



The Stafford Newsletter



Volume 28, Issue 3

July 2007

Tradition Continues on Tuesday, July 3 and Wednesday, July 4

INDEPENDENCE DAY CELEBRATION SET

The tradition started in 1976 with the honoring of the Bi-Centennial of the nation's birth. The City of Stafford joined in that celebration and for the 32nd consecutive year will have festivities to acclaim Independence Day.

Popular activities consisting of the parade, street dance, kiddy rides and a hay ride on July 3 and fireworks the evening of July 4 have evolved into main features of these festivities. Once again, these activities will take center stage. In addition to the Parade Marshal,

honorees this year will include the first SMSD school attendees in 1982 and our U.S. veterans of foreign conflicts. You, your family and friends are strongly encouraged to join and participate in these special festivities.



July 2006 Parade

New Collection Contractor: Waste Corporation of Texas

CONTRACT FOR GARBAGE ADVANCES

Following months of negotiations with the City's current collector, Allied Waste, the Garbage Committee, composed of Mayor Pro Tem Cecil Willis, Councilman Jeff Smith and Public Works Director Lawrence Vaccaro, has attained an agreement in concept for the collection of residential garbage in the City with another company.

In May, City Council authorized the Committee to structure a contract with Waste Corporation of Texas at a base rate of \$12.55 per month. Since then, the Committee and City Attorney Scott Bounds have been finalizing the provisions of a contract which would begin on September 1.

The agreement will provide for continued curbside collection twice a

week. Fort Bend County Water Control & Improvement District No. 2 has approved collecting monthly payments on the water bill at a rate of \$1.30 per home per month. This will be a significant improvement over the recent collection process through Allied Waste. The base rate, collection fee, administrative cost and sales tax will result in a monthly rate of about \$15.

City Council, the Committee and the Directors of Fort Bend Co. WC&ID No. 2 are to be commended on their efforts in structuring this new arrangement. Based on a thorough evaluation, the new collector, Waste Corporation of Texas, is highly qualified and should do a good job in the collection of our residential garbage.

City of Stafford
Program for
INDEPENDENCE DAY CELEBRATION

Tuesday, July 3

7:00 p.m.  **PARADE** begins at the Municipal Complex on Staffordshire, then to First Street, then to Present Street, down Fifth Street, ending at the Civic Center in the Municipal Complex (map shown below)

8:15 p.m.  **PRESENTATION** of Parade Winner, **CAKE RECEPTION** for Parade Marshal Jan Jones, and **HONORING** of First Students at SMSD (1982) and Veterans of Iraq and Afghanistan and other foreign conflicts

7:00 p.m. - 12:00 midnight  **FOOD** and **DRINK BOOTHS** available sponsored by non-profit organizations

7:30 p.m. - 11:30 p.m.  **CARNIVAL RIDES** and **GAMES** for children

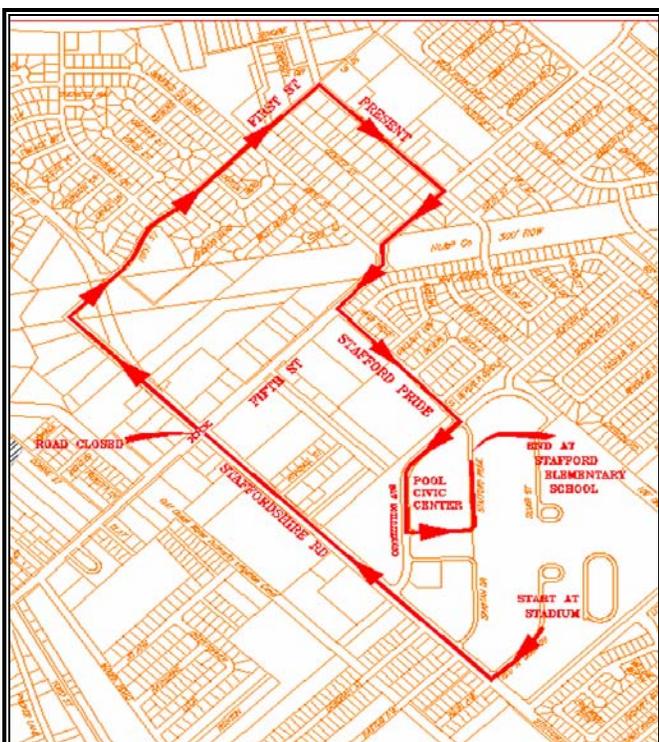
8:30 p.m. - 11:30 p.m.  **HAY RIDE** sponsored by the City of Stafford Street and Parks Departments

8:30 p.m. - 11:30 p.m.  **STREET DANCE** with music by Willie's Boys

Wednesday, July 4

9:00 p.m.  **FIREWORKS DISPLAY** viewed from Stafford Civic Center/Pool Complex area (Note: Stadium is closed due to repairs.)

PARADE ROUTE



July 3rd events begin at 7 p.m.

**FIRST SMSD STUDENTS AND
WAR VETERANS HONORED**

Twenty-five years ago, the first students to attend the Stafford Municipal School District stepped off the buses into the elementary school converted from a warehouse on Cash Road for their first day of classes. August 26, 1982, stands as one of the proudest days in Stafford's history as it was the culmination of a six-year effort to allow the children of Stafford to have their own schools.

