, at City Hall.

The following positions will be up for election to City Council: Mayor, Councilmember Position 1, Councilmember Position 2, and Councilmember Position 3. The Mayor's position is for a four-year term. Councilmember Position 1 and Councilmember Position 2 are for two-year terms. Councilmember Position 3 is for a three-year term. The positions are staggered to allow for the transition of the City Council to have all Councilmembers serving three terms with two Councilmembers being elected each year.

Persons interested in running for any of these positions can obtain a candidates packet at the City Secretary's Office at City Hall. The packets contain all of the necessary information and forms to be completed by a candidate.

The first day for filing an application to appear on the ballot is Wednesday, January 16th while Friday, February 15th is the last day to file for a place on the ballot.

Citizens desiring to vote in the election must be a registered voter or submit a voter registration application by April 4th. Early voting will begin on Monday, April 22nd and run through Tuesday, April 30th at City Hall and other locations within Fort Bend County.

Election Day voting will occur from 7 a.m. through 7 p.m. at Stafford City Hall on Saturday, May 4, 2019.

HOME RULE CHARTER AMENDED

The City of Stafford has operated as a Home Rule City since adopting the Home Rule Charter in 2004. The Charter requires periodic updates. Therefore, City Council appointed a Committee to review and make recommendations to update it.

The Committee was made up of 7 citizens, who were appointed by City Council: Robert Sorbet, served as Chairman, Ettiene Zak served as Vice Chairman, together with Lawrence Vaccaro, Hector Acevedo, Christeen Seymour, Ash Hamirani and Jonathan Montoya.

The Committee held a series of 11 meetings beginning in October, 2017 and ended May, 2018. All recommendations were provided to City Council and on November 6, 2017, the proposed 13 amendments were put to the public for a vote; with all passing overwhelmingly. In view of the election Council has adopted an ordinance incorporating all amendments into the Home Rule Charter.

Those amendments provide as follows: **Amendment A** – Deleted enumerated powers the City is authorized to exercise as a Home Rule City under State law; **Amendment B** – Changed the Mayor from a two year term of office to a four year term of office; **Amendment C** – Placed a four consecutive terms or parts of terms limitation on a person elected as Mayor; **Amendment D** – Placed a four consecutive terms or parts of terms limitation on a person elected as a Councilmember; **Amendment E** – Provided that Councilmembers will be elected by At-Large positions Nos. 1,2,3,4,5 and 6; **Amendment F** – Provided for the transition of the City Council to have all Councilmembers serving three year terms with two Councilmembers being elected each year; **Amendment G** – Allows the Mayor to receive pay and compensation, not exceed fair market value of a City's CEO of comparable size, in the performance his official duties; **Amendment H** – Allows Councilmembers to receive pay and compensation in the performance their official duties as prescribed by City Council; **Amendment I** – Allows a Councilmember to request that an item be placed on the City Council agenda at the next regular meeting, unless a different date is set forth in the request; **Amendment J** – Deleted the requirement that the term of office for Judges of the Stafford Municipal Court be concurrent with the term of office of the Mayor; **Amendment K** – Requires that a person receive a majority of the votes cast for any office of the city instead of a plurality; **Amendment L** – Requires the Mayor to submit the City budget no later than 45 days before September 30; **Amendment M** – Deletes obsolete transitional provisions from the City Charter.

MAJOR ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN 2018

The City made major accomplishments throughout 2018. One of those heading the list includes approval of enticements for the GRID, formerly the Texas Instruments 192 acres tract, by the Stafford Economic Development Corporation and the City.

Additionally, Certificates of Obligation in an amount of \$9 million were issued for the improvements for drainage to Missouri City Estates, Vaccaro Manor and Sugar Creek subdivisions, the construction of a Police Station Annex and a Fire Station/Administration Complex.

Other notable accomplishments were the approval of a City wrecker ordinance, the hiring of Shanell Garcia to head of the newly created Human Resources Department, Dorrance Roderick as Director of the Finance Department, Ryan Young as head of IT Department and Chris Riggs to oversee the Public Works Department.



"The Best Little School District in Texas"

SPOTLIGHT

WINTER 2019

#STAFFORDMSDPROUD

Thank You!
Thank You!
Thank You!



