



# The Stafford Newsletter



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In Civic Center at 1415 Constitution Avenue

## ANNUAL TOWN MEETING SCHEDULED FOR WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 27, AT 7 P.M.

A major component of the governing of the City occurs each year when City Council hosts the annual Town Meeting. This year the event takes on special significance as a result of the effort of the Nation to claw its way back from one of the most severe recessions in many decades. One would be less than candid to attempt to ignore the negative impacts of the current depressed economy on this City and its citizens. At the annual Town Meeting this year, that will be one of the major topics under discussion. In spite of this severe downturn, there will be discussion of the achievements of the City during 2009 including maintaining and enhancing services and goals for 2010.

This year's meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, January 27, 2010, at 7 p.m., in the Civic Center at 1415 Constitution Avenue.

As is the tradition, Mayor Leonard Scarcella will deliver the State of the City Message at the beginning of the meeting. This will be followed by reports from the Department Heads on the activities, services and conditions of the City. After the reports, there will be the opportunity for comments and questions from the general public pertaining to the following topics:

- (a) City's economy, zero property tax, sales and other taxes, and fiscal condition.
- (b) Zoning, enhanced building standards and new regulations, and landscaping for the US 90A and FM 1092 corridors.
- (c) Police and fire protection, emergency management

endeavors, homeland security, and gang violence.

- (d) Stafford Centre and Stafford Civic Center.
- (e) Stafford Municipal School District, Houston Community College, and educational opportunities.
- (f) Stafford/Staffordshire Roads, Dulles Avenue and Brand Lane improvements, highways, streets, mobility, drainage, and water.
- (g) Parks.
- (h) Municipal Court.
- (i) Stafford Municipal Educational Television Station.
- (j) Other matters of interest affecting the City.

You are encouraged to attend and participate in this event and share your suggestions, comments, and questions.

If you cannot attend, the meeting will be televised live on S-METV, Channel 16 Comcast. There will be numerous rebroadcasts over the days to follow.

### STAFFORD FD MAINTAINS HIGHEST NATIONAL RANKING

One item to be discussed at the Town Meeting will be the Stafford Fire Department's superior performance. The SFD has achieved an ISO Rating of One - the top rating a fire department can obtain. Less than 100 fire departments, out of 47,000 in the Nation, have this rating. This affords Staffordians top quality firefighter protection and results in lower insurance rates on homes and businesses.

# IN FIRST 6 YEARS, STAFFORD CENTRE BRINGS IN MORE THAN A MILLION VISITORS

With the grand opening of the Stafford Centre on March 4-5, 2004, there was optimism and trepidation for the success of this 90,000 square foot facility containing a unique 1,100 seat performing arts theatre and 25,000 square feet of meeting, banquet and exposition space including a 20,000 square foot ballroom and over 28 acres of outdoor festival green space at the corner of Cash and Murphy Roads.



Some wondered whether anyone would come. But, after nearly six years and more than 1,200,000 visitors, little question remains that this is the most impressive facility in Fort Bend County and was designated “a signature image from Fort Bend”.

Theatrical events have ranged from ballet to theatrical productions, symphonies and a host of headliner concerts. Couple that in the Convention Centre with weddings, festivals and other activities including corporate meetings, conventions, exhibitions and even boxing matches.

A key aspect of the Centre’s success is versatility as has been demonstrated by the many outstanding and diverse functions. Its convenient location and easy access, plentiful ground-level parking, ticketing system and reasonable ticket prices, excellent viewing, and technologically advanced sound system and lighting in the Theatre add to its popularity.

The Stafford Economic Development Corporation which originally funded \$20 million of the \$29 million cost for this venue has provided funds to maintain and enhance the condition of the facility.

Much credit must go to FMSquared and its staff under the excellent leadership of its president, Bryan Blaum, who has negotiated most of the stellar events that have graced the Centre, and to Susan Ricks, Centre Administrator.



With six years under its belt, there remain even greater expectations for the future.

Sign up for “keep me posted” at [www.staffordcentre.com](http://www.staffordcentre.com) to receive advance notices of coming events.

