



The Stafford Newsletter



Clean Up-April 17

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Favorable Bid \$3 Million Below Estimate

STAFFORD/STAFFORDSHIRE ROADS PROJECT GETS GREEN LIGHT

It has long been an aspiration of this City to improve Stafford/Staffordshire Roads from Fifth Street to Beltway 8. With the assistance of the Houston-Galveston Area Council and the Texas Department of Transportation, the City of Stafford received a federal stimulus grant of \$4½ million for this \$17 million, three-mile development.

At the bid opening by TxDOT on March 9 in Austin, the low bid was about \$3 million less than anticipated.

Others participating in this endeavor are Fort Bend County with \$4½ million, Harris County with just over \$1,300,000 and Fort Bend County W.C.& I.D. No. 2 with slightly less than \$2 million for water and sewer lines.

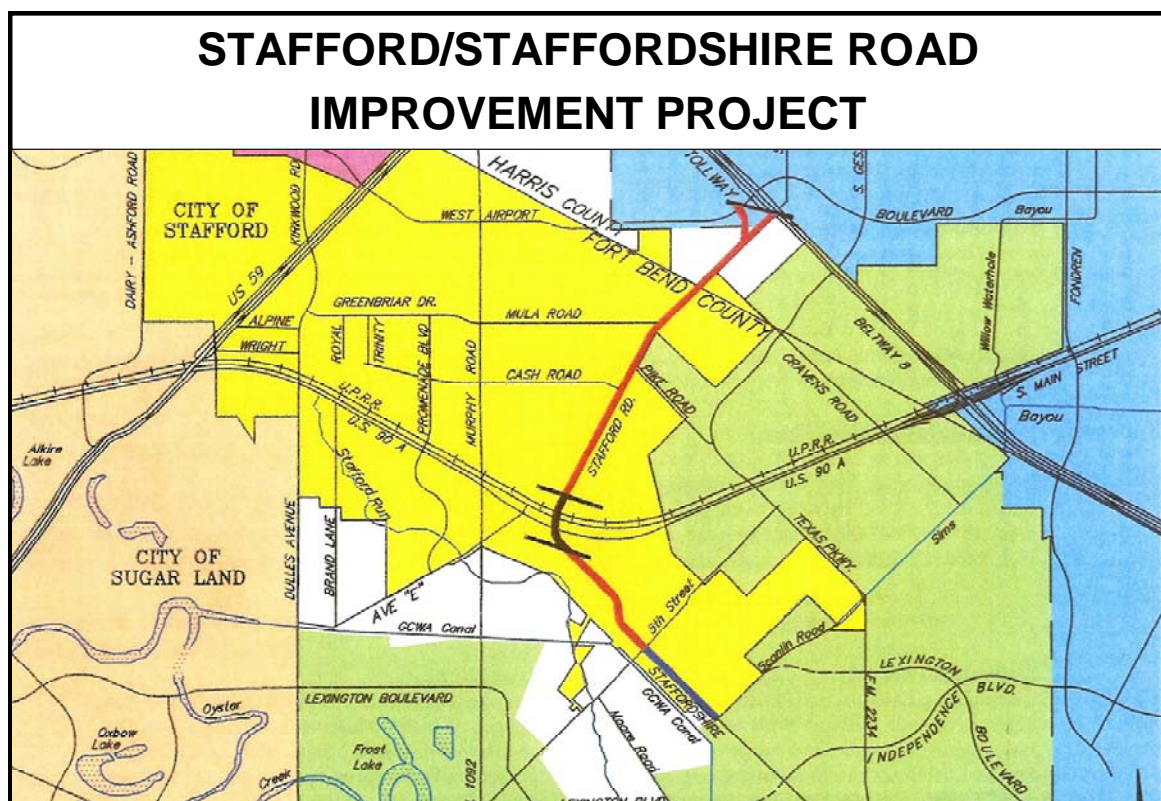
The ultimate total to the City for construction, rights-of-way, engineering

and related expenditures will tally about \$5 million.

Preliminary matters of contract execution and preparation should be accomplished in the next two months allowing actual building to begin in June. The forecasted completion date is June 2012.

A major feature of this plan is the construction of a gentle “S” curve along Staffordshire Road, which will eliminate the 90 degree turns at First Street.

City officials are pleased that the pieces of this most complicated program are falling into place. Much credit goes to Public Works Director Lawrence Vaccaro and City Engineer Charles Russell. Without their intensive commitment, the project would not be coming to this expedited fruition.



Red line depicts the route of the proposed improvements to Stafford/Staffordshire Roads which will connect Fifth Street to Beltway

90A COMMUTER RAIL PROGRESSES

After several studies and 10 years of frustration, the US 90A commuter rail proposal has a champion that has the potential to make the dream for this 28-mile passenger rail program from the Texas Medical Center to Rosenberg come true. U.S. Congressman Al Green has taken up the banner and is fervently working the prominent political avenues to achieve unified support for this involved endeavor.

At the Congressman's urging, a major milestone was reached on March 18 when the Metro Board approved a resolution endorsing the 8-mile, first leg from the Medical Center in Houston to Beltway 8 in Missouri City, as well as for studies on the section from Stafford to Rosenberg and \$500,000 in funding for environmental evaluations. Mayor Allen Owen of Missouri City and Mayor Leonard Scarcella have collaborated with the Congressman and Dr. Richard Wainerdi, President and CEO of the Texas Medical Center, and a host of top politicians to move this effort forward.

Although there are still many hurdles before the people of Stafford can board this train at a station in our town, significant strides have been made in the last few months to make this exciting adventure into a reality.

CITY & SMSD ELECTIONS SET FOR MAY 8

One of the most vital functions of citizens in their local governments is to vote in city and school elections each year.

