



# THE STAFFORD NEWSLETTER



Hurricane Season Arrives!  
Pick up flyer at City Hall

Volume 29, Issue 3

July 2008

**Celebration to be held on Thursday, July 3 and Friday, July 4**

## INDEPENDENCE DAY EVENTS ANNOUNCED

The theme for this year's celebration is "Live and Launch in Stafford with the Red, White, and Blue" and is based on the recent award received by the City for being selected by Fortune Small Business Magazine and CNNMoney as one of the Top 100 Best Places in the Nation to Live and Launch a Small Business.

For the 33<sup>rd</sup> consecutive year, the City of Stafford will

sponsor an Independence Day Celebration. The schedule of events, while resembling years past, promises to be even bigger and better.



Stafford HS Band marches in July 2007 Parade

Among the activities which bring out a large crowd will be the parade, street dance, kiddie rides, and hay rides on July 3 that will take place next to the Stafford Civic Center. The fireworks the evening of July 4 again

may be viewed from the Stafford football stadium. All of these activities are free to the public.

Special honorees this year will be the Parade Marshal, John Ferro, as

well as long-time local business, Court Hardware, and its proprietor, Charles V. Court, Jr. Everyone is encouraged to participate in these festivities.

### **New Councilmen Take Oaths of Office**

## **MATHEW, WILLIS RE-ELECTED; SORBET WELCOMED**

Incumbent Councilmen Ken Mathew, with 622 votes, and Cecil Willis, with 542 votes, led vote recipients to claim two of the Council seats. The remaining position was won by newcomer Robert Sorbet, who garnered 333 votes. Former Alderman Victor Linares, who received 193 votes,

failed to regain a place on City Council.

Sorbet, who gained the seat vacated by retiring Councilman Mike Sachs, was installed on May 14 together with Mathew and Willis. At that meeting, Councilman John Rose was named Mayor Pro Tem for the coming year.

## **MY FAIR LADY GRACES THE STAFFORD CENTRE**

*Wouldn't it be Lovely* to go to the Stafford Centre and remember how you *Could Have Danced All Night* with Henry Higgins and Eliza Doolittle? *With a Little Bit of Luck* you can attend: Free! Simply go to Fort Bend Theatre at 2815 N. Main, Stafford City Hall, or Stafford Centre with proof of Stafford residency (showing *On the Street Where You Live*) by July 17 to

receive free tickets to the award-winning production of *My Fair Lady* to be held August 1, 2, and 3.

Through the sponsorship of the City of Stafford, you too can *Grow Accustomed to Her Face* and enjoy a most delightful evening out! For more information, call 281-208-3333. To purchase non-resident tickets, visit [www.fortbendtheatre.com](http://www.fortbendtheatre.com).



# INDEPENDENCE DAY CELEBRATION

Live and Launch in Stafford with the Red, White, and Blue

Thursday, July 3



★ 7:00 p.m. **PARADE** begins at SMSD football parking lot, then right on Staffordshire, right on First Street, right on Present Street, right on War Admiral, left on Bold Ruler, right on Ruffian, right on Constitution, and ends at the Civic Center in the Municipal Complex (see map)

★ 8:15 p.m. **PRESENTATION** of Parade Winners, **CAKE RECEPTION** for Parade Marshal John Ferro, and **HONORING** business owner Charles Court, Jr.

★ 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 the children - **FREE!**

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

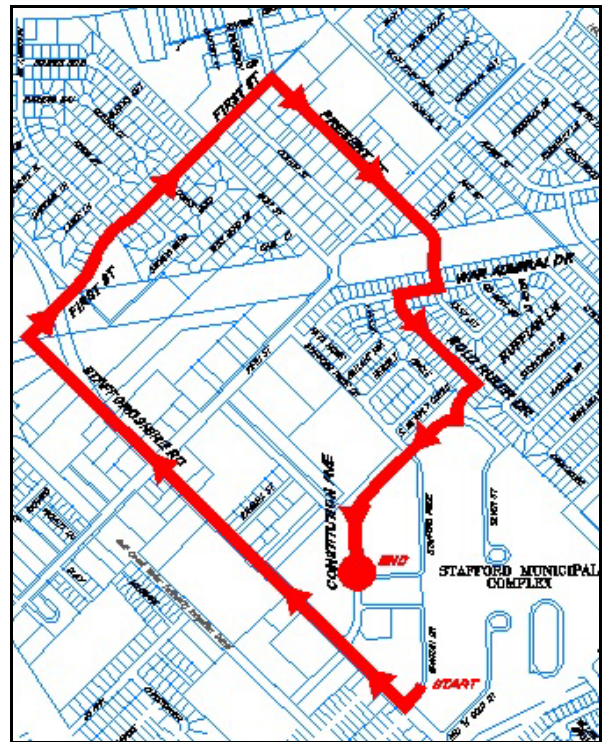
★ 8:30 p.m. - 11:30 p.m. **STREET DANCE** with music by Eazy Money Band – **FREE!**

Friday, July 4



★ 9:00 p.m. **FIREWORKS DISPLAY** viewed from SMSD Football Stadium, Stafford Civic Center/Pool Complex area

## PARADE ROUTE



## CHARLES COURT, JR., OF COURT HARDWARE, SALUTED

No business better epitomizes the award granted to Stafford as being one of the Top 100 Best Places in the Nation to Live and Launch a Small Business than Court Hardware.

