

# THE STAFFORD NEWSLETTER

CITY OF STAFFORD, TEXAS



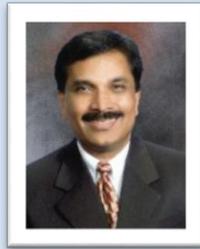
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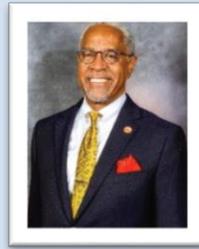
## 2020 ELECTIONS



Cecil Willis



Ken Mathew



Don Jones



Adam Sanchez

This year's City Election will be held at City Hall on May 2<sup>nd</sup>. There are three Council positions open that will be filled:

Councilmember Don Jones is seeking re-election to a two-year term in POSITION 4 and is being challenged by Adam Sanchez.

Councilmember Cecil Willis is seeking re-election to a three-year term in POSITION 5. He did not draw a challenger.

Councilmember Ken Mathew is seeking re-election to a three-year term in POSITION 6. He also is unopposed.

Election Day voting on Saturday, May 2<sup>nd</sup> will be held at City Hall from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. Early voting will be conducted at City Hall on Monday, April 20<sup>th</sup> through Saturday, April 25<sup>th</sup> and Monday, April 27<sup>th</sup> and Tuesday, April 28<sup>th</sup>.

All election information, polling locations, dates and times will be published on the City's website.

### PLUCKERS WING BAR OPENS



**Pluckers Wing Bar** joined the group of new restaurants located within the GRID by holding a soft opening the week of January 13<sup>th</sup> 2020. Pluckers in Stafford is the Chains 5<sup>th</sup> Houston area location, which is a sports bar offering typical American Cuisine from chicken wings to burgers, to sandwiches and salads.

### TROPICAL SMOOTHIE CAFÉ OPENS



**Tropical Smoothie Cafe** opened its doors in February. Located on South Main just east of Starbucks, this venue does not just offer smoothies as one might assume, but a variety of wraps, toasted flatbreads, bowls and quesadillas. Everything is made to order with fresh ingredients and available in a relaxing atmosphere.

# STATE OF THE CITY AND GOALS FOR 2020

**Mayor, Leonard Scarcella** presented the State of the City Message and Goals for 2020 on January 29<sup>th</sup> at the Annual Town Hall Meeting, held at the Stafford Civic Center.

He opened by highlighting the need to preserve and promote the ZERO PROPERTY TAX. Stafford eliminated all property taxes in 1995 and is the only major City in the USA that can claim a 25-year history of this accomplishment. Our goal must be to “spread the word” about this achievement and demonstrate how residents and businesses can keep more of their money in Stafford than any other City. The City continues to expand its economic development by adding a multitude of sales tax generating businesses. However, there is a cautionary note: Some developers are desirous of getting substantial rebates from these sales tax revenues. Unfortunately, this has the effect of diminishing our most important revenue source. It was emphasized that every effort must be made to minimize any additional agreements to allow this.

The Presentation also asserted the need to increase the general fund, and spend only when necessary, some things Another goal advocated in the message is returning the Stafford Municipal School District into its original purpose – to provide the children of Stafford the best educational opportunities.

In the beginning, it achieved that purpose, in a most convincing manner. However, over the years more and more Limited Open Enrollment (LOE’s) students - - those from outside of Stafford--made up the student body. With the new multi-million dollar expansion of the school campus providing a fresh new perspective, the students who live in Stafford must be attracted to come to the school, reduce and eliminate the LOE’s.

Another most important goal is to protect the animals of Stafford – something that has gained increasing support. The city has expanded its program by passing a comprehensive ordinance and hiring an additional Humane Officer to further this effort and to ensure these small pets are treated with dignity and respect.

The State of the City message was summed up by emphasizing the long storied history of Stafford and advocating a Historical Museum to demonstrate this. This would allow for not only the people of Stafford but all who are interested in this most fascinating trek through history, beginning back with William Stafford in 1820, to gain the best perspective of about the City and how it got to where it is today.

The State of the City Message was warmly received by Councilmembers and the Public alike, with glowing comments about the positive outlook for the City, by its residents in the public comments segment.

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## STAFFORD PRIDE DAY

The City of Stafford has long had a tradition of holding an annual Spring Clean Up in April. Such was the enthusiasm for this event, that in some years residents showed up even when inclement weather ensued.

This past year due to changes of reporting structure the event known as the Spring Clean Up was dramatically changed to become more of a drive-thru event. This appeared to be well received, therefore once again the event will be a drive- thru offering a variety of services.

City Council approved the event to change its name to Stafford Pride Day. The date for this event will be:

**SATURDAY, APRIL 4TH, 2020**

Residents will be able to bring all of their documents they need to shred, old and unused prescription, drop-off will be available as well as a container to receive old and broken electrical equipment such as cell phones, computers, laptops etc. Tires and batteries can be dropped off at City Hall.

All information and important notices regarding the Stafford Pride Day Event will be posted on our Facebook and Website and of course will be on our SMETV channel.

