



THE STAFFORD NEWSLETTER

NOVEMBER 2019

CITY OF STAFFORD, TEXAS

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HOLIDAY ACTIVITY IS SET

THE IMMENSELY POPULAR HOLIDAY EVENT IS SET TO BRING CHEER TO CHILDREN AND ADULTS ALIKE.



Santa is on his way and he is bringing with him “Santa’s Village” to Stafford. This is the City’s annual event that results in so many smiles to the faces of our children.

One of the most delightful aspects is everything is **FREE OF CHARGE**, including hotdogs, cookies and drinks for all who attend. It all begins at 6:00 p.m. and goes to 8:00 p.m. on Tuesday, December 3rd at the Stafford Centre, which will be transformed into a holiday wonderland for the evening.

Mayor Scarcella is currently selecting a special costume, as he does each year to entertain all the little ones who come to participate in this most special evening.

Guest of honor will be Santa himself, escorted by the Stafford Fire Department sitting upon a gleaming Fire Truck with sirens blazing and lights flashing. This is your opportunity to get this year’s holiday season off to a most enjoyable beginning.

CELEBRATING 50 YEARS OF SERVICE



Left to Right: Councilmembers Ken Mathew, Virginia Rosas, Cecil Willis, Mayor Leonard Scarcella, Mayor Pro Tem Wen Guerra, Councilmembers Alice Chen and Don Jones.

Mayor Leonard Scarcella celebrated his 50th year of service as the City of Stafford’s Mayor. A Golden Gala was hosted at the Stafford Centre on September 3rd.

The event was attended by many Fort Bend Officials, State Officials, citizens, employees and friends.

Master of Ceremonies led the speeches and presentations to the Mayor, dinner and dancing followed.

Mayor Scarcella stated in his thank you speech that he is humbled to have been given the honor to have served the people of this great City for the last 5 decades and it is his intention to continue to provide the very best of services for its people for the foreseeable future.

THE GRID CONTINUES TO GROW

Development at the Grid continues with several restaurants and retailers nearing completion.

Street Level Inc, hosted a tour for City Councilmembers and Stafford Economic Development Corporation Directors in September, to view the anticipated restaurants, including Whiskey Cake, Outback Steak House, In and Out Burger, and Pluckers as well as the already opened Mc Allister’s Deli and Chipotle, together with as Verizon and EyeLab, along with many other businesses.

A fascinating aspect of the tour was the recently completed apartment complex entitled “1879 at the Grid”. In addition to a wealth of amenities, this new multi-family housing complex brings a unique addition to the City.

The Grid is bustling with activities, on the former TI site, which once complete, will have been transformed into the Grove, an outdoor restaurant complex.

On the Southwest side of the Development along Kirkwood is the highly anticipated Drive Shack, a fascinating Golf entertainment facility which is expected to open in the middle of next year.

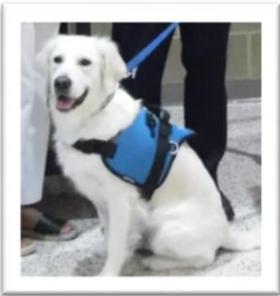
Make plans at your earliest opportunity to view this new impressive project and eat at these new restaurants.



Backrow: Lawrence Vaccaro, Don Jones, Randy Krahn, Alice Chen, Ken Mathew.

Front row: Virginia Rosas, Leonard Scarcella with Brian Murphy of Street Level Inc.

STAFFORD POLICE DEPARTMENT FACILITY DOG



“Maiden”

In August, the City of Stafford’s Police Department hired a special officer. “Maiden”, the Police Department’s Facility Dog. She made her debut at a City Council meeting. Maiden’s role in the Police Department is to provide victims, community members, officers and staff with comfort during stressful times. Maiden joins us from MADE in Texas Assistance Dogs, an organization that specializes in training assistance dogs to pick up on key signals and immediately offer help and comfort to those distress.

Maiden has already proven to be very effective in the community, and we are thrilled to have her as our most unique member of the team.

MEET CODE COMPLIANCE

Council recently approved the move of Code Enforcement to Development Services under the directorship of Chris Riggs. This transition provided for the formation of a Code Enforcement Department, led by Code Compliance Administrator Scott McElrath. The Department is now comprised of Health Inspectors – Marcia Fouts and Karl Velasco; Code Compliance Technician – Theresa Johnson, and Human Officer – Pete Ramirez.



