



The Stafford Newsletter



Volume 30, Issue 3

July 2009

Standard Events on Friday, July 3; Concert and Fireworks on Saturday, July 4

JULY 4 CELEBRATION CONTINUES TO GROW



July 2008 Parade

For the 34th consecutive year, Stafford is preparing to celebrate Independence Day. The event continues to grow, with something extra special being added this year: A Patriotic Concert by the Fort Bend Symphony Orchestra at the Stafford Centre Performing Arts Theatre on July 4 will complement our celebration.

Other activities will include many of the standards: parade, street dance, kiddie rides and hay rides on July 3 which will take place next to the Stafford Civic Center. Also on July 4 will be the annual fireworks display that again may be viewed from the football stadium. All are free to the public.

Parade Marshals are Mr. and Mrs. Mike Johnston, owners of Southern Ice Cream, who were most generous and extremely helpful with the Point of Distribution (POD) in Stafford to dispense ice, water and food to the needy during the aftermath of Hurricane Ike.

Everyone is encouraged to join in on these wonderful festivities.

Protecting Sales Tax Revenues Was Main Objective

CITY'S LEGISLATIVE

Going into the 81st Legislative Session, one of the City of Stafford's most pressing concerns was to protect its sales tax resources. Numerous bills were filed which would have negatively impacted the City's sales tax receipts. In fact, one proposed legislation could have deprived the City of up to \$4 million per year.

Through the efforts of its lobbyist, Marta Greytok, and appearances by Mayor Leonard Scarcella and Finance Director Karen Austin, the City succeeded in presenting and amending legislation to negate most of the negative impacts of the undesirable legislation.

Despite the inability to get comprehensive legislation that would

EFFORTS FRUITFUL

have allowed the City to obtain more information about sales tax reallocations and claims, the net result has to be considered a success.

Additionally, the City totally funded the representation of John Pitts as a lobbyist for the Stafford Municipal School District. Although the bill to take SMSD out of the Robin Hood provisions did not pass, the effect of Superintendent H. D. Chambers' strong effort led to amendments of other legislation which will provide extra resources and benefits to SMSD.

All considered the City and SMSD distinguished themselves in this most complicated process and served notice of Stafford's astuteness in legislative matters.



CELEBRATION

“Neighbors Helping Neighbors - The American Way!”

FRIDAY, JULY 3



6:00 p.m.

Line up at
SMSD football parking lot



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)



Following the Parade
PRESENTATION of Parade Winners
and **CAKE RECEPTION** for

Parade Marshals
Mike & Sharon Johnston



7:30 p.m. - 12:00

midnight

FOOD and **DRINK BOOTHS**
sponsored by
non-profit organizations



7:30 p.m. - 11:30 p.m.

CARNIVAL RIDES and **GAMES**
for children - **FREE!**



7:30 p.m. - 11:30 p.m.

HAY RIDE sponsored by the
City of Stafford Street and
Parks Departments – **FREE!**



8:00 p.m. - 11:30 p.m.

STREET DANCE with music by
THE SPIFFINGTONS – FREE!

SATURDAY, JULY 4



5:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.

PATRIOTIC CONCERT

Stafford Centre Theatre – **FREE!**

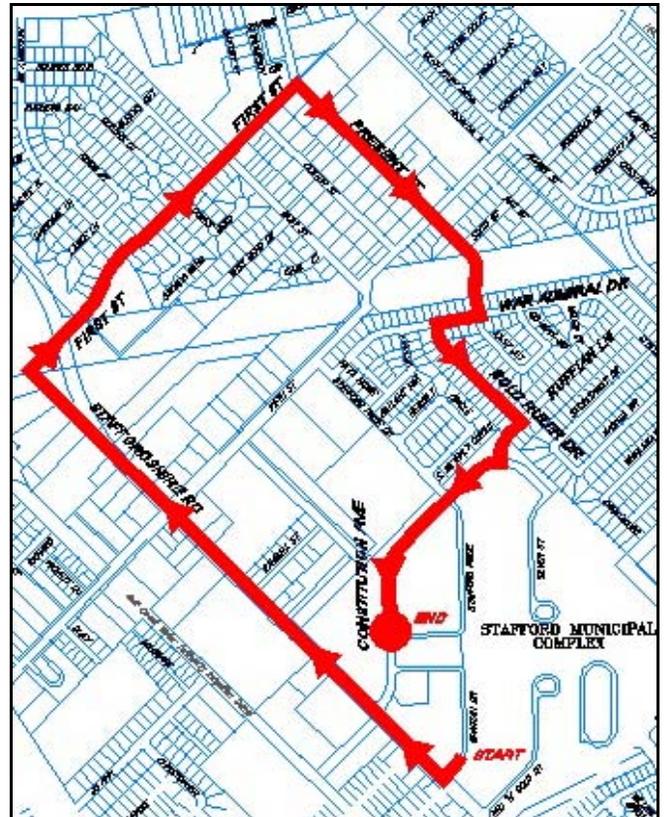


9:00 p.m.