Four candidates are running for three at-large City Council seats. The top three vote-getters will be the winners. Three of the four who filed are incumbents: Ken Mathew, 62, a finance manager; Robert Sorbet, 47, in electrical sales; and Cecil Willis, 66, an executive director. Mike Guerra, 51, a purchasing agent and former SMSD Board member, is the fourth candidate.

Seeking three at-large SMSD Board of Trustee positions are four people. Two are incumbents: Greg Holsapple, 58, a systems administrator; and ShaMekka Pratt-Simmons, 38, an accounts receivable employee. The remaining two candidates are Ed Castillo, 54, an IT

consultant; and Kim Gibson, 38, an administrative assistant. Incumbent Michael Cropper did not seek re-election.

In order to vote in this election, you must be a registered voter at least 30 days prior to the election. Applications for a ballot by mail must be received no later than the close of business on Friday, April 30.



EARLY VOTING will be at both City Hall and SMSD Administration Building: Monday, April 26–Friday, April 30, 8 a.m.–5 p.m. and Monday, May 3–Tuesday, May 4, 7 a.m.–7 p.m.

ELECTION DAY VOTING will be at City Hall only: Saturday, May 8, 7 a.m.–7 p.m.

CANDIDATES' FORUM OCCURS ON APRIL 20

A much anticipated event in Stafford city and school elections is the Candidates' Forum presented by the League of Women Voters.

This year the event will occur on Tuesday, April 20, at 7 p.m. at the Stafford Civic Center, 1415 Constitution Avenue.

Candidates for City Council and SMSD Board of Trustees will appear, answer questions from three panelists and give



statements on their positions. Written questions from the audience will also be accepted, and those chosen by the moderator will be asked of the candidates.

The Candidates' Forum is open to the public, and your attendance is encouraged. It will be televised "Live" on S-METV, Channel 16 on Comcast Cable in Stafford and will be rebroadcast daily until Election Day, Saturday, May 8.

INDEPENDENCE DAY ACTIVITIES PLANNED



Scenes from 2009 Independence Day Parade

Stafford citizens will be looking forward to the activities associated with the Independence Day celebration, which will take place on Saturday, July 3, and Sunday, July 4. Watch for complete details in the July issue of *The Stafford Newsletter*.

The annual festivities will include the parade, children's rides, hayride and street dance, together with food and drink booths, on Saturday, July 3.

The free Patriotic Concert held at the Stafford Centre last year was a big success and is scheduled again this year on Sunday afternoon.

Due to the serious problems encountered with the fireworks display last year and the restricted areas available to the City for such an event, there will be no fireworks this year.

Volunteers are needed on July 3. If interested, call 281-499-5763.

CITY POOL LOOKS TO OPENING

In spite of the many difficulties being experienced by other cities, the City of Stafford is proud to have the City swimming pool at 1355 Constitution Avenue available for the people of Stafford, as well as others.

For \$10 per person, Stafford residents have access to the pool the entire swim season. Daily passes for non-residents are: 5 years-adult, \$4; 2-4 years, \$2; under 2 years, free.

A four-hour pool party costs \$75.

Pool Schedule: Saturday, May 29 - Monday, September 6; open weekends only from mid-August - September 6; closed Monday (non-holidays). Hours are Tuesday - Friday, 11 a.m. - 7 p.m.; Saturday, 12 noon - 8 p.m.; Sunday, 1 p.m. - 8 p.m.

Swim Lessons: Morning and evening; ages 4 and up. Sign up begins May 29. For information, call 281-499-5763 or 281-499-8783.

Stafford Swim Team: May 1 - mid-July; early registration in April. For information, call Leanne Mazoch at 281-413-3093.

THE STAFFORD CENTRE PROUDLY PRESENTS:

Model Mania, April 24

Steve Martin & the Steep Canyon Rangers, April 26 - **SOLD OUT**

Bon Ton Louisiana Festival, May 15

Fort Bend Symphony *Espana*, May 23

America, June 25



City Offices will be closed
Monday, May 31
in observance of Memorial Day.



Tree Limb Pickup - Monday, June 7



City of Stafford
2610 South Main
Stafford, TX 77477

APRIL 17 IS SPRING CLEAN UP DAY

The 17th Annual City Wide Pride Spring Clean Up will be held on Saturday, April 17, from 9 a.m. until 1 p.m. The event is sponsored by the City of Stafford and supported by many local businesses and corporate sponsors. Volunteers will pick up trash along the streets.

Participants will receive t-shirts, and lunch will be served from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. in the courtyard at City Hall. Trophies will be awarded in various categories, and money will be hidden along the streets for those lucky enough to find these special prizes.

WCA will send trucks throughout the neighborhoods. Residents should place heavy trash by the curb no later than 7 a.m. on Saturday.

Refrigerators and freezers will be accepted, but must be drained of coolants. Lumber, plywood, small tree limbs and similar material should be cut into four-foot lengths, tied into bundles and placed at the curb. Paint cans, chemicals, batteries, regular household waste or car parts will not be accepted.

Automobile batteries will be received at Stafford Auto Supply located at 2424 South Main.



Rimless tires should be placed at the curb early Saturday morning separate from other heavy trash for City crews to pick up. Anyone with a large number of tires should call 281-261-3941 to make special arrangements for disposal. Firestone Tire & Service Center, located at 515 FM 1092, will serve as the depository for these tires, but they will not accept tires without the City's prior approval.

New this year. A certified contractor will be on site between 9 a.m. and 12 noon to shred sensitive documents. The operation will allow residents and businesses to drive through and shred up to five boxes of documents.

Use this unique opportunity to clean up your property - - and the City. To volunteer, call 281-261-3941.