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## ANIMAL CONTROL

The City of Stafford as mentioned in the State of the City Message has added another Animal Control Officer (ACO) to the Humane Division of Code Enforcement. Pete Ramirez and Jaclyn Taylor are the City’s ACO’s and can be reached by contacting Stafford Police Dispatch at 281 -261 3977.

The City is holding a Special Called City Council meeting to discuss Animal Protection and to officially create a Animal Protection Committee on March 12, 2020 at 7pm, at Stafford City Hall. Citizens are invited to attend.

# CITY EVENTS & INFORMATION



## Stafford Centre Upcoming Events

March 12, 2020	The Office Musical Parody
March 19, 2020	Alan Parsons Live Project
March 20, 2020	AKS Gem Show
March 21, 2020	AKS Gem Show
March 22, 2020	AKS Gem Show
March 28, 2020	Funky Junque Gypsy Market
April 3-5, 2020	Ballet Forte Spring Performance
April 11, 2020	Indo American Association "Kumar Sharma & Kathak Rockers"
April 25, 2020	International Plastic Model Society "Modelmania"
May 2-3, 2020	Houston Exotic Pet & Reptile Show
May 10, 2020	SiA "India"
May 14, 2020	Indo American Association Concert
May 17, 2020	Fort Bend Symphony Orchestra – Mozart
May 22, 2020	SiA "India"

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## 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 31<sup>st</sup>.

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## Important Information

For current information on the : COVID 19

[www.fbchealth.org/ncov](http://www.fbchealth.org/ncov) or [www.cdc.gov/coronviroous/2019](http://www.cdc.gov/coronviroous/2019)

For current information on the : 2020 Census

[www.2020census.gov](http://www.2020census.gov)

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## 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.

If you should have any questions regarding trash pick up: WCA Customer Service Line: (281) 368-8397

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### PUBLIC HOLIDAYS FOR THE CITY OF STAFFORD

Good Friday – Friday, April 10, 2020  
Memorial Day – Monday, May 25, 2020  
Independence Day – Friday, July 3, 2020  
Labor Day – Monday, September 7, 2020

Thanksgiving Day – Thursday, November 26, 2020  
Day After Thanksgiving – Friday, November 27, 2020  
Christmas Eve – Thursday, December 24, 2020  
Christmas Day – Friday, December 25, 2020

# A LETTER FROM THE MAYOR

## 2020 OFFERS STAFFORD MUCH PROMISE

Taking great pride in our award winning Police Department, which will be moving into the much anticipated Chief Bonnie K. Krahn Annex, and will be fully staffed will assure a most efficient operation.

The nationally acclaimed Stafford Fire Department is expecting to occupy the recently constructed \$4 million Fire Station Administration Building on Mula Road. It will house the two new pumpers costing \$2.5 million and will also be home to an additional six new Fireman to elevate its efficiency.

Our Public Works Department is overseeing a myriad of street construction and new development add to that the proposed TXDOT multimillion dollar enhancement to the FM1092 corridor, complimented by amenities provided by the City, which will greatly enhance our mobility and commerce in the City. Also under this department is Animal Protection, which will have a most enhanced focus.

With elections at the forefront of almost everyones mind for 2020, our Administrative Department will be challenged to conduct in a most responsible and fair manner. The Human Resource Department is elevating salary structure. Compliment that with the Communications Department will be focused on a new dynamic to our social media.

Top it all off with the multimillion dollar expansion of the SMSD, with the clear focus of getting Stafford children to attend and you have a year of great promise.

Respectfully submitted,  
**Leonard Scarcella, Mayor**

## STAFFORD ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

New additions continue in our community!

Progress continues on The Grid! We were excited to see the opening of In-and-Out Burger, Whiskey Cake and Outback Steakhouse in late November and Pluckers Wing Bar in January! Great Clips also opened on the West Airport side and we will see Refined Dentistry open very soon. Lazy Dog is under construction facing Highway 59/69 and you will see Torchy's Taco's and an AT&T store on that side under construction soon. More great announcements will be coming soon so stay tuned!

Along Highway 90, we are also seeing new establishments pop up both in new buildings and in some that are being repurposed. Vasos BBQ opened near Brand Lane and is serving up amazing BBQ while Tropical Smoothie and Café opened in the new strip center near Starbucks. Both of these great restaurants will be great additions to our community. We are also looking forward to Dental Domain opening near the Tropical Smoothie soon!

We expect the opening of Buy Buy Baby and Cost Plus World Market to happen in March in The Fountains. The Fountains continue to add new and exciting places to shop and eat to better serve the citizens of Stafford and the surrounding area.

Our street expansions including West Airport, Cash Road and Trinity Drive are all still moving full speed ahead. We are excited to be partnering with Fort Bend County on these mobility projects to help move you through the city.

We are looking forward to beautiful Spring weather and all the new blooms our updated landscaping will show off!

*Respectfully submitted as the opinion of:*  
**Wen Guerra, President**