FROM THE DESK OF SUPERINTENDENT BOSTIC

Happy New Year, Stafford MSD! We know that everyone is well-rested and refreshed after the festive holidays of Christmas and New Year's.

In partnership with our project manager, Stafford MSD is working on beginning construction on the \$62 Million Bond that includes a new state-of-the-art Middle School, and 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. We will begin working on site Improvements and the conversion of the current Administration Building into a Community Center for all Stafford citizens. All of these projects (and more) are expected to be completed in 2020 and 2021, respectively.

We introduced the Stafford MSD Experience to our teachers. The Stafford MSD Experience combines professional development and academics with Stafford MSD Marketing. The first task that the teachers completed was an assignment on Blackboard, the District's learning management system.

The District is committed to #LiteracyforAll. At our December Board Meeting, the Trustees voted to approve up to \$550,000 in new library books for our Stafford Students, from Grades K-through 12. That is the largest one-time investment in library books, in District History.

We were delighted to present 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. We were able to accomplish this feat, thanks to the generosity of our School Board Trustees and Stafford City Council.

Speaking of our Trustees, we are honored to recognize January as National School Board Appreciation Month. Our Seven Trustees work tirelessly for betterment of the District and its students.

Dr. Robert Bostic, Superintendent



Mark Your Calendar!

- Super 55+ Seniors' Breakfast.Jan 11
- School Board Meeting. Jan. 14
- M.L.K. Jr. Holiday.Jan 21
- Super Senior 55+ Breakfast.....Feb 8
- School Board Meeting..... Feb. 11
- Super 55+ Seniors' Breakfast. . . March 9
- Spring Break. March 11-15
- School Board Meeting.March 18
- Super 55+ Seniors' Breakfast. . .April 12
- Good Friday Holiday. April 19

Visit www.staffordmsd.org for an updated calendar of events

PLANTING SEEDS OF SUCCESS



JANUARY 2019



SCHOOL BOARD RECOGNITION MONTH



Stafford MSD is grateful for the Stafford MSD Education Foundation and its sponsors for raising \$33,029 for scholarships and teacher grants at its Golf Tournament in November. The SMSD Education Foundation is committed to the success of our students, teachers and staff.



Students, Parents & Employees in Action



STAFFORD ELEMENTARY SPELLING BEE CHAMPIONS

Stafford Elementary students Hailey Dany (First/Second Grade) and Khameron Lancher (Third/Fourth Grade) won their respective Spelling Bees last month.

Dany's winning word was "jerkily", and Lancher's was "sepia."

Both students advanced to the Fort Bend County Spelling Bee.

Stafford Elementary Assistant Principal Jeffery Williams congratulates Lancher (left) and Dany (right).

STAFFORD MSD'S COMMITMENT TO STEM

Stafford MSD Superintendent Dr. Robert Bostic had a chance to visit the ABC Channel 13 Meteorologist Travis Herzog in November. Dr. Bostic continues to emphasize the importance of STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Math) Programs. In fact, the District is planning a STEM Magnet Campus that will be the first of its kind in Fort Bend County/



Stafford MSD JROTC honors Veterans

The Stafford MSD JROTC hosted a Veterans Day Luncheon in November.

Stafford JROTC Instructor Maj. Yulanda Glutz continued this excellent tradition.

The program included a tribute to the late Col. Thomas Ehlinger, who built Stafford JROTC into the strong program that it has become today.

SHS Special Olympics Bowlers

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

Evan Borowski	4th Place
Liam Borowski	4th Place
Patrick Burton	2nd Place
Nihal Caglar	3rd Place
Felipe Carranza	3rd Place
Christian Catuiza	5th Place
Forest Devore	2nd Place
Jaelin Fisher Harris	1st Place
Kaleb Fretty	1st Place
Fred Harris	3rd Place
Jacob Phan	1st Place
Rufus Stevens	3rd Place
Christian Sutherland	3rd Place
Angelina Trejo	1st Place
Dominique Turner	3rd Place
Juliana Velasquez	3rd Place
Bailey Vickers	3rd Place
Christopher Wright	5th Place



STAFFORD SENIOR EARNS \$5,000 SCHOLARSHIP FROM TEXANS

Jesus Iniguez carried on a proud Stafford High School tradition this week.