Also honored will be our veterans of Iran, Afghanistan and all foreign conflicts for their distinguished service.

These students and veterans attending the festivities will be recognized.

CITY AND SMSD ACTIVELY PURSUING ENHANCING THE DISTRICT

After legislation sponsored by the City seeking the opportunity for the people of Stafford to petition for an election delivering ultimate control of SMSD to either the Board of Trustees or to City Council died in the Texas Senate the last week of the session, the two entities began extensive negotiations in pursuit of an SMSD budget for the 2007-2008 school year that will significantly change the direction and stature of the District. This move towards open cooperation is highly commendable since it represents the best dialogue City Council and the Board of Trustees have had in a decade.

Following the sale of the \$15 million in bonds for improvements to District facilities at a joint meeting of the Board and Council on May 31 and after many of the City's concerns about SMSD were laid out by Mayor Leonard Scarcella in initial remarks, the Board and Council had a far-ranging and productive discussion dealing with the pursuit of academic excellence, retention and attraction

of outstanding teachers, strengthening student discipline, encouraging Stafford students to attend SMSD, eliminating the exodus of parents and students from the District and the analyzing of the schools' limited open enrollment policy.

Incorporating eight goals adopted by City Council, Superintendent H. D. Chambers presented an outline of sixteen strategic areas the administration believes are necessary to elevate the District.

Committees involving Board and City Council members, administrators and citizens have been designated and have begun meeting. The budget, which is formally due to be completed by the end of August, will be materially impacted by the recommendations of these Committees on the allocation of available resources.

Although there are skeptics, for many this is the most encouraging series of discussions and events in recent memory to elevate the District and provide enhanced opportunities for Stafford students.

Selected as Parade Marshal

ASSISTANT CHIEF JAN JONES HONORED

In honor of, and in gratitude for 33 years of exceptional and extended service to the Stafford Police Department in various capacities ranging from Sergeant to Assistant Police Chief, Jan Jones was chosen by City Council as Parade Marshal for the 2007 Independence Day Celebration and will be recognized in a ceremony and reception after the parade on July 3.

Born and reared in Houston, Chief Jones served in the U.S. Navy and was stationed in Germany during the celebrated period when Elvis Presley was also on duty there.

Chief Jones began his law enforcement career with the Harris County Sheriff's Department and came to the Stafford Police Department as a Sergeant in 1974. He subsequently



was promoted to Lieutenant and then to Assistant Chief, the position which he has held for the past 9 years. He has received many awards and is a graduate of the F.B.I. National Academy. Chief Jones was instrumental in the development and founding of the Fort Bend County Law Enforcement Academy which led to the creation of the Gus George Law Enforcement Academy in Richmond.

He and his wife, Linda, have been married for 35 years and have two children, Jennifer and Matthew.

He has been an outstanding asset to the City during his long tenure.



City of Stafford
2610 South Main
Stafford, TX 77477

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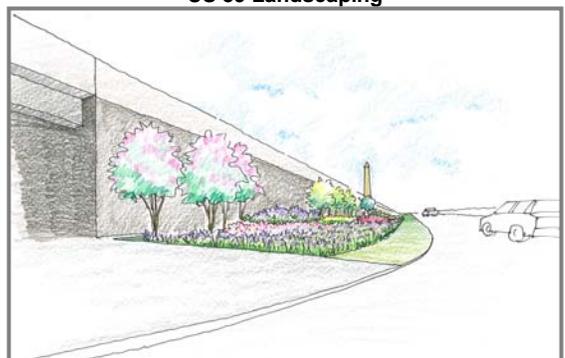
PLAN FOR LANDSCAPING AND MONUMENTS ON US 59 AND US 90A PROGRESSES

While extensive construction on US 90A is expected to continue through the end of next year, detailed plans are being formulated for a \$2.2 million landscaping and enhancement project along and between this thoroughfare. The Texas Department of Transportation - along with Public Works Director Lawrence Vaccaro, City Engineer Pam Madrigal and Clark Condon Architects - has been developing a plan that will dramatically embellish the appearance and image of the residential and commercial areas in the Island.

Additionally, TxDOT is developing a plan that will provide extensive landscaping at the major city intersections of US 59 at an approximate cost of \$168,000. The project is scheduled to be under construction by September 2007.

Also, the City is working with Clark Condon on the final design and location of City monuments. The concept is several 25-30 foot obelisk structures that would include the City's name and be located in the landscaped areas to help identify this area as being our city, since it is often difficult for motorists to determine whether they are in Stafford, Sugar Land or Houston. The estimated cost of these monuments designed to enhance the City's image is \$500,000.

US 59 Landscaping



ANNOUNCEMENTS



Tree Limb Pickup
 Monday, August 6



No Trash Pickup
 Monday, September 3

City of Stafford offices will be closed on Wednesday, July 4, in observance of Independence Day and on Monday, September 3, in observance of Labor Day.

Keep the Hurricane Insert for your family's information and protection.