FIREWORKS DISPLAY

viewed from
SMSD Football Stadium

PARADE ROUTE



Cinderella Will Be at Theatre

The entire kingdom and you are invited to the Fort Bend Theatre's production of Rodgers and Hammerstein's *Cinderella* at the Stafford Centre Performing Arts Theatre.

The production offers a full orchestra, breathtaking sets, enchanting costumes, free parking, and a dynamic, professionally trained cast! Performances are at 8 p.m. on Friday, July 31, and Saturday, August 1, and at 3 p.m. on Sunday, August 2. Tickets range from \$17 to \$42 and are available at www.fortbendtheatre.com. Discounts are offered for groups of 10 or more.

Stafford residents who bring proof of residency can obtain free tickets, courtesy of the City of Stafford, at the Stafford Centre between July 1 and July 17.

Prepare for Hurricane Season!

- Make a family emergency plan
- Sign up for CodeRED at www.cityofstafford.com
- Call 2-1-1 to register the disabled and seriously ill
- Stock emergency supplies for 5 days
- Obtain items to reinforce/fortify homes
- Provide for pets
- Protect important documents
- Tune in to AM 1160 City of Stafford

CELEBRATE INDEPENDENCE DAY WITH A PATRIOTIC CONCERT

The City of Stafford and Fort Bend Symphony Orchestra, in conjunction with Impact A Hero, invite everyone to the Stafford Centre Theatre for Freedom Rings 2009 Concert. This all-American holiday celebration is free, open to the public and begins at 5 p.m., Saturday, July 4.

The acclaimed Fort Bend Symphony Orchestra will feature Tchaikovsky's 1812 Overture, Sousa's Stars and Stripes Forever, the National Anthem and many more patriotic works and American standards.

Freedom Rings 2009 Concert will honor veterans through the Impact A Hero organization, which provides

financial and emotional support to severely wounded and disabled U.S. veterans of Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom.

Mayor Leonard Scarcella stated "In times of national security and economic challenges, the City of Stafford is offering a free concert to celebrate our freedom and truly honor our veterans through great works of patriotic music."

After picnicking with your family and prior to watching the fireworks display, join us for Freedom Rings 2009 Concert at the Stafford Centre!

For more information, contact the Stafford Centre at 281-208-6900.



PARADE MARSHALS HONORED FOR THEIR SERVICE TO COMMUNITY DURING CRISIS

With power outages from Hurricane Ike affecting thousands of families making it difficult, if not impossible, for them to get drinking water, ice and food, the City of Stafford in conjunction with FEMA opened a Point of Distribution (POD) to assist needy individuals. A critical component in this mission was having a facility to house and refrigerate the truckloads of these items necessary to serve these people in distress.

Mike and Sharon Johnston, the owners of Southern Ice Cream on Greenland Drive, offered their buildings and staff to assist with the effort. For 10 days, starting on Monday after the wrath of Hurricane Ike, the POD served over 150,000 people. Throughout the process, the Johnston's did everything in their power to make the endeavor function effectively. They also aided the first responders and volunteers who ran the operation. Without the Johnston's continued and unwavering support, many people would have gone wanting.



In honor of their inspiring and unselfish act, City Council has named Mike and Sharon Johnston as Parade Marshals for this year's Independence Day celebration.



City of Stafford
2610 South Main
Stafford, TX 77477

MEET THE CITY'S NEW HUMANE OFFICER



Pete Ramirez, the City's new Humane Officer, looks forward to his new-found responsibilities patrolling the area and enforcing animal control regulations and ordinances for the City. He also is a member of the Stafford Volunteer Fire Department. Pete distinguished himself when he drove the City's armored car in a daring rescue to save a life during Hurricane Ike. He and his wife, Lupe, have lived in Stafford for 28 years.

City Offices Closed:

Friday, July 3 - Independence Day
Monday, September 7 - Labor Day

Tree Limb Pick Up:

Monday, August 3
Monday, October 5

NOTES

July 4

Freedom Rings 2009 Concert

July 25

Peter Frampton

August 8

KC & The Sunshine Band

September 19

Peter Noone (Herman's Hermits)

Micky Dolenz (The Monkees)

Mark Lindsay (Paul Revere & The Raiders)

October 3

Glen Campbell

December 5

Neal McCoy

January 9

Ray Price

March 19

Joe Bonamassa

STAFFORD CENTRE