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## MAIN EVENTS HELD AT CENTRE SINCE INCEPTION

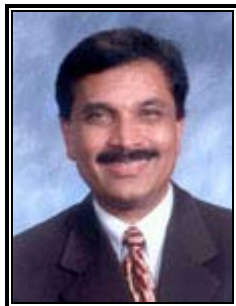
Many sterling events have been held at the Stafford Centre since its opening in 2004. Some of the most notable are:

- The Moscow Ballet productions
- Tommy James and The Shondells launches concert series in April, 2005
- Ray Price’s five shows which have been sellouts
- The City of Stafford 50th Anniversary Celebration featuring The Platters and a drive-in picture show
- International Festival of Fort Bend
- The Chinese Opera performance
- The Dedication ceremony for the Mandir (Hindu Temple in Stafford)
- The Christian rock band, Switchfoot, which sold out in one day
- Memorial Hermann Hospital's annual meetings
- The Annual Music Fest benefiting the Fort Bend County Women's Center

These events have attracted patrons from literally across the globe, with most praising the many outstanding features of the Centre.

Joint Election with SMSD for Three Trustee Positions

**CITY COUNCIL ELECTION SET FOR MAY 8**



Ken Mathew



Robert Sorbet



Cecil Willis

The annual City officers' election on May 8 will provide for the election of three Council member positions currently held by Ken Mathew, Robert Sorbet and Cecil Willis. Candidates will be seeking a two-year term. Various important dates in the election are set forth below.

Period for filing for application for place on the ballot: February 6 – March 8.

Period for filing declaration of write-in candidacy: February 6 – March 15.

First day to accept applications for voting by mail ballot: March 9.

Last day for submitting voter registration application in time to vote in the election: April 8.

Early voting in person **AT BOTH CITY HALL AND SMSD ADMINISTRATION BUILDING:** April 26 – May 4.

Last day to receive application by mail for a ballot to be voted by mail: April 30.

ELECTION DAY: May 8 AT CITY HALL ONLY – 7:00 A.M. TO 7:00 P.M.

This election will be held in conjunction with SMSD for three Trustee positions currently held by Greg Holsapple, Michael Cropper and ShaMekka Pratt-Simmons. Election to the Board will be for a three-year term.

Applications for City Council positions can be obtained at City Hall and those for school Board positions at the SMSD Administration Building.

**THEATRICAL PRODUCTIONS FUNDED BY CITY**



The City of Stafford is providing the great majority of support for the Stafford

Choir's production of the ***King & I*** at the Performing Arts Theatre of the Stafford Centre. Assistance will be provided by the Stafford Choir Boosters and Stafford Municipal School District. Performances will be on Friday, January 29 @ 7:30 p.m.; Saturday, January 30 @ 7:00 p.m.; and Sunday, January 31 @ 3:00 p.m. Free tickets have been reserved for Stafford

residents and will be available at the Stafford Centre on a first-come, first-serve basis. Others wanting tickets can purchase them online with a credit card or PayPal by logging on to [www.staffordchoir.com](http://www.staffordchoir.com). Call 281-261-9200, ext. 3197 for information.

The City of Stafford also is providing significant assistance to the Fort Bend Theatre's production of ***Annie*** on March 5-7 in the Performing Arts Theatre of the Stafford Centre. Call 281-208-3333 or visit [www.fortbendtheatre.com](http://www.fortbendtheatre.com) for details. Again, free tickets will be available for Staffordians at the Stafford Centre as well, as at the Fort Bend Theatre at 2815 N. Main, through February 15.

**\*\*what's happening\*\***

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**TREE LIMB PICKUP**

Monday, February 1  
Monday, April 5

**CITY OFFICES CLOSED**

President's Day - Monday, February 15  
Good Friday - Friday, April 2

**ALARM PERMIT**

2009 Alarm Permits expired December 31. Renew by January 31 for \$15; the fee is \$25 on February 1. Alarm Permits are available at the Stafford Police Department. Call 281-261-3955.



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

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## **PLEASANT SURPRISE COMES IN DECEMBER: SNOW!**



Various weather conditions were experienced in Stafford in 2009, including a drought and extremely heavy rains. However, the most surprising was the unexpected snowfall on December 4. Pictured is the snow which fell on the Margaret Havens Historical Memorial Garden.



At the beginning of each decade, the U.S. Constitution dictates an annual census of the population. The census for 2010 is currently being conducted. Results of the census have a profound impact upon each state and city in the U.S. You are strongly encouraged to be involved in making sure that you are appropriately accounted for. You can view a Census 2010 Questionnaire on the City's website at [www.cityofstafford.com](http://www.cityofstafford.com). If you have questions or seek other information, go to <http://2010.census.gov>. A schedule of the major events of the census process is as follows:

- |                     |   |
|---------------------|---|
| March 2010 -        | Census forms are mailed or delivered to households.   |
| April 1, 2010 -     | National Census Day—use this day as a point of reference for sending your completed forms back in the mail. |
| April - July 2010 - | Census takers visit households that did not return a form by mail.  |