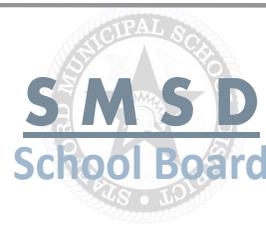
The Stafford High senior became the third SHS student in four years to earn a \$5,000 scholarship from the Houston Texans/Reliant Energy.

The scholarship is awarded to only eight high school seniors in the entire Greater Houston area. Iniguez joins Anthony Montilva (2015) and Taten Blue (2016) as winners of the elite honor.

The common thread is SHS Advanced Placement (AP) History Teacher Oseas Romero – a proud Stafford High graduate himself – who nominated all three students. Iniguez was grateful to learn that he was awarded the scholarship. The Texans officially presented the scholarship at a home game last month.

"It's pretty special," Iniguez said. "You don't think anyone is looking at you, and then, they do. It gives you fuel to be ambitious. If other people believe in you, it makes you want to believe in yourself more."





Christopher Caldwell
President

Xavier Herrera
Vice-President

Alicia Lacy-Castille
Secretary

Jaqueline Jean-Baptiste
Trustee

Auturo Jackson
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.

Upcoming Meeting Dates: January 14, February 11, March 18, April 8 & May 13, 2019.

Trustee Election (May 2019)

The Stafford MSD School Board will hold its annual officials' election on Saturday, May 4, 2019. Candidate application packets for the general election ballot are available at the SMUSD 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 16, 2019. The last day to file an application for a place on the general election ballot is Friday, February 15, 2019. The school district conducts its election jointly with the City of Stafford. For additional information, call 281-261-9219 or email partners@staffordmsd.org.



Community & Business Partners in Action



COLLEGE
COMMUNITY
CAREER

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

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 last fall. 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.



The Stafford High Cheer Program hosted the first annual "Students Against Breast Cancer" 5k Walk/Run.

The proceeds from the event were donated to Sisters Network Breast Cancer Foundation, a Missouri City-based Breast Cancer Organization.



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 during the first week of February.

SMSD CHINESE BOOK DRIVE



Three Hundreds Chinese Books have been donated thus far – something that will boost the District's Chinese Language Immersion Program. Stafford MSD Superintendent Dr. Robert Bostic said the collaboration between the District and the community shows a great deal of commitment by everyone involved. "Thank you for your donations," Stafford MSD Superintendent Dr. Robert Bostic said. "We can't do it without you. There's nowhere in Fort Bend County that you can find a community that's like Stafford. We respond to you, we give the kids what they need. Our kids are competitive, and we want to compete on a national and international level."



SHARE YOUR HOLIDAYS FOOD DRIVE

Stafford MSD was glad to be part of the Share Your Holidays Food Drive last month.

Students and staff from all Stafford MSD campuses contributed to the Food Drive.

In the photo above, Robert Munoz of Stafford MSD Maintenance & Operations and Stafford High Principal Raymond Root prepare to hand a book of donated food to SMUSD Board Vice President Xavier Herrera, who subsequently passed it to Fort Bend County Judge K.P. George.



Athletics

Athletic Director: Ken Savannah
Athletic Trainer: Justice Woods

SMSD BOARD VOTES TO NAME BASEBALL FIELD IN HONOR OF MICHAEL MESA

The Stafford Municipal School District made history on Monday night when the SMSD Board of Trustees voted 6-0 to name the District's baseball field, "Michael Mesa Field."

Michael Mesa was a proud Stafford MSD Graduate who returned to his alma mater as a coach and Spanish Teacher. He became one of the youngest varsity head baseball coaches in the state. Shortly after his second season as head coach, he passed away unexpectedly at age 26, in 2016.

"Michael was a valued member of the SMSD Community," said SMSD Board Vice President Xavier Herrera, who spearheaded the Board's effort to name the field in Mesa's honor. "Michael began serving as an example student and later as a teacher/coach who impacted a number of students' lives in a positive way."