Started by C. V. Court, Sr. in 1948 and joined by his sons J. C. Court and C. V. Court, Jr. a decade later, Court Hardware has become emblematic of a small business having its beginning and succeeding here.

Charles Court, Jr. is celebrating his Golden Anniversary with Court Hardware. His friends, neighbors, and thousands of customers have come to recognize that Charles lives, breathes, and symbolizes Court Hardware.

In view of the award won by Stafford, there could be no better example of a prosperous small business in Stafford than Court Hardware and its owner Charles Court, Jr.

## NOTICES

City Offices Closed:  
Friday, July 4 – Independence Day  
Monday, September 1 – Labor Day

Tree Limb Pick Up:  
Monday, August 4  
Monday, October 6

# REVISED ZONING REGULATIONS NEARING PUBLIC HEARING

Taking a proposed draft by the City's consultants Kendig Keast Collaborative and following the instructions of City Council, staff members Gene Bane, Zoning Administrator, Lawrence Vaccaro, Public Works Director, and Pam Madrigal, City Engineer, in conjunction with City Attorney, Art Pertile, have been rewriting and refining numerous provisions in the current Zoning Ordinance. A draft has been completed and will await comments from an ad hoc committee consisting of these individuals together with Mayor Leonard Scarcella, former Councilman Mike Sachs, and Planning Commissioners Joe Rome and Alma Birdwell.

After scrutiny and refinement by the ad hoc committee, the draft will be presented to the Planning and Zoning Commission and City Council for

discussion, and ultimately a public hearing. Following the public hearing, Council will make final revisions and have the ordinance on the agenda for consideration.

An innovative feature of this ordinance is the creation of two new zoning districts: IS denoting the Island District and PC for the Primary Corridor south of US 90A and along FM 1092. It will also address allowed uses, landscaping requirements, permissible signs, and general requirements to encourage revitalization of these two very prominent areas of the City.

Since adopting the Zoning Ordinance eleven years ago, Stafford has become a more desirable place to live and to do business.

These new zoning provisions will be major steps in planning for development of the City in the next quarter century.

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## Committee Chooses Life-long Resident and Prominent Community Leader

### **JOHN FERRO IS HOLIDAY'S PARADE MARSHAL**



Frank John Ferro, the son of Italian immigrants, life-long member of the community, and a fervent supporter of Stafford has been selected by City Council to be the Parade Marshal for the Independence Day celebration.

It is only fitting that a man who has served in the Volunteer Fire Department, as a Director of Fort Bend County WC&ID No. 2, as a candidate for City Council, as President of the Stafford Economic Development Commission, and as a businessman whose

real estate business has specialized in Stafford real estate for the last 25 years is bestowed with this honor.

John is known for his readiness to assist many charitable organizations, including putting on his apron to cook spaghetti, and for always being available to lend a helping hand to further promote the City. In fact, he is considered by many to be one of Stafford's most ardent supporters.

Born in 1938, he attended the old Missouri City school from Grades 1-12 and recently promoted and led the effort for the celebration of the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Missouri City High School Graduating Class of 1958.

A little known fact about John is that he was the second employee hired by the City after its incorporation in 1956, and paid \$1 an hour to mow grass and ditches with the City tractor.

John is most enthusiastic in encouraging his many friends to join him at this year's parade and for the presentation of this award.



**City of Stafford**  
2610 South Main  
Stafford, TX 77477

## US 90A IMPROVEMENTS TAKING SHAPE



US 90A at Stafford Road

The \$100 million US 90A Improvement Project, as it has become known, is finally rounding into shape. This endeavor has extended over nine years with meetings between the City, TxDOT, and Union Pacific Railroad, including planning, negotiations, execution of contracts, and ultimately the construction of improvements.

In fact after avoiding the many barricades and difficult turning maneuvers, one gets

a mental picture of what

Stafford will look like in the coming year. The underpasses are clearly definable. The many concrete highway lanes together with curbs, gutters, and storm sewers are all coming together. The overpass above Dulles/Kirkwood is complete, and even the interior streets surrounding the Island are advancing.

If all goes as anticipated, this project should be substantially complete by the end of the year, which will make for a very nice Christmas present. Final landscaping and refinements are anticipated to be completed by this time next year.

Staffordians' patience and understanding with this elaborate construction process is proving to be worth the wait.



US 90A at FM 1092