NEW PLANNING & ZONING COMMISSIONERS

The Planning and Zoning Commission welcomed three new members. Adam Sanchez, Mary Ann Smith and Leaa Hoelsing were sworn in to their office of commissioner at the Planning and Zoning Commission meeting on August 13th. They join the existing sworn members to ensure all future developments are in compliance with the City’s adopted Zoning Ordinance, Comprehensive Plan and Future Land Use Plan.





COMMUNITY BULLETIN

STAFFORD CENTRE EVENTS

November

- November 14th – David Feherty Live Tour
- November 16th – 17th HERPS Reptile and Pet Show
- November 19th – The Fun Fitness Healthcare and Wellness Senior Resource Expo
- November 23rd – Houston Chinese Church “Seasons of Love Christmas Program”
- November 30th – Mini Texas International Pageant

December

- December 3rd – City of Stafford “Santa’s Village”
- December 9th – A Charlie Brown Christmas Live on Stage
- December 10th – Stafford MSD Band Concert
- December 13th – Ballet Forte’s “Nutcracker”
- December 13th – County Commissioner Grady Prestige’s Black Tie Gala
- December 20th – 22nd Houston’s Urban Nutcracker
- December 31st – City of Stafford’s Rockin New Year Eve Bash

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.



SANTA THROUGH THE NEIGHBORHOODS

The Stafford Fire Department will once again escort Santa around the neighborhoods to say hello to the children of our City on **Saturday, December 14th beginning at 1pm.**

CITY OFFICES WILL BE CLOSED

- November 28 & 29th, 2019 – Thanksgiving
- December 24 & 25th, 2019 – Christmas Day
- January 1st, 2020 – New Years Day

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

COUNT OUR BLESSINGS: - EXTRAORDINARY FLOOD CONTROL

As the holiday season approaches, we in Stafford have much for which to be thankful. Not only is our economy expanding, emergency and basic services remain at a very high level, giving us an awareness of our special quality of life. In spite of these most outstanding benefits, there is one achievement that rises to the level of extraordinary: the superlative quality of our flood control effectiveness. Hurricanes Ike and Harvey and the myriad of heavy and continuous downpours, have repeatedly illustrated the disastrous tragic accumulations of rising waters up as high as roof tops in many neighboring cities. In these cities, the demand to attempt to remedy this unacceptable circumstance, has seen literally billions of dollars recently authorized by voters to address this intolerable condition. In contrast, Stafford has avoided all serious flooding. This is not by accident. We have spent the last four decades not only extensively planning, but making substantial and necessary infrastructure improvements. The outstanding results bear out the astuteness of these programs, and most importantly, have spared our residents and businesses a multitude of intolerable miseries. So as we reflect on our blessings at this special time of year, an admiring acknowledgement of our wise and cost effective enhancements is appropriate. I wish each and all a truly wonderful holiday season. And would hope you take pride that you live in this most outstanding City!

All Best Wishes,

Leonard Scarcella, Mayor

STAFFORD ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION NEWS

There has been several new additions to the Stafford business community!

Adding to the West Airport side of The Grid with Chipotle and Verizon is the newly opened my EyeLab and McAllister's Deli. Both of these businesses have seen a brisk opening and are excited to be in Stafford. The much anticipated Kirkwood side is moving quickly and we expect to see openings of In-N-Out Burger, Whiskey Cake Kitchen and Bar, Pluckers Wing Bar and Outback Steakhouse before the end of the year. Beginning in the first quarter of 2020, we anticipate the ground breaking of Drive Shack, a golf entertainment facility also on the Kirkwood side, along with a couple of other surprises to be announced later.

Across the street in The Fountains, Buy Buy Baby and Cost Plus World Market are currently under construction and should make their debut before the busy holiday season! These two stores will make great additions to an already incredible line-up of retailers in that area.

In conjunction with Fort Bend County, we are excited to have begun the expansion of West Airport to six lanes. With the expected increase in traffic from the new developments, we are hoping this will alleviate traffic flow problems for our citizens and visitors. We are also in the design phase of extending Trinity Drive from The Grid to Bluebonnet and Cash Road from Trinity Drive to Kirkwood Road. All of these projects by SEDC are designed to help increase mobility throughout our city.

In the coming months, you will see an updated website that we hope will be more user-friendly for both residents and potential businesses alike, and we wish you all a truly wonderful holiday season.

Respectfully submitted as the opinion of:

Wen Guerra, President