Stafford Football Team Wins Homecoming Game

The Stafford High Football Team scored a season-high 54 points in a 54-18 victory over Houston Yates in its Homecoming Game on Friday, October 5 at Spartan Stadium. It was the sixth consecutive year that the Spartans opened District Competition with a victory. Stafford High Principal Raymond Root, right, congratulates Stafford Homecoming King Michael Pastor, left, and Homecoming Queen Yosan Brhanemeskel, during halftime of the game.

Sports Schedules

High School Boys Soccer

Date	Opponent	Time	Teams	Site
Jan 15	Bay City	5:30/7:30 p.m.	JV/Var	Bay City
Jan 18	El Campo	6 p.m.	Varsity	Stafford
Jan 22	Santa Fe	5/7 p.m.	Varsity	Stafford
Jan 28	Columbus	4:30/7:30	JV/Var	Stafford
Feb. 1	Sealy	7	Var	Sealy
Feb 4	Royal	5:00/7:00	JV/Var	Stafford
Feb 8	Rice Consol.	5:00	Var	Rice. Consol.
Feb 15	Needville	7:00	Varsity	Stafford
Feb 18	Fulshear	5:00/7:00	Varsity	Stafford
Feb 22	Columbus	4:30/6	JV/Var	Columbus
Feb. 25	Sealy	5:00/7:00	JV/Var	Stafford
March 1	Royal	5:00/7:00	Varsity	Royal
March 4	Rice Consolidated	7:00	Varsity	Stafford
March 18	Needville	5:00	Varsity	Needville
March 22	Fulshear	5:00/7:00	JV/Varsity	Fulshear

High School Girls Soccer

Date	Opponent	Time	Teams	Site
Jan 15	Houston Westside	3/4:15 p.m.	JV/V	Westside
Jan 18	Liberty	6 p.m.	Varsity	Liberty
Jan 25	Cleveland	5/7 p.m.	JV/Var	Cleveland
Jan 28	Columbus	6 p.m.	Varsity	Columbus
Feb 1	Sealy	5:45 p.m.	Varsity	Sealy
Feb 4	Royal	4:30/6:30	JV/Var	Royal
Feb 8	Rice Consol.	7:00	Var	Rice Consol.
Feb 15	Needville	5:00	Varsity	Stafford
Feb 18	Fulshear	5/7 p.m.	Varsity	Fulshear
Feb 22	Columbus	7 p.m.	Varsity	Columbus
Feb. 25	Sealy	7 p.m.	Varsity	Stafford
Mar 1	Royal	5:00/7:00	JV/Var	Stafford
Mar 4	Rice Consol.	5:00	Varsity	Stafford
Mar 18	Needville	7:00	Varsity	Needville
Mar 22	Fulshear	5:00/7:00	JV/Var	Stafford

High School Boys Basketball

Date	Opponent	Time	Teams	Site
Jan 11	Sealy	5:45/4:30/7	FR/JV/Var	Stafford
Jan 15	Wharton	5:45/4:30/7	FR/JV/Var	Stafford
Jan 18	El Campo	5:45/4:30/7	FR/JV/Var	El Campo
Jan 22	Fulshear	5:45/4:30/7	FR/JV/Var	Stafford
Jan. 29	Needville	5:45/4:30/7	FR/JV/Var	Needville
Feb. 1	Royal	5:45/4:30/7	FR/JV/Var	Stafford
Feb 5	Sealy	5:45/4:30/7	FR/JV/Var	Sealy
Feb 8	Wharton	6:15/5/7:30	FR/JV/Var	Wharton
Feb 12	El Campo	5:45/4:30/7	FR/JV/Var	Stafford

High School Girls Basketball

Date	Opponent	Time	Teams	Site
Jan 11	Sealy	5:00/6:30	JV/V	Stafford
Jan 15	Wharton	5:00/6:30	JV/V	Stafford
Jan 18	El Campo	5:00/6:30	JV/Var	El Campo
Jan 22	Fulshear	5:00/6:30	JV/Var	Stafford
Jan. 29	Needville	5:00/6:30	JV/Var	Needville
Feb. 1	Royal	5:00/6:30	JV/Var	Stafford
Feb 5	Sealy	5:00/6:30	JV/Var	Sealy

Baseball and Softball: HS Baseball and Softball seasons begin in March 2019 (schedules in the Spring Spotlight).



"There's an App for That!"



#STAFFORDMSDPROUD



COMMUNITY BULLETIN

STAFFORD CENTRE EVENTS

JANUARY

- 17th - Air Supply 80's platinum recording artists
- 19th & 20th – The Texwood Home and Garden Show
- 27th – India Republic Day Festival; and
 - Majah Hype – West Indian Comedian
- 31st - Jesse Cook – Canadian guitarist and composer influenced by flamenco music

FEBRUARY

- 16th – Greater Houston Train Show
 - Stars of the Sixties, featuring “Lovin’ Spoonful”
- 17th – Fort Bend Symphony presents “Etta Maes Musicale”

MARCH

- 18th – Puddles Pity Party – America’s Got Talent contestant clown

CITY HALL HOLIDAY CLOSURES THIS SEASON

STAFFORD CITY HALL WILL BE CLOSED IN OBSERVANCE OF THE FOLLOWING PUBLIC HOLIDAYS:

- Monday, February 18, 2019 – Presidents’ Day
- Friday, April 19, 2019 – Good Friday

CITY OF STAFFORD NEWSLETTERS

**WILL BE PUBLISHED QUARTERLY ON WWW.STAFFORDTX.GOV.
A NOTIFICATION BANNER WILL ALERT YOU TO A NEW PUBLICATION
IN JANUARY, APRIL, JULY, AND NOVEMBER**

FIRE AND BURGLAR ALARM FEES

Burglar/Fire Alarm Fees

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

False Alarm Fees

- Three (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 that any dog or cat kept, over four months of age harbored or maintained by their owner in the City, shall be vaccinated and registred with a licensed vetinarian.

Fees: \$2.00 per dog or cat. Bring the animal’s current vaccination certificate to City Hall. All pet registrations expire December 31st.

TRASH PICK UP AND TREE LIMB PICK UP

Tree Limb Pick-Up: [First Mondays of and January, April, July and October.](#)

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.

A LETTER FROM THE MAYOR

WE ENTER 2019 WITH STRONG OPTIMISM

Our enthusiasm emanates from the beginning of construction on the new two-story Police Department Annex, which will adjoin our current station, and the new Fire Department Station and Administrative Complex on Mula Road. City Council, in an effort to get maximum value and efficiency in the building of these two outstanding structures, has selected a single contractor for both. The total cost, with furniture, fixtures and equipment is \$6,200,000. Estimated completion is anticipated by this Thanksgiving. Both Police Chief, Richard Ramirez and Fire Chief, Larry Di Camillo, who are most fervent about the significant enhancements these facilities will bring to their operations, shall be actively involved in working with the contractor on the respective projects to get all aspects as envisioned. Our Public Works Department is charged with the responsibility and is committed to taking all actions necessary to assure the structures comport exactly as provided in the contracts.

All in all, the prime and ultimate beneficiaries of these endeavors will be the citizens and businesses of Stafford, as they reap the rewards of the utilization of our excellent personnel in these innovative facilities.

I wish each and all of you a very wonderful, prosperous and Happy New Year.

Respectfully submitted,

Leonard Scarcella, Mayor



City of Stafford
2610 South Main
Stafford, TX 77477

STAFFORD ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION NEWS

2019 looks to be another great year for Stafford! Excitement continues to build as we watch new businesses opening in The Grid and will continue to see new construction and ultimately, more businesses open their doors during the year. Chipotle and Verizon were the first two along West Airport and the Kirkwood side is progressing quickly while finishing the infrastructure so that buildings can begin. We will also see new business along Highway 90 throughout the year with a new Popeye's Louisiana Kitchen being the first in the new strip center adjacent to Dairy Queen.

We have done some clearing along parts of the IH59/69 corridor and will continue to see what works best for that area before doing a complete revamp to ensure that commuters traveling through Stafford understand our commitment to beautification but also our desire for everyone to be able to see the great things happening in our community. The updated landscaping along Highway 90A will begin in the first quarter and is designed to upgrade the plants while allowing us to better maintain the areas that so many commuters travel on a daily basis.

As is always our commitment to the citizens, we will continue to work to make Stafford a great place to live, work and play!

Respectfully submitted as the opinion of:

Wen Guerra, President